Norman opens U.S. design office

TEQUESTA, Fla. — After designing 17 golf courses around the world, Greg Norman Golf Design of Sydney, Australia, has opened an office here.

Norman said it made sense geographically to locate in Florida, following the recent success of The Medalist Golf Club in nearby Hobe Sound and other ventures in Georgia and Puerto Rico. The office is located at 218 South U.S. Highway One, Suite 301, Tequesta, Fla. 33469; 407-743-8818.

Kite/Cupp selected in Austin

AUSTIN, Texas — Glenfield Development, Inc. and Kite/Cupp Design plan to build a member-owned luxury golf club here. Devoted exclusively to golf, Glenfield Golf Club will feature a links-style 18-hole course and only 275 memberships. The club will be located along Onion Creek, southeast of the new Austin/Bergstrom International Airport. Groundbreaking ceremonies are scheduled for this summer. Rob Kite and Joe T. Veal will concentrate on this market by offering totally hands-on construction supervision and feature shaping.

Turnberry redo complete

AVENTURA, Fla. — The greens are rebuilt to U.S. Golf Association specifications, the tees and fairways are added, and the bunkers are newly sculpted, completing Turnberry Isle Resort & Club's $1 million renovation to the 18-hole North Course. An entirely new drainage system was installed, new layers of gravel, sand, and topsoil were added, and each green was replanted with Bermuda grass.

Wilson a VP at Landscapes

LINCOLN, Neb. — Landscapes Unlimited, Inc. has promoted Roy Wilson to vice president. Wilson heads up the company's Irrigation Division. In addition to managing 10 irrigation installation crews, he is also responsible for irrigation estimates, bidding and as-built. Wilson joined Landscapes in 1977 and has served the company as an irrigation installation superintendent and project manager.

Deveopment

Clark AFB course resurrection renders insights

By Mark Leslie

MIMOSA, The Philippines — Resurrected from the (literal) ashes — the former 18-hole Clark Air Force Base golf course has been transformed into a 27-hole private resort club, with memberships, that is expected to open in October.

Called Mimosa Resort, the project is one of several built on property that served as Clark AFB until Mount Pinatubo erupted in October 1991, dumping about three feet of ash on it and devastating the course. When the Americans left the base, the Philippine government took over and auctioned off portions to private developers. The government expects to open a major airport here in 1998.

Robin Nelson of golf course designers Nelson, Wright, Haworth said 18 holes — a mammoth facelift of the old course — will open in October along with a brand-new nine holes.

While it covered the property with ash, the Pinatubo eruption left the huge mimosa trees lining a number of fairways, and Nelson, Wright, Haworth used them in their new design, rerouting the fairways so none of trees were lost. Builders also added six lakes, encompassing seven acres, all of which come into play.

The developer, Mondragon International Philippines Inc. — headed by Tony Gonzalez, the country's former director of tourism and ex-chairman of Philippine Airlines — plans to construct a lodge for the project.

One blessing of the Pinatubo ordeal, Nelson said, was that "we were able to study the effect of ash on the turfgrass. We found that in small quantities it's an excellent top dressing material."

The Mimosa Resort course was built with a future volcanic eruption in mind. It is fitted with massive hoses able to wash ash off the fairways, and with several vacuum-like devices able to sweep ash off the greens.

Meanwhile, Nelson, Wright, Haworth has designed another 27-hole course in San Pablo City 90 miles south of Manila.

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Palmer singles out restorations

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — Pointing to a greater need for architectural and construction assistance in restoration and remodeling of older classic courses compete with new ones, Palmer Course Design Co. has announced a renewed commitment to classic course restoration.

Wes Moon and Joe T. Veal will concentrate on this market by offering totally hands-on construction supervision and feature shaping.

Moon has returned to the United States after an extended stay in the Philippines. He was instrumental in the feature shaping of the Legacy Course at The Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite, Philippines. The Legacy Course was recently selected to host the Johnnie Walker Classic, one of the premier golf events in the Asian/Pacific region. Prior to joining the staff of Palmer Course Design Co., Moon spent many years shaping golf courses.

For two years prior to joining Palmer Course Design Co., Veal was construction director of the Pitch and Putt, Inc., a golf construction firm based in Austin, Texas.

Free-standing ranges up 236

MIDLOTHIAN, Va. — The number of free-standing golf ranges (those not associated with a golf course) in the United States has grown by 236 facilities, according to preliminary results from Forecast Golf Group.

The total number of free-standing golf ranges in the United States as of Dec. 31, 1994, was 2,184. This represents a 12.1 percent increase over the 1993 numbers of 1,948 facilities. The industry statistics represent Forecast's preliminary results from its year-end research and analysis. Final results are expected this month.

