Europe an exciting arena; Asia is next

As mentioned in my last column, Golf Course News attended Golf Course Europe '91 in Wiesbaden, Germany, in early October. Although attendance was less than expected, the quality of registrants was impressive.

Most interesting was the fact that very few superintendents registered for the conference, though the subject matter was to a large extent geared to the maintenance segment of the industry.

I discussed this with knowledgeable industry leaders. They indicated that European superintendents or greenkeepers, generally speaking, have not yet attained the status of U.S. superintendents, nor do they have access to maintenance education such as we have in

U.S. Sen. Barry Goldwater of Ari-

zona once said, "A government that

is big enough to give you all you

want is big enough to take it all

is that it is of and by the people, and we

have the right, if not the mandate, to

direct our personal input into govern-

ment decisions affecting us - from

Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., recently said

golf industry. The industry in Ari-

zona and Florida stand apart from

about an issue before the Senate.

Take part or be taken apart," Sen.

That could as well apply to the

town to federal levels.

Yet, at the heart of our democracy

away."



as do U.S. superintendents.

I had an opportunity to play a new 18-hole facility near Frankfurt, designed by the Hausers of Austria. (See page 9.) The fog and mist was so thick as we began the round that it was tough following the ball!

The course was interesting. Like the majority of new courses in this area, it is cut out of farmland - in this case, the historic sheep barn

other states

as an exam-

ple of stand-

ing up and

takingpartin

the decision

process.

depletion of

our ground

water sup-

what the fu-

ture would

hold if we

didn't take

serious ac-

tion now.

and

Charles Putnam

Coincidentally, at that same con-

ference, Francisco Jimeno spoke on

"Reclaimed Effluent in Golf Course

Construction." We talked a lot, in

those days, about sludge disposal

and effluent use. It was a relatively

new topic and had the interest of the

irrigation community, both agricul-

ture and turf. Jimeno's comments

were interesting because he ap-

proached the subject from the stand-

point of water and power conserva-

This was the year, you might

recall, that the Organization of

Petroleum Exporting Countries

(OPEC) turned off the taps. Con-

sidering our situation today, a

couple of Jimeno's remarks are

worth repeating. Remember,

please, that these statements were

made 20 years ago.

tion, rather than just disposal.

plies

was being totally renovated and remodeled to become the clubhouse, pro shop, etc. The new greens were in good condition but 70 percent sand, which made them quick and

hard to hold, even in wet weather. The greenkeeper is a Scot recruited from his homeland. It's my understanding that more United Kingdom greenkeeprs are being recruited on the continent for duties at the newer courss. There are even a few Americans heading up maintenance at new courses.

You may be pleased to learn that the American team (Perry Dye, Matt Dye, Cynthia Dye McGarry and yours truly), retained new-found U.S. supremacy in world golf by defeating on a handicap point basis the European team, 67-61. With no help from me, Perry and Matt carried the U.S. team to victory.

We continue to consider a European edition of Golf Course News, as well as an Asian edition. The Asian edition would be published in conjunction with the Golf Asia show in Singapore in late March. I will keep you informed of our progress.

The special feature in this issue lists Golf Course Builders and Architects. This ever-growing segment of our business is most important to the quality and consistency of new courses and the renovation of older facilities.

I believe the United States has the best golf course builders, designers and architects. We have reason to be proud of these men and women.

Today, each person in golf has a

special opportunity to participate.

development nationwide. Current

rules defining wetlands are incred-

No one wants to develop on real

And let's take part. Or the indus-

wetlands. Butlet's use common sense.

ible. This can soften them.

try just might be taken apart.



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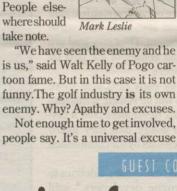
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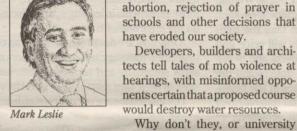
By Charles Putnam

My father was a golf course superintendent for almost 50 years. As a child, I remember how he used to love Mondays. On Monday the course was closed and free of people who would take divots out of his fairways and leave ball marks on his greens. He cared deeply how his course looked and played and worried about it constantly.

One of the worries he didn't have, there in Seattle, was the quality or quantity of water available. He and his contemporaries, in the 1930s and 1940s they were called "greenskeepers," had lots of good water that was cheap. Although I don't know for sure, I believe the quality, quantity and cost of water were not major concerns anywhere that golf courses were being built in those days.

All of that changed sometime in the late 1960s or early 1970s. My first recollection of anyone suggesting the possibility of serious water problems, in terms of quantity, was at an Irrigation Association technical conference in Dallas. The year was 1973. The speaker was Professor Edward Hiler from Texas A&M University. He warned about





Some advice: Take part or be taken apart

is us," said Walt Kelly of Pogo cartoon fame. But in this case it is not funny. The golf industry is its own enemy. Why? Apathy and excuses.

people say. It's a universal excuse

Developers, builders and architects tell tales of mob violence at hearings, with misinformed oppo-

nents certain that a proposed course would destroy water resources. Why don't they, or university

one that has led to legalized

tion to help quell the storm? Why not take the time to help a

Apathy and excuses.

And they don't even have to travel schools and other decisions that have eroded our society. to some city council hearing room. The Environmental Protection Agency has extended, to Dec. 14,

its deadline for comments on the proposed wetlands delineation guidelines. (See page 4 story.) This manual is critical to future

scientists and others, show up armed with research documenta-

colleague-who could turn around and help you some day?

"The outlook in the availability of water for the irrigation of turf is leading us to consider that the scarcity of this important resource will

become critical before the decade of the 1970s comes to an end," Jimeno said. "The development of turf or grass-covered areas has proved of great value in providing a better living environment, helping control air pollution, furnishing better climactic conditions and adding beauty to the landscape."

Both Hiler and Jimeno suggested that better, more sophisticated management practices, more efficient sprinklers and state-of-the-art controls would all be necessary to deal with this growing problem. How prophetic were these two men? To answer that, look at what happened only a few years later, and where we have come in the past two decades.

In the 1970s, we experienced drought in areas where it would be least expected. Northern California, western Washington, parts of the Northeast and Great Lakes region all suffered from a severe lack of water at some time in that decade. Later, the depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer and other ground water supplies gave real cause for concern

among all irrigators, including those concentrating specifically on golf course work.

As the cost of building a golf course increased and energy costs rose dramatically, more efficient irrigation systems were more than just desirable, they were an ecessity.

Some irrigation markets were slow to accept new technology. This has been especially true in the residential/commercial market. For the most part, this was probably due to economics. This has not been true of golf course irrigation, however. More than any other segment of the irrigation business, golf course developers and superintendents have been ready to accept and apply technological advances early in their introduction.

This, too, is probably due to economics to a large degree. For example, Roger Gordon, a widely known West Coast designer of golf course irrigation systems, points out an Arizona law governing golf course construction and irrigation. The law limits a golf course to 90 acres per 18 holes. To make matters worse, annual irrigation is limited to 4.8 acre-feet per acre. That is Continued on page 11