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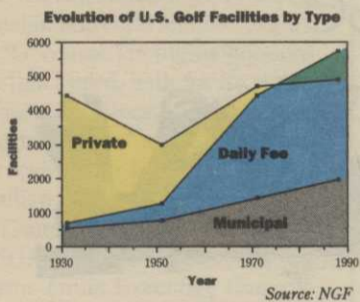
# GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

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## INSIDE

- 16 PEBBLE BEACH**  
staff maintains course integrity
- 18 STADIUM** courses  
growing in popularity
- 21 PHILOSOPHY** of  
fertilizer use changing



- Departments**
- Comment**  
Fertilizer Institute president  
defends use... 6
- Super Focus**  
Manny Francis' ingenuity a  
catalyst for innovation ..... 9



- New Courses**  
Boom continues throughout  
country ..... 10-11
- Government Update**  
Research, education keys to  
ground water problem ..... 12
- Association News**  
GCSAA gears up for  
international show ..... 13
- On the Move**  
Rivers named vice president  
with Club Car ..... 14-15
- New Products**  
Companies introducing  
mowers, equipment ..... 34-35

## Bay area courses recovering



The Oct. 17 earthquake dropped DeLaveaga Golf Course's 18th green and collar eight inches along a 50-foot, four-inch crack.  
Photo by Campbell Turner

### Irrigation systems, greens major victims of quake

BY MARK LESLIE  
In the aftermath of an earthquake that turned some San Francisco area communities upside down, Northern California golf course superintendents braced for the predicted next trembler and worked to get their courses back in shape.  
While the nation's eyes focused on the deadly tragedy at the Bay Bridge, nearer the epicenter 50 miles to the southeast, Santa Cruz's downtown was leveled and some people's lives permanently changed. Lost in the tumult of more important matters was the Oct. 17 earthquake's effect on the region's golf courses.

The major problems at the courses were damage to clubhouses and other structures, breaks in irrigation systems, cracks on

Continued on page 28

## A 95-day miracle

And he could have done it faster, says developer

BY MARK LESLIE  
Construction of a "quality" golf course in 95 working days at a Cenvill Development Corp. real-estate project in Illinois has drawn astonishment in the golf industry.  
"That's absolutely fantastic," said Golf Course Builders of America Executive Di-

rector Don Rossi. "If it's a quality golf course that's a tremendous effort."

Rossi stressed that he's not impressed with speed unless the work is high-quality, and the principals involved insist the Carillon development's golf course in Plainfield, Ill., is top-notch.

Cenvill Director of Golf Dan Jones declared, "This is no rinky-dink course. It's an excellent product."

Steve Balogh of Kenova Construction in West Palm Beach, Fla., who coordinated

Continued on page 26

## Builders mark PGA for honors

BY PETER BLAIS  
The Golf Course Builders of America will honor the Professional Golfers Association Tour at the builders' association annual meeting Feb. 24 in Orlando, Fla., for the PGA's work in building Tournament Players Club courses.

"The PGA Tour has done an out-  
Continued on page 23

## Flymo makes triumphant return to U.S.

BY PETER BLAIS  
Largely banished from U.S. golf courses in the mid-1980s, the Flymo mower is making a triumphant return heading into the 1990s, thanks to a safety device developed by a Florida distributor.

The Flymo, a walk-behind mower that rides on a cushion of air, has long been one of the most popular means of grooming around bunkers. But injuries have often occurred because of severe conditions and operator carelessness, according to Precision Small Engine Co. owner Andy Masciarella, one of Flymo's major U.S. distributors.

"People would slip while working along a

Continued on page 24



The view north from the tee of the par-3 8th hole at Washington Green Spring Golf Course in Washington, Utah, shows the contrast between red desert sandstone and golf turf that enhances a breathtaking view.

## Quake recovery

Continued from page 1

green and tees, and the loss of electricity, which caused fears of turf danger when 80-degree temperatures scorched courses the next few days.

The worst-case scenario was discovered at courses around Santa Cruz.

Superintendent D. Campbell Turner of DeLaveaga Golf Course in Santa Cruz reported one four-inch-wide crack that zig-zagged 50 feet through a green and collar, two 10-foot-long "settling" on other greens where the surface was displaced, and separations in his PVC irrigation system.

Turner reported that in mid-November he was still repairing the 18th green, where his crew had lifted sod and packed the crack with greensmix "so the water doesn't go down and lubricate things and make it more prone to slippage."

Turner said the PVC irrigation system's four-inch main line was pulled apart four feet. Aftershocks the next 10 days opened up some other three-inch lines, he said, "and then we had some leaks on laterals (lines from remote-control valves in the field to the sprinkler heads) since they're not under constant pressure you don't discover the breaks right away."

"We haven't had time to repair them all yet."

DeLaveaga Golf Course was closed the next day until officials had time to assess the hazards to golfers. They determined that, with the exception of the three "canyon areas," the course was playable.

Most damage at DeLaveaga was at the two-story restaurant-pro shop. The restaurant lost glassware and windows. The building moved and cinder-block walls broke.

