

Show Time '93

It's show time!

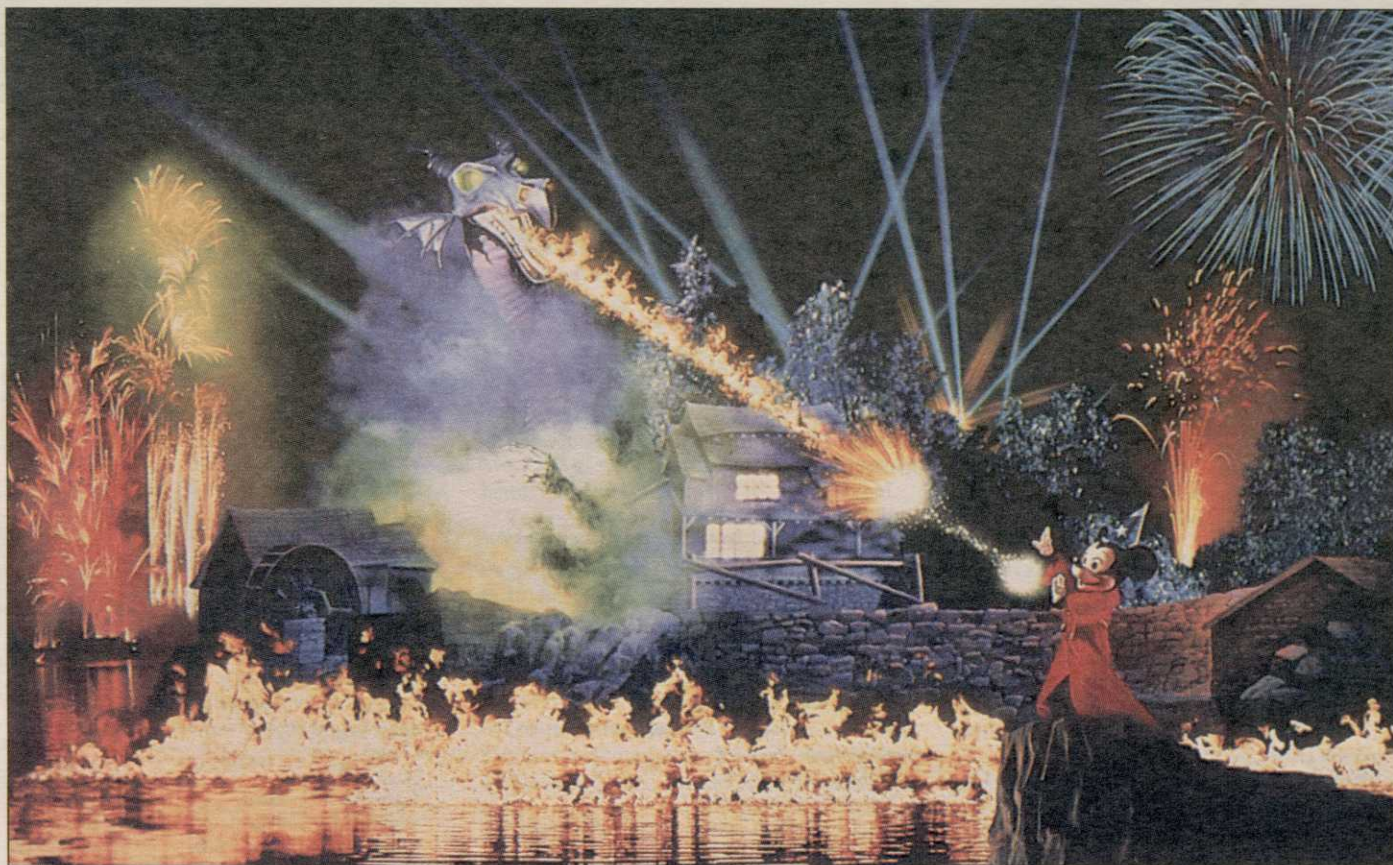
And much of the best entertainment in L.A. is not in your tour guide

By HAL PHILLIPS

ANAHEIM — There should be no shortage of things to do when the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America isn't conducting its trade show, banquets and education program. There's nearby Disneyland, of course. And Hollywood. And Knotts Berry farm. Etc., etc., etc....

