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JURASSIC GOLF?
Not exactly, but the new nine at Puddicombe-designed Dinosaur Trail Golf & Country Club in Drumheller, Alberta, Canada, is other-worldly. For story, see page 35.

OF PIPES & PALMS
The PGA Club at The Reserve celebrated its Audubon Signature status with pomp & circumstance. See page 54.

MEADOWBROOK BUYS NAGI, GRI
Operations biz has new player
BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — New-kid-on-the-block Meadowbrook Golf Group has suddenly become a major golf course management company with its recent purchases of Chicago-based North American Golf Inc. (NAGI) and California-based Golf Resources Inc. (GRI) giving it 25 courses nationwide.

Effective Oct. 1, 1996, North American Golf began operating as the Eastern Division of 2-year-old Meadowbrook Golf Management. An exchange of stock was expected to occur by Nov. 1, with a final closing on the transaction scheduled for January 1, 1997.

Meadowbrook expects to close this month on a similar transaction with
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Compost: A top-drawer top-dresser
GLENVIEW, Ill. — Scientists can't explain exactly why it works, but it does, and compost is gaining popularity among golf course superintendents as a top-dressing and divot-mix application.

"It definitely works, for whatever reason; it's being used more widely all the time," said Dr. Eric Nelson of Cornell University. "There is a qualitative change that happens in the soil that, specifically, is anyone's guess. That's what we're trying to figure out."

Attesting to the fact that compost enhances divot
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Big Fish/Little Fish: Jacobsen absorbs Bunton
LOUISVILLE, Ky. — If you believe consolidation indicates a healthy industry, the golf course business just got healthier.

In a move company officials claim will "increase its leadership role in the turf maintenance industry," Racine, Wis.-based Jacobsen Division of Textron, Inc. has acquired the Bunton Company, a manufacturer of turf equipment based here.

No significant upheaval is expected at Bunton in the near future, according to Bill Robson, interim general manager here at the firm's Louisville headquarters. For the time being, Jacobsen distributors will handle Jake products and Bunton distributors will handle Bunton products, he said.

"That doesn't mean that if a Jacobsen distributor wanted to sell Bunton, we wouldn't look at it," said Robson. "But right at the moment, nothing will change."

With approximately 100 employees, Bunton's 1995 sales were $19 million. According to Herb Henkel, Textron president of industrial products, Bunton's facility and employees will remain in Ken-
Brassie acquires total ownership of Va. track

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. — Brassie Golf Corp. recently fulfilled terms of an agreement with UA Canadian Pipeline Industry National Pension Plan (UA Pension Fund), Brassie’s former lender and part owner of The Gauntlet at Curtis Park Inc., whereby Brassie purchased 20 percent of the outstanding stock of Curtis Park and giving Brassie 100 percent ownership of The Gauntlet at Curtis Park here.

The Gauntlet contains a P.B. Dye-designed 18-hole course and clubhouse on property held by Curtis Park under a long-term lease arrangement with Stafford County. Brassie also paid down an existing $1.6 million second mortgage loan from the UA Pension Fund to Curtis Park by $1.33 million. The remaining loan balance has been assigned to, and another entity thereby completely terminating the UA Pension Fund’s interest in Curtis Park.

“We expect to benefit from our outright ownership of Curtis Park,” said Brassie President Bill Horne. “Since opening in June 1995, earnings from golf operations and related activities have shown continued improvement.”

Michael C. Rippey, founder and president of North American Golf, becomes president of Meadowbrook Golf Management - Eastern division. Steve Adams, president of Golf Resources, Inc., will have the same responsibilities for the Western Division. Senior management teams in both companies will remain intact.

“Strong management, solid experience in golf course development and operations, and access to capital are the building blocks for growing Meadowbrook Golf into an industry leader,” Behrstock said. “By bringing two of the industry’s best management teams into Meadowbrook, we are in a position to succeed with any development, acquisition or management opportunity that fits into our business plan.”

“We plan to incentivize our company for our employees with cash and stock purchase plans. We believe in proprietary management and personnel. And we have two of the best in the business in Mike and Steve to lead us in that direction.”

Behrstock said Meadowbrook plans to build two to three courses a year and to sign a like number of management contracts with existing courses annually. The Eastern Division office of Meadowbrook will continue to manage the development and operation of nine daily-fee and municipal golf facilities in the Midwest and East. The Western Division office manages or owns more than 10 golf facilities along the West coast, including Rancho Murrieta Country Club and Gold Hills Country Club in California, and Shield Crest Golf Course in Oregon. This new union includes six facilities in the development stages; including three Midwest projects, two of which are designed by the Hurdzan Golf Design Group, and a new Tom Fazio course near San Diego that will be owned and operated by Meadowbrook. The company has offers pending on a 27-hole course in Southern California and a 36-hole facility in Chicago.