

Pipe installed, but play continues

An irrigation system consisting of 3.2 miles of PVC pipe was recently installed throughout an 18-hole golf course at the French Lick Sheraton Hotel in French Lick, Ind., without interrupting a single round.

"We didn't find a single leak in the entire system either during test-out or in the subsequent daily operation," noted Gene Stephens, owner of the Automatic Lawn Sprinkler Company of Indianapolis, which made the installation.

John Brogan, general manager of the French Lick Sheraton, said, "The major factor influencing our choice was the necessity of having to have the system installed in less than five weeks." Actually, the project was completed in 4½ weeks, working in wet, spring weather.

The pipe selected for the job was 200# Type I, manufactured by Crescent Plastics, Inc., of nearby Evansville, Indiana,



from DACOVIN 52701, a dry-blend PVC pipe compound produced by Diamond Alkali Company.

The compound meets ASTM and D of C requirements and is approved by the National Sanitation Foundation. Dia-

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mond is the nation's largest producer of powdered rigid PVC pipe compounds. The pipe ranged in size from 1½" to 6" and was installed in 20-foot lengths to minimize the number of fittings required.

Automatic Lawn Sprinkler realized a 50 per cent savings in manpower, according to Stephens. "The width of the trench required was about one-half to one-third that required for conventional piping materials," he said.

The flexibility of the pipe was cited as another factor contributing to the 50 per cent labor savings. "It can be curved without the use of fittings, thereby eliminating the initial cost of the fittings and the time required to install them," Stephens pointed out.

A four-man crew was used and the average number of feet of pipe laid per day was approximately 1,200, Stephens noted.

A major advantage of using PVC for turf irrigation systems is the reduction of pressure loss due to the glass-smooth

interior surface of the pipe, according to Stephens.

The irrigation system replaces an old system which served tees and greens only. The new system includes fairways.

The system is designed to permit complete winter drainage and prevent possible rupture caused by freezing. Threaded plugs were installed at all creek crossings. Low points in the system are drained through buna rubber-seated gate valves with 4" pipe to grade and locking cast iron covers. Gravel-filled sumps with sheet plastic covers were installed beneath the gate valves.

Plans are underway for the installation of a new irrigation system which will include fairways at French Lick's second 18-hole championship C.C. course nearby. PVC probably will be used for this system also, based on the success of the recently completed installation.

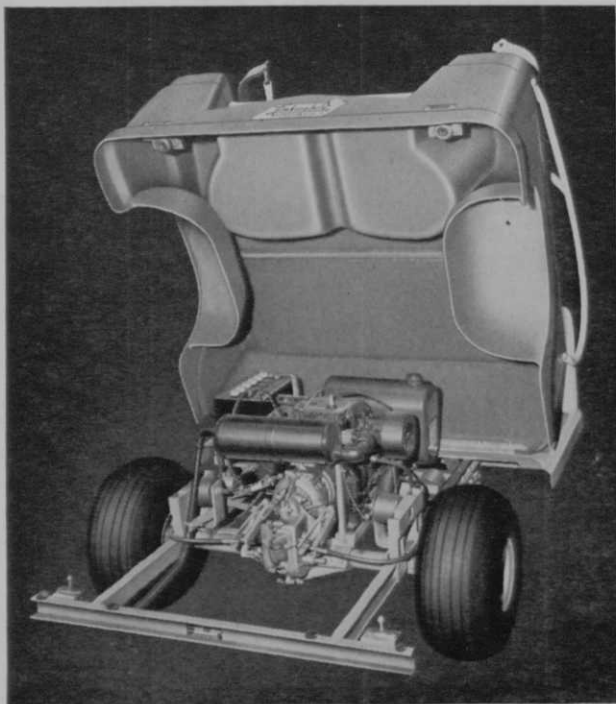
Stephens noted that PVC piping is used in the majority of turf irrigation systems installed by Automatic Lawn Sprinkler, which specializes in this type of work. •

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