

New USGA head: Green Section a priority

By MARK LESLIE

Saying research is "far ahead of what most people realize," the new president of the U.S. Golf Association (USGA) revealed the association will initiate an extensive effort to inform the public of the advances and findings of that research.

While observing its 100th birthday, the USGA needs to "make certain we look forward as well as backward," said Reg Murphy, of Baltimore. "In terms of the Green Section, great progress has been

made in developing new turfgrasses. Now we need to see more of them growing on golf courses. The amount of work that has gone into grasses that require less water, fertilizer and maintenance is critically important to both the economics of local golf courses and the environment."

The Green Section, he said, will begin "an extensive program this year to describe what we have



Reg Murphy

learned in the environmental research projects. We hope to get that out to everybody who's interested, including every green superintendent in the country, with seminars, publications — all the tools of communication."

[*Golf Course News* has already initiated a column, *Off the Record*, where Green Section will release research information. See page 24.] "With some minor exceptions,

golf courses have been very good for the environment. Not much of the material that has been put on ground water," Murphy said.

While saying there is very little basis for "any of the fear that some extremists have tried to create," Murphy added: "But, it takes a long time for the extremists to be quieted by fact. We're going to have to be somewhat patient."

Murphy, 59, who retired last year as president and publisher of the *Baltimore Sun*, said the route to publicizing scientific studies is to:

- "establish a baseline of credibility" by getting scientists to

publish their findings in peer-review journals;

- present those finds in layman's terms to the general public; then

- organize public discussion of the issues.

"As you begin to do that, there will be an inevitable backlash against the people who tried to create all the fear. But that doesn't happen overnight," he said.

He promised: "We will not lessen our commitment [to turfgrass research] in any way. And we will continue the research that deals with fungicides, pesticides, ground water — all the elements we've been looking at the last few years."

The new budget is not quite as extensive as that for the last three years, when about \$4 million was spent, and groundwork laid for continued studies. Besides the funding for turfgrass breeding, the USGA will spend more than \$500,000 this year on research, Murphy said.

Citing superintendents as golf's "most underrated group," the Caves Valley Golf Club member said: "We play golf on great golf courses because somebody out there is paying attention to quality of turf. I'm glad we're doing things in conjunction with them that makes golf a better game."

Travel agents launch ambitious golf development

BURLINGTON, N.C. — Bill and Janet Winstead, operators of Travel Reservations Inc. here, hope to launch construction of the St. Clements Golf Club Community in the first quarter of 1994.

The multi-million complex — which will be surrounded by homes for more than 700 families, businesses and a conference center between Roxboro and Hyco Lake — could take up to 15 years to complete.

The Person County Planning Board and Board of Commissioners have approved the project. The course will be within easy reach of the 1,000 Hyco Lake resort area residents.

Attracting investors is the current aim of the Winsteds.

Resort planned for Denver suburb

BROOMFIELD, Colo. — A \$30 million resort featuring a 27-hole golf course will be built in this northwestern Denver suburb.

A 263-room hotel and an athletic club will be part of the Interlocken Conference Resort. The hotel will open in the spring of 1996. Recent voter approval of a \$12.1 million 9th Street Interchange at US-36 will provide access to the hotel and business park. International Hospitality Group of Arlington, Texas, is developing the resort component.

GOES TO YOUR MAINTENANCE COSTS.

You already know that

Primo® can reduce your fairway mowings by up to one-third.

But what you may not

have considered, is how fewer mowings can mean more free time for your crew to work on other projects.

And it goes without saying

that if you can get more done in less time, you save money.

It's all possible with Primo

for turf growth management.

Because Primo makes grass grow half as fast. And the cost of applying it is more than recouped by your lighter mowing schedule.

Contact your authorized

Primo distributor or Ciba

sales representative to learn more about how Primo can help you save time.

Because, as they say, time

is money.



CIRCLE #104