

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION  
VOLUME 11, NUMBER 10  
OCTOBER 1999 • \$5.50

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#### IN DEMAND

Whether captaining the U.S. Ryder Cup team, or working with design partner Bill Coore, left, Ben Crenshaw has been in high demand. And he will not back down in his "classics" philosophy of course architecture. See Q&A with Crenshaw & Coore, page 27.

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#### NEWSPAPER

## New wetlands regs could stifle development

By MARK LESLIE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is implementing a new cadre of wetlands regulations in early 2000 that is expected to impact a far greater number of residential and commercial developments, including golf courses.

Public comment on the proposed Nation Wide Permits (NWP) expires Oct. 6, making the way for the new rules which affect jurisdictional waters of the United States — wetlands, streams, lakes, etc.

Although the new NWPs have not been officially confirmed, experts in the field anticipate few changes before the

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## Assistants often underappreciated

By PETER BLAIS

While head superintendents are seeking increased recognition and money for themselves, they are also encouraging course owners and members to upgrade the salaries and benefits of their assistants.

Nationally, the mean salary paid superintendents is \$53,205, almost double the \$27,981 average salary of assistants, according to 1998 figures provided by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Why pay assistants more?

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The 8th hole on the Creek 9 at Aliso Viejo (Calif.) Golf Club displays Jack Nicklaus and son Jack II's personal touch. They designed the Ridge, Creek and Valley nines at the new public facility in Orange County.

## Nicklauses collaborate for AMH

ALISO VIEJO, Calif. — Jack Nicklaus and Jack Nicklaus II have opened their latest creation, Aliso Viejo Golf Club here, a 27-hole public facility midway between Los Angeles and San Diego.

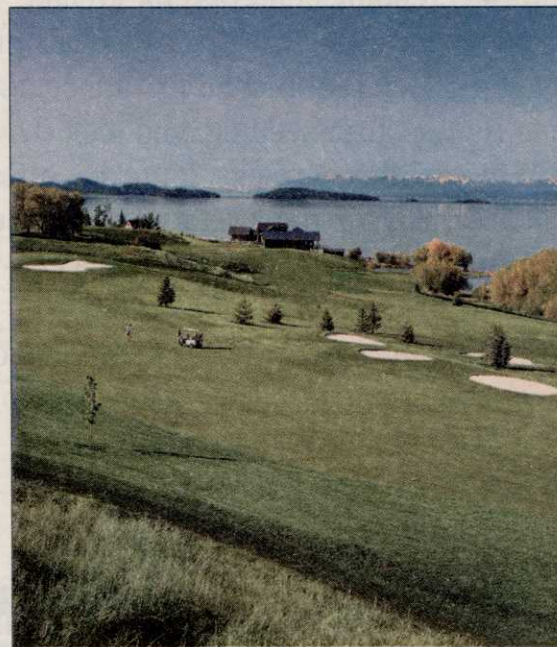
The ninth Jack-Jack II co-design and the first in California, the project is under the auspices of ClubCorp. USA, Inc. and AMH Golf Corp., a Newport Beach-based land-development company specializing in golf, recreation and hospitality properties.

Carved from a dramatic site offering panoramic views of the Saddleback

Mountains, Aliso Viejo is laid out in three distinctive nines — Ridge, Creek and Valley — and features more than 100 feet of elevation change.

"As I get older, the desire to do a lot of golf courses on my own is diminishing," said Nicklaus. "But the desire to continue what I've built with my family is getting greater. So the opportunity to work with Jack (II) ... is something I look forward to a great deal. We have a good relationship;

Continued on page 11



#### STEIDEL'S PRETTIEST AT POLSON

Polson Country Club's 6th hole may be the best par-5 John Steidel has ever designed. It is certainly the prettiest, he said. For more on the new 9, which brings Polson to 27 holes to the Montana facility, see story on page 33.

## Machine takes overseeding to next level

By A. OVERBECK

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Turf Solutions has developed the Dry Sprayer, a machine using new overseeding technology that dramatically increases the speed, accuracy and germination time over standard overseeding techniques. Adapting air-blast technology commonly found in agricultural equipment, the Dry Sprayer blows seed directly into the turf canopy.

"We have modified this ag-based small crop machine into one suitable for

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TREE MANAGEMENT, PAGES 21-25

10 years anniversary



# Nicklaus — Jack, Jack II — team at Aliso Viejo

Continued from page 1

we enjoy the relationship. The commitment has always been to quality and that did not change here."

"The Aliso Viejo project presented a unique opportunity for both my father and me to create a golf course in an urban setting with a rolling hill-

side environment," said young Jack.

"This allowed us to design a course that focused on the strategy of the game of golf. The various elevation changes in the course complemented this philosophy."

Maybe the most dramatic change comes at the par-3 6th

hole of the Creek nine, where a short-iron tee shot drops some 90 feet from tee to green.

From a tee that provides a view of the entire valley, the player surveys a wide but shallow green guarded by a bunker in front and thick, native rough behind, making club selection almost as important as execution.

On the Ridge nine, both the 4th and 9th holes play dramatically downhill from the namesake natural ridge that cuts through the property. At just 360 yards, the 4th dictates that the tee shot — likely played with something less than a driver — be placed right of a long bunker that guards the left side of the

fairway and short of another bunker in the fairway some 240 yards off the tee.

From there, a short-iron approach is played to a green heavily guarded by water and sand.

The same lake that wraps around part of the 4th green also protects the putting surface at No. 9. This time, from tees perched high on the ridge, a drive must stay left of the waste bunker to set up a good approach angle at this 411-yard, par-4 hole.

"Our design at Aliso Viejo places the emphasis on precision rather than power," said the younger Nicklaus. "With a variety of tee locations and the proper weaving in of the bunkers, water and rough, you can allow the golfer the choice of different landing areas and shot strategies. You always want a course that is challenging, but still fair. The Aliso Viejo Course does this."

"My father and I have had the opportunity to co-design numerous projects," young Jack said. "Each time we're asked to collaborate on a project it is both a treat for me and a benefit for the client."

"When we join our design minds we are able to feed off each other's like and dislikes, strengths and subtleties, to create the best possible golfing experience."

## Letter on interns

Continued from page 9

worked at other high-caliber clubs, that they did not get the time spent with them or a diversity of job duties.

We limit the number of interns to one or two for this reason. Don't get me wrong as it would be great to have a half dozen or more employees who are dedicated to the profession and have some experience.

But it is not fair to the students who are interning to learn more. It is hard for a superintendent to spend time with a couple of interns in addition to the training we do daily with our key people, i.e. assistants, equipment manager and spray and irrigation technicians.

My message here is the same as Terry's. When looking for an internship or changing jobs to enhance your career, interview the superintendent so you get the most out of what you are striving to achieve.

And don't forget the small unknown golf courses that are out there because there are truly some diamonds in the rough.

Sincerely,  
Stephen Maas  
The Valley Club  
Hailey, Idaho

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