However, if you don't want to trod the beaten path, Southern California boasts a long, long list of fun spots your travel agent probably didn't mention. We at Golf Course News contacted numerous regional experts to compile the following rundown of restaurants, nightclubs and

Don't count on public transportation in the Los Angeles area. Rent a car — you'll be glad you did.



Disneyland, one of America's most popular theme parks, sits nearby the Anaheim Convention Center where the International Golf Course Conference and Show will be held, Jan. 23-30.

other exotic locales.

But before we get started, here's a piece of advice, one you've probably heard already, from your travel agent: Rent a car. There is precious little public transportation in the Los Angeles area, and Anaheim — not a walker's paradise — is a good hour from many downtown activities. It may sound like a long ride, but that's a fact of life in L.A.

- **Hermosa Beach** is the L.A. surfer beach. For scenery and seclusion, the best bet is **Laguna Beach**, which has cliffs overlooking the shoreline and rock formations jutting into the sea, making parts of the expanse seem completely private. **Venice Beach** is best for people-watching, but swimming is not advised.

- If you get tired of Mexican and nouvelle cuisine, there's an appropriate

alternative for superintendents on vacation: **The Great Scot** on Los Felix Boulevard in Los Angeles, on the way to Glendale. It's not the 19th hole at Carnoustie, but this place does serve authentic British pub food and features a nice beer selection. The entire staff is Scottish — but they don't wear kilts.

- If you're looking to spot a few celebrities during your stay in Tinseltown, don't bother with Hollywood or Mann's Chinese Theater. Head straight to the posh **Polo Lounge**, situated in the Beverly Hills Hotel. It's pricey, but the elite are often patrons there. **The Bonaventure Hotel** in downtown L.A. is also a classy place to have a cocktail and hang with the rich and famous. No pointing, please.

- **Catalina Island** is ideal for day

trips. The boat leaves from Long Beach (a 30-minute ride from Anaheim) and the high-speed crossing takes just 45 minutes. On island, visitors can go hiking or rent golf carts for transportation. Snorkel and scuba gear can be rented in the main town, Avalon, where shops and restaurants abound. Don't be surprised if you see some buffalo. Seems Catalina was the site of many a western film, and buffalo were imported for authenticity. There were left on the island, thrived and now roam freely.

- You hear a lot about Rodeo Drive and Melrose Avenue, but they're trendy, expensive and distant. **Laguna Beach** features the best shopping in the Anaheim area.

- Looking for live music? Los Angeles

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Bennett looking to defend GCSAA title

By PETER BLAIS

Forget the oversized driver, long-shafted putter or sports psychologist. Defending GCSAA tournament champion Gary Bennett knows how to raise your game to the next level.

Marriage.

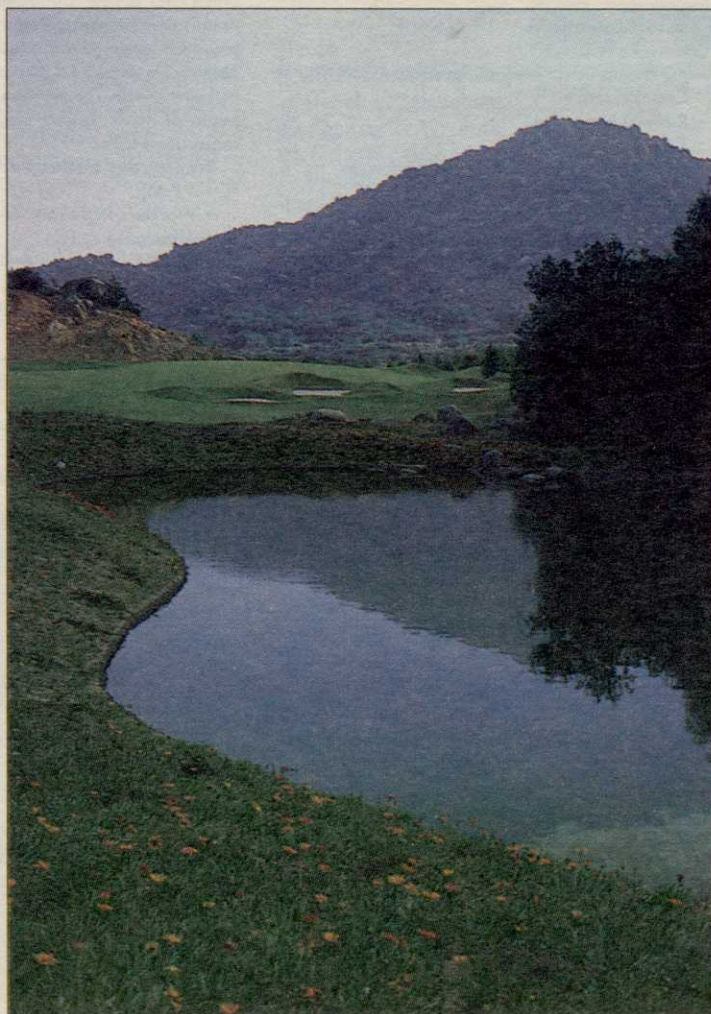
"I remarried a wonderful school teacher in August. I've only played three times since then. But I've shot par or better each time," said the head superintendent at Crickentree Golf Club near Columbia, S.C..

