

# Pock keeps grand-dad's pioneering spirit alive

By JERRY ROSE

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The ride around the construction site of Grayhawk Golf Club with Michael Pock may be less bumpy and dusty than the trip his grandmother took as a young girl from Missouri to Oklahoma in a covered wagon — but only slightly.

"With all the water and dust, the windows of this old truck get so dirty it's hard to see where you're going," said Pock, superintendent for the new golf club here. "If I wash them, they'll only look like this again tomorrow. Maybe I should just ride my horse out here instead."

And, don't think for a minute that he wouldn't love to. For all his years in the golf industry, Pock remains a cowboy at heart.

"Practically one whole side of my family runs ranches. And I've done my fair share of punching cattle. I love the life. It's just hard to feed a family on a cowboy's wages," Pock said.

Thankfully for Grayhawk and Arizona golfers, Pock chose to follow his family's

other tradition and become a golf course superintendent.

It all started with Pock's grandfather, Jay Woodward, who sold the family farm in Oklahoma and headed west in the early 1940s. When he got to Arizona, he landed the job as assistant superintendent at Phoenix Country Club.

Later, Woodward signed on as the first superintendent at Arizona Country Club. And in 1960, he oversaw construction and maintenance of famed Desert Forest Golf Club in Carefree, where he served as superintendent until he retired.

Pock learned the trade at his grandfather's knee, following him around Arizona Country Club at the age of 5 or 6, changing cups and helping replace sprinkler heads.

At 14, Pock got his first real job in golf course maintenance, working for his grandfather at Desert Forest, and — except for a short stint in the Navy during the Vietnam War — he has been devoted to the profession ever since.

"I've grown up on golf courses in the Southwest, and I guess I know about as



Grayhawk Golf Club superintendent Mike Pock is flanked by sons Ernie, left, superintendent at Briarwood Country Club in Sun City, Ariz., and Jay, a student at Rutgers University Turfgrass School and assistant superintendent at Grayhawk.

much as anybody about what makes them tick," Pock said. "I think the most important thing my grand-dad taught me was to listen to the grass. It doesn't lie. If you just walk the course and pay attention to what's going on, it'll tell you what it needs."

If his accomplishments are any indication, Pock must be one of the best at listening to grass. He was crucial to the creation and maintenance of two of Arizona's most celebrated golf courses: the private Troon Golf and Country Club and Troon North Golf Club, a resort course, here.

"Those two [Troon and Troon North] are blessed with beautiful natural settings, and they are great, great courses," Pock said. "It's hard to improve upon Mother Nature, but [course architects] Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish did quite a job. I'm just glad I could put them in the shape that made them famous."

So, how does Talon, Grayhawk's first

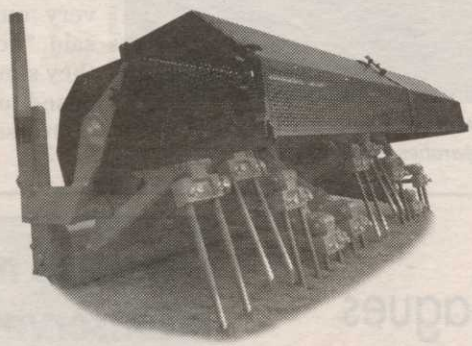
18-hole golf course, designed by former PGA and U.S. Open champion and architect David Graham and Gary Panks, stack up against its more famous Scottsdale neighbors?

"Talon will definitely be rubbing shoulders with [them] and other big-name courses around here. In fact, when it comes to putting surfaces, playability and strategy, we think this course will be as good as any of them," Pock said. Talon's greens will be Crenshaw bentgrass, he said.

And, what of the Pock family traditions? Michael's two sons, Ernie and Jay, are following his footsteps.

Ernie has graduated from Rutgers University's Turf Management School, where Jay has one semester remaining. After a tenure at Simi Valley Country Club in California, Ernie is superintendent at Briarwood Country Club in Sun City. Jay, who worked as his father's

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## EPA rewriting its science peer review process

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report denegated EPA's policy on peer reviews and its controls over documents sent to outside reviewers.

Meanwhile, one former EPA scientist said the problem within the agency's Pesticides and Toxic Substances division, which most affects golf, is not its review mechanism but in writing the regulations.

