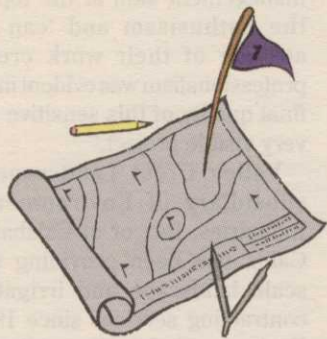


BRIEFS



VON HAGGE NAMES PRINCIPALS

SPRING, Texas — Robert von Hagge has announced that Michael J. Smelek, Richard A. Baril and Kelly Blake Moran have been admitted as principals and shareholders in his company, von Hagge Design Associates, Inc. Von Hagge is headquartered here but designs golf courses throughout the world.

PIPESTONE GIVEN AWARDS AT OPENING

MIAMISBURG, Ohio — Pipestone Golf Course, an 18-hole public championship-length golf facility and residential community, has opened. Designed by Arthur Hills and Associates of Toledo, the course was built by Irvin Construction Co. of Louisville, Ky. During the grand opening ceremony, Irvin's president, James R. Irvin Sr., and project superintendent, Jim Irvin Jr., received awards of appreciation from the city of Miamisburg.

96-TEE FACILITY OPENS

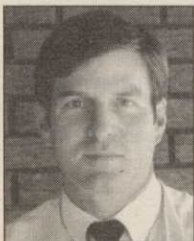
WESTMINSTER, Calif. — The 96-tee USA Golf Centers Inc.'s Westminster practice facility opened here in June, becoming Orange County's largest golf range. The center boasts natural grass a mat tees, night lighting, a target green with lakes and sand bunkers, a putting green, three chipping areas with bunkers and a pro shop.

SURF GOLF & BEACH CLUB REOPENS

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — Surf Golf and Beach Club has opened its "new" course — a renovation of its George Cobb design. Architect John LaFoy, who worked with Cobb, enlarged bunkers and greens and added contours to the greens. The \$1 million renovation was built by Landscapes Unlimited of Lincoln, Neb.

BEAN IS JENSEN PLANNING DIRECTOR

DENVER — After 20 years of service in the public sector, Brent Bean has joined David Jensen Associates, Inc., a Denver-based land planning and design firm, as planning director. Previously, he was planning director for the cities of Black Hawk, Lafayette and Rifle, and planner for the cities of Boulder and Longmont. He was assistant planning director for Benton County in Oregon. His responsibilities will include project processing and rezoning, preparation of submittal documents, and working with the DJA design team to develop successful processing strategies.



Brent Bean

Gulf of Mexico developers weighing impact of treatise

By ANDREW WHEELER

BAY ST. LOUIS, Miss. — Golf course developers in the five states bordering the Gulf of Mexico are still assessing the potential impact of a federal and state initiative to protect coastal areas.

At a December 1992 conference, government officials from all five states, environmentalists, business people and the Environmental Protection Agency signed on to the Gulf of Mexico Program (GMP). According to this treatise, its goal is "to protect, restore, and enhance the coastal and marine waters of the Gulf of Mexico and its coastal natural habits, to sustain living resources, to protect human health and the food supply, and to ensure the recreational use of Gulf shores, beaches and waters... in ways consistent with the economic well being of the region."

The agreement sets forth a series of nine

environmental challenges to be accomplished from 1993 to 1997. While their impact on existing and future golf course projects remains unclear, the GMP goals bear a striking resemblance to restrictive conditions protecting other coastal areas: reduction of at least 10 percent the amount of trash on beaches; an increase in Gulf Coast seagrass beds and in Gulf shellfish beds available for safe harvesting by 10 percent; the reduction of the rate of loss of coastal wetlands; and the enhancement of Gulf commercial and recreational fisheries.

