



BUTLER NATIONAL GC

*This was the scene at Butler National Golf Club on the Monday of tournament week at the PGA Tour's Western Open. The course was ready for play by Friday and, even though more rains came on Saturday, it held up for 36 holes on Sunday.*

tional flood could ever be duplicated in Florida, the lessons to be drawn from Miles' miraculous recovery could be applied to any disaster.

We have hurricanes and tornados in Florida, to say nothing of brushfires and sinkholes.

Planning, preparedness, humility, foresight and prayer was Miles' prescription. . . along with a lot of friends and a knack for taking advantage of modern technology.

- Be prepared. On the basis of a less severe flood in 1982, Miles was able to learn generally what would happen to his course when his creek overflowed its banks. He wrote a disaster-preparedness plan and filed it away on his computer. Included in the plan was a list of equipment that possibly would be needed to clean up afterwards.

He also created a chart which enabled him to forecast the eventual height of

floodwaters based on the amount of rainfall.

- Make a lot of friends. Since he knew he would need a lot of help if disaster should strike, Miles made a point of cultivating friendships with the local Civil Defense personnel and other officials in charge of disaster control. He made sure they understood his needs. . . and got to play his

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**'He was waiting for my call, hoping I would be big enough to admit that I needed help'**

(From page 51)

course occasionally.

• Cultivate the press. He took the initia-

tive in establishing good relations with local sports reporters. When disaster struck, they already understood the problems he

was facing. They became his allies instead of his enemies during the dreary days of around-the-clock cleanup.

• Ask for help. Don't try to handle a problem that is bigger than your resources. As soon as Miles realized the amount of equipment he would need for the massive cleanup effort, he called on one of his most influential members who owns a major construction company.

"He was waiting for me to call, hoping I would be big enough to admit I needed help," Miles recalls. "By morning, we had pumps and generators coming in from as far away as Omaha.

• Call on your peers. Superintendents at 12 neighboring courses sent their entire crews for several hours every day. Miles gave one of his senior assistants the full-time task as coordinator of the volunteer labor.

• Don't underestimate the damage. The people who pay the bills won't object if you finish the reconstruction project under

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budget; they'll find it difficult to forget if you come in over budget.

- Document everything. Within three days after the Western Open was completed, Miles had several consultants, including representatives from the USGA Green Section, come in and survey the damage. He videotaped their comments, often asking them pointed questions as they explained why certain areas should be re-grassed or, in some cases, completely rebuilt.

"I got the idea for the videotape kind of at the last minute," Miles said. "But I thought it would help me explain to the board why we had to do certain things. So I asked the pro shop if I could borrow the camera they use to give lessons."

