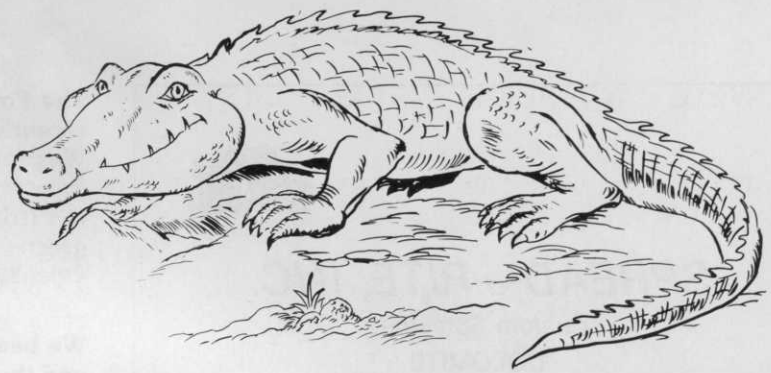


The Gator Growls



from
The Everglades Chapter

From the activity in our area which extends from Venice to Naples no one would ever know there was recession in the land.

Les Hixon moved from Sarasota's "men only" Gator Creek down to The Plantation. It is a new Ron Garl 18 hole course built by Master Links Golf Builders of Jacksonville in Punta Gorda. The irrigation system is Toro Varitime and Southern Turf did the grassing.

Greg Dent, assistant superintendent to Mark Welby at Ft. Myers Palmetto Pines, moved down to Naples to become Mark Hampton's right-hand at Naples' newest, Wynedemere C.C. This will be a very exclusive 27-hole country club in the midst of an expensive single family home and condo development by Livingstone Enterprises. Art Hill is the architect. Wadsworth Golf Construction Company is doing the earth work and installing the Toro irrigation. Southern Turf is grassing greens and tees in 328 and fairways and roughs in 419. Hampton and Dent are planning a December 1, 1980 opening. Mike Reynolds from Dorado Beach Hotel, Puerto Rico, is the golf professional. Marc Tallmadge, a recent Lake City Community College graduate is the new Selby assistant.

Stan Norton is completely revamping the front nine of Naples Beach Club with Ron Gail as the architect. Master Links is doing the construction and installing the Toro irrigation system. Gerry Milholden again lined this one up for Southern Turf. They are putting 328 on greens and 419 on tees and fairways. Stan must have this ready for Florida Senior P.G.A. play in October and it looks as if he is ahead of schedule.

Bill Flippen at Naples Hole in the Wall is having Wadsworth install a complete new pump system in advance of next years plans to replace the present electric irrigation system with Toro hydraulic.

Lloyd Sheehan, prominent Naples developer, again has his Fisherman's Cove project before the city and county boards. His plans are for a fine 18 hole golf course and 750 living units. The local environmentalists claim this will be more polluting than the original plan of 3900-plus living units. Ward Northup of Delray is the architect and to date no construction bids have been let.

A group of Ft. Myers golfers and prominent businessmen have retained Ed Seay and Arnold Palmer to design and build a private 18 holes in south Ft. Myers. This is now getting clearances from the water management boards and the E.P.A. Wadsworth has the inside track on this one due to their work with Seay and Palmer at Skidaway Island in Savannah, Georgia.

The 36-hole Corkscrew Golf Complex Art Hill plans on building southeast of Ft. Myers near the new I-75 leg is up for landclearing this winter. Wadsworth and Southern Turf will be doing the construction and grassing. This is to be a huge project of private homes, townhouse condos and some high rises overlooking the Corkscrew Wildlife Sanctuary.

Manchester Development Corp. is still doing the pre-planning of a 72-hole complex north and east of Naples near the intersection of I-75 and Immakalee Road. Art Hill is the architect, with Wadsworth doing the construction and irrigation.



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The Forest Golf Club, designed and built by Bill Maddox, recently put Wayne Lippold in charge as superintendent. Wayne moved from the Bonita Springs Golf Course to the Swor & Mancini project south of Ft. Myers in time to put in the irrigation and supervise Southern Turf's grassing . . . greens are 328 with the rest of the playing areas 419. Opening is scheduled for January 1, 1981.

We hear the now defunct Marco East project is being sold and the three-quarters finished golf course is to be the first phase ready.

Here in our area we just went through the driest April-May-June on record with no rainfall in June until 1-inch fell the last day of the month. April and May weren't much better as most courses got less than 3 inches those months. Many of us had curtailed water use due either to the lack of it or fear of salt water intrusion. In addition our northern friends didn't start home until around Mothers' Day. Due to drought most herbicide applications were either reduced or stopped all together. With just tees and greens being watered, mole crickets really moved to the moist areas for breeding and egg laying.

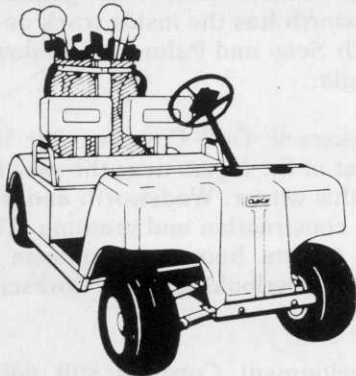
As yet the golf industry in our state has not been able to get consideration for the control of this pest. Many superintendents returned to Dasanit for nematode control due to its effectiveness on mole crickets. Dasanit is even more environmentally harmful than either Dieldrin, Aldrin, or Chloradane when they are properly used. Paradoxical isn't it?

