

149 Golf Courses Open in 1981 13% Increase Over '80 Figure

Although the nation's economic situation remained troublesome, 149 golf courses opened for play in the United States during 1981, according to research by the National Golf Foundation.

The 149 openings reflect a 13 percent increase over the 132 reported in 1980.

There were 12,894 golf courses in the United States as of January 1, 1982, according to NGF statistics.

The leading states reporting course openings in 1981 were Florida with 26; California 10; Texas 9; Arizona and Michigan, 8 each; Minnesota and Wisconsin, 6 each; and Colorado, New York and South Carolina, 5 each.

The 10 above-named states accounted for 59 percent of the total new course openings.

For the second straight year, Florida emerges as the nation's runaway leader when combining course openings, construction starts and prospects. The Sunshine State had 84 in 1981 and 76 in 1980.

Other leading states in order are California with 30 projects; Texas 20; Colorado 15; Arizona 14; Minnesota 12; Wisconsin 11; Michigan and Georgia, 8 each; Oregon 7; and South Carolina, Idaho and Virginia, 5 each.

The only states not reporting some activity in golf course development during 1981 were Alaska, Delaware, Rhode Island and South Dakota.

A further analysis of new course development during 1981 reveals the following:

- About 78 percent of the new private course openings in 1981 were a part of planned real estate developments. Fifty-six percent of the new daily fee facilities were also associated with land development ventures.

- Almost 40 percent, or 58 of the 149 courses opening were additions to existing facilities.

- Sixteen percent (18 executive courses and six par-3's) of the openings were short courses. For some years this percentage has ranged between 12 and 15.

- Of the 118 new construction starts in 1981, 53 were additions to existing facilities. Thirteen percent were short courses.

- Forty-nine percent of the 1981 course openings were privately-owned daily fee operations, 34 percent were private and 17 percent were municipal facilities. For 1980, the percentages were 41 daily fee, 41 private and 16 percent municipal.

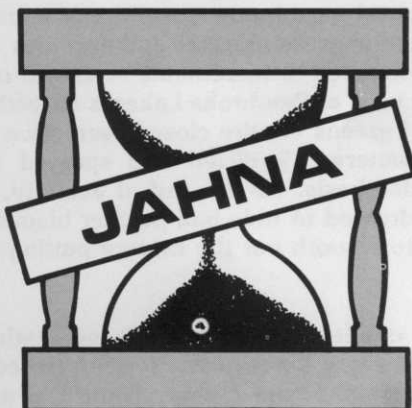
For more comprehensive analysis of golf course development in the United States in 1981, the information sheet "What's Happening in Golf Facility Development" (GC-1982) is available free from NGF headquarters. ■

Ellington Joins Lakeshore Equipment

Samuel K. Ellington has joined Lakeshore Equipment & Supply Co., Elyria, OH, as seed and fertilizer manager for the central southern portion of the United States.

A graduate of Centenary College, Shreveport, LA, the Atlanta-based salesman has worked all his life in the seed industry. After serving for two years in the Air Force, he has worked in sales and management capacities for companies including Northrup-King and Sunbelt Seeds.

Lakeshore Equipment & Supply Co. markets a complete line of grass seed for southern and northern turf. Through LESCO Products and Lakeshore's subsidiary Ag Industries Mfg., Lakeshore manufactures and distributes turf fertilizers including 100% Sulfur-Coated Fertilizer, a line of controlled-release fertilizers. ■



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