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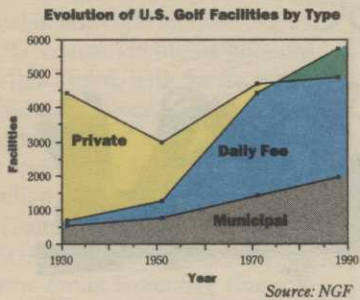
GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

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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

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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

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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-
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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

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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.

Miracle

Continued from page 1

construction, said: "We took no shortcuts on quality. You can't afford to cut back there."

Architect Gregory Martin of the Ives/Ryan Group in Downers Grove, Ill., said, "The quality of work was extraordinary."

Superintendent Renny Jacobsen said: "We are dedicated to the quality of the course. Every step of the construction was carefully managed... There were no short-cuts."

But the time was short. Jones said construction began June 9 and seeding was finished Oct. 15.

Taking into account two weeks of rainouts, Martin said the work was completed in 95 working days, with crews of as many as 120 men on the course at one time and working dawn to dusk.

"As phenomenal as all of this sounds, there are procedures and techniques that can be used over again to develop a golf course in this time frame," Martin said. "A 'critical path' of construction was developed immediately targeting various tasks to be completed by certain days to maintain the pace... "This golf course had some large

hurdles to clear to finish construction. However, the critical path concept could be used on other courses to complete a '90-day miracle.' "

Jones explained that Cenvill was building a residential development and wanted the course built quickly for sales reasons. "We wanted a product out there to let people know we were serious about building homes and a course. Development of a golf course turns a construction site into a place you can live," he said.

Rossi agreed about the impor-

ance of a course to such a development. "It's axiomatic that in that case you've got to have a golf course to sell real estate," he said.

Jones sent accolades to Martin; Kenova; Kuhn Construction of Illinois, which was the heavy earth mover; and Landscape Contractors of Illinois, which seeded the course.

Construction of 20 holes and a practice fairway included:

- Moving 800,000 cubic yards of topsoil and clay.

- Laying 21 miles of irrigation pipe, or three times the average

amount, Martin said.

- Installing 1,100 heads in a three- to four-row irrigation system that gives the 200-acre course wall-to-wall coverage, according to Jones.

- Installing single-head control to give superintendent Jacobsen the ability to better control the million-gallon-a-day peak predicted use of water.

- Building a pumping station underground so that only the roof is visible, to reduce aesthetic impact and lower the noise level.

- Digging several small lakes.
- Constructing nearly everything to USGA specifications (except that the greens do not have the chocker layer of sand).

- Building greens that average 7,000 square feet.

- Seeding the greens, tees and fairways with bentgrass and the roughs with a bluegrass-ryegrass-fescue mix.

"This was a big project under any time frame," Jones said. "I don't think anyone's ever done anything like this."

Martin said that when Cenvill proposed the six-month time frame he and Jones were at first taken aback, but then "thought it was possible if we got the right players."

Jones said Cenvill held a bid conference with a dozen golf course contractors in April. "We demanded the course be built on our time schedule. The only one interested was Kenova and they outlined a plan to get it done," he said. "Kenova would have four irrigation crews working at one time. There'd be 80 people on the course from Kenova alone — 125 altogether sometimes.

"The cooperation and coordination were simply extraordinary."

"Everything had to fall right into place," said Balogh. "There was no time for error... We were working in several different areas at the same time and needed supervision right there and had to move on immediately... like earth moving; as soon as the shaping was done the fine shapers moved right in."

Despite the speed with which the course was completed, Balogh said he could have cut three to six weeks off the time if he had all the equipment he wanted on site from day one. But Kuhn was also busy at other sites and couldn't immediately provide all the gear.

At the peak of construction, 44 pieces of equipment were on site, including 15 scrapers, six bulldozers, eight trucks, two front-end loaders, two box blades, four shaping bulldozers, two seeders, two trenchers, two backhoes and one greensmix machine.

Martin, who was on site daily to make constant adjustments, said the large earth moving was done for engineering purposes as well as to help turn the cornfields into rolling fairways.

Martin said the earthwork was well coordinated between residential and golf course, but the drain-

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Stadium courses

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projected to accommodate 1,000 spectators; the same number as had been seated in bleachers in years past. "We figured we would need 18 inches per person or 1500 linear feet. In actuality, the last day of the tournament we had probably 3,000 people watching golf from the mound," he said.

"Some of those occupied a "Skybox" for patron sponsors which was constructed on a flat area, to the golfer's right. To the golfer's left was ABC-TV booth. In past years, ABC had to build a tower and put a booth atop that. In 1989, they simply constructed the booth. They had a great view."

Miracle

Continued from page 26

age was also critical. "All eight lakes on the course serve as detention for the initial phases of the development," he said.

The earth, Martin said, was essentially topsoil that had to be moved from housing sites. That topsoil was moved onto the fairways, which were sometimes raised two to three feet, well above the recommended six inches.

The rest was clay, which was used under pads of houses. One way to get clay, he said, is to dig lakes; thus the lakes.

"The design will surprise people in the area," said Martin, who has worked with Jim Spear and designed a half-dozen courses before Carillon. "Cenvill went the extra mile to get things done. They were a great client and knew what a golf course can do for a development."

The 18th hole features a peninsula fairway. Water comes into play on 11 holes. There are only 60-plus sand traps but those are 4,000- to 5,000-square-foot traps. And the builders are still busy creating eight- and 13-acre lakes (deep enough to sustain fish) to buffer the golf course into the housing.

"I was quite nervous about it getting done," said Jones. "No one thought it could be done... This is unheard of."

But Kenova's Balogh said: "I love challenges like that. I'd do another one tomorrow."

He may get his chance. He said he has already been contacted by several groups in the Chicago area that are interested in what he calls "The Fast Track Way."

