

BRIEFS



BUILDERS BUILD DATA BASE

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — The Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA) hopes to be able to answer in early 1995 what it costs to build a golf course. A survey of GCBA member builders, on projects they have completed, divided the country into four regional zones and contained 25 areas of construction costs. GCBA Executive Director Phil Arnold said the data will be compiled by his staff, formatted for distribution as appropriate, and updated annually.

HUEBER JOINS FLOYD GROUP

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — David B. Hueber has been appointed president and CEO of The Raymond Floyd Group. Hueber has served as president and CEO of Accuform Golf Corp, Ben Hogan Co. and Ben Hogan Properties and the National Golf Foundation.



David Hueber

The Raymond Floyd Group brings under one umbrella an organization of existing companies related to Floyd's golf course design work, acquisition and management of golf courses, sports marketing, tournament and event marketing, as well as corporate relationships and licensing.

DOAK PULLS NO PUNCHES

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Architect Tom Doak's "The Confidential Guide to Golf Courses", an update of a 1987 edition circulated to only 40 of his friends, is a no-holds-barred review of more than 880 courses around the world. Hundreds of courses around the world are rated on architectural merits on a 0-10 scale in summaries from 50 to 500 words. List price is \$100. Order through Renaissance Golf Design, Inc. 10656 S. Timberlee, Traverse City, Mich. 49684.

NIEBUR, BAIRD MOVE FIRMS

Gary Roger Baird and Joe Niebur have announced they have moved their respective companies to new headquarters. Baird Design International, Ltd. has moved from Nashville, Tenn., to Brentwood, Tenn., and opened a West Coast office in Santa Ana, Calif. Baird's Brentwood address is 5123 Paddock Village Court, Suite A21; telephone 615-373-9610. His Santa Ana address is 2807 Catherine Way; telephone 714-476-6878. Meanwhile, Niebur's golf course building firm, Niebur Golf, has moved from Medford, Ore., to Colorado Springs, Colo. Niebur is located at 655 Southpoint Court, Suite 100; telephone 719-527-0313.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

A unique breed: supers-turned-designers

By MARK LESLIE

Their number is so small they do not even constitute a fraternity — these superintendents-turned-architects. But their perspective is unique in the world of golf course design, construction and maintenance.

"I ruined two golf holes when I was a superintendent," admitted Keith Foster, and the architect was none other than Robert Trent Jones, who had done "a wonderful job."

"I've had a couple of courses I've taken my name off because maintenance was so poor that I didn't want anybody to know I had anything to do with them," said Jack Snyder, a Class AA superintendent and a fellow and former president of the American

Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA).

"Being a superintendent is not one of the easiest jobs in the world," said Jan Beljan, a former GCSAA scholarship recipient who is now an ASGCA member and a lead architect with Tom Fazio Golf Course Designers, Inc. "As a golf course designer with a superintendent's background, you understand what the superintendent will have to face, what his budgets are now and what they will be, say, in the event the members buy the club in five years and won't maintain it the way it was designed."

The few supers-turned-architects "are not dealing with an ivory-tower approach, but with grunt-level determinations," declared Dr. Michael

Hurdzan, who not only was a superintendent at one time but holds master's and doctoral degrees relating to turfgrass. He is also past president of the ASGCA.

Snyder, 76, of Phoenix, Ariz., is the dean of this group who once punched the time clock as superintendents but now do business under the moniker "Golf Course Designer." The group also numbers Bobby Weed of Ponte Vedra, Fla., Craig Schreiner of Kansas City and Brian Silva of Uxbridge, Mass.

Some feel an education in turfgrass management is crucial for a golf course designer. One Southeastern superintendent called "the lack of understanding of maintenance complexes" a "glaring hole" in the golf

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Dye teams with Landmark Golf, Paiute Tribe on 4-course project

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The first of four championship-caliber, public golf courses at the Las Vegas Paiute Resort, all designed by Pete Dye, will open next March, according to a joint announcement from the Las Vegas Paiute Tribal Council and Landmark Golf Co.

