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GOLF COURSE NEWS

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Pebble Beach Co. takes effluent plunge

By HAL PHILLIPS

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — The Pebble Beach Co. has seized the effluent initiative by financing a \$34 million reclaimed water project that will eventually irrigate every golf course on Monterey Peninsula.

The undertaking will provide approximately 800 acre-feet of reclaimed wastewater to irrigate the courses and other open space areas in Pebble Beach. Included on the project checklist are a new tertiary treatment plant, improvements to the

existing plant, new pump house, new storage tank and 7.5 miles of pipeline weaving its way through some of golf's greatest golf courses.

According to Ted Horton, director of golf course operations for all eight Pebble Beach Co. courses, the project was not foisted on anyone.

"The water situation here has been very tight, by virtue of seven years of drought," Horton explained. "The company

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Effluent pipe is laid along the 14th fairway at Pebble Beach Golf Links.

Field burning on decline in Oregon, but not in Idaho

By HAL PHILLIPS

SALEM, Ore. — Grass growers and government agencies here are working to create new markets for the tons of straw that had been ritually burned each fall until legal restrictions made field burning an increasingly less viable option.

An Oregon Department of Agriculture program will soon dole out nearly \$250,000 in "seed money" in hopes of creating alternative uses for this leftover straw. The department has already received proposals to conduct research on creating paper pulp, mulch, soil amendments and feed.

"The state is really trying to find a market for these guys who can't burn anymore," explained Bruce Pokarney of the Department of Agriculture. "I think the seed industry has been very

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Behind every great golf course architect...

By MARK LESLIE

America loves heroes. That's the case in golf course design as it is in politics and war. And, just as behind every great man there is a great woman, behind many great course architects are great lead designers.

Yet, who are these people?

Donald Ross is credited with designing more than 300 golf courses. But who ever heard of Walter B. Hatch or Henry T. Hughes?

Robert Trent Jones Sr.'s name is on

more than 450 golf courses. But who outside the industry has heard of Roger Rulewich? The marquee at more than 80 golf courses names Tom Fazio as architect. But who knows of Andy Banfield and Tom Marzolf. Or Jan Beljan and Dennis Wise?

The "man (or woman) behind the man" is often a major reason "The Man" is famous. But what are the rewards, why do they stay with "The Man," and when, if ever, do they move on?

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NOT-SO DANDY

Combating dandelions is the subject of this month's product feature on post-emergent herbicides. Page 20.

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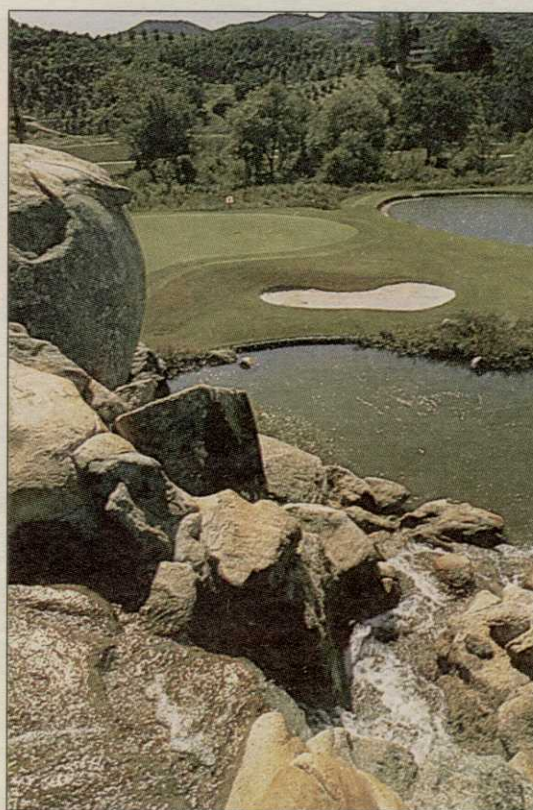
By PETER BLAIS

CHICAGO — "We don't operate like the rest of America," said Erma Tranter, referring to the political wheelings and dealings that seemingly pervade every undertaking, including golf, in the Midwest's largest city.

Tranter is executive director of Friends of the Park, a watchdog agency that oversees the Chicago Park District's activities.

She and losing finalist American Golf Corp. are upset about the park board's decision to forego a competitive bidding process for the contract to privatize its six courses, two practice ranges and miniature golf facility, which together lost \$403,000 last year.

AGC claims it offered the
Continued on page 34



A LEDGE WITH A VIEW

Eagle Crest GC, a new David Rainville design in Escondido, Calif., is the latest addition to GolfCorp's client list. Page 31.

Field burning a dead issue in Oregon, but not in Idaho. Why?

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responsive. They said, 'Hey, we have to find a better way.'

Two years ago, field burning was a burning issue in the Pacific Northwest, as growers fought for the right to purge their fields each autumn. Today, field burning isn't even a smoldering issue. It's dead.

According to the Oregon Seed Council, only 95,000 acres have been registered with the state for burning, compared to figures topping 200,000 a decade ago. A state law passed in 1991 has implemented a phase-down whereby burning will be allowed on a mere 40,000 of the state's 400,000 seed-producing acres by 1998.

Yet in neighboring Idaho, where the seed industry is very active, there is no field-burning law. In Washington, the practice is regulated as part of clean air legislation that affects wood stoves and automobile emissions, as well as seed growers. While the 1991 statute requires that forest burning be phased down 50 percent by 1998, there is no required phase-down for field burning.

Why are the situations so different in these neighboring states?

