

Tipping our caps to Messrs. Cornish and Whitten

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"A lot of courses claimed to be Donald Ross designs that weren't. When that first edition came out, I got many calls from club presidents and members upset that we'd dare publish something saying Ross hadn't done their courses," Cornish said.

But it's hard to imagine anyone staying angry with the affable Cornish. And it's even harder to imagine anyone coming away a winner in an argument regarding architectural history once confronted

with the knowledge he's gained in his 79 years.

We're all extremely grateful to those who assemble such valuable publications as the National Golf Foundation's *Directory of Golf*, the *Farm Chemicals Handbook* and GCSAA's *Who's Who in Golf Course Management*.

Here's just an extra tip of the hat to Messrs. Cornish and Whitten.

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The Architects of Golf costs \$50. It is available in bookstores or by calling 800-331-3761.

Golf an unfair target of water pricing

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Which earns money for hotels, restaurants, gas stations, what-have-you... Which generates taxes for, guess who? — all levels of government.

Since farmers haven't been using CAP water, repaying the billions of dollars for the canal system is extraordinarily difficult.

The search for other people to foot the bill seems to have ended at the front door of golf courses. (See story, page 1)

You can almost hear the bureaucrats saying, "Golf courses can still afford the water. How much can they afford? How

much can we get away with bleeding them? Ah-hah! Let's find out!"

It's time some definitive studies were made public showing the economic impact of golf courses on local economies. Then those studies should be publicized, plastered on bulletin boards and television screens, hammered home in golf publications and your hometown newspaper — whatever-and-wherever.

Then, it will be time to apply those figures to government decisions and create a level playing field — or should I say a level cornfield?

There will be no excuses for unrighteous judgments and one-sided decisions that dog golf courses across the nation. There will be no more whipping-boy status for golf. There may even be a "thank you" from an official or two for the money pumped into local economies.

Then, perhaps, "No Hunting" signs can go up at the doorposts of those golf courses.



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Phillips comment

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first — i.e., before the hiring decisions have been made. Kudos for Peter, who also makes his debut on the editorial page this month. (Questions about the *Letter* can be directed to Peter at 1-207-846-0600.)

- Recently played a true hidden gem in the Portland, Ore. area — Oswego Lake Country Club, an old H. Chandler Egan design. The layout was the hilliest I've seen on the West Coast, and the greens — thanks to superintendent Richard Fluter — were quick and true. Each hole was a treat, but the majestic views of nearby Mt. Hood sealed the deal.

- Still nothing doing on the military course bill.

- During June, I was out in Oregon for the many seed company field days. Some colleagues and I learned a valuable lesson in Canby, Ore., where I stayed in the Willamette Valley. If you want to bowl a few strings on a weeknight, get there early. We showed up at Canby Bowl at 7:30 p.m. on a Thursday, only to find a two-hour wait! The place was absolutely packed and, no, it wasn't league night...

Quote of the Month

"Frankly, golfers care more about maintenance than they do about design. You give a guy a choice between playing a well-maintained but poorly designed golf course or a well-designed, poorly maintained one, and he's always going to take the good maintenance. So maintenance is more important than design. It's a fact of life.

"So when you construct a golf course, you construct it for good maintenance. And zoysia is a constructive tool. You know the old saying: *As ye sow, so shall ye mow.*"

— DR. MICHAEL HURDZAN