Superintendent Dean Gump said that while "buildings were hit pretty hard" at Pasatiempo Golf Course in Santa Cruz, damage on the course was not bad. "The irrigation system was perfect," he said, but "we had a half-inch crack in the 17th green that was a foot deep and 10 feet long; and another half-inch crack on the 16th tee."

Gump's crews stripped the sod off the top, packed soil down a foot and put the sod back on — a four-hour job for four people.

The worst damage, he said, was to the golf cart building which moved slightly, causing a practice green on the roof to shift and half of it to drop off. Pasatiempo's pro shop lost the top of a chimney. The restaurant lost three chimneys and there were many drywall cracks. It reopened Nov. 11, he said.

"The whole community was upside down," Gump said, and that was the major reason the course was closed for two days.

Turner, Gump and their colleagues at other Santa Cruz-area courses said irrigation was "the top priority."

Santa Cruz's water supply was hit hard. "We were without water for four days," Gump said. "We

started up our emergency well on the back nine and a water tank for the front nine.

"The toughest thing was that it was 85-88 degrees and the grass really burned up until the electricity returned."

Turner's crew at DeLaveaga used a gas-powered pump normally used to drain bunkers and pumped water into spray tanks from a lake; they then hand-watered the greens.

"That kept us going until late the next day when we isolated the (irrigation system) leaks and got electricity back on," said Turner.

**'The whole community was upside down.'**

— Dean Gump  
Pasatiempo GC

At Saratoga Country Club in San Jose, where electricity was out for four days, superintendent Brian Bagley was faced with an intriguing problem. The course has a gravity-fed sump pump and the sump remained full "but we couldn't pump it out until the generator arrived," he said. "Until it did, we took the spray tank, hooked up a hose and siphoned the water

out of the sump and into garbage cans. We ran two carts in tandem with two cans in each one and watered the greens.

"After the generators came, we were all set."

And at Aptos Seascapes Golf Course just east of Santa Cruz, where there was plenty of water but electricity for two days, superintendent Mike McCraw also said "the biggest problem was worrying about the grass dying."

Otherwise in the San Francisco area the earthquake's damage was hit-or-miss — a random assault.

A spokesman at The Olympic

Club in San Francisco reported, "Absolutely no damage." Another at Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club in San Mateo said there was no damage there.

And a member of the maintenance crew at Palo Alto Hills Country Club said, "We got the heck shook out of the clubhouse and the quake showed a few blemish cracks — that's all."

On the Monterey Peninsula farther south, Pebble Beach, Cypress Point and Spanish Bay golf courses suffered no damage, contending only with loss of electricity for 24

Continued on page 29



This advance generation turf-type perennial ryegrass is setting new standards for quality, color, and performance. Its dark green color, fine leaf texture, and environmental tolerance gives you beautiful and functional results, while its high seed count stretches your grass seed dollar. Use Fiesta II straight or in Futura 2000 where it is blended with Blazer II and Dasher II perennial ryegrasses. A genetically superior combination for perennial turf in the North and overseeding in the South.



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## For a varie



# Some courses profited, others hurt from quake

In the Northern California golf industry, "location" took on a new definition in the weeks following the Oct. 17 earthquake. Was your course above Highway 17 — the freeway from San Francisco down to Silicone Valley — or at the end of 17?

If a course was unaffected by Highway 17 traffic, it fared better than normal because golfers couldn't travel the freeway south to the Santa Cruz area courses.

Aptos Seascape Golf Course, just east of Santa Cruz, suffered severely.

"Business is really down," said superintendent Mike McCraw.

"The highway is closed. People from Silicone Valley who get here on Route 17 can't get here. A lot of people have left Santa Cruz. Its beautiful old main street with old brick buildings that withstood the 1906 quake didn't withstand this one. A lot of people are

really hurting. The houses of some of my crew were destroyed."

DeLaveaga Golf Course superintendent D. Campbell Turner said play was down 30 percent at that Santa Cruz course because of the Highway 17 closure.

Dean Gump at Pasatiempo in Santa Cruz said: "The whole community was upside down... No one wanted to come out to play anyway and it was difficult for people to

get over the highway here. The road will be open Thanksgiving."

