**NATIONS FOCUSES ON GOLF**

ATLANTA, Ga. — Large, golf-oriented properties and other property and particular loan attention from the newly-formed Nations Financial Capital Corp. Offered will be flexible, fixed-rate, first mortgage loans for stand-alone golf courses, bowling centers and marinas. Vice President Donald Rhodes started and managed golf course financing operations at Textron Financial, doing more than $200 million in golf course loans.

**HIDDEN VALLEY HIRES ROBBINS KOCH**

GAYLORD, Mich. — Robbins Koch Golf Designs, Inc. of Tampa, Fla., has been selected to provide land planning and course design services for the new golf course community at Hidden Valley Resort & Club here. The golf course and resort community will be located on 1,000 acres that features dramatic views; many mature trees; and a rolling terrain with elevation changes of nearly 500 feet.

**BURNS BUSY ON STATE PARK COURSE**

WAYCROSS, Ga. — Construction has begun on Laura S. Walker State Park Golf Course. Designed by Steve Burns Golf Design of Fernandina Beach, Fla., the course is being built by niece Golf, Medford, Ore. Yardage will range from 4,717 to 6,820 yards. There will be three lakes, several grass bunkers and 20 sand bunkers. About 325,000 yards of dirt will be moved to create elevation changes of up to 20 feet.

**FOREST RIDGES OPENS NINE**

CABLE, Wis. — Play has commenced on the North Nine of Forest Ridges Golf Course, while the South Nine will open for play this month according to Phil and Kathy Rasmussen, co-owners of Lakewoods Resort, Lodge & Conference Center here. The golf course and resort community will be located on 1,000 acres that features dramatic views; many mature trees; and a rolling terrain with elevation changes of nearly 500 feet.

**ASIAN ROUNDUP**

OSAKA PREFECTURE, Japan — Despite the decline in new golf course development here, Jacobson Golf Course Designs of Libertyville, Ill., has been asked to design two new courses — World Country Club here in Osaka Prefecture and Cherry Hills Country Club in Gunma Prefecture. Both projects, backed by Japanese investors, are expected to be open for play in 1996. Principal Rick Jacobson cut his architectural teeth with Nicklaus design before forming his own firm in 1992.

QINGDAO, Peoples Republic of China — The Qingdao Golf Club in the southeast part of the Peoples Republic of China is still awaiting final approval, according to the builder. It could be another month, it could be three, said William Kubly, president of Landscapes Unlimited of Lincoln, Neb.

Japanese architect Shiro Tashiro is working with American designers Greg Nash and Billy Casper on the 18-hole resort layout. Casper Golf Management opened its Asian office here Sept. 1. Qingdao GC was originally scheduled to open in late 1995. It will include a hotel and villas, Kubly said.

YONGIN-KU, Korea — Palmer Golf Design Co. has completed one golf course here, which is awaiting grand-opening ceremonies along with two in the Philippines and one in West Java, Indonesia.

Arnold Palmer’s architectural team, which has designed dozens of courses in Asia-Pacific, has put its final design touches on Eunwhasam Country Club here. The Philippine facilities now ready for golfers are Orchard Golf and Country Club’s Legacy Course in Manila and Evergreen Country Club in Nasugbu, Batangas, which is near Manila.

Emerald One, in the Cimanggis District of West Java, is also complete, while Palmer Design continues construction of eight other projects in the region.

MANILA — Make it two Johnny Walkers in a row for Gary Player Design. Arguably Asia-Pacific’s most prestigious professional tournament, the 1995 Johnny Walker Classic will be held at The Orchard Resort, which features a Player-designed course.

**Ault, Clark take to new heights**

By MARK LESLIE

ILLIAMSBURG, Va. — "The best three golf courses I have ever designed." That is how Tom Clark describes three new tracks from the palette of Ault, Clark & Associates — Ledgestone Golf Course at Stonebridge Village in Branson, Mo., Diamante Golf Course in Rot Springs, Ark., and The Woods Course at Kingsmill on the James here.

"We’re getting better and better sites, plus well-budgeted projects, good property and good contractors," said Clark, adding that with increased sodding, new courses are better from Day One.

The home of entertainer Kenny Rogers, Ledgestone was expected to open nine holes on Oct. 1 and the other nine the first of November.

Playing off Rogers’ movies and songs, Clark has nicknamed holes Gambler’s Revenge, Side-winder, Straight Shooter, Deception, Ruby, Ambush — you get the picture.

In the heart of the Ozarks, Clark called it a "true mountain golf course with tremendous elevation changes," plays from 5,000 to 6,724 yards, and includes the most-expensive hole Clark has ever built.

That hole, the 15th, is a 177-yard downhill par-3 that falls about 100 feet and required blasting the side of the mountain to create the green and a lake. The green is built on a rock shelf. Rogers’ mountain top home sits just to the right of the hole.

Ledgestone was totally sodded with bentgrass greens, zoysia fairways, tees and a row automatic irrigation system. There are also 20 residential lots on the property. They average 1/2 acre plus and are currently being sold.

**Q&A**

**Doak: A designer of the ages**

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