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Alice Gives Pete A Few Pointers

Alice Dye tosses Pete Dye a couple of suggestions as Pete puts the finishing touches on his new design at Colleton River on Hilton Head Island, S.C. Colleton is scheduled to open in April. See story on page 40.

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Y2K Crisis: Two little numbers, one big problem

By MARK LESLIE

"On New Years Day I wouldn't want to be on a golf course because the sprinkler systems will probably be going nuts," said Pebble Beach Co.'s Dominic Van Ness.

Van Ness, director of the Information Services Department at the world-famous resort, foresees major problems beginning — and then perhaps snowballing — when the world's clocks tick over from midnight Dec. 31, 1999, to 12:01 a.m. Jan. 1.

The situation has been dubbed

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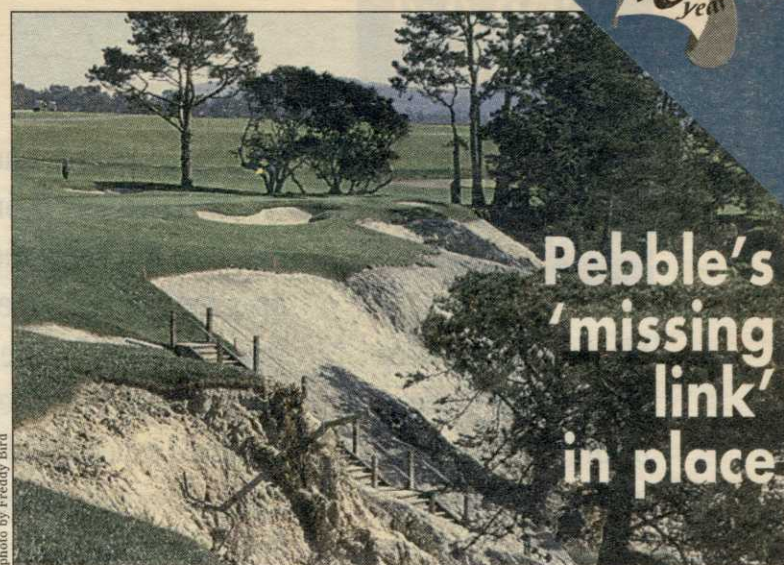


photo by Freddy Bird

Pebble's 'missing link' in place

Pebble Beach's new 187-yard 5th: Now overlooking, not moving away from, the ocean.

By DOUG SAUNDERS

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Eighty years and \$9.5 million after Pebble Beach Golf Links was built, the parcel of land that should have formed the 5th hole now does.

The missing link, a private estate that Pebble Beach owners have craved ever since they sold it, was finally wrested from the heirs last year and has been transformed by Jack Nicklaus.

The new 187-yard hole will play along the bluff overlooking the ocean. This hole was designed by Jack Nicklaus, who is making all efforts to create a hole that reflects that character of the rest of the course. The intention is to add a hole that should have been constructed in 1919 and have it look and play as though it were.

The hole that it will replace is the awkward par-3 5th that inexplicably played away from the ocean in the original design. Why this hole was laid out as it was years ago is an interesting story of how, when golf courses and real-estate projects meet, the best intentions can cause conflict.

Pebble Beach Golf Links was created to stimulate land sales of the

Continued on page 45



DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT Q&A: Steve Smyers' Old Memorial GC in Tampa is one of the top 10 new private courses in the country. See Q&A with Smyers, page 33.

Huizenga's FPH to 'add value' to resorts, golf

By PETER BLAIS

PLANTATION, Fla. — Wayne Huizenga's Florida Panthers Holdings (FPH) Inc. recently purchased and is set to begin renovations to the Golf Club of Plantation, a 47-year-old,

18-hole course here that will complement the firm's two hotels in the Fort Lauderdale market.

The Plantation course was closed recently in anticipation of a major renovation under the guidance of an as-yet-undetermined architect.

A year ago FPH acquired Rolling Hills Golf Course, the site where the movie "Caddyshack" was filmed, and recently completed a major renovation

to the facility located in nearby Davie. Rolling Hills will also service FPH's Fort Lauderdale resorts.

