

PLOW IT UNDER

After struggling some 40 odd years with water and peat problems Biltmore Country Club has initiated an improvement program to help alleviate drought and flood.

The \$150,000.00 program was started in late Sept., 1966. First on the agenda was the installation of 17,000 ft. of drain tile. Sizes from 4" to 18". Surface drains and manholes were also provided. As it was impossible to rid the course of water fast enough by gravity a lift station was built. Capacity 12,000 G.P.M. with a reserve of 6,000 G.P.M. if needed.

Along with the lift station about 1600 ft. of creek bed was dredged, which necessitated the installing of 5 new bridges for carts, foot traffic and course equipment. These bridges are made of pre-cast stressed concrete in lengths up to 48 ft.

A new irrigating system is also being put in. Sorry to say it is not automatic. However the tees and greens have pop-up heads controlled by a manual selector knob, which is easy to use. The fairway sprinklers are snap on, center line from tee to green. New pumps are being installed, for a total of three, capacity 725 G.P.M. A large vat is being installed near the pump house which will receive individual foot valves, this is being done to insure a clean water supply to the pumps. Removable screen plate and top cover for the vat will facilitate cleaning when necessary.

We have a lot of uneven peat ground on our course and in late November we began to plow approximately 20 acres of fairways and roughs in preparation for spring seeding. In the offing we also

plan one new green and two new tees. Other than these projects we are not doing much.

Oh Ya, I forgot to mention the greens committee came up with a 10 year improvement program last week which will cover everything we missed this year.

So . . . if you are trying to figure a way to beat snow mold, just plow the turf under, the results are great, no snow mold staring you in the face come spring.

John Ebel

MEXICO

My recent trip to Mexico was a real asset in cementing relationships with our Mexican Labor. I feel that it is very important to understand the background of these people for proper management. The main advantages you have by going down there are: You can hand pick them yourself. You have a wider selection of men to pick from. All the problems they have concerning Withholding tax, compensation, proper passport papers and any other questions can be straightened out more efficiently and faster right there. You can make sure you don't hire all the men from the same family or clan. (This is very important if you have to let one of them go during the season.) They are sure you have a job for them and they don't plan to go job hunting.

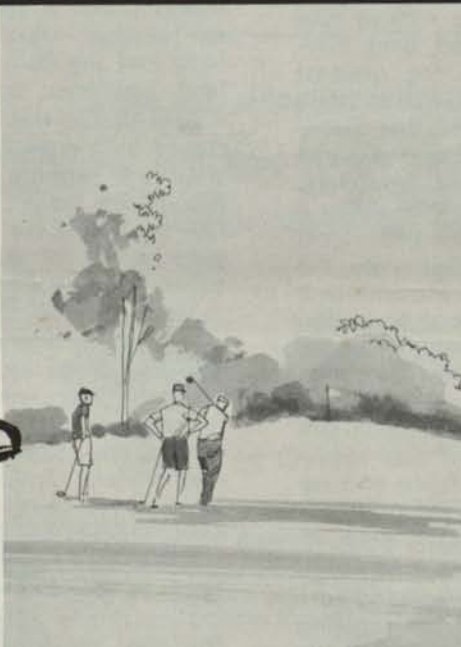
This is the sixth year we have hired Mexican labor for our staff. This is the second year in a row that I have made the trip to Mexico. Judging from past experience I think it is a worthwhile and smart investment. The total cost of one trip was \$350.00.

Jerry Dinelli

growing
our
way



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