According to James E. Turner, vice president of Forecast Golf, "Based on the number of inquiries we receive from new golf range developers, we expect the development of new ranges to continue. Therefore, the number of golf ranges will continue to increase, but not at the double-digit growth rates we have seen over the past few years. This indicates a new level of maturity in the industry.

Service joins buyers, sellers, marketers

MIDLOTHIAN, Va. — Forecast Golf Group has initiated a new service, called the Range Exchange, for the golf range industry. The Range Exchange brings together buyers and sellers of golf ranges, striving to reduce the time involved in purchasing and/or selling a golf range.

According to Jim Murphy, president of Forecast Golf, "As the number of inquiries we receive from new golf range developers increases, we expect the development of new ranges to continue. Therefore, the number of golf ranges will continue to increase, but not at the double-digit growth rates we have seen over the past few years. This indicates a new level of maturity in the industry.

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Nelson Wright Haworth busy on several fronts

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Manila.

Villa Escudero, owned by the Escudero family which operates a major coconut plantation and small resort there, expect to build a sort of botanical museum on the 330-acre site.

Though the property is basically flat, it contains "lots of color in the landscape," Nelson said. He added that he will create some interesting effects with the area's "very wet environment."

Speaking of golf course construction in the Asia-Pacific region, Nelson said: "There was this big flash-boom about four years ago. I predicted it would slow down and then we'd have steady growth. That's what is happening: slow, steady growth."

Nelson predicted the growth will expand into India as well. "One-third of the Indian population is in the middle class. That's 100 million people. What a potential to increase the golf industry," he said.

Meanwhile, Nelson, Wright, Haworth are busy on a number of projects in Malaysia, China, Korea and Australia.

In Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club has opened its 36 holes, Tiara Melaka has opened the first nine of its 27-track, and drawings are being done for a new project outside Kuala Lumpur.

Developed by Maddusaiat Sdn. Bhd of Malaysia the new project will be "a very high-end, private club," Nelson said.

Called Bukit Cahaya Country Club Resort, it will feature an 18-hole course along with a housing project. Its "exciting site," including big streams that meander through the property, gives project architect Neil Haworth lot of interesting topography.

Nelson, Wright is also designing Shan Shui Golf and Country Club in Tawau, Sabah, East Malaysia. Drawings are underway on the resort facility's 18-hole course.

In Australia, Nelson, Wright, Haworth will begin construction this year on just the third golf course built in the Sydney area in the last 30 years. Enhancing the existing Scottish associations with Campbelltown, Nelson will fashion a links course for the Australian-owned, Australian-built Macarrie Links International.

The facility, owned by Monarch Investments Group of Companies, will offer corporate membership as well as public daily-fee access.

Nelson, Wright, Haworth are also remodeling the private 18-hole Sung Nam course in Seoul, Korea, and opening three facilities in China this year.

In China, the 27-hole Shenshzen Xili Golf Course is ready for play and its clubhouse will open in April, Nelson said.

Qindao — a private course built by a consortium between the local government and a private Singaporean company — should open the first 18 holes of its 36-hole facility late in the year.

Golf Design and Management, a division of the Singaporean firm Orwell Investments expects to open an 18-hole private facility at mid-year, Nelson said.

Saying that Chinese companies are "in the learning process" of building golf courses, "they are learning very quickly. The companies we're working with are all expert developers and experts in international relations. With all these new projects, all the technology and equipment knowledge is coming with (construction)."

Pete Dye named Donald Ross Award winner

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his wife, Alice, also have been at the forefront of designing multiple tees so that all levels of player, especially women, can enjoy their "target golf" layouts.

Among Dye's world-famous courses are: Crooked Stick Golf Club, Carmel, Ind.; Harbour Town, Hilton Head, S.C.; Casa de Campo, La Romana, Dominican Republic; PC Stadium Course, Ponte Vedra, Fla.; The Ocean Course, Kiawah, S.C.; The Honors Golf Club, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Brickyard Crossing, Indianapolis, Ind.; Old Marsh, North Palm Beach, Fla.; PGA West, La Quinta, Calif.; Oak Tree, Edmond, Okla.; Blackwolf Run, Kohler, Wis.; and Peter Dye Club, Clarksburg, W. Va.

Dye became a member of the ASGCA in 1967 and has been active through the years, serving as an officer from 1985 to 1990. His new book, "Bury Me in a Pot Bunker," tells how he and Alice designed his more famous courses, as well as providing interesting anecdotes about some of the great golfers he has played with over the years.