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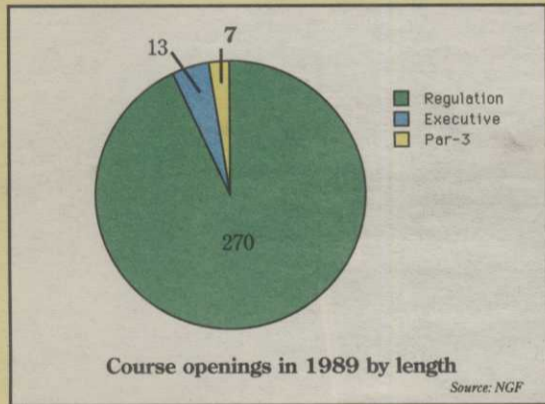
GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

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Hawaiians just say no

Committee turns down potential \$291-million profit

BY PETER BLAIS

The Honolulu City Council Human Services Committee has voted against the city's proposed sale of West Loch

Golf Course to a Japanese company, likely killing a deal that would have netted the city \$291 million Mayor Frank Fasi hoped to use for recreational facilities and three new public courses.

Jurigi Co. bid \$111 million this spring for the new municipal course, which cost the city \$20 million to build, and offered \$200 million in impact fees if

the city eventually approved two other golf course construction applications.

The committee voted 4-1 against Jurigi's offer. Committee Chairman Neal Abercrombie said his committee had two primary objections.

First, Abercrombie explained, the land was originally condemned for a municipal course and should be used
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Corps major holdup

BY MARK LESLIE

The Army Corps of Engineers has caused more delays in golf projects than any other organization, according to a survey of golf course architects.

Thirty-nine of 40 member firms answering an American Society of Golf Course Architects survey said they experienced difficulties in obtaining permits for courses because of environmental concerns by local, state or national agencies.

Fifty-six percent of the firms cited the primary obstacle as wetlands, which the Corps of Engineers over-
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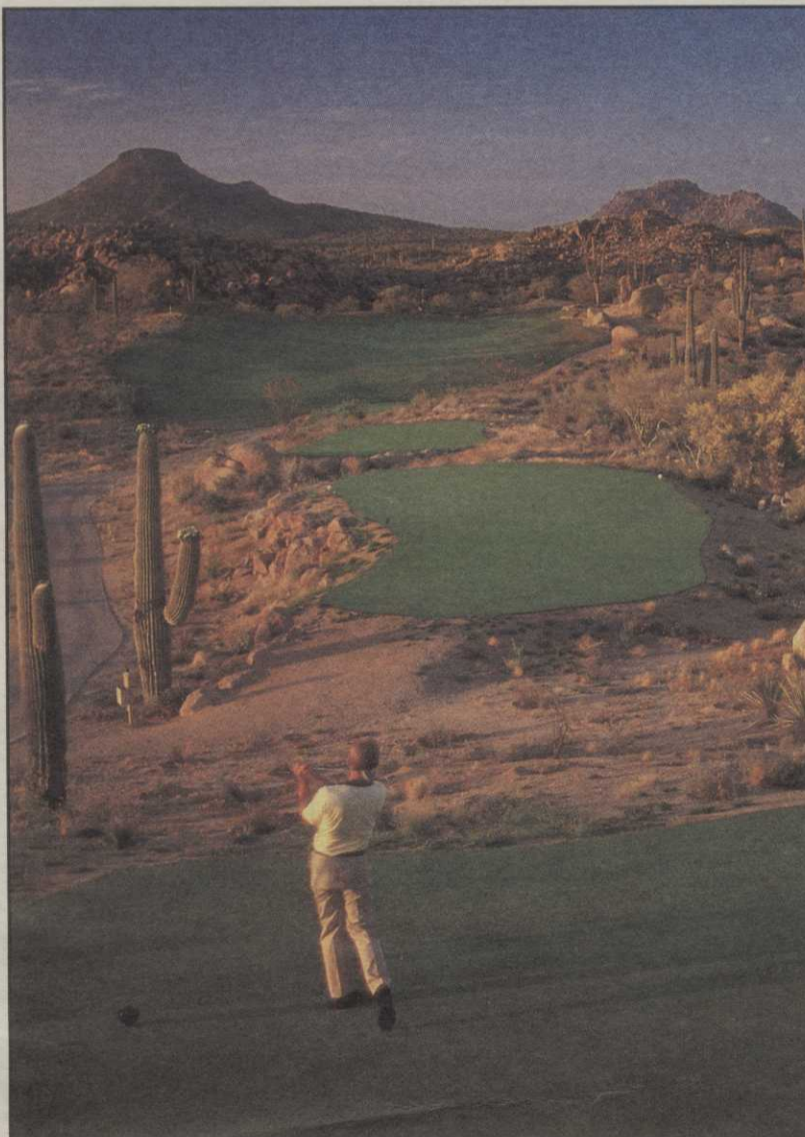


Photo by Tony Roberts

A golfer tees off at Troon North, the latest creation of Jay Morrish and Tom Weiskopf in Scottsdale, Ariz. Developed by Pinnacle Peak Land Co. of Scottsdale and built by Wadsworth Construction Co., Troon North is an 18-hole championship, daily fee course. It is carved out of the desert, featuring saguaro cactus (at left), lots of rocks, and holes that are totally isolated from one another. Its bermudagrass greens read 9 on the stimpmeter. Pinnacle plans a four-season hotel and home development on the site.