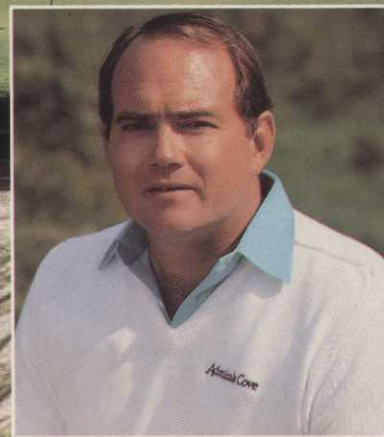
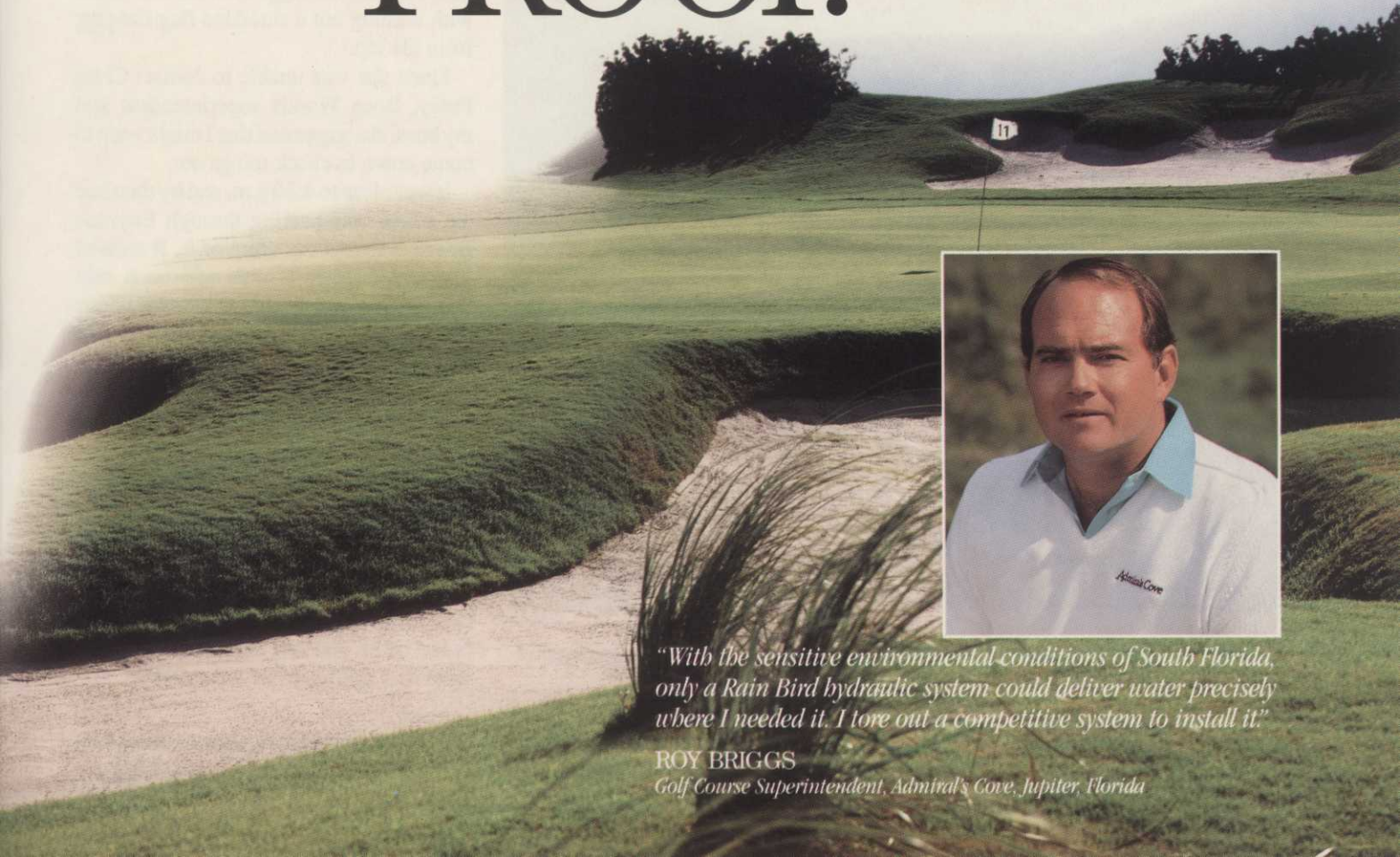
- Take advantage of computers. "I couldn't have drawn up my action plan or reconstruction plans if I hadn't had most of the data on the computer waiting to be used. I don't know how we ever got along without them."



Oscar Miles, golf course manager at Butler National GC, says superintendents should take advantage of modern technology — particularly computers and video cameras.

KIEFFER/JANLARK

# PROOF.



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ROY BRIGGS

Golf Course Superintendent, Admiral's Cove, Jupiter, Florida





DAVID MEDA

*The force of the wind not only bent the flag pole, it shredded the flag. It took four thousand manhours of labor to repair the damage to the golf course.*

*Disaster Scenario No. 2: You leave a beautiful, tranquil golf course at 3 p.m. Friday. An hour later, you get a phone call...*

## 'We've just had a tornado!'

BY DAVID MEDA

BOCARATON — It was May 27, 1988; the Boca Woods CC maintenance facility closed, gates locked, the evening yet to begin.

I was at home when I received a telephone call from the assistant general manager of the club. She said that they had had a bad storm and, from what she could see from the clubhouse, there had been quite a bit of damage. She mentioned trees down and a bent flagpole at the clubhouse with nothing but a shredded flag hanging from the top.