Bennett has to be one of the favorites heading into this year's GCSAA tourney in San Diego. Despite his low number of rounds played, Bennett's confidence is high. That's as it should be considering the scratch golfer's five-stroke victory in last year's 36-hole tourney played over Sawgrass Country Club and TPC at Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Bennett won his first crown even though he played with a broken finger.

"It just depends on who is playing well at the time. Confidence has a lot to do with it," said Bennett, 44, who finished second in 1987 and in the top 10 every year he's entered, except 1980.

This year's tournament will be Jan. 23-24. The courses include Carlton Oaks Country Club, Eastlake Country Club, Mt. Woodson Country Club and Steele Canyon Golf Club.

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Mt. Woodson CC is one of the four GCSAA tournament courses.



Inside:

- Dinah Shore (above) is this year's winner of the Old Tom Morris Award. For a complete listing of past winners, see page 21.

- Thumbnail sketches of this year's candidates, page 19.

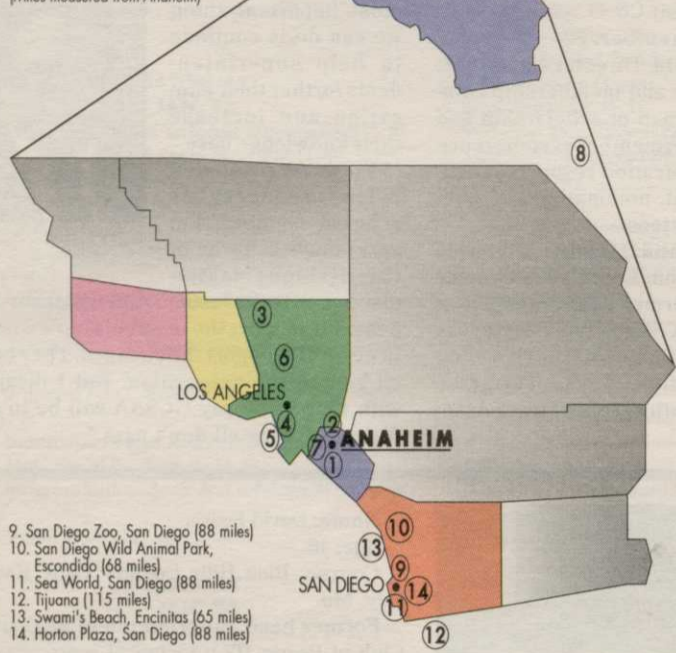
- For a complete schedule of this year's seminars, turn to page 18.

- For coverage of the proposed bylaw amendments, see page 1. For views from our readership, turn to page 15.

