By MARK LESLIE
SAN ANTONIO, Texas — From a mine quarry to a golf course.

From a 130-foot-deep hole in the ground to a breathtaking string of golf holes with names like Alcatraz, Escape from Alcatraz, Fire in the Hole, Reload and The Wall. From a vacant lot to a tourist attraction, The Quarry has now been unveiled by its developers.

The Quarry joins a new Tom Weiskopf/Jay Morrish resort course, LaConterra for USAA Insurance at Fiesta theme park, and the Art Hills-Keith Foster collaboration at Hyatt Hill Country Resort as additions to the city's golfing scene. All public, daily-fee facilities, they could be a tourist boom for San Antonio.

"This hits the upscale market, which is really unaddressed in this area," said Bill Ellis, president of Club Consultants Inc., which is operating the course for developers Jack and Bill Parker and Jay Eddy. "There are 11 municipal courses and one daily-fee, but no one had addressed this particular need.

"We think with [theme park] Fiesta Texas, the Riverwalk and Sea World, this new course promises to be lots of fun for golfers with challenge for all skill levels," said designer Ted McAnlis.

MUNI INDIAN PEAKS OPENS
LAFAVETTE, Colo. — Indian Peaks Golf Course, a Hale Irwin-designed municipal course, has opened for play.

A 168-acre, 18-hole golf course located within a 650-acre residential community, Indian Peaks was built on the Bearpaw and Pizek family farms. The development concept focused on outdoor living, sensitivity to the environment and a feeling of open space. "This is not going to be Colorado's most difficult golf course. That's not the intent," said designer Ted McAnlis.

"Though not severe, Ridgewood is no pushover. The 7,016-yards, par-72 layout stands as a semi-private club open for public play. Ridgewood is managed by GolfSouth, based in Greenville, S.C.

Wetlands regulations revision gains support

WASHINGTON, D.C. — While developers await National Academy of Sciences (NAS) recommendations on wetlands delineation, Congress may move forward on legislation that could revolutionize construction in wetland areas.

The NAS study is due out at the end of 1994 and a new delineation manual might not be implemented until 1995 or beyond, according to Mike Kelly, vice president of Williamsburg Environmental Group in Williamsburg, Va. But the Congression bill (H.R. 3465) awaits action. It was introduced

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Golf Course News: You and Shunsuke Kato formed Japanese Society of Golf Course Architects partly to improve members' skills and improve golf in your country. How will you do that?

Takeaki Kaneda: We want to contribute to the Japanese golf world through its activities. The biggest problem Japanese golf has is, golfing expenditures are so high. The number-one priority is build more municipal courses. We can do this with the help of local government. Japan is a very centralized country. People have to make a decent living, and when it comes to living standards, in terms of income only, the center of living is not income but how they live and enjoy their lives. I think we can really help.

A big problem is that expenditures of golf are getting higher. We have to do something about the caddy because the caddy makes more money than anybody else. In Tokyo, the female caddy makes $3,000 a month and doesn't even carry the bag. The golf bag carrier is remote-control. The golf club has to do everything possible for the caddy. One club I know is spending more than $1 million to have caddies. It has to provide uniforms, a golf club, a golf bag carrier is remote-control. The golf club has to do everything possible for the caddy. One club I know is spending more than $1 million to have caddies. It has to provide uniforms.
transportation, meals, babysitters. It's crazy. But if the economy is so poor, we have to change some things. One of the golf courses changed the policy from caddy to golf cart so it could lower the green fees almost $100 — down to $130. Now they're booked solid.

TK: Yes, there are some, but they are very expensive.

GCN: Your society has 25 members. How many other Japanese are designing courses?

TK: Probably 20 to 25 more. But some are not fully qualified. And we tried to eliminate the professional golfer.

GCN: What percentage of new golf course design work goes to Asian architects?

TK: Probably most are by Japanese. The exceptions are Robert Trent Jones Sr. and Jr., Jack Nicklaus and Perry Dye.

GCN: But we do see more and more American architects working in the Asia-Pacific. Do developers there look at Americans first, and why wouldn't they use people from their own area?

TK: In Japan, name comes first. If they hire a big name, they think they can get more money from members. But I'm not satisfied with American architects these days. They are doing a little sloppier work. They used to do much better work. Now they are sending not-so-great shapers. American architects cannot visit Japan every two weeks. So if the shapers are wrong, they have to incorporate internationally.

TK: It is on the surface. Inside, there is just the surface. Inside, they have anti-golf goals.

GCN: Is this a rich versus poor syndrome?

TK: Before the war, the Japan Golf Association volunteered to pay 1,000 yen each time we played. That money goes to the local government. It's a volunteer tax. It's now almost 10 times that much. Still, people think golfing is a rich man's game, but golf course is thought a sinful thing, for some people. So to do something sinful they cannot use pesticides. That is the point. Pesticides are just on the surface. Inside, they have anti-golf goals. GCN: Is this a rich versus poor syndrome?

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TK: Right now it's in a freeze. The economy is so bad.

GCN: What about the rest of Asia?

TK: Other countries are doing much better than Japan. In Thailand and Taiwan and all those areas.

GCN: Are there any frontiers there that haven't had golf but may be open to it? Vietnam/China/India?

TK: In China, especially Hong Kong, they are mainly Japanese developers.

GCN: Are golf course builders in Asia-Pacific getting better at it?

TK: Yes. The USGA greens specifications are very helpful. We don't have good laboratories like in United States. So when Jack [Nicklaus] comes over the workers send the samples to the United States.

GCN: Is there a difference between an Indonesian developer, a Thai developer, etc.?

TK: I think they have their own good industries, mostly tin or rubber. Their rich people are really rich. In Japan, most of the rich are corporations. But the individual in Japanese is not so rich because the taxation system is so high. It is a socialist country.

GCN: What about the golf facilities in these other areas like Indonesia and Thailand?

TK: There are not too many golfers there yet. They build golf courses to attract tourists.

GCN: Are they spending more on their facilities?

TK: Labor costs are smaller in those areas than in Japan, so they can spend more. But I don't think they spend their crazy money as Japan. Japan did it because of what we call a bubble economy which, depending on the price of the land, causes extraordinary costs.

GCN: How do you see the future of golf in Japan?

TK: We have to lower these extraordinary costs or the future is not so bright.