"I think golf courses can accommodate environmental concerns," said Jeff Brauer, an architect at Golf Scapes in Arlington, Texas, who does not think these measures will affect development significantly. "Golf architects are committed to being

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Commentary

Reality check: Computers do their stuff

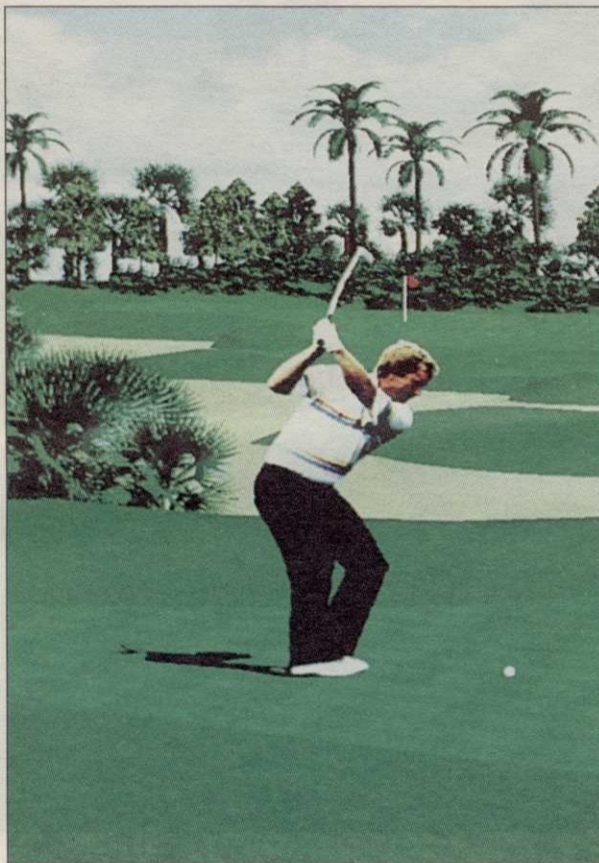
By CARL MISTRETTA

In all phases of daily life, the power, speed and reliability of the modern computer has touched everyone in some way. The design business is no different. Computers help manage all forms of personal and business information.

As a computer-aided designer for Nicklaus Design, it is my responsibility to remain aware of the technological future of our industry. Computers have dramatically improved the profession of golf course design, will continue to do so well into the 21st Century.

The Nicklaus Design team collaborated with Intergraph, a leader in computer technology, to de-

Carl Mistretta is a computer-aided designer with Nicklaus Design, N. Palm Beach, Fla.



An example what Intergraph technology can do.

velop a comprehensive golf course design package. To serve the needs of Jack Nicklaus and Jack Nicklaus II, and the entire design

team, the system was required to graphically program proposed golf holes, calculate cut and fill, and

Continued on page 30

First certified builders approved

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — The first group of certified golf course builders has been announced by the Golf Course Builders Association of America.

Executive Vice President Phil Arnold announced certification has been earned by Paul Clute & Associates of Hartland, Mich. (Paul Clute, president); Golf Development Construction of Louisville, Ky. (Clarke Fenimore, vice president); Irvin Construction of Fisherville, Ky. (Terry Lloyd, project manager); Moore Golf of Culpeper, Va. (David Canavan, president); Pierman Golf Co. of North Palm Beach, Fla. (Jerry Pierman, president); and Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. of Plainfield, Ill. (Paul Eldredge, president).

"A lot of work has gone into the certification program over the last year, and I'm pleased that I can announce this group of six firms who have successfully completed all aspects of the certification process," Arnold said. "I believe it's very important that the association identify competent and experienced golf course construction firms. Over time, I believe this certification program will be the standard by which all golf course builders will be judged."

Nineteen other companies are involved in the certification process. The process includes completing an application covering the company's history and past

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QA & A

Rees —
A Jones
for all
seasons

Rees Jones, 51, is the youngest of the famous Jones golf course design family. His father is Robert Trent Jones Sr. and his brother Robert Trent Jones Jr. But Rees has gained his own renown, redesigning golf courses for recent U.S.

Opens and winning Golf Digest's choice for Best New Private Course of 1992 with his Atlantic Club in Bridgehampton, N.Y. We caught up with him



Rees Jones

between golfing rounds at Pine Valley and Merion — an indication that this golf architecture business ain't no bad shakes.