Show Time '93

Places to go,
things to do
in Southern
California

1. Disneyland, Anaheim
 2. Crystal Cathedral, Anaheim
 3. Magic Mountain, Valencia (56 miles)
 4. Fabulous Forum (Lakers, Kings), Inglewood (24 miles)
 5. Venice Beach, Venice (22 miles)
 6. Universal Studios, Studio City (36 miles)
 7. Knotts Berry Farm, Anaheim
 8. Las Vegas (272 miles)
- (Miles measured from Anaheim)



9. San Diego Zoo, San Diego (88 miles)
10. San Diego Wild Animal Park, Escondido (68 miles)
11. Sea World, San Diego (88 miles)
12. Tijuana (115 miles)
13. Swami's Beach, Encinitas (65 miles)
14. Horton Plaza, San Diego (88 miles)

GCSAA makes rare presentation of President's Award to NY Audubon

By MARK LESLIE

The President's Award for Environmental Leadership, given only once before by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, will be presented to the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

The award will be given at the GCSAA banquet Jan. 30 to Ron Dodson, on behalf of the New York State Audubon Society. The society administers the program, working with superintendents to enhance the wildlife on their golf courses.

"We will be there and accept the award. But I feel I'm accepting it on behalf of all the people who have joined and are taking care of their courses with the environment in mind," said Dodson, the NYSAS president. "Our attitude is that we are trying to provide good credible information and support. The real heroes are the people actually managing the courses for the wildlife and environment."

Dodson feels the award will give the sanctuary program credibility among superintendents and encourage more to join.

'We're the only environmental conservation organization with a full-time golf course program.'

— Ron Dodson,
NYSAS president

Dodson said that, as a long-time golfer, he was not surprised at superintendents' high rate of interest in the environment. He related one groundskeeper's comment that he had always felt he was in a car without a cockpit. The sanctuary program "gave me the steering wheel as to what wildlife needs," he told Dodson.

From its inception in the spring of 1990, the program grew to just over 100 members the first year, nearly 300 by the end of 1991, and eclipsed Dodson's goal of 500 for the end of 1992.

The staff has grown from Dodson and one part-time assistant to Dodson, two full-time ecologists, a managerial person and secretarial support.

Staff ecologist Jean Mackay spends 90 to 100 percent of her time with golf courses, and naturalist Wendy Kuntz spends 50 percent of her time on the golf program, Dodson said.

"We're the only environmental conservation organization with a full-time golf course program," Dodson said.

Nancy Sadlon, environmental specialist for the U.S. Golf Association, which sponsors and funds the program, said her organization is excited about it and hopes it continues to grow. Of the more than 570 golf courses which are members, Florida and California lead the states, and the Northeast leads the regions.

The Canadian Golf Superintendents Association has shown interest in adopting the program in its country, and courses in Guam and Spain have joined. Sadlon said the USGA funded the program with a \$25,000 grant the first year and followed it the next two years with \$100,000 grants.

She hopes the Environmental Research Committee will approve a third-year funding and that the program will be self-sustaining after that year.



BENCH TO LEAD OFF

Johnny Bench, Hall of Fame catcher for the Cincinnati Reds, will deliver the keynote address at this year's GCSAA show in Anaheim.

Things to do in Los Angeles

Continued from page 17

is loaded with nightclubs, but **The Rhythm Cafe** in Santa Ana (15 minutes south of Anaheim) is the closest. The RC has it all: rock, R&B, jazz and country. Call ahead.

• **Medieval Times** in Buena Park is definitely not on the tourist hit list. Just up the street from Knotts Berry Farm, this place can best be described as dinner theater set in the 14th century. For a reasonable price, patrons are served hearty meals (try the Cornish game hen) while young maids keep the flagons brimming with ale and mead. A lack of silverware contributes to the boisterousness, which culminates in a medieval tournament complete with jousting. Not your average night on the town.

• If you're looking for seaside dining and magnificent sunsets, you'll do no better than **Las Brisas** in Laguna. Enjoy L.A.'s best happy hour from the huge deck and watch the sun disappear over the Pacific. **Gladstone's** in Malibu is similarly breathtaking, only further up the coast.

• For culture, there's the **J. Paul Getty Museum** in Malibu. It's free and GCSAA members with an appreciation for flora can see Van Gogh's *Iris*.

• **Bernie's Beanery**, on Santa Monica Boulevard across from the I-Hop in West Hollywood, is something of a landmark. Not for the faint of heart, it used to be a wild biker

bar in 1960s — now it's a somewhat reputable establishment. You never know who you'll encounter at Bernie's

• **Third Street Promenade** in Santa Monica has something for everyone. Patterned after Boston's Faneuil Hall and New York's South Street Seaport, Third Street features a host of shops, restaurants and bars that cater to browsers and carousers.