It is the first time Dye has created four golf courses at the same site, and he said: "It's hard to top yourself. But I'm going to try."

The courses will be built around a central resort core and have real-estate within them. The site, on the Paiute Reservation at Snow Mountain, about 18 miles north of downtown Las Vegas, is "a beautiful, natural desert setting," Dye said.

The first course, measuring 7,130 yards, features expansive views of

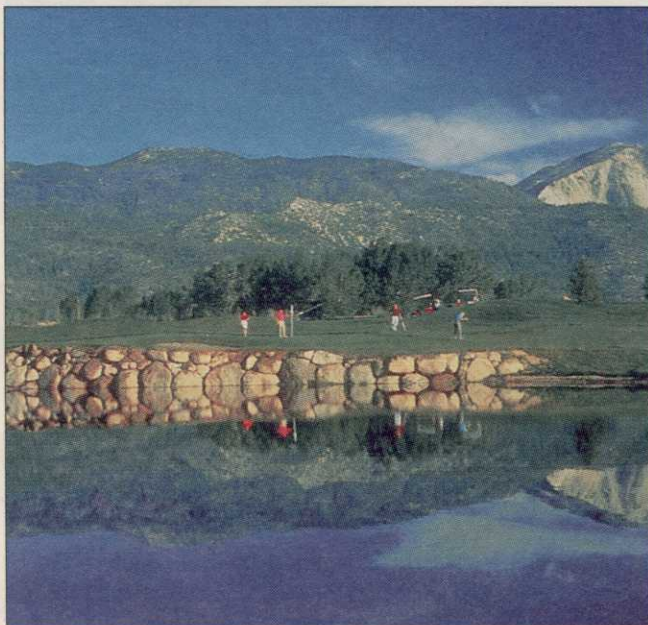
Mount Charleston to the west and Sheep Mountain to the east.

In addition to the four courses, there will be a 42,100-square-foot resort clubhouse with views of the golf courses and surrounding mountainscapes.

Dr. Tom Climo, economic development director of the Paiute Indian Tribe, said the master plan calls for casinos, hotels and a 20,000-square-foot smoke shop.

Johnny Pott is project director and director of golf.

Landmark Golf is also involved in planning, development and management of Palm Springs Classic in Palm Springs, Calif.; Paradise Ridge in Phoenix, Ariz.; The Plantation in Indio, Calif.; Circle T Ranch in Dallas; and Rancho Vistoso in Tucson, Ariz.



STRIKING THE BALL AT LIGHTNING

The Golf Club at Lightning W Ranch, Washoe Valley, Nev., designed by Robert Muir Graves, opened Oct. 1. The 18-hole, 7,200-yard par 72 layout includes extensive practice facilities and a 20,000 square foot clubhouse. It is the first equity private club in northern Nevada in four decades. Chris Thomson is the golf professional.



Dick Nugent at the site of one of his projects.

Q & A Dick Nugent: An anchor in heartland

Dick Nugent, 63, has been around golf courses his entire life. He was a caddy in 1940 and later worked on the maintenance crew at Bob-O-Link Golf Club in Highland Park, Ill. Robert Bruce Harris hired Nugent after the aspiring young architect graduated from the University of Illinois in 1958. Six years later, Nugent and Ken Killian opened their own firm. The pair designed dozens of courses together, including Kemper Lakes in Long Grove, Ill., before parting professionally in 1983. Nugent formed his own company, which includes son Tim and daughter-in-law Andrea. While widely known for his Chicagoland layouts, Nugent has expanded his reach worldwide, designing courses in Hawaii, Europe and elsewhere.

Golf Course News: What differentiates your company from other architectural firms?

Dick Nugent: I guess you'd have to look at our long-term record. We've been in the business 36 years and hopefully we've learned something along the way.

We are also one of the few firms that practice true construction management. We make sure the project stays on schedule, remains within budget and that moneys are spent properly. That's Tim and Andrea's area of expertise. Tim has a degree in engineering construction management and a master's in business administration. Andrea graduated number one in her industrial engineering class.