Since she was unable to contact Craig Foley, Boca Woods superintendent and my boss, she suggested that I might want to come down to check things out.

It was close to 4:30 p.m. and by this time the storm was passing through Boynton Beach. I thought nothing of it. It seemed like just another Florida afternoon rain shower. I then thought back to the phone conversation ("a shredded flag") and thought, "Maybe it's old."

I drove to the club. Everything on State Road 7 looked fine, until I entered Boca Woods CC.

It was a startling sight! Just picture leaving the club at 3 p.m. on Friday, the two picturesque golf holes facing the main entrance are manicured to perfection. Now imagine... in your worst nightmare... the two beautiful golf courses that you felt so proud of as you left earlier that evening were now destroyed by a tornado.



I could not believe my eyes. Flooded roads, blown-over trees, screened-in porches torn from homes, roofing tiles missing from housetops, and debris scattered over the entire project.

At the clubhouse, the manager showed me to the back of the dining room where I could view the golf courses. We both stood silently in awe.

My next stop was to evaluate the pumping stations; both systems checked out in operating condition.

During my travels, I met with my boss, and we decided to meet back at the maintenance building and try to get some of our employees to come in. Clogged storm drains had to be cleaned out.

After assessing damages, Craig concluded that there was nothing else we could do until dawn.

Saturday was decision-making day. Course closings, contracting cleanup services, and insurance evaluations were the main issues discussed by department representatives.

By mid morning, landscaping contractors were on the job, standing and chipping fallen trees in prime locations at the clubhouse and front entrance. The maintenance crews were out in full force, raking and blowing debris off greens — we were offering unlimited overtime to any employee willing to work.

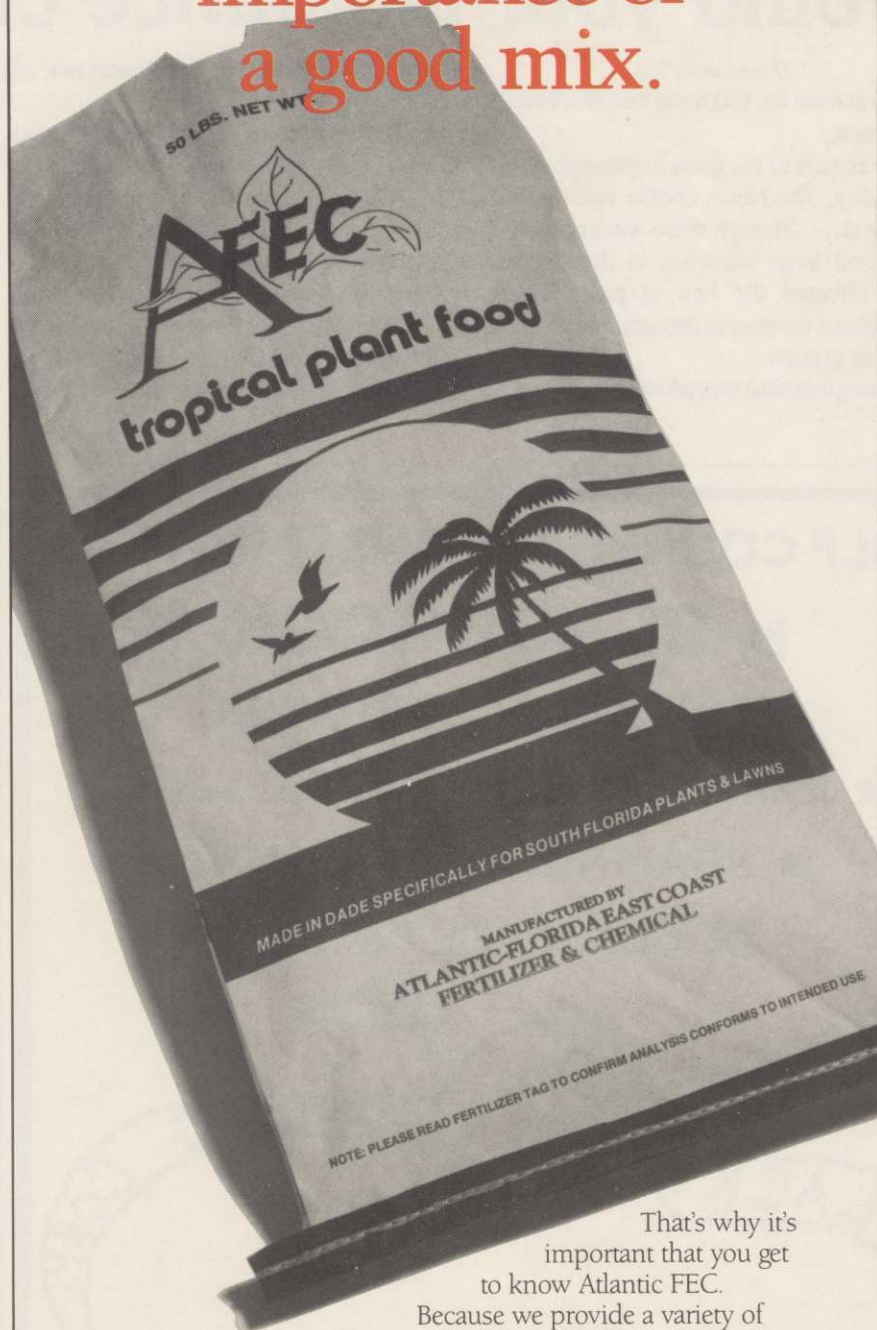
Boca Woods CC is a private, 36-hole development separated into North and South golf courses. Since the North course was not so severely damaged, we concentrated on making it playable as quickly as possible.

