

and sagebrush under clear central Oregon skies. I saw many things in between, too, because this state has a diversity of climate and terrain. I saw golf courses designed by celebrated architects and others done by imaginative farmers using farm equipment. If, now and then, what I saw might have annoyed a purist, almost everything enchanted me.

I think we all know in our hearts that they design best who design least . . . and those who would create a monument to themselves in the name of golf are friends neither of nature nor the golfer, and certainly not of those who must maintain those courses.

It is one of the more compelling aspects of golf that each time one sets out to play a different course he is treated to an entirely new experience. By its nature, the arena for this sport,

unlike almost any other, save for such outdoor pursuits as hunting, fishing, and hiking, provides a totally different set of challenges, circumstances, situations and surroundings each time. From every tee, across every water hazard and around every dogleg there is a new sight to behold and almost invariably it is a thing of beauty. It is a place into which we take another dimension of our consciousness and which rarely fails to please the senses.

Peter Dobereiner, an author of golf books, observed, "Golf, after all, is a form of escapism, and it helps if we really can escape from the sight and sound and consciousness of our everyday world."

Those who eagerly escape at every opportunity into the satisfying serenity of one of our 13,000 golf courses will agree that Golf Keeps America Beautiful.

One early spring morning several years ago I was looking across the frosty fairways of a northern course when I spotted a lone figure coming toward me. As he putted out and left the final green, I walked up to him. He turned out to be a spry little man in his 80s who had been out for his morning exercise despite the chill.

"This golf course," he said, "is keeping me alive. I play every day I possibly can."

Today, as I visit golf courses in all parts of the country, I am increasingly aware that more and more older Americans are enjoying the game. I am thankful older Americans enjoy our game with all the gusto of the young.

Even more, I am thankful for those who work on our courses to make certain that Golf Keeps America Beautiful and that Golf Keeps Americans Alive.

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## Agri-Systems Soil Testing Laboratory Will Continue

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**M**ANY INQUIRIES have been made to Green Section regional offices concerning the status of the soil testing laboratory facilities of Agri-Systems of Texas, Inc. Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson developed the soil laboratory and many of its techniques 20 years ago, and with his death, on January 10, 1985, the future of the laboratory has been of great concern to many in the field.

Agri-Systems will continue to be active in testing of soils for USGA Putting Green Construction Specifications. Judith Ferguson Gockel, Dr. Ferguson's daughter, was the manager and chief technician for Agri-Systems for eight years; she will continue the laboratory operations.

In addition to the training received from her father and some formal course work at Texas A&M, Mrs. Gockel has studied soil physics and soil mechanics. She developed and now holds two patents, based on fluid movement and soil structure, widely used in the oil drilling industry today. She and her

husband, a petroleum engineer, operate an engineering and laboratory service for the oil industry.

Plans have been made to upgrade and improve the present soil testing laboratory equipment and to expand the services now offered. Assurances have been made that the same high standards for testing and the same frame of reference will be maintained. The new mailing address is:

Agri-Systems of Texas, Inc.  
15511 Baldswelle  
Tomball, TX 77375  
Attn: Judith Ferguson Gockel  
(713) 376-4412

For efficient delivery in the Houston area, use U.S. Mail or United Parcel Service. Rates for the various testing procedures remain unchanged.

Agri-Systems is *NOT* the "USGA Soils Laboratory." Rather, it is a private contractor. It has agreed to conduct the physical soil analysis requirements for USGA Green Section Specification greens.