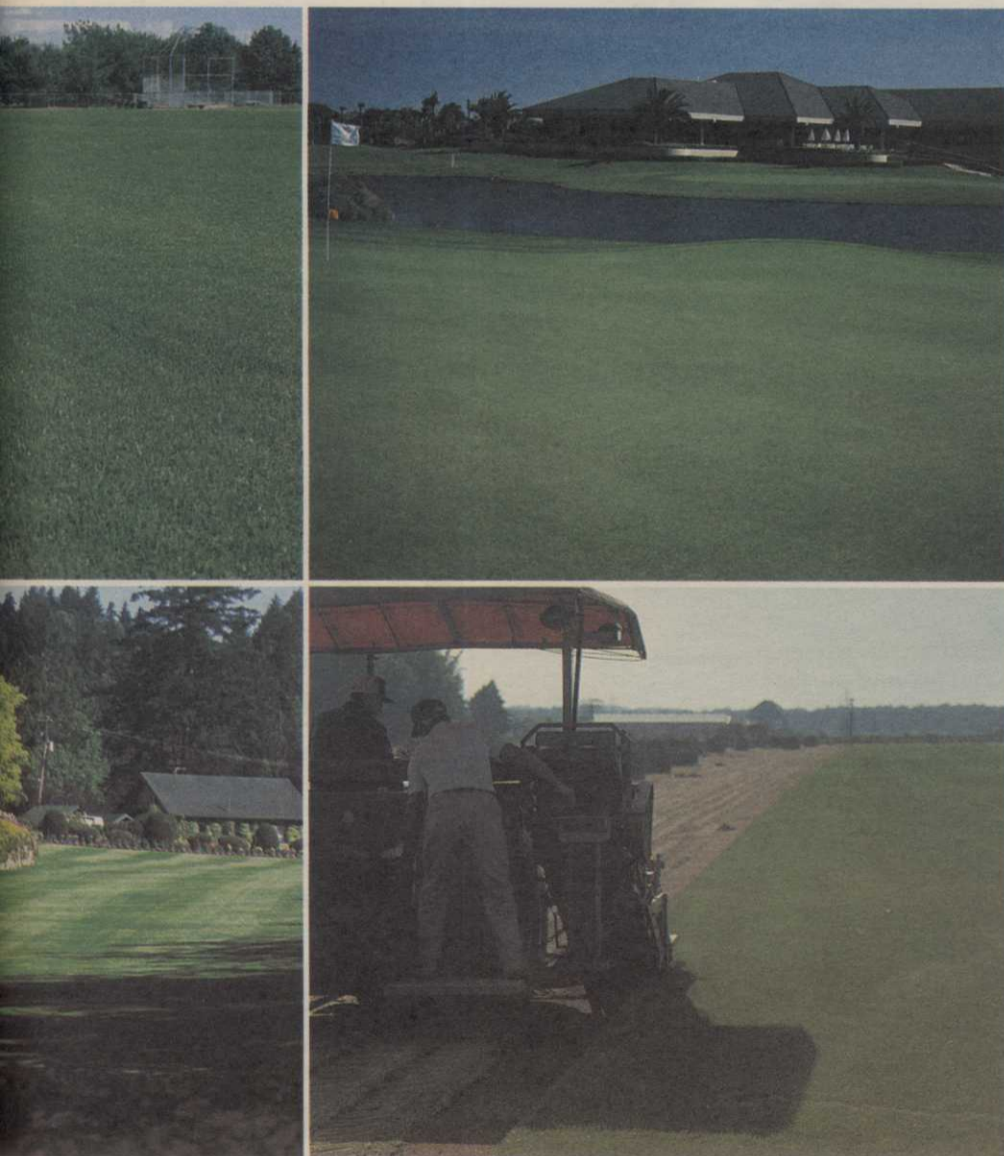
Yet at the other end of Highway 17 the story was different.

"Business has picked up because people can't get to Santa Cruz. It's now a four-hour drive instead of one hour," said superintendent Cliff Rourke at Riverside Golf Course in San Jose. "Our course was open the next day (after the quake). When it hit

people just played out their round. Quakes are not new to this area, though the magnitude of this one was different."

And at Los Altos Hills Golf and Country Club, superintendent Mike Simpson reported that, although the clubhouse was closed a couple of days, members were out on the course the next day "and wondering why there was no detergent in the ball washers."

# ty of reasons.



## CROSSFIRE TURF-TYPE TALL FESCUE

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## Quake

Continued from page 28 hours.

At other effected courses, irrigation systems took the brunt of the quake's damage. Although Los Altos Hills Golf and Country Club sustained a "sizeable split right down the middle" of one green, superintendent Mike Simpson said five breaks in his main line were his greatest concern.

Cracks and splits in the cement pipe system required that sections of pipe were cut out and new ones installed. Four of the breaks were three to four feet down in the ground, but the fifth was 10 to 15 feet below the surface, Simpson said, and it was still being worked on in mid-November.

Superintendent Cliff Rourke at Riverside Golf Course in San Jose said his 35-year-old steel irrigation system sustained a dozen main line breaks.

"It's real brittle and the quake wrinkled it enough to cause a problem," Rourke said.

All the pipes around the greens are PVC, so the damage was confined to fairways, and Rourke said, "The final effect wasn't really so bad because it exposed deteriorations in the system sooner than normal.

"The breaks were three to five feet deep; we dug down and welded them."

Yet a universal case against old irrigation systems could not be made. Aptos Seascape's McCraw reported that his 30-year-old asbestos concrete system "came through with flying colors."

The earthquake had one positive effect in that golf course officials were forced to re-examine their quake preparedness programs if they hadn't already.

DeLaveaga's Turner said a preparedness training seminar was held shortly before the quake hit. "The main thing as far as the course is concerned is that you've just got to react," he said.

When that time came on Oct. 17 it was after 5 p.m. and the DeLaveaga maintenance staff was gone for the day. But the golf course marshal was on hand and he turned off the electricity while someone else turned off the gas — the two vital moves.

Pasatiempo's Gump said, "We make sure everyone knows how to turn off the electricity, gas and water."

## SHORTSTOP TURF-TYPE TALL FESCUE



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