

## A Note from Settlers Hill G.C.

by Dan Murray, CGCS

The warm and wet Winter made the clearing of the trees for our next nine a tough job. Finally late this Spring after it had dried up they were able to finish. After all the trees were hauled off the site, the brush was chipped up. Then all stumps larger than 12" were stumped out. The smaller stumps will be pushed out with the dozers during the dirt work. While the clearing crew were finishing up we had the tree trimmers start. They are in the process of pruning 200 trees 14" or larger. All the small branches will be chipped up with the larger ones cut to fireplace length. I think I'll have enough firewood for quite a few cold winters.

It was finally time to start moving dirt. We started with the usual rounds of preconstruction meetings to meet the crews and distribute keys. Laying out the course and staking the grading work took two men about two weeks. In the process about forty bundles of stakes were used. There was eight different colors of ribbons used. I'm glad I wasn't one of the operators who had to dodge and decipher the stakes and ribbons. From up on top of the hill looking down it looked like a colorful Porcupine. Then came the fun part, making changes in the field. Tees were moved, raised, or lowered as to save specimen trees. Bunkers were twisted or shortened to make them fit in the available space. It seemed like every time I went out in the field we had some

problem. Eventually all the stakes were put in place to everyone's satisfaction so the dirt could be placed.

The next day the "iron" started to arrive. There was between four and five scrapers and three dozers moving dirt from the mass grading. Most of the time it looked like a traffic cop was needed on site. The first order of business was to strip all topsoil in all cuts and fill areas. This was to ensure there was adequate topsoil for respread. In some areas a 5' cut was made in others a 8' fill was made. They were cutting one fairway while filling on another tee, while respreading topsoil on mounds in a different location. There was between 50,000 and 56,000 yards of dirt moved on the six holes where the mass graders were working. The other three holes had the fill and topsoil brought in by crews from the landfill.

The landfill crews had started moving dirt last fall so these holes were finished first. These holes were where the three smaller angle dozers worked shaping the greens, tees, bunkers and mounds. The rain slowed down the moving of dirt but never stopped it. It seemed whenever we needed the scrapers to move fill or topsoil they were able to run. After the subgrade was finished and the topsoil spread around the putting surface the drain tile was put in. We used 4" perforated tile in a bed of pea rock. There is also some 8" and 12" tile crossing the fairways. If the Monsoon rains ever stop the mix will be spread on the greens. Then we can get on with installing the irrigation and preparing for seeding. More at a later date.

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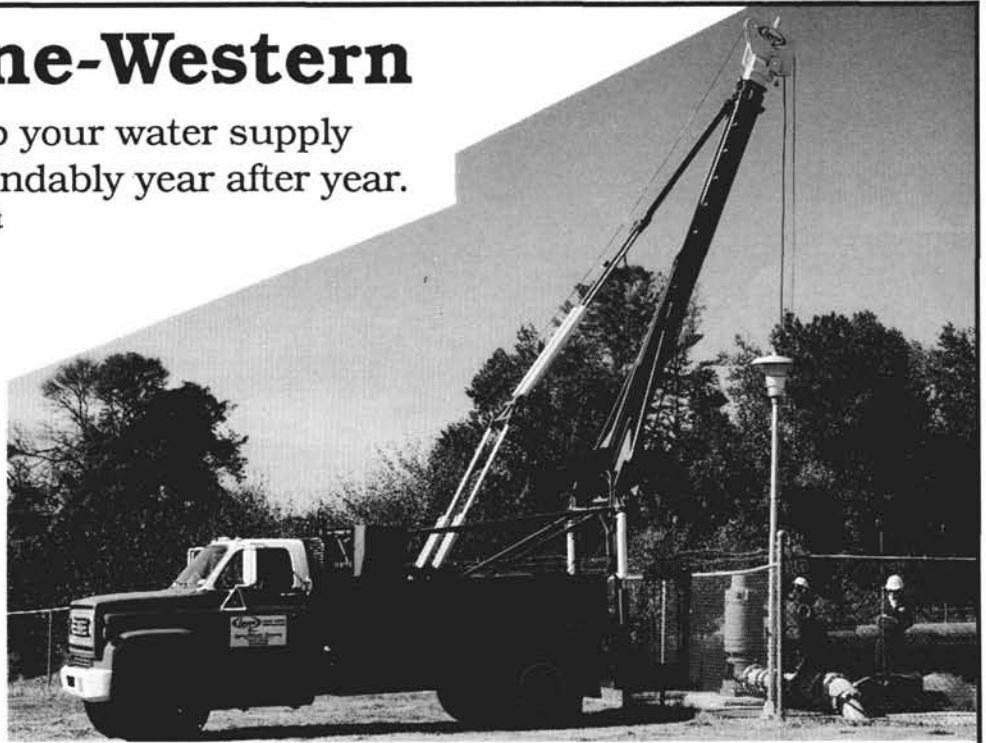
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