Maintenance practices were on schedule on the North course, but as far as the South course, maintenance was in direct correlation with the cleanup process. Greens were mowed Tuesday for the first time. Mowing heights were raised for the first two days and then dropped accordingly. Some fairways were so wet that they could not be mowed with a triplex mower for a week.

By midweek, the landscaping companies were working in concert on their designated areas as scheduled by Craig. A crew of 10 laborers, hired for the week,

*(Continued on page 56)*

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# Would your insurance cover this?

(From page 55)

began at each tee and hand-raked debris to the green.

We started to see great improvement by Thursday. The North course was opened in five days. Though there were uprooted trees and large branches in the roughs, none affected the line of play. Ropes throughout the course detoured cart traffic to dryer ground.

Strategic action was taken in the mainte-

nance of the courses with an exception of the roughs.

Debris was stockpiled in segregated areas of the course until we had time to pick it up. Meanwhile, rough units and out-front mowers worked around the debris and mowed everything in sight.

As if the tornado damage were not enough to keep us busy, the landscape companies made things worse by running over satellite boxes, breaking hydraulic lines and

driving too close to a green, leaving four-inch tire tracks from a loaded truck of mulch.

On Friday, June 10, two weeks later, after 11.5 inches of rain, both courses were officially opened. Golfers, anxiously waiting, covered the courses by 9 a.m.

By 2 p.m., the courses were looking better, but with a lot of clearing still ahead.

The damage consisted of approximately 170 blown-over and snapped-off free-standing specimen trees, ranging from 30-foot ficus trees to 60-foot pines. We didn't count damaged trees in cypress hammocks and wooded areas.

It took about four thousand manhours to recover. Of that total, a thousand was contributed by the golf course maintenance department, 400 by contract labor and 2600 by landscape companies. The equipment included four chippers, one bobcat, one crane, two bucket trucks, one tree stump chipper and a trash-loading dump truck.

Not counting tree replacement, total damage has been estimated at \$100,000.

Would your insurance policy cover that kind of damage? Better check... because it could happen to you.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** David Meda is assistant superintendent at Boca Woods CC in Boca Raton. His most recent previous contribution to *The Florida Green* was on the role of an assistant superintendent.



