

# Pate decries adverse effects of television on course care

By MARK LESLIE

ANAHEIM, Calif. — While television has popularized golf worldwide, the fact that it has taken the game into people's living rooms has actually changed some aspects of the game for the worse, says PGA Tour pro and golf course architect Jerry Pate.

Speaking at the U.S. Golf Association Green Section meeting during the International Golf Course Conference and Show here, Pate said in the business world any asset — in this case, television — has its liabilities.

Pate lamented The Augusta Syndrome, which calls for superintendents to cut turfgrass lower, fertilize and irrigate more, and plant more flowering landscape materials to beautify courses.

Golfers everywhere see Augusta National during the Master's and want their local courses to look the same — fast and green, he said.

"The real question here is: Can we continue to reach these high levels of turf maintenance and keep courses affordable for the courses around the world that do not hold professional championships?" Pate said.

"Low-cut fairways, green Stimping to 10-plus readings, green grass throughout the year with no weeds and perfect conditions are just a few of the demands your members and the public make for these golf courses."

Pate said television also influences golf course architects.

"Today the architect considers many things before he completes his design," he said, "especially for courses that have plans for televised events. Cart path locations, their interference with

television shots, water hazards everywhere, bulkheads of every type, island greens, and impossible penal bunkers seem the rules rather than the exceptions.

"These things are great exposures of our work, but it causes a lot of peril to the golfers. Yes, it makes for great television. But the most obvious thing it does cause is the continuing increase in the cost of maintaining our golf courses."

Although it seems TV and golf have gone hand in hand since the beginning of the game, it wasn't until 1953 that the first golf event was broadcast live — the World Championship at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course in Canton, Ohio.

"For 400 years of this great game there was little change until we got to the television years," Pate said. "It seems today the only way you can play golf courses is through the air. For 400 years you could bump and run on natural golf course turf. I hope we don't change the history of this game. I hope we preserve the bump-and-run shot in our golf course maintenance and design practices."

"Let's not let the exposure of television change the basic characteristics of the game... We must strive to protect the honor and integrity of this game. And, most important of all, we must make it enjoyable and playable for everyone."

The golf industry and its clients, he said, must address the question of design and maintenance costs head-on.

"It's a tough task we face today ... to educate the golfing members and the public of this dilemma: Do I want what I see or do I want what I can afford?" Pate said.



Ken Aker photo/Courtesy of Flye Designs

## BUILDER OF THE YEAR

Landscapes Unlimited Inc. President Bill Kubly, left, accepts the annual Builder of the Year Award from Golf Course News publisher Charles von Brecht during the Golf Course Builders Association of America banquet. Landscapes, of Lincoln, Neb., unseated three-time winner Wadsworth Golf Construction Co.

# Dinah Shore bestows accolades on supers

ANAHEIM, Calif. — "I don't know how you do it. You make the world so absolutely beautiful and flawless," Dinah Shore told superintendents while accepting the Old Tom Morris Award at the final banquet of the International Golf Course Conference and Show here.

Described as "a great ambassador for all of golf," Shore received the honor for her continuing lifetime commitment to golf and for helping to mold the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris. Morris was a famous Scottish greenkeeper, club maker, player and course designer.

U.S. Golf Association

Executive Committee member Thomas W. Chisholm said Shore "has put women's golf on the map." "I'm grateful and touched," said Shore, who has long supported the Nabisco Dinah Shore Open.

A once-avid tennis player who discovered golf at middle age, Shore said: "I don't know anything in the world that gives you peace like a golf course does. I've never heard anyone say, 'There's this tennis court in Scotland you simply have to play.'"

She added: "It's seldom someone gets awarded for an addiction you have... I am a certified golf addict, and it's an addiction from which I hope to never recover."

# Show Time '93

## Rutgers' Engel given USGA honor

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Rutgers University Professor Emeritus Ralph Engel, who pioneered research aimed at improving turfgrass management on golf courses, was presented the U.S. Golf Association Green Section Award at the International Golf Course Conference and Show here.

Known for his research on turfgrasses and herbicides, Engel holds a master's degree from the University of Nebraska, and received his PhD from Rutgers in 1951 before spending 39 years on the faculty there.

Engel told the audience at the final, gala banquet that when he graduated "there was no text on turf. At that time there were no full-time golf turf professors. I noticed there were no two golf courses that used the same amount of nitrogen on turf... I thought it appalling how much people used."

So he dove into research on nitrogen use and began a long career in the turfgrass field that has won him such honors as the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award in 1981 and being named a fellow of the American Society of Agriculture.

Referring to "tremendous changes in equipment," Engel said: "Life is a continuing adjustment to living and we all have to change our ways. I never cease to be amazed at the resourcefulness of superintendents."

# 'Get in the loop' on new legislation, official says

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The federal Environmental Protection Agency has evolved into basically a registration agency and has passed its regulation authority to the states, according to a government official.

Art Losey of the Washington State Department of Agriculture said: "The last few years the local agencies have become involved in regulation affairs and pesticide issues — moreso in the East than the West."

He said he foresees the laws regarding pesticide storage, loading and mixing pads, spray posting and notification, ground water, and loss of minor-use pesticides.

Storage laws are "happening now," Losey said, and ground-water protection is "the priority issue with the EPA and everybody else."

He said golf courses are "believed to be a major contributor" to ground-water pollution. "That's the perception until you prove differently."

Proof would have to be regional, he said, claiming that a study done in the Midwest would be disregarded in the West.

He recommended all superintendents get to know their legislators and regulators so that they can have a voice in upcoming legislation. "Get in the loop," he said.

# THE GLEANER: a core plug pusher



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