"I think there's a totally different environment in Oregon," explained Al Hasselbacher of the Intermountain Grass Growers Association (IGGA), which represents seed farmers in Idaho and Washington. "You have more urban growing areas in Oregon than you do in Idaho and eastern Washington. I used to live in Eugene [Ore.] and I remember editorials in the papers attacked field burning almost daily."

Pokarney explained that climatic changes in the Willamette Valley often result in billows of smoke blowing up the valley into Portland. "People just became irate," he said. "The urban population simply sees no reason for field burning."

Further, government bodies in Idaho and Washington seem more sympathetic to agrarian concerns. Witness the lack of

'I think there's a totally different environment in Oregon. You have more urban growing areas in Oregon than you do in Idaho and eastern Washington. I used to live in Eugene [Ore.] and I remember editorials in the papers attacked field burning almost daily.'

— Al Hasselbacher, Intermountain Grass Growers Association

any field-burning legislation in Idaho, despite vociferous opposition from the tourist industry in general, and multi-media tycoon/resort developer Duane Hagadone in particular.

Next door in Oregon, by contrast, a 1992 Supreme Court decision ruled that smoke passing over someone's property is no longer a "nuisance" offense; it's a "trespassing" offense that can elicit monetary damages.

The growers' plight in Oregon wasn't helped by a 1988 car accident that left three people dead. Smoke from a nearby burning field allegedly swept across Interstate 5 and caused the 37-car pile-up. This event galvanized the state's anti-field burning movement, said Pokarney.

"The handwriting had been on the wall for some time," said Dave Nelson, executive director of the Oregon Seed Council. "Environmentalists have put a lot of pressure here. We don't even burn what we register now. It's not even an issue anymore."

Nelson believes a similar fate awaits grass farmers in both Idaho and Washington: "I think they're about where we were 10 years ago."

Does Hasselbacher agree? "I'm not sure that I would. We've done things that maybe haven't been done in Oregon. Three years ago this August we attended the Inland Northwest Field Burning Summit where we signed an agreement in which all parties agreed to reduce the tension between

us and the opponents of field burning. We've always supported clean air, but it ought to apply to everyone."

Practical agronomy is another reason for discrepancies between Oregon and Idaho/Washington. The cultivation of bluegrass, the predominant grass crop in Idaho and Washington, is far more dependent on field burning. Without it, said Hasselbacher, yields would drop to 20 percent in three years.

In Oregon's Willamette Valley, ryes, bentgrasses and fescues are the popular varieties. "And they regenerate quite well without field burning," said Hasselbacher.

"We're concentrating on alternative methods [of disposal] now," said Nelson. "We've tried composting, other uses for the straw that comes off and all kinds of propane burners. But you still have to register with the state to burn with propane."

"The most basic alternative is to shorten the rotation," he continued. "In the old days of unlimited burning, at times that could be more controlled by the grower, the lifespan of a ryegrass field was five to seven years — a fine fescue field anywhere up to 20 years."

"These rotations have been shortened up, to the point where ryegrass fields last only three to five years."

Nelson added that research has also concentrated on herbicides — originally developed for soybeans and corn — to kill the

seedling as it sprouts, but not impair the yield of the parent plant.

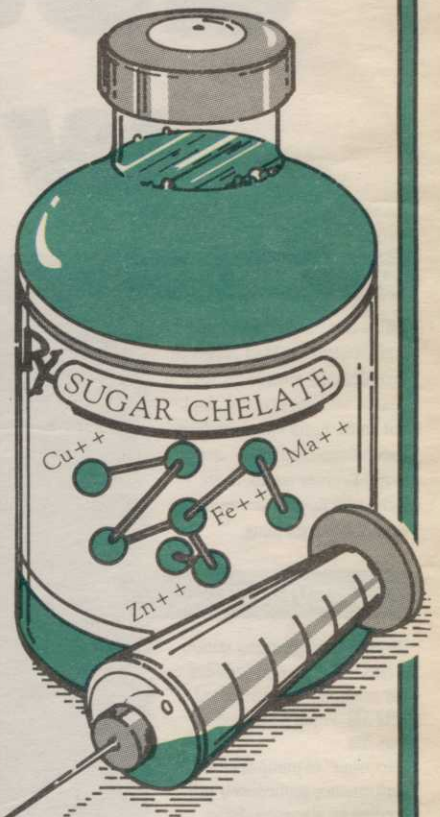
"We're using it now and the growers feel it's very successful," he said. "But we still have to get some of these materials registered with EPA and accepted for grass-seed production. And that's a lengthy process."

Nelson sees the irony of this alternative all too clearly.

"This way certainly requires more chemicals, and the pressure on the U.S. Department of Agriculture is to promote natural processes. What's more natural than field burning?"

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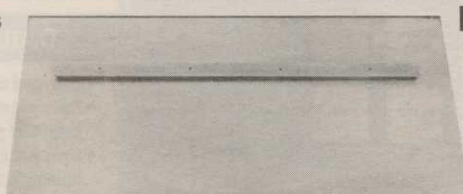


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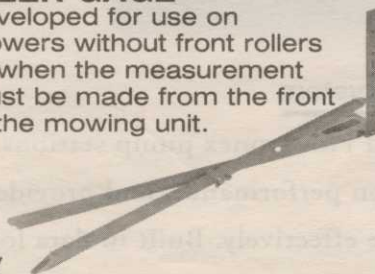


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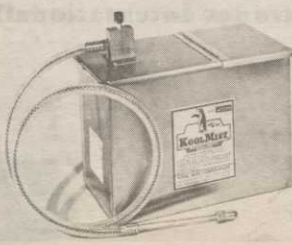
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