Tainted fungicide damages courses

BY MARK LESLIE

A fungicide contaminated with a foreign chemical killed turf on about 10 golf courses in five states, according to its manufacturer, O.M. Scott & Sons.

Atrazine, the active ingredient in Scott's Bonus S herbicide, mistakenly got mixed into a batch of FF-II, a fertil-

izer-based fungicide used primarily to control snow mold, said Jim Fetter, Scott's vice president of marketing.

The mixing was done last fall but it wasn't until weather warmed up this spring that it was discovered at several courses in Michigan, two in Minnesota, and one each in Pennsylvania,

Ohio and Kentucky.

It is not likely the problem will show up at any other courses, Fetter said. "We feel we know exactly what happened, what (production) run the contamination occurred in, and where it went."
Continued on page 9

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ASGCA survey

Continued from page 1
sees.

ASGCA immediate past President Robert Trent Jones Jr. said two evils that pervade many regional offices of the COE are inconsistent interpretation of the law and lateness entering the political process.

"Local jurisdictions (of COE) are making rulings beyond the federal regulations," said ASGCA Secretary Arthur Hills.

"The solution is to ask the policy-makers in Washington to instruct their representatives under the law to attend the public hearings when they are at issue, and to

make a timely decision. Justice delayed is justice denied," Jones said.

Current ASGCA President Dan Maples said the survey "vividly demonstrates the impact that environmental concerns have on the golf industry, and the need for the industry to work with key agencies to develop mutually acceptable guidelines that will be interpreted uniformly throughout the country."

Yet, Jones said, one set would be confusing because the United States has five "radically different" geographic areas from desert to tree-covered to tropical.

More than wetlands and waterways are at issue in the permitting process. The survey showed other concerns, in order, are habitat, nitrates/chemical contamination, ground-water protection and pesticide use.

The Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Natural Resources, various environmental groups, local planning commissions, town/city councils, wildlife organizations and adjacent landowners were ranked behind the COE.

Architects said they generally contact agencies in this order: local planning commissions, COE,

state commissions, EPA and DNR.

More than 52 percent of the firms said some projects had been delayed from eight to 12 months by the permitting process. One-fourth said hearings caused three- to six-month delays, while 22.5 percent said several of their projects were delayed 15 to 30 months.

Most said the process should take from three to six months, and that time should be factored into the owner's overall planning and financing.

Architects cited cases in which costs soared to more than \$1 million for additional financing, legal and consultant fees and course

rerouting because of delays.

Half felt environmental agencies and commissions impose more stringent provisions on golf courses than non-golf projects.

Hills said, "The Corps and the EPA — if you take their directions literally — are either adding a tremendous amount of cost to development or they're stopping it.

"The pendulum has swung a long way. Someone has gotten their ear, and the translations (of laws) have made it very difficult for recreational and all other kinds of development to be accomplished."

Jones, who strived to improve the regulatory process while ASGCA president in 1989, was adamant that the COE is "missing the spirit of the law as well as the letter of the law."

"The policy-makers ... would do citizens (us) a service if they would administrate the general policies more efficiently and quickly," Jones said. "The bureaucrat says, 'I'm busy. I need more staff,' which is a typical response. They can review a project quickly. But in a war of attrition it's easy for some of the administrators to say, 'I have to think about it' and do nothing, then it is to say, 'I approve it with these conditions.'"

Exceptions

While Jones pointed to the California and New Jersey regions as among the most difficult to deal with, others like the Midwest are relatively easy, he said.

Ron Kern, who with brother Gary has dealt with COE's St. Louis, Louisville and Detroit divisions, said: "Our main problem is not any inability to work with them, but their lack of staff. We always do a lot of point work to try to minimize the time it takes ... and so there are no surprises later on."

Jones said he has had many surprises. His Squaw Valley project in California was a classic example, he said.

According to Jones, the local water district notified COE and others before conducting hearings. The COE did not respond. "And at the last minute, after this approval process had been negotiated and permits were being issued, they came and said, 'You forgot us. We have jurisdiction because there is a dry creek in this area, and now you have to go through our process,'" Jones said.

