BRIEFS

TURLOCK GREENS REMODELED
TURLOCK, Calif. — Remodeling of the greens has begun at Turlock Golf & Country Club under the design supervision of architect Andy Raugust. The back nine were scheduled to be completed by late February and ready for play in early spring. The club is scheduled for play in early spring. The club is completed by late February and ready for play in early spring. The club is

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MAKI BUSY ON TWO FRONTS
COLUMBUS, Ga. — Construction is underway on a 18-hole, daily-fee golf course here, serving as a remediation site for the construction of Oak Run Country Club in Columbus. The facility will also include a driving range with target bunkers. Oak Run is owned by Decca Development & Construction Corp. of America.

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MACKENZIE'S MYSTERIOUS MANUSCRIPT

By TERRY BUCHEN

OULTER, Colo. — Raymund Haddock, the step-grandson of Dr. Alister Mackenzie, is a successful insurance agent here. Little did he know that his life was going to change dramatically with the discovery of an item stored for years in a cedar chest in his home.

The story begins in 1978 when course architect Geoffrey S. Cornish and writer Ron Whitten were researching their book, "The Golf Course," and discovered in Dr. Mackenzie's obituary that he had written a manuscript shortly before his death but that it had never been published. Whitten called Charles Scribner and Sons in New York, inquired about the unpublished work and was told it had "long since been destroyed!" An unfortunate dead-end, to say the least.

In 1982 Robert Trent Jones Sr. told Whitten he had a typed version of the lost manuscript which he had given to the legendary Red Hoffman. Whitten called Hoffman, who insisted that he no longer had the manuscript and had returned it to Trent Jones. But Jones insisted that Hoffman still had it, and it was never to be seen again. Another dead-end.

Fast-forward 10 years to 1992. The Mackenzie Cup was being played between four 10-man teams representing Cypress Point, Meadow Club, Green Hills, Pasatiempo, The Valley Club and Crystal Downs. At a gathering in the garden of Mackenzie's house along the 6th fairway at Pasatiempo, Whitten told the golfers that 60 years later it was difficult to research Mackenzie. In particular, he was back in 1956. Since then, he has designed and remodeled courses throughout the United States and notably Mexico [see story above]. The engineer's attention to detail demonstrated itself in his invention of the Percolometer, a device used for on-the-job control of seed-bed preparation for greens. Praising himself on getting projects in on time and on budget, he also wrote one of the first books dealing with the costs of construction, "The Business End of Building or Rebuilding a Golf Course," in 1973.

Golf Course News: You supposedly retired from active design work in 1990. What have you been doing since?

Joe Finger: Working my rear end off. I've built two courses in Mexico, have two more on the drawing board and one up in the air. We remodeled the greens at Cedar Ridge in Tulsa [Okla.] and Colonial Country Club in Memphis [Tenn.] We're doing a long-range plan for Pleasant Valley CC in Little Rock [Ark.], which we built for Winthrop Rockefeller 27 years ago. We also did consulting work on the Napa Valley (Calif.) CC clubhouse. I'm doing a lot of gardening and orcharding at home and working for the club [River Hill]. Byron Nelson and I built River Hill back in 1974 and we both have homes

UNREVEALED!

Mackenzie's mysterious manuscript

By TERRY BUCHEN

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