"The concept is to add value to our resorts and hotels," said FPH Vice President of Golf Development Jim Applegate. "We know what an important component golf is when people decide where to spend their vacations and leisure time."

Continued on page 48



FPH's Jim Applegate

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

Textron: Burtner takes helm of Golf, Turf Care

By M. LEVANS

RACINE, Wis. — Textron has reshuffled the top management of its recently expanded Golf, Turf Care and Specialty Products Group on the way to finalizing its consolidation with Ransomes.

The company has named Carl Burtner as the group's chief executive officer effective January 1. Burtner will be based in Elgin, Ill., and will oversee nine global operations, 3,600 employees and more than \$700 million in revenues.

Under Textron's Golf, Turf Care and Specialty Products group umbrella falls E-Z-GO golf cars, Cushman utility vehicles, and Ransomes,

Continued on page 62

Bombardier NV goes in both 'golf' and 'drive' mode

The Bombardier NV Neighborhood Vehicle is an environmentally-friendly and quiet mode of transportation. What makes the vehicle unique is that it's designed for the fairways and the roadways. In "golf" mode, the Bombardier NV Neighborhood Vehicle reaches a top speed of 15 mph (to help it comply with golf course standards).

In "drive" mode, for off the

course, the Bombardier NV reaches a maximum speed of 25 mph, providing drivers with a fun and sporty vehicle for getting around town. The Bombardier NV is great for the golf course and the country club, and also for trips to the store or visiting friends in the neighborhood. For more information, contact 888-638-5397.

CIRCLE #201



TruGreen T-Series

TruGreen T-Series: A machine for all seasons

The new TruGreen T-Series Combination Tractor-Truck work vehicles now offer their rugged four-wheel drive units equipped with turf-tread tires and an assortment of gang

mowers, rototillers, front bucket loaders, aerators and overseeders for golf-course construction, repair and maintenance.

Made in Massachusetts, the diesel-powered TruGreen T-Series

(Kubota 4-cylinder 49 and 56-hp, and Continental 66-hp diesel engines) has just won the OEM "Emmie Award" for 1998. For more information, contact 508-748-1200.

CIRCLE #203

GCSAA SHOW PREVIEW

GCSAA Tourney

Continued from page 29

greens, and I hit two consecutive 40-foot putts which is something that doesn't happen every day," said Pondel on last year's championship effort. "And this year I feel pretty good, although you never know what's going to happen—if you look at the trophy not too many guys have won back to back."

Pondel, along with defending chapter team winners Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents in gross, and California No. 14 net are looking forward to the beautiful courses that await them. Tournament activities will get under way with practice rounds on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 5-6, a four-ball championship on Sunday, Feb. 7. The official two day tourney gets underway Monday, Feb. 8.

The following is a brief rundown of the courses that will host the 1999 GCSAA Golf Championship:

— **The Westin Innisbrook Resort** will be hosting the event at three of its courses, all of which were designed by Larry Packard.

— **Copperhead** (host superintendent, Rob Giampietro/course rating 74.4, slope 140). The Copperhead course is the home of the season ending J.C. Penny Classic. The 7,087 yard, par-71 course features pine tree-

lined fairways and rolling terrain and demanding long and accurate tee shots. Designed by Larry Packard in 1973, this resort course is reminiscent of a classic Carolina layout.

— **Island** (host superintendent, Carl Collins/course rating 74.1). The Island course stays true to its name with the first six holes featuring lateral water hazards. The remainder of the 6,999 yard, par-72 course features rolling terrain and cypress and pine trees that will require pin point accuracy. The 18th hole which dog legs left over water will provide a stern finish.

— **Hawk's Run** (host superintendent, Mike Blanchard/course rating 70.5, slope 125) The Hawk's Run course may be deceiving in distance, but with water hazards coming into play on almost every shot, the 6,260 yard, par-70 layout will surely test all golfers. In addition to the water, there are also 46 bunkers and a resident 10-foot gator to contend with. This 1992 Packard-designed run is not the place to spray shots.

— **World Woods Golf Club** will be hosting the event at two of its Tom Fazio designed courses.

