L. Carton has joined Burns Golf Design.

Town of Oyster Bay (N.Y.) Golf Course including Emerald Dunes in West Palm Beach, Fla. — Edward Carton has been in golf course design for 32 years, a profession that began when a 13-year-old Kay Crenshaw decided he wanted to become a golf course architect. "I was on the school golf team, and I read that article and thought it was the greatest thing in the world. And I said, 'God, please let me be a golf course architect,'" Kay recalls.

"When I was 13 or 14 I read a two-part article in Golf Digest about golf course architecture. I was on the school golf team, and I read that article and thought it was the greatest thing in the world. And I said, 'God, please let me be a golf course architect,'" Kay recalls.

"The Lord apparently heard. Following the advice of architects Robert Trent Jones Sr. and Bill Mitchell, Kay followed a well-defined plan that led to a landscape architecture degree from Syracuse University, a turfgrass degree from Michigan State University, and work as both a course and construction superintendent. The result: a six-year hitch as a designer with architect Bill Newcomb of Ann Arbor, Mich., and the launching of Kay's own business in 1983.

Since then, he has gained increasing fame and respect as a champion for the masters of golf course architecture, especially Donald Ross and A.W. Tillinghast.

"I'm glad my career has gone this way," Kay said. "I turned down a chance to do a course in Florida in 1983. I wanted to come back East and renovate some of the old golf courses because I thought they were the best. It's taken me some years to really learn what their techniques and styles were, to the point where I feel I can go in and do Tillinghast or Ross or Seth Raynor and do them so well that people won't know that I did it."

"This is exactly what I wanted to do and I

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The 'ins' and 'outs' of the ASGCA

Hills takes over as president

By Peter Blais

Art Hills can thank the Yellow Pages for launching his career.

The newly elected president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects was a struggling, 33-year-old landscape architect trying to raise five children when he placed an ad in the Toledo, Ohio, phone book. Barred in the space were the words "golf course design." Brynn, Ohio, officials wanted to build a nine-hole addition to the municipal course. Someone saw the ad and called Hills. That job led him to a developer with 350 acres and a dream Hills helped fulfill.

Thirty years after that first addition, Hills, 62, is one of the country's hottest architects. Golf Digest recently picked Harbour Pointe in Washington and the Golf Club of Georgia the nation's top new daily-fee and private courses, respectively. Windsor Park in Jacksonville, Fla., finished fourth in the daily-fee voting.

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Clark leaves strong legacy

By Mark Leslie

His term as president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects was "a tremendous year, a transitional year in the development of golf courses," according to Tom Clark. A partner in Ault, Clark & Associates, Ltd of Kensington, Md., Clark reflected on the challenges and successes after stepping down as president of the ASGCA in May.

"We opened a record number of courses the year before (1990)," he said. "But, with this recession a lot of the developers—through environmental issues and financing—are finding it more difficult to develop courses. Consequently, we directed everything this year at improving that situation."

The major accomplishment in aiding development is a publication Clark hopes will be printed in July.

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Ross lives!

Kay keen to keep lasting influences

By Mark Leslie

If Stephen Kay had never read that feature article on golf course architecture 26 years ago, he might be a teacher of English classics today. Instead, he is a keeper of the classics—golf courses, that is.

"When I was 13 or 14 I read a two-part article in Golf Digest about golf course architecture. I was on the school golf team, and I read that article and thought it was the greatest thing in the world. And I said, 'God, please let me be a golf course architect,'" Kay recalls.

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... and Crenshaw views classic as player/designer

By Frances G. Trimble

Tommy Grisham vividly recalls his first interview with the greens committee at Highland CC in Fayetteville, N.C. It was obvious to the 17-year agronomy veteran that Highland's vintage mid-40s course "was in distressed condition." Yet the committee members were not of a mind to consider major renovation.

Said Grisham, "They wanted to know what to do, but at the same time they said, 'Don't

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A bunker on the 18th hole at Oyster Harbor had lost the shape Donald Ross first gave it. Above is the deteriorated bunker; below, the bunker as Stephen Kay rejuvenated it.

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