We put an on-site construction manager on every job. Dan Cunningham and Eric Wadsworth [Brent Wadsworth's son] are our project managers. Tim and Andrea oversee their work.

GCN: How involved is Tim in the business?

DN: Tim is in the process of taking over the company. I'd like to always be around to meddle a bit, but we're moving toward a full partnership. I have a house in Phoenix. I'm there half the time and here [Long Grove] the other half.

GCN: You're considered one of the dominant architects in the Chicago market. Would you consider that your area?

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Q&A with Dick Nugent

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DN: Actually we're getting very international. We're working on a project in Croatia. We have contacts in Sweden, Austria and other parts of Europe.

People have asked us to look at projects in the Far East. Many of them are Japanese businessmen who have played our Hawaii courses [Minami Golf Club and Makalei Hawaii Country Club] and referred us to their contacts back home.

But Chicago has always been a very healthy market for us. It sits in the middle of the biggest agricultural area in the world. There's heavy industry and many universities.

And there's a very affluent segment as well as an extensive middle-income market. It's a diverse area, so there's always some segment on the rise. The Midwest in general also has more open, non-wetland sites than they have on the East or West coasts.

GCN: What is your design philosophy?

DN: I guess it would be to never lose sight of who your client really is — the golfer. Developers, resorts and municipalities all have their own goals and they must be factored into any design. But the end-user, the person who will actually play the course, is who you must keep in mind.

GCN: Who are your favorite old-time and contemporary architects?

DN: Alister Mackenzie, H.S. Colt and C.H. Alison are my favorite old-timers. Robert Trent

Jones, Dick Wilson and Pete Dye are the best among my contemporaries. During their time, each pushed the envelope of course design.

While I might appreciate Donald Ross' work, he did pretty traditional courses. The others pushed design to another level. Ross didn't do that.

GCN: Do you have a favorite course that you designed?

DN: Not really.

But I will say that people do their best work when they are challenged to come up with unique solutions. That's what you learn from. Our Hawaii

courses are good examples.

At Minami, we had to deal with a tropical rain forest. There was no bottom to some of those mud holes. The ravines were 100 feet deep. We had to stabilize that ground and came out with a good golf course.

At Makalei on the Big Island of Hawaii, we had almost a desert landscape. There was no topsoil. So we created it by blasting up lava beds. We had to finesse the course into that site.

GCN: What are the major changes you've seen in course design over the past 36 years?

DN: The sites we're getting today are much less desirable than they used to be. They have more problems and call for more creative solutions.

Fairway irrigation is another thing. If a course had it 30 years ago, it advertised the fact. Now it's commonplace.

The acceptance of USGA [U.S. Golf Association] putting greens has gotten rid of the old 1-to-1-to-1 mystery mix. We used to make mud pies with different kinds of sand, top soil and organic mix, dry them in the oven, and then pour water over them to see which ones would absorb water and which ones fell apart. It was a lot less scientific.

Grasses have changed dramatically, too, with all the USGA and turf company research. It used to be that Bermuda was Bermuda was Bermuda. Now there are many different varieties for different applications.

GCN: Do people still ask why you and Ken Killian dissolved your partnership?

DN: Just in interviews. We're still best friends. We were kibitzing just a couple of days ago. Basically, we split because he was doing more stuff on the West Coast and I was concentrating on the Midwest. He married a woman from California and they liked spending more time out there.

We both feel strongly about the people who used to work for us — Bob Lohmann, Jeff Brauer, Bruce Borland, Jim Blaukovitch. We've been very lucky to have some good people here.

GCN: Do you foresee new course development continuing at its current pace?