GCN: The Joneses are the most well-known of the golf course designing families. Is there something in the genes?

Rees Jones: There may be something because my dad can draw and I can draw. It might be partly environment and it might be some sort of innate talent you have. I think the reason you find so many father-son situations is that when you grow up in the golf design business you get into golf and enjoy it. It's not just a profession, it's your avocation, also. So it's a natural tendency to go into the business. You liked the game of golf as a kid, and you traveled with your dad where he built golf courses. It's a pretty good life.

GCN: One person who grew up in such a family told me golf was all his dad knew. He couldn't discuss anything else because other things did not interest him and he didn't pay much attention to them. Isn't that a drawback as far as the big picture of life is concerned?

RJ: It could be. But [for instance] if you live in the Northeast you'll inherit some interests for the winter.

GCN: What's your interest outside of golf?

RJ: I'm a big ACC [Atlantic Coast Conference] basketball fan. I go to a lot of basketball games in the winter. One thing about golf, too, is that you can go to different spots. We went out to Arizona to a friend's to spend time. My wife likes Native American culture, so we go to Tucson and Santa Fe. She enjoys museums and takes me with her.

I think you might be right. In this business, you might become too focused. But I think you have to be in order to be good at it. Every site is different, every environment is different. The soils are different... Everywhere you go, it's a new challenge, technically.

GCN: So you have to be well read in golf...

RJ: Or know where to ask the questions.

GCN: You're doing a lot of high-profile renovation jobs. It seems that

Continued on page 28

Q&A: Rees Jones airs it out

Continued from page 25

every U.S. Open is held at a Hazeltine [National Golf Course in Chaska, Minn.] or Baltusrol [Golf Club in Springfield, N.J.] — a Rees Jones-renovated course. You've also redesigned a couple of your dad's courses. Is there more pressure on you when you redo a Trent Jones course than some other course?

RJ: There's pressure on every job because there are a lot of members who really don't want you to do a thing. It's usually the board that votes the go-ahead to make changes, but it's not always a

consensus. And you have to be sure that when you start a new job you don't have preconceived ideas that what you create is universally accepted. When you make changes — especially dramatic changes like were made at [The Country Club of] Brookline [in Brookline, Mass.] and Hazeltine — sometimes it's hard to convince all the board members that that's the right thing to do.

However, at Brookline they had the bad weather in 1963 and they knew they had an opportunity to showcase it. So we decided, along

with Ken Burns, the Open chairman, to restore it to its original glory. I think that was a wonderful approach and it was not hard to sell. At Hazeltine, they wanted to showcase it in the best light because it was maligned by Dave Hill — not necessarily because Dave Hill disliked the course that much; he disliked it because it was such a young golf course. At Baltusrol we had a harder time gaining the consensus of the board.

I think the Brooklines and Baltusrols bring even more pressure because they've been there for so long, they've had so many major tournaments on them, that some people think it's heresy to even change the lip of a bunker. The great thing at all three of them is that the members are ecstatic with the results.

GCN: When you're remodeling one of your dad's courses, do you call him and get input?

RJ: I can't answer that fully. But I think basically the reason I'm hired to redo some of my dad's courses is that they [clients] want to keep the Jones style. That's what Hazeltine wanted.

GCN: Obviously, your father had a big impact on you. Do you have his style, or is there a unique Rees Jones style?

RJ: There's a unique style of every architect. But I really believe in his ability to contour greens well and preserve par as a standard of excellence on the green surface, and in the theory that green contour is a form of hazard, too. Most people think if you hit the green, you're supposed to automatically two-putt. That's obviously not true, especially if you watch what happens at Augusta National. I learned a lot from my dad on contouring greens. That's the hardest part, because if you get too radical like we were getting in the '60s and '70s and part of the '80s, it's no fun for the average golfer. You can't

build a church for Easter Sunday. You can't build a golf course that works for the tournament but not for the other 51 weeks of the year.