"We came here into this area (southwest Chicago suburbs) from Florida, and we have found one of the finest situations we've ever had — excellent relationships with the unions and suppliers, dedicated managers, and a great labor force, people willing to give you 12 hours of hard work for 12 hours of pay. Even with all the planning and equipment, it takes good people to do a good job."

People will be able to judge that job on July 1 when the Plainfield course officially opens. But Jones added, "You can play three holes right now."

If Luikens has a problem with his dirt pile, it is one he readily accepts. "We have to mow the rows or benches with a Flymo and a Weedeater. It takes about two hours and that's costly. Over the years we've lengthened holes, moved bunkers, put mounding down the sides of fairways, anything to improve individual holes or groups of holes. The big hill behind No 18 will probably benefit more people in more ways."

How does Luikens justify a \$100,000 "bump" on a daily fee course?

"Ask yourself," says Luikens, "does the daily fee golfer deserve a course with all the excitement he would expect to find on a championship tract played by pros? We think he does."

Gary Rippey, TPC's head professional concurs. Rippey adds the course averages 37,000-40,000 rounds per year, of which 25,000 are tournament rounds.

"Those include corporate outings," advises the pro. "Plus, we hosted the Golf Digest ROLEX Intercollegiate and the U. S. G. A. Senior Womens' Amateur this

spring and summer and will host the Lee Trevino State Open this Fall." In 1988, TPC was the site of the Insurance Youth Golf Classic tourney and several qualifying events as well.

The comment of one PGA Tour official to superintendent Luikens sums up the effort and finished product. "He told me that we had the most natural looking stadium on Tour," said Luikens. And a pretty nifty stage for the fat lady's finale as well.

Frances Trimble is a freelance writer based in Houston, Texas.

Sod Producers schedule plans

The American Sod Producers Association's convention dates are set through February 1992.

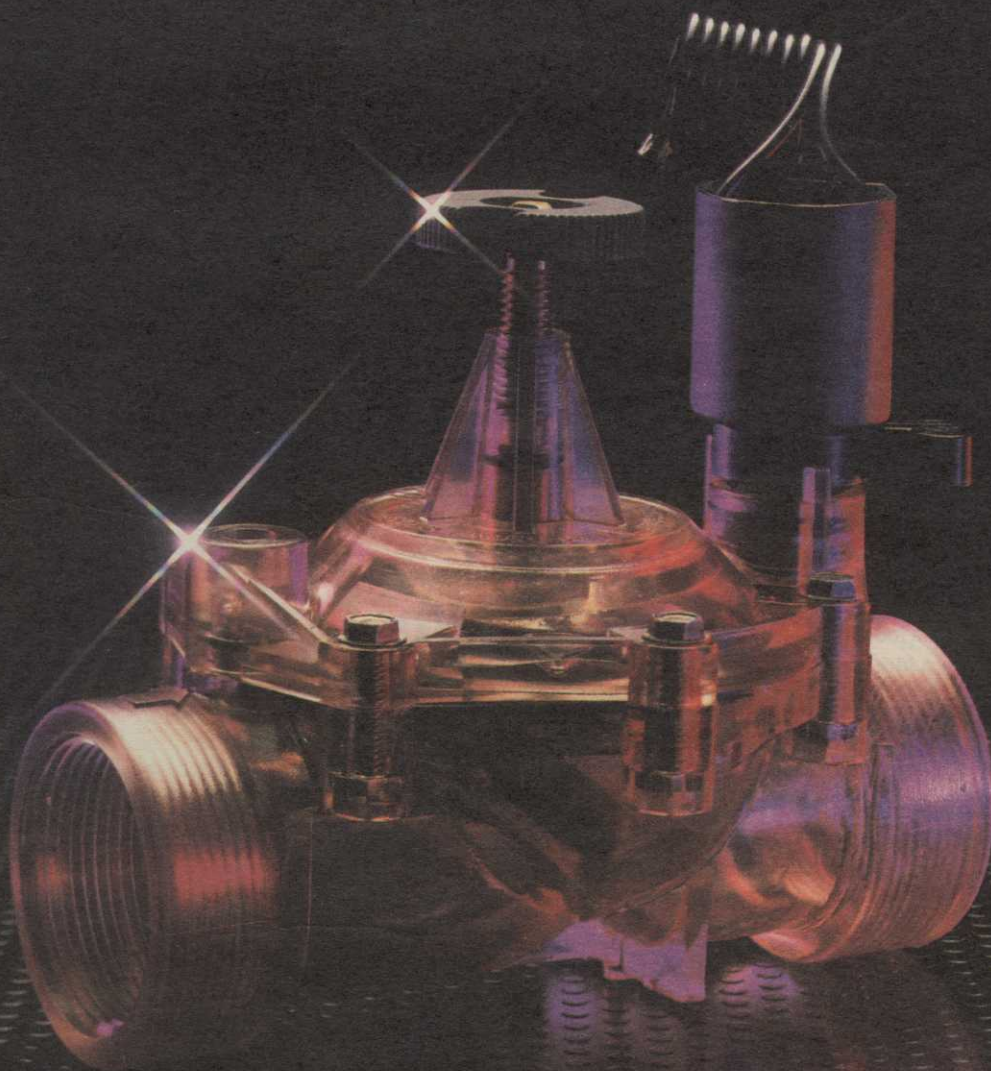
The Feb. 14-16, 1990 midwinter conference in Orlando, Fla., will be followed by the July 25-27 summer convention in Ottawa, Ont.

The Jan. 23-25, 1991, midwinter conference in San Antonio, Texas, will be followed by the July 24-26 summer convention in Santa Barbara, Calif.

The Feb. 5-7, 1992, midwinter conference will be in Las Vegas.

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