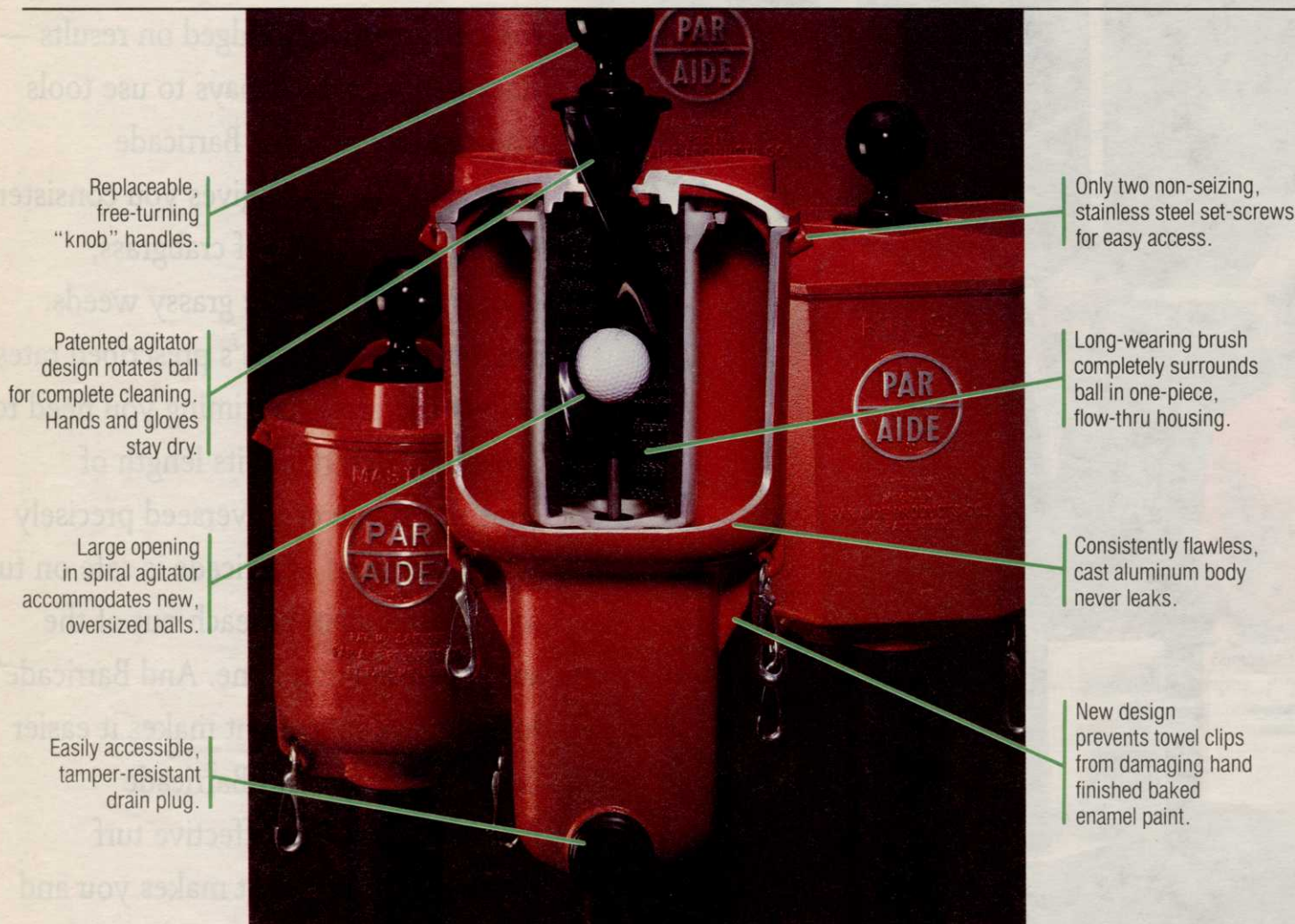
DN: Yes. The industry has several things going for it. Demographically, baby boomers are getting older, moving away from more active sports and toward golf.

We benefited when real estate was hot in the 1980s. Things have cooled off the past few years. But real estate is cyclical.

Then there are taxes and inflation. Golf courses should be viewed as a long-term investment and a hedge against those two things.

The industry should remain stable for the next five to 10 years. And alternative facilities, like ranges and short courses, should grow considerably.

GOLF COURSE NEWS



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