"That is a tactic, or a bureaucratic policy, that seems to be repeating itself throughout the country. They are a late-comer ... After the developer has gone through negotiations to accommodate the other boards, the Corps comes in and re-invents the wheel."

The difference between regions, he said, shows "there is no consistency in their interpretation of their mission" which is "the water quality of navigable waterways."

Individual interpretation by COE employees is also puzzling, Jones said. "The guys in the field seem to take wide latitude on whether they think it's of interest or not. And

Continued on page 29

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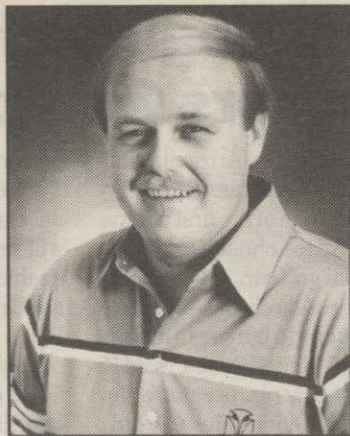
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Blackwolf Run nabs Moorman as head pro

PGA Class A member Jeffrey Moorman, 35, has been named head golf professional at Blackwolf Run, a championship golf course in Kohler, Wis.

Moorman has 10 years experience in the golf industry, including five years as a head golf pro and four years as an assistant head pro at several Midwest courses. He comes to Blackwolf Run from Christmas Lake Golf Club in Santa Claus, Ind., where he had been head golf professional for nearly four years. Moorman was also head pro at Maplecrest Country Club in Goshen, Ind., and assistant pro at Meridian Hills Coun-



Jeffrey Moorman

try Club in Indianapolis.

Moorman has a bachelor's degree in general business administration from Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

VanMiddlesworth at Lake Aid

John VanMiddlesworth has been named the national and export sales manager for Lake Aid Systems. VanMiddlesworth was previously the eastern regional sales manager.

VanMiddlesworth will be responsible for a sales force throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and the Orient.

Lake Aid Systems manufactures and sells aeration equipment for both wastewater and fresh-water applications, including wind-power aerators

Elsewhere...

Anne C. Seiler has been promoted to marketing manager with Hale Irwin Golf Services, Inc. She manages the marketing programs for the firm's golf course design and development projects.

Birnie Whitlow and Paul Syverson have joined Doug Sault as associates in the golf clubhouse architectural firm of William Zmistowski Associates based in Boulder, Colo. Syverson is the project architect for Los Angeles International Golf Club and Whitlow was the project manager for Golf Club of Oklahoma and Marbella Golf and Country Club in San Juan Capistrano, Calif.

Art Shepherd has been pro-

motored to Northern District manager of Kubota Tractor Corp.'s Central Division. For the past three years, Shepherd served the Colorado and New Mexico territories as a Kubota regional sales manager. Prior to joining Kubota, he was vice president of sales for Spray Rite Manufacturing for four years.

Tom Gentile, principal of Gentile Associates in Mission Viejo, Calif., has announced that Richard W. Murray has joined his firm in a partnership renamed Gentile Murray Associates. Murray has a bachelor's degree in business management and a 20-year career in sales and marketing, and will expand the representation throughout Southern California for the firm. Drip Equipment.

Kevin Buchanan has joined the staff at LABB Systems as product support manager for TRIMS Grounds Management Software and will be responsible for organizing product training seminars in addition to providing technical support to TRIMS users. Buchanan has a strong background in accounting with special emphasis on DOS, Lotus and WordPerfect.

ASGCA survey

Continued from page 26
you never know. It's like a lottery whether they will take interest and show up at a hearing," he added.

Repeated attempts to contact COE national headquarters in Washington, D.C., were unsuccessful.

But Rod Howe, assistant project manager with COE's New England Division, said manpower is a national problem.

Howe said his region has "no objection to developing up to the limit of a wetland, or using the wetland as an obstacle."

"We are generally not all that concerned with chemicals, so long as there is not much phosphorous," he said, explaining that wetlands are a natural cleanser.

Howe, who works in Maine and New Hampshire, said delays usually occur when a project affects a salt marsh and therefore its waterfowl.

"If it is very complex," he said, "it could take close to a year. That's where it is very important to contact the Corps right up front."

Initiative

"Architects have not done a good job of explaining to regulatory agencies, local boards and the general public how golf courses contribute to the quality of life," Maples said. "But we must go one step further and work with the EPA and COE to develop guidelines that will help the architect prepare a plan that will be acceptable without a great deal of revision."

"Key to that, of course, is having national standards on such key issues as wetland mitigation."

He said good preliminary plans must be prepared that are understandable to the laymen who sit on local boards.

"We must become allies, not adversaries," Maples said.

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