I learn a lot as I'm doing these courses. I learned more about [A.W.] Tillinghast as I worked on Baltusrol. I even learn more about my dad's philosophies as I go in and analyze his courses. So, it makes me better for the next remodeling job. I just redid the [Walter] Travis course at The Equinox Golf Links [in Manchester, Vt. — see photo on page 1], the Plantation nine [by H.S. Colt and C.H. Alison at Sea Island Golf Club in St. Simons Island, Ga.] and the [William S.] Flynn James River Course at Country Club of Virginia. These were good designs by good designers. And I studied what they had done, emulated their style and tried to enhance it and bring it into the modern game because of the way the implements of the game have changed the flight of the ball.

GCN: Your early successes in renovation have led to more opportunities in that realm. Has the success of the Atlantic Club — an original Rees Jones course — opened doors for new work for you?

RJ: I don't want more than a half dozen jobs a year. Places like Atlantic give me an opportunity to build more high-end courses. I still build a high-end golf course within a reasonable budget.

GCN: Are you going to do any more municipal courses?

RJ: Sure. I'm doing the Daytona Beach LPGA course. I'm adding nine holes at Otter Creek for the city of Columbus, Ind. Actually, I really enjoy building the pay-for-play golf courses because so many people can enjoy them.

GCN: What do you do differently between public and high-end private courses?

RJ: Every job is different. At Daytona Beach we've got to build a

tournament golf course for the LPGA as well as a course that can be enjoyable for every caliber player, as long as they can get the ball airborne. I think our style of architecture almost fits any type of course now. We're getting away from the target concept. We have shot options, ramps into the greens, open entrances, greens on a diagonal, greens that are half-protected, half-open that give golfers an opportunity to play it safe or flirt with danger. There's not as much frontal water in the designs today.

I think we're getting better land because the environmental laws are keeping us on the high ground, which gives us a better opportunity to build old-style golf courses. Now the ball can bump and run. It's on harder ground. Twenty years ago we were relegated to low ground and there were a lot more lakes and we couldn't get the ball to run much.

GCN: Do you design municipal and county courses with an eye toward knowing who the golfers are going to be and how many rounds will be played? For instance, is speed of play a factor to you?

RJ: I have a theory: Just as in the first grade you can only go as fast as your slowest student, a golf course pace can only move as fast as your slowest golfer. And there are some real slow golfers out there. To some degree it doesn't matter how we design it if that guy's going to stand over his putt and plumb-bob it and waggle 15 times. I think this USGA-Golf Magazine push to speed up play in every aspect is going to benefit us. It's going to make it a lot more fun. You have to design a course so golfers have shot options, so they can club down. I wouldn't build your public courses with as much trouble over the greens as I would a private club. You have to give them a chance to recover. I've been building grass pockets and hollows behind my greens so the ball doesn't roll into the next county. But I even did that at Congressional [Country Club in Bethesda, Md.]. On the 11th hole the ball used to go over the green and down into the woods and it would take 10 minutes to retrieve it. So we put a grass pocket there. It's made it more fun and I don't think the course is any easier; but at least the golfer has a shot.

GCN: What do you see as hot spots in golf development in the country?

RJ: Obviously, it's still the Southeast. The Southwest is going to be strong as long as there is adequate water. The Midwest is very strong right now. Even in the Northeast, which can be very slow. I think golf is on the upswing and it's going to hold that way.

GCN: You don't think this year, when we peak at maybe 250 courses, that that marks the end of the boom period?

RJ: We may not have as many because a lot of developers can't get a loan. But it's amazing that we opened Greenbrier Golf

Continued on next page

GOLF COURSE NEWS



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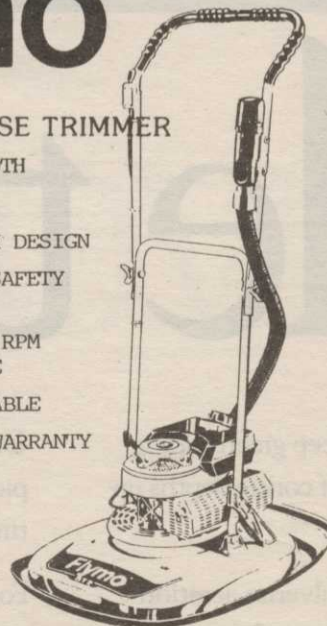
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CIRCLE #131

Q&A: Rees Jones

Continued from previous page
Course in New Bern, N.C., and they filled the place. We opened Sea Trail [Golf Links in Sunset Beach, N.C.], Southbridge [Golf Course] in Savannah, Ga. It's incredible. We don't know where the golfers are coming from, but when we build a better mouse trap, people come to play.

