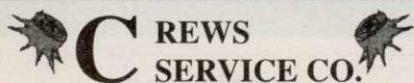


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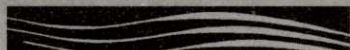
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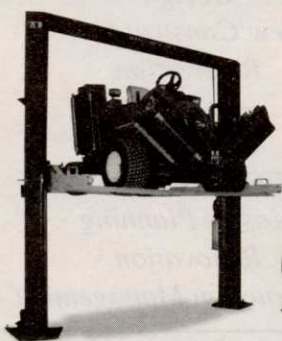
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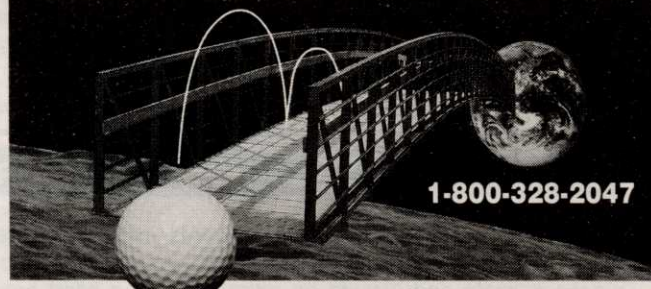
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## Blue Ridge Golf

Continued from page 13

-vide expertise, guidance and profitability to the golf course owner."

Working out of offices here, Barber will travel throughout the country for agronomic consulting visits, but will focus on the East Coast from Washington, D.C., to the Carolinas for the other side of his work: maintenance management.

"If the opportunity exists, I would love to expand into course management," he said.

As a vice president of agronomy/regional manager with Golf South from 1996-99, Barber's background is wide-ranging. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Missouri in 1975, a master's in horticulture and soils from Kansas State University in 1978 and then worked as a superintendent for five years. Returning to school, he earned a PhD in 1987 from the University of Nebraska, then took a job as a professor at Oklahoma State University for four years in research teaching.

When former Golf Course Superintendents Association of America President Bob Williams formed Golf Enterprise in 1991, Barber joined him as head of agronomy. When the company bought Jim Colbert Golf, its portfolio grew to 44 courses.

When American Golf bought Golf Enterprise, Barber took the post at Golf South.

He has overseen agronomy on courses from Idaho to Florida and from the Carolinas to California.

Already, Blue Ridge Golf has two maintenance management contracts, and Barber has performed agronomic audits for facilities as far away as Reno, Nev.

"I can customize my services to the needs of the clients," he said. "I will do single agronomic audits to maintenance management to superintendent searches."

Barber said the greatest need he has seen has been "finding good superintendents. That is the hardest challenge of the day— finding the right individual for the right club. They may be a tremendous superintendent but not like golf course management. Some don't want the problems of dealing with greens committees but love the golf course side."

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