Irwin, Phelps join forces on design

Hale Irwin Golf Services, Inc. of St. Louis has been commissioned to design two courses in Vail Valley, Colorado, and a course in Citrus County, Florida. Plans have been unveiled for two 18-hole courses at Cordillera, a 3,200-acre luxury resort and residential community development in Edwards overlooking Vail Valley. Irwin will provide conceptual and routing plans, as well as the final design and construction documents for the first 18 holes. This par 72 resort layout is slated for completion in the fall of 1992 or spring of 1993. Said Irwin: "I never have seen a more dramatic site for a world-class course."

Richard Phelps, a past president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, will aid Irwin. More than 80 percent of the first course's 1,115 acres will be untouched.

Construction of Cordillera's second course, planned to be private, is scheduled to begin this season after the opening of the first course. In Florida, Southern Woods Country Club five miles south of Homosassa Springs will be a 250-acre master planned community next to the 8,000-acre Sugarbush Woods development.

Construction is scheduled to begin this summer on Southern Woods, which will be an 18-hole par 72 private country club. A 1993 opening is expected.

Developed by Florence and Co., a Florida corporation, it will be designed to preserve the rolling sand hills, towering pines and oaks.

Sugarbush Woods Management, Inc. has been retained as construction manager.

Appraisal firm establishes arm for golf properties

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Hirsh Valuation Group, a full-service real estate appraisal and consulting firm, has established Golf Property Analysis. Golf Property Analysis will specialize in the appraisal, consulting and feasibility analysis for golf courses and related real estate.

Laurence A. Hirsh, president of the firm, said: "The real-estate appraiser industry has not given enough attention to golf courses as a special-use property and it is a property type requiring a complete understanding of not only the business of golf but the game of golf as well.

"Through a specialized program of data gathering and management and the combination of both real estate and golf industry professionals, we feel we can elevate the level of services now available to the golf industry."

Hirsh recently authored the article "Golf Courses—Valuation and Evaluation," published in the January issue of The Appraisal Journal, and has lectured at numerous golf development conferences and to college real estate students on the subject of golf course valuation and analysis.

Nicklaus' Nevillewood in final stages

CARNEGIE, Pa. — The Club at Nevillewood, a Jack Nicklaus-designed layout marked by "a lot of downhill shots into greens," will be sodded and seeded in August in preparation for a 1992 opening.

Director of golf Les Botkin said the course, the centerpiece of the private residential Nevillewood development, will play from 5,074 to 7,132 yards, with four to five tees per hole.

It will feature all-bentgrass fairways and greens, Botkin said, adding that crews sodded 550,000 square feet of banked areas.

The rolling hills eight miles from downtown Pittsburgh offered Nicklaus the challenge for this par 72 course. Atlas Construction did the bulk earth-moving, while Wadsworth Construction Co. crews performed the shaping. Construction began last September.

Willow Springs open

Willow Springs Golf Course's two nine-hole layouts and practice area in the Howard County area near Baltimore, Md., opened in June.

A par 62 executive course, Willow Springs has incorporated the surrounding wooded areas, streams, ponds and rolling hillsides into play. Its elevation varies as much as 80 feet.

The greens have been built according to USGA specifications and average 6,000 square feet. Both nine-hole courses have four par 4's; the rest are par 3's. An 18-hole round is total par 62.

Willow Springs has a large practice putting area and range. The practice area has 25 to 30 tee spaces with amphitheater mounding and target areas.

In keeping with the character of Howard County, the clubhouse is a renovated farmhouse.

Willow Springs was designed by Al Janis, and built by Golf By Janis, a company based near Ocean City, Md.