The E.P.A. is now considering the removal of both 2-4-D and Kerb from the Florida turf market. Without means of controlling mole crickets, weeds and Poa Annua, we might be on the path to the Florida courses of the 40's and early 50's before the use of properly used chemicals became in widespread use. With over 2 million golfers playing nearly 700 courses state wide, it seems as if we would have a lot more clout in Tallahassee and Washington. Golfers are primarily in the upper levels of community influence and income and, more importantly to the lawmakers, most of them are voters!

Talked with Dr. Max Brown of Liquid Ag a few days ago and was told they are installing nearly 100 new units statewide. Seems this is becoming a very useful tool in our profession. I can vouch for its effectiveness as we just installed one on our new Imperial West 18 and it is doing a fine job here. So well that we plan on another next year when our completely new irrigation for the east course is installed by Wadsworth. Our pump station is designed to give us both energy and water conservation as well as ideal distribution of the water.

We also have a new assistant here at Imperial, J. Mark Black, a 1980 graduate of Lake City C.C. Mark has previous experience in the work having been with a nursery during high school and junior college. He got interested in the golf business after working for Jim Ellison at Bay Hill for a couple of years, then went on to L.C.C. His OJT projects were at Paul Hickman's Grenelefe in Haines City and Robert Walter's Harbor Town on Hilton Head, S.C.

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Talked with reps of Zaun's, our Toro dealer, and DeBra's Jacobsen dealer and both are hard pressed to make exact delivery of new equipment. Seems like the people at Toro and Jacobsen listened to the economic forecasters and reduced their output. This was without regard for the boom in the Sunbelt areas of the country. More and more of our northern friends are leaving the colder parts either on a full time or part time basis and moving towards warmer areas.

I read just this past weekend the Scottsdale-Phoenix, Arizona area expects to reach the 2.5 million mark in population by 1990, less than 1 million reside there now. Florida and other coastal areas in the Sunbelt can expect as much or maybe more of an increase. These people are all golf prospects and what with land and construction costs, the E.P.A., energy shortages and increased maintenance costs it looks as if the golf course superintendent is going to become a more significant person in the golf course chain. Designers and builders need be more aware of their work in regards to the finished product years down the road. Talked with a couple of greenchairmen recently and the past three to four years they have spent more money on correcting design and construction faults, especially in irrigation, trap design and drainage than they have in all other capital improvements throughout the entire club. What with labor running as high as ten cents a minute and more, it is ridiculous to maintain traps and greens by individual hand labor. The superintendent should be considered and given a voice in the very early stages if the owners want an economical operation down the line.

Jud DeBra told me they are in the process of making available diesel engine inter-changes up to the 20 HP range. With gasoline expected to hit \$2.00 per gallon by January 1981 the energy efficient diesel even at \$1.25 to \$1.50 per gallon is greatly needed in the low H.P. requirements. Some superintendents are into converting from gas to L.P. fuels.

Mack Bough at Longboat Key in Sarasota couldn't buy gas this past winter and has been converting to L.P. with successful results. Clint Smallridge of Royal Poinciana in Naples is working with an experimental L.P. conversion unit that costs about one-third the present cost. This project looks real money saving as L.P. is in the .70¢ - .85¢ range in bulk. Even though normal auto version runs 15-20% less power at peak loads, this doesn't seem to be the case on the hotter running air cooled engines. Anyway these superintendents are on the right track and the manufacturers should recognize the final cost of a piece of equipment shouldn't negate their making available equipment with engine options. Initial costs shouldn't govern the purchase price, its operating costs and effectiveness over its life are more important.

Speaking of our area equipment suppliers, let's give a word of praise to both DeBra and Zaun for their greatly improved parts service. For years we've all been complaining but within the past six months shipping has been so much better it's time we should say thank you and keep up the good work. As our members are quick to complain but few are gracious enough to compliment. So from your Everglades Chapter customers, thanks for the improvements you have made that makes us able to do a better job.

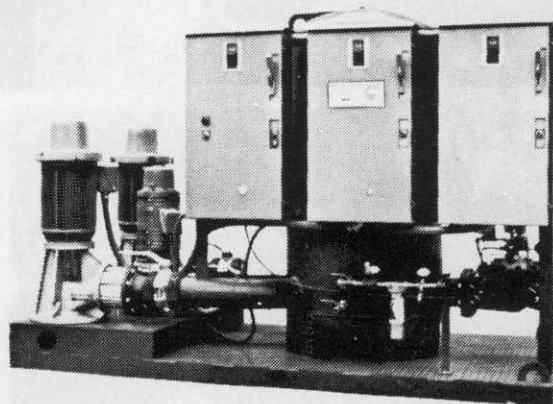
Jacobsen and Toro both held factory service schools at Lake City C.C. and the word is that both were highly informative as well as completely filled. In talking with a few mechanics they stated that they learned as much from fellow mechanics as they did from the factory men; especially along the trouble shooting line. I hope these sessions were recorded as tapes available with these comments would be a fine tool to use and I'm sure they would be much sought after as such.

Tolby Strahan at the Jack Nicklaus designed Bear's Paw course in Naples is looking real good and customers have been playing the front 9 even though not yet officially open. His hand-mowed Tifdwarf looks super and putts even better. The back 9 looks ready but minor finish work is still underway. Late summer or early fall ribbon cutting is planned.

Roger Whitford really put the Pelican Bay course in fine shape pretty quick and with his Penncross overseeding on hand-cut Tifdwarf did he ever make our winter visitors feel at home, super fast surfaces right up into middle June.

Well, the Gator has growled and bellowed long enough for now, hope to see all of you at F.T.G.A.'s meeting in Gainesville.

Superintendent Imperial Golf Course
Dan L. Hall Jr., for the
Everglades Chapter



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