"Scientific research that comes out of these labs is of good quality," said Stuart Cohen, who worked for EPA for 11 years and is now president of Environmental & Turf Services, Inc. in Wheaton, Md. "What is in question is, when the people who write the regulations take those and other scientific results and produce regulations. These regulations may or may not stand the test of peer review."

For instance, Cohen said, a group with the National Ground Water Association committee recently reviewed the proposed radon standards for drinking water and "we ripped it to shreds. This was after the regulation was published. And we found that the [EPA] Scientific Advisory Board [SAD] had done the same thing beforehand, but the EPA staff did not incorporate a lot of the SAD's comments."

Proposed regulations, Cohen said,

should be subjected to peer review.

Barnes agreed. "These are the kinds of things the administrator is looking at," he said. "Some people have said we should peer-review how the agency generates science ... and then review how the science was used. That's where people feel there may be a slipped cog somewhere along the line."

One question that would have to be answered is: When the studies apply to regulation, who should review that? "Once you've applied it [science] to regulation, it's no longer just a scientific issue," Barnes said. "It's now a policy issue and so on. So it's one of those things we still have to sort out."

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The GAO report was requested in May 1991, leading to a panel of outside academicians finding of "uneven science" in March 1992. It took another year for one internal work group to begin developing procedures for managers to use in their peer-review decisions.

In January 1993 Reilly issued a peer review policy statement requiring that technically based products undergo peer reviews. But the edict was so vague and general that it "remains inconsistent and not fully effective," the report said.

## On The Green

# Frustrating criminals a Schlippert specialty

By MARK LESLIE

HORSHAM, Pa. — Call him Larry "Crime Dog" Schlippert if you like. But don't laugh. Schlippert, a certified golf course superintendent, could save his Commonwealth National Country Club thousands of dollars with some clever handiwork that has made a half-dozen very expensive benches theft-resistant.

"I stress that they are theft-resistant. Nothing is ever theft-proof," Schlippert said. "It's a deterrent more than anything. If thieves can't get them [benches] real easy, it deters them from taking them."

Schlippert and his crew have made signs, ball-washer attachments and club washers "theft-resistant," with a little extra effort and ingenuity.

Most are metal, rather than wood, "so cross-country skiers can't burn them for firewood," Schlippert laughed. "We've also bolted them so the bolts are inaccessible to standard tools.

"The only thing we lose is flag poles."

Schlippert's latest venture into crime prevention is Commonwealth National's six new redwood benches, which cost \$1,000 apiece.

In addition to making the benches theft-resistant, Schlippert said: "I wanted to bring them in during the wintertime because it is a seasonal club."

Exactly how did he do it?

- Put sona tubes (cardboard cylinders used as form framework for pouring concrete) in the ground and leveled them off at ground level.

- Put anchor bolts right into the concrete.

- Bolted the bottom of the benches to the anchor bolts. Used four bolts to hold each bench down — two in front and two in back. Schlippert used five-eighths-inch, threaded rods.

- In the back part of the bench, where the nut goes on top of the bolt, put a four-inch extension, a pipe, welded to the back part of

the mounting support and on top of the hole.

"The only way to get to the nut is with a six-inch extension," Schlippert said. "We also let the bolt stick up 6 inches. So a regular socket wrench wouldn't work. You have to have a six-inch extension.

"We took deep socket extensions, cut the top off, welded a piece of pipe to it and welded it

back on again so that the deep extension is six inches long."

Plastic caps are put over pipe extensions to keep debris and water out.


Unless a thief has a modified wrench, he "would have to torch the things off the concrete pads to get them," Schlippert said.

What works in Horsham should work anywhere, he believes.



Try stealing this! A Schlippert-secured bench at Commonwealth National

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## Pocks continue golf tradition

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assistant at Grayhawk this summer, will help open Talon in late December and may assist with Raptor, Grayhawk's second 18-hole course, designed by Tom Fazio, when construction begins early next year.

"Initially, the boys went off to school wanting to become baseball players," Pock said. "But, then they got to a stage where their abilities would only take them so far. Like me, they were raised on golf courses. They've got a lot of knowledge, and they enjoy it. So, I guess, we'll continue to tradition."