*The brand new clubhouse at Palm Beach Country Club, set off with tall, majestic Malayan palms, blends right in with its environment, some of which had been planted 30 years previously.*

# Bet you never thought you'd have to build one of these!

*Most superintendents tend to shy away from clubhouse construction projects, but the experience can be rewarding*

**BY MIKE BAILEY**

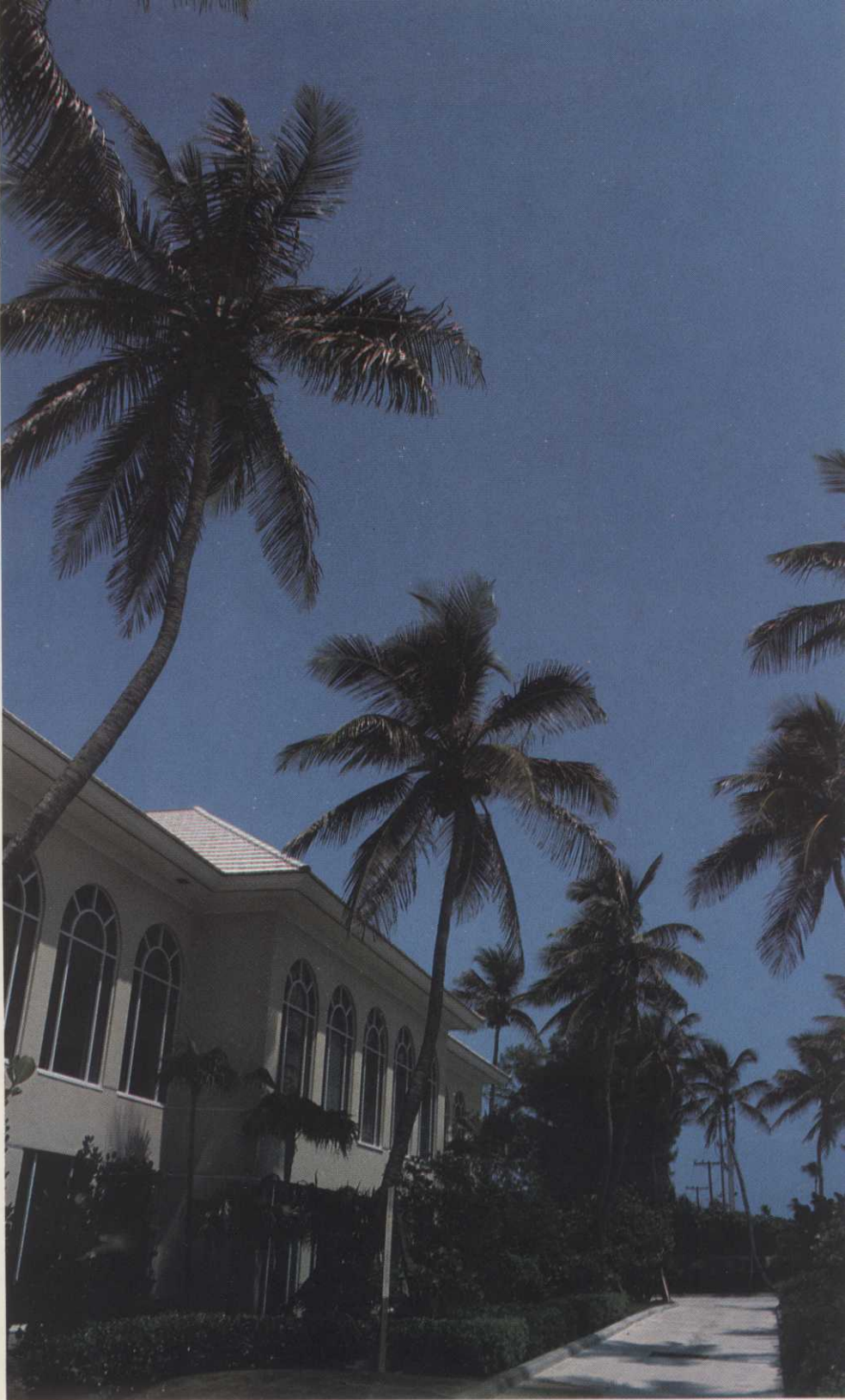
LAKE WORTH — Have you ever been involved with the construction of a clubhouse? It's the type of experience most superintendents try to avoid, particularly if they've been through it once.

But it can be a rewarding experience, as members of the Palm Beach chapter discovered this past June when four panelists discussed their clubhouse-construction experiences as part of the education program for our monthly meeting. The topic

was especially appropriate since we were meeting in the brand-new clubhouse at my club, The Falls CC.

