

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION
VOLUME 4, NUMBER 5
MAY 1992

INSIDE

Caution in Asia

Some developers believe golf course construction may outpace demand 6

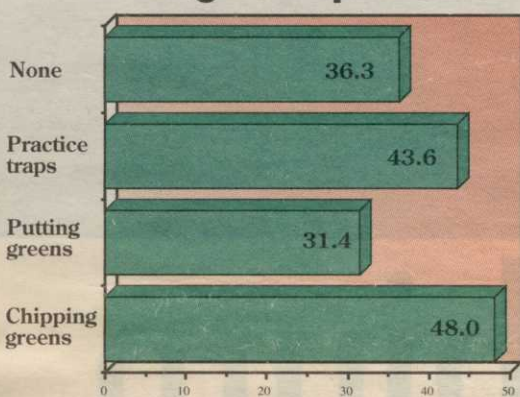
Truax in '92?

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On the straight & narrow

Maryland superintendent finds invisible fencing keeps carts and their drivers in line 54

A range of options



Many U.S. practice facilities offer chipping and putting greens and practice traps. This graph shows the percentages of surveyed ranges that offer these services. Ranges that operate at or close to a year-round basis are more likely to offer practice areas.

Source: National Golf Foundation

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Grads facing uncertain future

By Peter Blais

Turf school graduates are having more trouble finding entry-level jobs as assistant superintendents than they did a year ago, according to college officials.

"We usually graduate 45 to 50 students," said Professor Richard Cooper, coordinator of the University of Massachusetts two-year turf management program.

"Last year was the first time they weren't all able to get jobs. This year it's been even worse. It's taking a lot more work to find positions."

Cooper blames a weak economy, particularly in the Northeast, for the bleak job

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Cat strike leaves mark on industry

By Hal Phillips

PEORIA, ILL. — Wadsworth Construction Co. held a unique perspective on the year's most visible labor dispute, in terms of industry and geography.

Located in Plainfield, Ill., Wadsworth observed the five-month strike at nearby Caterpillar Inc. from close range.

"We've got Cat plants on both sides of us, in Aurora and Joliet," said Paul Eldredge, president of Wadsworth. Before the April 15 settlement, Eldredge indicated he felt Caterpillar was in good position to wait out its discontented work-

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Gen Morita wants all golf construction halted, including Perry Dye's Royal Hawaiian (above).

Japanese course basher sets sights on Hawaii

By Peter Blais

His goal is nothing short of stopping all golf course development, period. And Hawaii is his latest target.

"It's not possible to build a good golf course," said Gen Morita of the The Global Network for Anti-Golf Course Action. "You can't put something like that on 150 acres and expect it to not hurt the environment, unless you stick it in the middle of the desert. But if you build it in the usual way, it's just not possible."

Before developers dismiss the 44-year-old Japanese activist as just another fly in

the ointment, they ought to consider his record.

Morita claims to have had a hand in stopping construction of 280 Japanese courses through his work with the Japan National Network Against Resort and Golf Course Development. Since 1988, the group has helped obtain moratoriums against new development in 10 of Japan's 46 prefectures.

With Japanese corporations financing many of Hawaii's new courses, Morita turned his attention to the 50th state last

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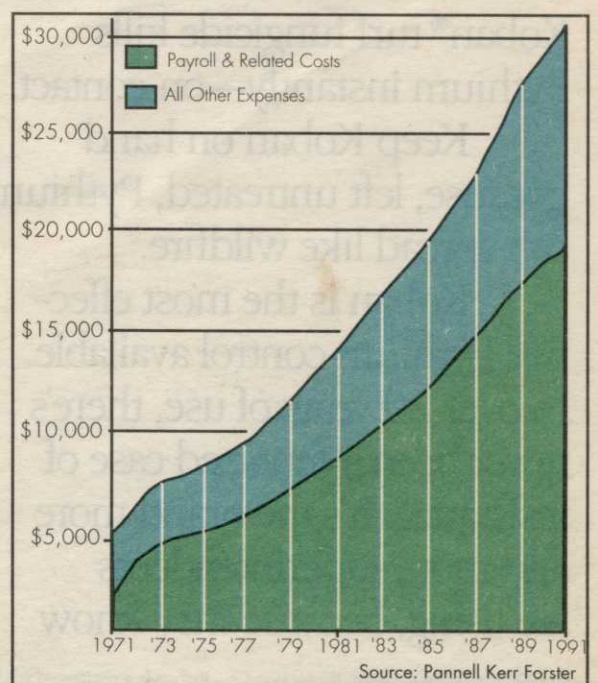
Maintenance costs continue upward spiral

From Staff Reports

Higher payroll expenses caused country club maintenance costs to jump almost 10 percent last year, despite efforts to cut back on repairs and other costs.

Average payroll climbed 10 percent (to \$15,888 per hole) while payroll taxes and benefits rose 16.8 percent (to \$3,610 per hole) at 250 private U.S. country clubs surveyed by the accounting firm of Pannell Kerr Forster in its 1992 Clubs in Town & Country report.

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Source: Pannell Kerr Forster

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