

NEWS OF THE INDUSTRY continued

Bayou Swamp to Top Course In a New Orleans Year

A little over a year ago, Eden Isles development in Slidell, La., outside New Orleans, was a bayou below sea level, covered with water, swamp grasses, cotton mouth water moccasins, alligators and mosquitos.

Today it is the site of a championship 18-hole golf course, according to Howard E. Williams, vice president of Golf Courses by Iberia, Inc., Iberia, Ohio.

The entire project, when started, was 1 1/2 to two feet below sea level. In order to raise the course site, fill dirt was needed. To secure the fill dirt, 23 lakes were designed into the course and by going to a depth of up to 40 feet, 600,000 cubic yards of dirt was generated to raise the entire

site from a plus two feet to 15 feet allowing for contouring and giving the course rolling terrain in an otherwise wet, flat area.

All of the lakes were tied together with culvert and channels thus being able to keep the water level the same in all 23 lakes and also utilizing them for irrigation giving many acres of water to draw from. The lakes had to be kept separate from the boat channels, bayou water and Lake Pontchartrain as these waters have a salt content which is not conducive to good grass growth. All the water for the lakes will come from run-off making the only fresh water on the project.

This is the first course Williams knows of that is entirely built from fill dirt. All the roughs, fairways, tees and greens are completely man-made. The soil taken out of the lakes is an unusual type and runs the same for a depth of 5,000 feet with no rock. By using the soil from the lakes the original soil was covered which contained salt but this only went down about 12 inches. From there on there was no salt problem.

Dr. Coleman Ward, of the department of agronomy at Mississippi State College ran a percolation test on the soils being used and came up with a surprising fact. Absorption was zero. All rain or irrigation water had to dissipate by run-off, so contouring had to be right or there would be problems. They eliminated the settling problem before they got it by having everything built higher than the architect called for in his prints.

The soil would only dry down about four inches and from there on it stayed wet. The only way they could dig the lakes and move and spread the dirt was with draglines working on mats and some of the time double mats. After the draglines placed the dirt to within six inches of finish grade and it dried some on top, they would shape with bulldozers, but only four inches at a time making for rather slow progress.

Another fact that did not help construction was that in the first four months of construction, it rained almost every day and that means three to 17 inches. Edmund Ault, a golf course architect from Bethesda, Md., designed the course to run through the housing develop-

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ment and it covers about 134 acres. The course is over 7,200 yards with a par of 72. It has 54 sand traps, the greens average 7,500 square feet and the tees average 6,500 square feet, not to mention the 23 lakes. The superintendent is E. J. Alleman and he is assisted by Daryl Robinson.

Electrical Wiring Problems For Golf Course Builders

When burying underground electrical wiring in the construction of a golf course, how deep should cable tunnels be dug — 24 inches as prescribed by present electrical underwriters codes, or 12 to 18 inches?

Members of the Golf Course Builders Assn. hope to find an answer to this question in discussion at their annual meeting at the

46th Annual GCSAA International Turfgrass Conference and Show Feb. 16-21 in New Orleans.

Nick Siemens, Fresno, Calif. golf course builder says that in open spaces such as golf courses, underground wiring should not have to be buried a full two feet. He and other association members are drawing up proposals to present to the underwriters to get the present recommendations changed. The association also hopes to get other associations connected with the industry involved.

The golf course builders will meet the night of Feb. 19 in the Holiday Inn in New Orleans for their annual meeting. Frederick B. Ledebauer, director of research and agronomy for Lofts Pedigreed Seed Co., will speak discuss turf problems with the builders. There will also be a discussion of golf course maintenance problems from the design standpoint of a course.

Fanny Fern Davis Receives USGA Green Section Award

Dr. Fanny Fern Davis, of Valparaiso, Fla., has been named recipient of the 1975 USGA Green Section Award, presented in recognition of distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass.

Dr. Davis accepted the award at the USGA's Annual Conference on Golf Course Management at the Biltmore Hotel in New York late last month.

She is the first woman to receive the award, which was first presented in 1961. She has made significant contributions in the field of turfgrass over many years, and she has had close connections with the USGA Green Section.

Beef Supplies, Lower Prices 1975 Outlook for Managers

Club managers can look forward to plenty of top-quality beef at relatively bargain prices for 1975, beef analysts say.

The experts say prices such as the two-year low of 58½ cents per pound that choice beef sold for in Chicago late last year will continue. The reason is that there are a record number of cattle available now on the market.

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