

Show Time '93

# It's show time!

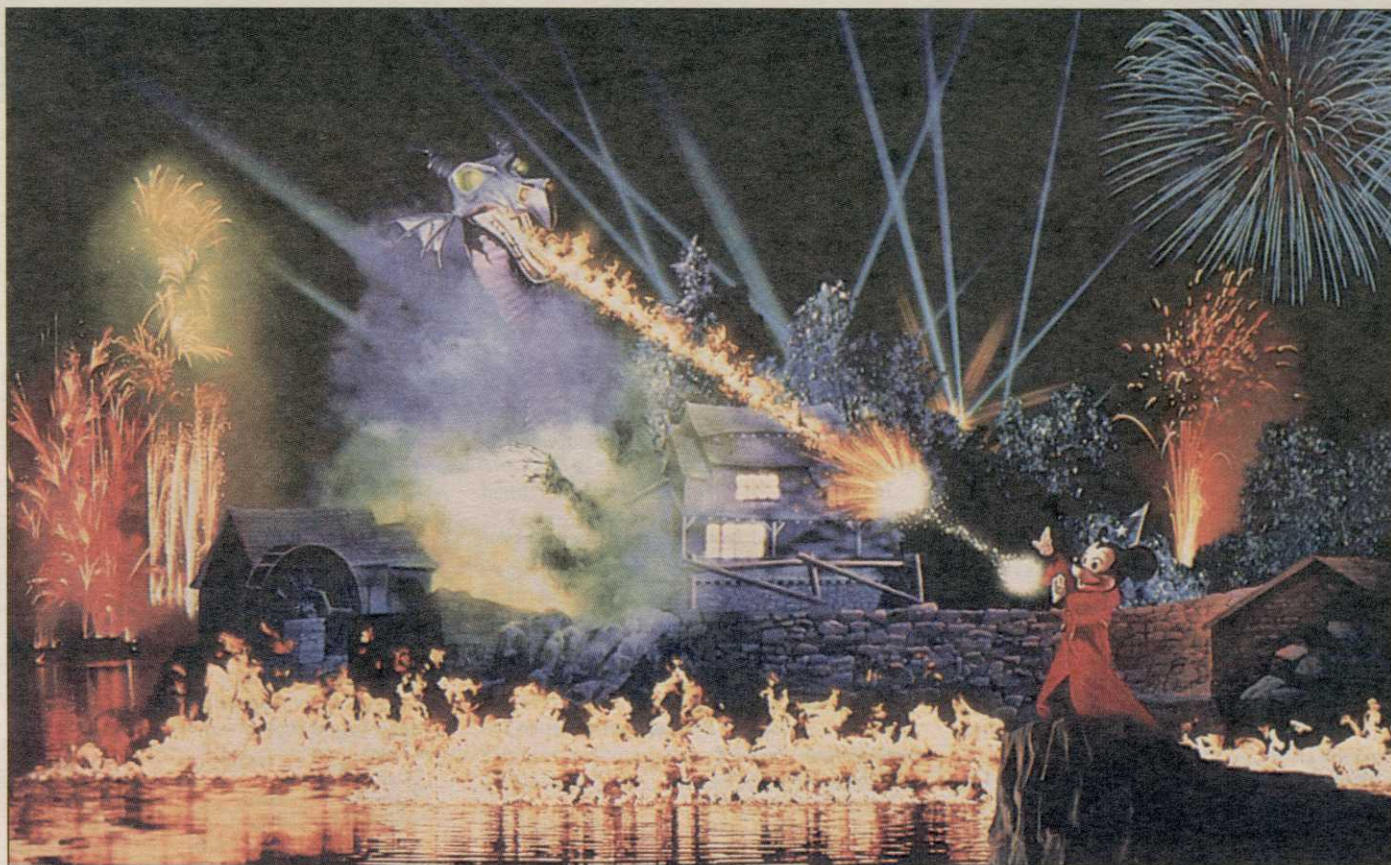
And much of the best entertainment in L.A. is not in your tour guide

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

Continued on page 20

## 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.

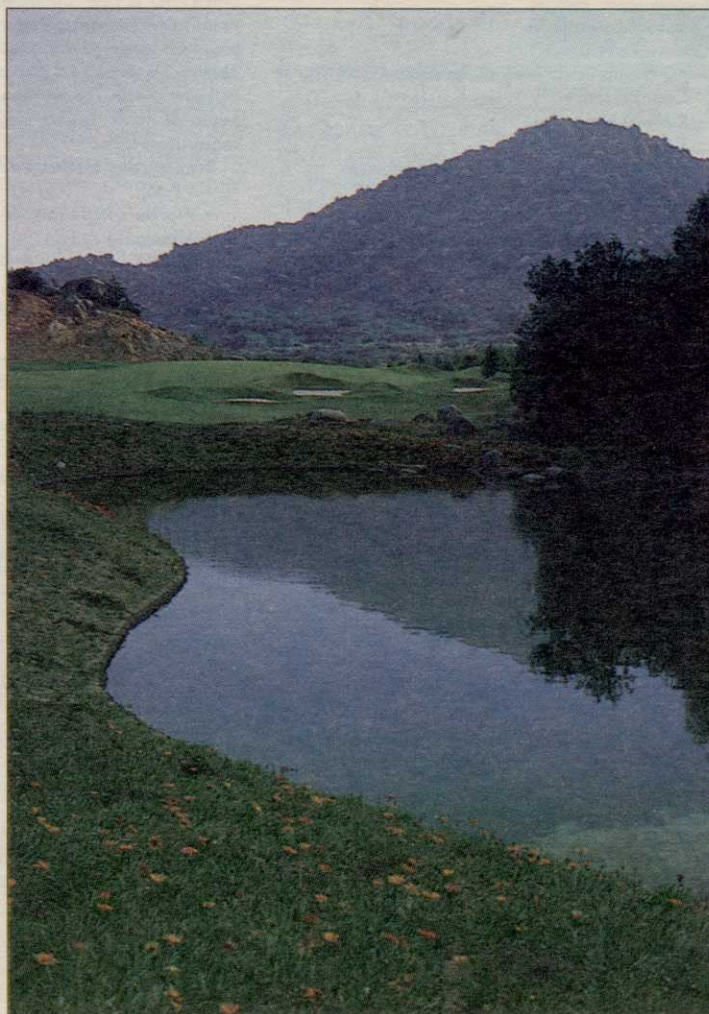
"I remarried a wonderful school teacher in August. I've only played three times since then. But I've shot par or better each time," said the head superintendent at Crickentree Golf Club near Columbia, S.C..

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.

Continued on page 38



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.