My topic was constructing a new clubhouse at a new site. Joining me on the panel

*(Continued on page 59)*



FGCSA/MIKE BAILEY



# IN MEMORIAL TO MR. BILL WAGNER



Seldom in a person's life do we have the privilege of meeting and being associated with a man of the caliber and character of Mr. Bill Wagner. Having known Bill for 20 years, I found him always to be the example of professionalism that our industry is seeking and requiring. A gentle man of honesty and integrity who was always willing to give more than he took as demonstrated by his unselfish associational work, his golf course responsibility and his personal life.

The people who make up the Florida Turf Industry need to remember the example of courage, integrity and professionalism left for us by the life of Mr. Bill Wagner.

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***It was relatively easy to build a two-story, 45,000-square-foot building overlooking a par-five which circles around a 15-acre lake with an island green and waterfall in the background and make it look as if it had always been there. All it took was \$7 million***

*(From page 57)*

were Paul Crawford, Palm Beach CC, demolition of old building and construction of new clubhouse; Dave Bailey, CGCS, High Ridge CC, complete renovation of old clubhouse; Dan Jones, CGCS, modification of an existing structure.

### **Scope of the projects**

**The Falls:** Starting with a clean slate made it relatively easy to build a two-story, 45,000-square-foot structure overlooking a par-five circling around a 15-acre lake with an island par-three and waterfall in the background... and make it look as if it had always belonged there. All it took was \$7 million.

**Palm Beach:** Because they bulldozed a 30-year-old structure and put a new building on the same site, the major concern was to blend the building to its environment. Using a temporary pro shop over the summer created some inconveniences, but no

major problems.

**High Ridge:** The structure has been gutted and is still being renovated. When completed, the members will have a completely new clubhouse for about \$6 million.

**Banyan GC:** Expanding or modifying a clubhouse presents a unique set of problems which can be every bit as vexing as those presented by more ambitious projects.

### **Irrigation and Landscape Design**

**The Falls:** Art Helm, assistant superintendent, explained how he and I worked with Ken Kedinato, the Toro irrigation architect from the very beginning — two years before construction began. The clubhouse's landscape irrigation system was planned into the golf course system, complete with the proper size stub outs, satellite clocks, tubes and wires.

*(Continued on page 60)*

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## Before and after

*Photos at right were taken from identical spot on the seventh tee at The Falls CC. In the top photo, a surveyor sets the grade stakes with the clubhouse under construction in the background.*

*In the bottom photo, the tee is grown in, the clubhouse is finished and the landscaping is well on its way to being established.*

Our crew  
was  
involved  
with the  
contractor  
much more  
than I had  
expected



FGCSA/MIKE BAILEY

*(From page 59)*

Landscaping remained consistent with golf course architect Joe Lee's tropical palm tree theme from the waterfall up to the "canary islands" at the front door.

**Palm Beach:** Since the clubhouse site was surrounded by majestic, mature landscaping, big stuff had to be brought in. Jamaican tall palms were trucked in from other portions of the golf course and planted by a crane. The keys were using plants that can withstand salt spray and placing them in natural settings so they blended with the rest of the landscape.

**High Ridge:** All too often, big dollars are spent on the construction of buildings,

leaving the landscaping as an afterthought. Too often, the landscaping becomes a rushed job. David is preparing himself for that eventuality.

**Banyan:** Glenda Hall, the full-time horticulturist on Dan's staff (and she has an assistant!) attended a seminar on design and use of materials at Walt Disney World before starting the project. She also obtained swatches of cloth and other materials being used by the interior decorators so she could blend the interior with the exterior view.

The Banyan staff also handled the design and installation of the irrigation sys-

tem.

### Unique Problems

**The Falls:** Our crew was involved with the contractors much more than I had expected. We helped locate lines, grade elevations, get them water, and store materials like marble tile in the center of the maintenance complex. Our task was to serve the members' needs. It's difficult not to get used in the process.

**Palm Beach:** Because of the restriction on working hours within the Town of Palm Beach, the problems were magnified. Contractors were running into each other