USGA begins building expansions

The United States Golf Association has announced plans to build two buildings adjacent to Golf House, the USGA headquarters in Far Hills, NJ.

The association will build an office building and a test facility next to its present headquarters, according to USGA. The price tag will be around $5 million.

The two buildings will house approximately 85 USGA staff members. Golf House, which now includes administrative offices will be devoted entirely to the USGA museum and library.

The new office building on the 62-acre site will be a three-level structure with approximately 38,000 square feet of space. The test building will have about 7,000 square feet of space.

Hueber returns as NGF president

In 1977, David Hueber was a hospital administrator in Memphis, TN. He had studied for six years at Florida State and Memphis State to become a hospital administrator. But, he had also played outstanding golf at both institutions. The walls of the hospital must have seemed like bars.

Deciding golf meant too much to him to leave behind, he accepted a field service position with the National Golf Foundation. After three years he moved to the PGA as marketing representative and worked his way up the ladder to vice president of PGA Tour Properties.

In February, Hueber assumed a position 60 others had tried to get, president of NGF. At 32-years-of-age, he seems young for the job. But then, he has an MBA, he has been champion of the Tournament Players Club at Ponte Verde, FL, the past two years, and he has seven years of management experience in golf organizations.

NGF Chairman Joe Phillips said, “He impressed us with his thoughts on how to move the Foundation forward. He is an absolutely bright, young talent.”

GCSAA Vegas show was flawless

Yes, Bob Hope did attend the banquet at the GCSAA Show in Las Vegas to receive the “Old Tom” Morris Award from Arnold Palmer. And yes, a record number of superintendents from around the country attended the educational sessions and explored the exhibits despite the lure of gambling. GCSAA pulled it off.

As Robert Osterman stepped down as president of GCSAA after one of its most challenging years, he had to feel both a sense of relief and accomplishment. He managed the group through a change of executive director, a law suit, restaffing, and financial audits. But, just like the conference, he, the executive committee, and the GCSAA staff pulled it off.

GCSAA had a triple bypass last year, and Osterman was the chief surgeon. The operation was apparently a success.

In the first legal case of its kind and one that will send a stinging after-shock through the chemical industry, a former employee of a Massachusetts lawn care company is alleging chemicals he used on the job caused him to become insane and drove him to murder a 34-year-old woman.

David Garabedian, 23, formerly employed by Old Fox Lawn Service of Chelmsford, MA, is being tried in the bludgeoning-strangulation slaying of a former customer after she chided him for urinating in her yard.

His defense attorney contends Garabedian’s mind snapped and was "twisted" from chemicals he used on the job and likened the mental condition of his client at the time of the slaying to that of "someone on drugs or alcohol."

Richard Gillette, manager of Old Fox Lawn Service, was quoted as saying that there was no documented evidence that anyone has ever committed murder while "under the influence" of lawn care chemicals.

The outcome of Garabedian’s trial could have far-reaching implications in the chemical industry, however. The case may be the breeding ground for a new legal precedent for other workers in the chemical industry — chemical insanity as a defense plea.

Stanley Zontek, north central regional director for the United States Golf Association Green Section, says conditions in his region this winter are perfect for snow mold.

"The ground was not frozen in many areas when the snow covered it this winter," said Zontek. "Continuous snow cover means conditions are perfect for snow mold development."

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Correction

In the December 1983 issue, iron chlorosis on an oak leaf pictured on page 37 was inadvertently misidentified. A number of readers brought this to the editors’ attention. We regret any confusion.

—The Editors