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(Irrigation System cont'd.)

Aside from parts availability, weather and mechanical breakdown, we observed many PVC swing joint leaks. Midwest replaced up to fifteen defective nipples.

On May 21, we had one section of greens and tees complete. (The fairways would come later). On June 2, we watered several zones with the central computer for the first time; and by the last week of June, we were totally automated. Midwest returned several weeks later to replace 240 feet of a six inch main that was giving us problems. Their service representative makes regular return trips to repair minor leaks or deal with any other problems which arise.

NEWEST CONTROLLERS AVAILABLE

Although the system was bid to include new VT-4 controllers, they were not ready at the time of installation. VT-3's were put in the field until July 9, when the VT-4's were finally ready.

We are, obviously, very happy with our new system. The most valuable item is the computer, as we can run our regular watering cycle; and at the same time, computer labor statistics or fertilizer applications. We have drastically cut down on run times, while watering much more efficiently. We do have some kinks inherent with any new system:

—Chronic swing joint leaks — (It might be advisable to use galvanized swing joints in fairways, or incorporate block valves to eliminate constant swing joint pressure).

—Dirty valves — occasionally causing heads to stick on.

Except for inferior pipe, we now employ the most efficient up-to-date irrigation system available. The difference is night and day. We can now focus our energies toward capital improvements instead of wasting valuable hours keeping up with a dilapidated system!

PROJECT SUMMARY

TOTAL COST — \$163,000

—\$158,000 bid & \$5,000 for 2" pipe on greens and tees.

—\$38,500 for controllers — \$1,100 per clock, 35 clocks

—\$5,100 for computer

—\$118,800 for swing joints, heads, wire, etc.

START DATE — April 30, 1986

COMPLETION DATE — July 2, 1986

VT-4 Clocks installed — July 9, 1986

**The following are pictures from the GCSAA
Convention held in Phoenix.**



Owen C. Carr, speaker at the Prayer Breakfast along with John Ebel, the moderator.



Arnie Bodhaine, Ed Braunsky Jr., and Alan Frantik



Ray Schmitz & wife Jan, with Dick Trevarthan



Mrs. Oscar Miles, Linda Biggers and Jan Schmitz

FORE



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