GCN: We hear that we've come to the end of the financial pipeline of three or four years ago before the recession hit. The 351 and 354 courses that opened in 1991 and 1992 mark the end of that money pipeline, and fewer are in planning. That means fewer jobs for architects. Certain architects will get their half dozen jobs. But there are 250 architects. Will some go out of business?

RJ: I don't think so. There are a lot of single practitioners. There are a lot who are hands-on designers, who work close to home and don't have a big office. I have a small office — three designers, three support staff and 10 construction people. And I think I've stayed the right size to go through this slower period. I think the smaller guys will do just as well as the bigger ones because they don't have as much overhead. Firms like the Nicklaus company and Perry Dye's — guys who got into the volume — are the ones who have had to cut back.

GCN: So, what lies ahead doesn't threaten you?

RJ: It may make you change your approach. I think everyone is going to have to get into bonafide, good low-cost public courses. You can still build a darn good course that doesn't have to have all the mounds and hillocks. You can pick a site that is suitable, not unsuitable. Maybe the game will change a little.

GCN: Your dad is going to retire sometime. What's going to happen to the Robert Trent Jones name?

RJ: That's up to him. My brother is Robert Trent Jones Jr., so the Robert Trent Jones name will survive.

GCN: Yes, but there's only one Robert Trent Jones Sr. Is there a mantle that will be passed on?

RJ: I don't know. I don't deal with my dad in his business. Dad is an optimist. I don't believe he thinks in terms of retirement.

GCN: How about you? Will you ever retire?

RJ: Someday. I'll slow down. I don't think at 86 I'd want to be doing a dozen golf courses a year [like Jones Sr. does].

GCN: Or 18 in Alabama [like Jones Sr. in 1992-93] for that matter, huh?

RJ: That's right. I think I'll always enjoy doing a few good ones. I'm into quality, not quantity.

GCN: How old are you now?

RJ: 51.

GCN: So you're going to retire...

RJ: I can't see what's down the road. I love what I do. Basically, I don't work. I can take three days off and play Pine Valley, Merion and Aronimink and not worry about having to ask somebody if I can do it. So this is a pretty good business.

Bottom line along Gulf: Will developers pay the price?

Continued from page 25
environmentally friendly."

However, Brauer indicated a developer might not be willing to pay the financial burden of meeting environmental statutes. The resolution of this dilemma, he said, often decides whether or not a course is built.

According to William Whitson, chief of operations for the GMP, the EPA will implement specific programs to meet the environmental goals. "The GMP is an intra-agency effort under the leadership of the EPA to put together a comprehensive plan for the Gulf of Mexico," Whitson explained.

The idea of the GMP was actually conceived

Will a developer pay to meet the new environmental statutes? The resolution of this dilemma often decides if a course is built, says architect Jeff Brauer.

in late 1988. Five citizens from each state representing business, tourism, agricultural, environmental and fisheries interests formed the Citizens' Advisory Committee. The committee met three times a year to identify

environmental issues and to discuss strategies in communicating with the public about the importance of these problems.

"I don't think anyone looking at the goals would find it detrimental to business interests," said Fred Bedsoe, Alabama's business representative.

When told of the GMP's goals, Jack Mathis, head of the Florida Golf Council, said the effect on development in his state won't be felt for some time. "There will probably be a trickle-down effect," he remarked.

According to Ron Garl, an architect in Lakeland Fla., "It hasn't affected us yet, but it sounds like the sort of thing that will."

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