BRIEFS

**GEORGE GETS MASS. JOB**

DANVERS, Mass. — WMSJ Co. Inc. has selected George Golf Design, Inc. to construct a three-hole practice facility and upgrade the existing driving range complex for Sun N' Air golf facility. The facility will consist of three par-3 holes of 110, 200 and 170 yards, a combination of natural and artificial grass tees, and a short-game area which allows the practice of all shots within 50 yards of the hole. The third hole features a 6,000-square-foot green over water. This addition will provide an upscale golf practice and learning facility to the Boston area. Construction is under way by Quality Grassing & Services of Lithia, Fla. “This facility will provide the opportunity to teach every shot in the game,” said course architect Lester George.

**PLAYER INKS APPALACHIAN PROJECT**

MOUNTHOPE, W.V. — Gary Player Design has been signed to design an 18-hole course as part of an extensive development near Beckley by Sun Mountain Enterprises, Inc. The project will include a hotel, outdoor amphitheater, conference center, driving range and residential components. The Sun Mountain property is situated in the Appalachian Mountains. The Player team was given the chance to study more than 2,000 available acres before it settled on the most dramatic 400 acres. The holes will be situated in and wind their way through valleys, featuring elevation changes of up to 100 feet. The design also will include numerous lakes and bunkering in Player’s design characteristic. Construction of the lighted driving range is underway and the golf course is set to break ground in March. Sun Mountain Resort course opening is planned for July 2000.

**ASGCA OFFERS DEVELOPMENT BROCHURE**

CHICAGO — A free booklet, Golf Course Development Planning Guide, from the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) is helpful to anyone taking the first steps to develop a new golf course. The 16-page brochure, with full-color illustrations and photography, covers all the key components involved in a new course project. To get a free copy, people should send a self-addressed, business-size envelope to the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

**AMP: Examples from California**

The theoretical concepts behind Adaptive Management Planning (AMP) are not difficult since it is essentially the same experimental method taught at all good universities. The difference is that AMP is a management strategy based on information derived through experiments designed within the context of social/economic policy constraints. Putting AMP into practice is much more challenging than an experiment back in the nursery area for a new fertilizer on your favorite strain of turfgrass.

AMP tends to involve people from a variety of disciplines, and a considerable expenditure of energy and money. The real virtue of the AMP approach is that it enables superintendents and developers to move beyond the grind, head-butting, red-in-the-face frustration stance with the regulatory community. AMP elevates the interactions and communications into a let's-talk-it-over mode, so that they all can come up with answers.

But AMP is also very exciting because of the rewards of solving a tough problem, and achieving real understanding through a community effort that tends to create long-term professional relationships. Here in Northern California there are many examples of AMP at golf courses. Two striking examples are observed at Pebble

**Dyes designing 4th in Dominican**

By PETER BLAIS

LA ROMANA, Dominican Republic — Architects Pete and Alice Dye are building their fourth course here at the Fanjul resort, home of Casa de Campo (Teeth of the Dog), one of the Dyes’ best-known layouts. Atos de Chevon, which means high above the (Chevon) river, began construction a year ago and is scheduled to open by fall 2000. It will be the third Dyedesigned resort course here, joining Casa de Campo and The Links. Casa de Campo opened in 1971 and hosted the world amateur championship in 1974. La Romana Country Club, also a Dye project on the resort grounds, is a private layout.

Despite the devastating effects of last fall’s Hurricane Mitch, course work quickly resumed. The green pads were under construction in early January, according to Alice Dye.

“We didn’t have rain, like Puerto Rico,” Dye remembered of Mitch. “We had much higher winds. They were clocked at 225 miles per hour. It denuded all the trees.

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**Nebraskan neighbors build together**

By MARK LESLIE

GOTHENBURG, Neb. — In Nebraska, “community” takes on a whole new meaning. And “community-owned golf course” does not necessarily mean “municipal golf course.” Such is the case at Wild Horse Golf Club here, where more than 200 people not only hold shares in the course but probably also got down and dirty building it.

“I tell you what: These [Nebraska] people work together to help each other out,” said Dan Proctor, who co-designed Wild Horse with partner Dave Axland of Bunker Hill Golf Course Design and Construction. “If somebody needs something, they go and help them. Local people did most of the tilling. After their work, they’d bring a tractor over to the site. Some
Nebraskan neighbors unite

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didn't even own shares; they just wanted the course built." Axland and Proctor hired one person to help with the course shaping. If they needed equipment or labor, Proctor said, "We'd ask one of the board members. If we needed a large tiller they'd go find it. If we needed 10 guys to clean weeds out of the bunkers, they'd organize a crew."

The result? Wild Horse has a lot of the character of a famous course which sits just 10 miles away: Sand Hills Golf Club, a track designed by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw which was named Best New Private Golf Course in 1995. Proctor described the land as "soft, more compact, gently rolling but with a lot of character — perfect for golf. You can walk it."

While Sand Hills' trademark is a number of natural "blowout" bunkers, Wild Horse had only a couple natural blowouts. So Axland and Proctor added about 60 more. They moved only 5,000 cubic yards of dirt on the project, taking earth from the clubhouse site to build up the greens complexes. A look of rugged, native grasses imparts a major element to the course's character.

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