— **Rolling Oaks** (host superintendent, Quinn M. Kuite/course rating 73.5, slope 136). The Augusta National-inspired fairways at Rolling Oaks, lined

with live oaks, dogwoods and magnolias, roll gently through this 6,985 yard, par-72 layout that is one of the top upscale daily fee courses in the country. The layout features challenges like the 10 bunkers on the par-5 third hole and a 300-year-old live oak tree that menaces the right side of the finishing hole.

— **Pine Barrens** (host superintendent, Robert M. Roessing/course rating 73.7, slope 140). Waste areas abound at the Pine Barrens course which will force golfers to take a more measured approach to their game. The 6,985 yard, par-71 links course is also reminiscent of a Carolina layout featuring plenty of pine trees and rolling terrain. High scores will plague those who find themselves in the native sand waste areas.

— **Southern Woods Golf Club** (host superintendent, John Morrison/course rating 72.9, slope 126) This 6,900 yard, par-72 layout designed by Hale Irwin in 1992 features natural rolling terrain and lush forest areas. The challenge on this course will be the drainage retention areas that border almost every hole at Southern Woods. Land in these grassy holes and you will face elevation changes of 20 to 40 feet from the fairway to the green areas. Strategically placed bunkers and water hazards add further dangers to this otherwise straightforward layout.



John Deere enhances 2500

The new John Deere 2500 Tri-Plex Greens Mower's cut quality is enhanced by a new cutting unit suspension that is designed to carry the weight of the lift arms on the traction unit and on the cutting units. The 22-inch cutting units are John Deere designed and manufactured and come with eleven blade reels, 3-mm standard bedknives and a smooth front roller.

CIRCLE #202

Vermeer packs stump cutting punch

Packing the most power in Vermeer Manufacturing's premier line of stump cutters, the 106 HP (79 kw) SC1102A stump cutter offers the most significant advancements in stump cutting technology in years—Vermeer's Auto Sweep system. The patented Auto Sweep function better equips the SC1102A to meet the needs of land clearing contractors, golf courses, municipalities, public works departments and rental centers. For more information, contact 1-888-Vermeer.

CIRCLE #205

Textron/Burtner

Continued from page 1

Jacobsen and Bunton lawn-care machinery.

Reporting to Burtner will be Philip Trailies who is responsible for turf care in the Americas; L.T. Walden, president of E-Z-GO; Tom Meier, president of Steiner; Bob Grenhart, vice president of finance; and in Europe, Paul Hollingworth will be managing director responsible for the European operations.

Burtner joined Textron in 1980 and held various executive positions with Greenlee Textron, including president. In 1995, he was promoted from Greenlee to Textron's world headquarters as vice president of human resources. In January 1997, he became president of Industrial Components.

Peter Wilson, ex-president of Ransomes, was heading up Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products worldwide, but has since been promoted to president of Textron Fastening Systems (TFS) Europe. Wilson will remain in England and oversee 23 operations across Europe with more than 5,500 employees and revenues exceeding \$700 million.

According to Trailies, Burtner's move to Elgin from world headquarters in Provi-

dence makes sound, geographic sense. "Textron has a fastening office that's being built in Elgin," said Trailies. "So it made more sense to have Burtner outside of Providence and closer to Chicago and closer to Racine."

As far as the ongoing consolidation, "We're about 90 percent there," added Trailies.

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English, Ind.

Continued from page 3

However, there will still be four or five fairways susceptible to flooding. That's why Hammond called Hurdzan, who has designed several courses in flood-plain areas.

"It is a tough site with two creeks to work around and a big hill to get on top of," explained Hurdzan's senior design associate David Welchel. "But it's going to work out. We aim to build a golf course that is easy to maintain, challenging and fun."

Construction began Nov. 21 with an official kickoff and "golf course raising." The volunteers and March worked all day to grade the driving range and do some work on the 6th hole. They also worked out a construction schedule and assigned tasks. "The great thing about this process is that it is truly a family effort," said Hammond. "For example, the Holzbog family is responsible for the 5th hole. They have taken it on and know what it will take to get it built."