

Artificial putting surfaces?

■ Now we've heard everything.

Not too long ago, an architect called the WEEDS TREES & TURF office asking if we had any information about artificial putting surfaces. He was in charge of designing a "life care facility" in Connecticut, a home for people 62 or more years old. It seems his client wanted artificial greens on the facility's three-hole golf course for maintenance reasons.

"The main concern is holding the ball," the architect told us. (Nine iron and wedge shots have a tendency to bounce a bit upon impact with artificial turf, no doubt.)

We don't know what ever became of the project, but we hope the owners wised up.

California condo owners making waves

■ Condominium owners—especially those in California—are bringing actions against landscapers for alleged wrongs with their landscaping contracts.

According to the California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA), condo homeowner groups are banding together, pooling their resources, and generally ganging up on landscape architects, installation contractors, and maintenance contractors. Roger D. Fiske, CLCA president, is often called upon as an expert witness or consultant in such litigation.

The problem is becoming so difficult that the CLCA recently offered a one-day panel discussion on condo contracting liability. Besides Fiske, a landscape architect, landscape contractor, and an attorney sat on the panel.

If condo owners in other states follow the trend being set in California, landscape contractors in those states would be well-advised to follow the CLCA's example.

Rebound in chemical earnings?

■ The end of 1986 is to bring a rebound in earnings among chemical companies, according to a survey in *Chemical Week* magazine. The survey predicted an increase in earnings per share by all but two of 25 prominent chemical companies.

Chemical Week cited cost-cutting programs by most companies as one of the reasons for higher earnings. Du Pont, Monsanto and Dow, for example, offered early-retirement incentive programs. On its cover, *Chemical Week* projected a 41 percent increase in earnings for Dow, a 59 percent increase for Monsanto, a 25 percent increase for Du Pont, and a 39 percent increase for American Cyanamid.

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Heide Aungst

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OFFICES

ATLANTA

455 East Paces

Ferry Road Suite 324

Atlanta, GA 30305

(404) 233-1817

CLEVELAND

7500 Old Oak Boulevard

Cleveland, OH 44130

Editorial: (216) 243-8100

CHICAGO

111 East Wacker Drive

Chicago, IL 60601

(312) 938-2344

SEATTLE

1333 N.W. Norcross

Seattle, WA 98177

(206) 363-2864

DULUTH

120 West Second Street

Duluth, MN 55802

(218) 723-9200

MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES

Dick Gore

Atlanta (404) 233-1817

Ron Kempner

Atlanta (404) 233-1817

Jon Miducki

Cleveland (216) 243-8100

Robert Mierow

Seattle (206) 363-2864

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