



BRIEFS

SOLAR ENERGY ILLUMINATES ANAHEIM COURSE

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Anaheim Hills Golf Course has been cited by the California Municipal Utilities Association for helping to relieve the state's power crisis. The 18-hole municipal facility, opened in 1972, has 18 stand-alone photovoltaic cells installed in its parking lot. The solar cells store energy during the day and power 576 watts of lighting at night. The system at Anaheim Hills has been operational for more than a year. The utilities association recognized the club for its efforts during a recent convention in San Diego.

DUNES CLUB WRAPS UP \$6-MILLION REHAB

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — The Dunes Golf and Beach Club has completed the final phase of its year-long, \$6-million renovation project, which included renovations to the golf course and the clubhouse. The project, which began in April 2000, added more than 12,000 square feet to the member and guest areas of the clubhouse, doubled the size of the driving range, and modified the golf course. A new tee box was added on the 18th hole. The club also added an "alternate" hole between the 13th and 14th holes. The extra hole will be substituted when another hole is closed for maintenance.

VON HAGGE READIES 11TH MEXICAN COURSE

PUERTO VALLARTA, Mexico — The Texas-based golf architecture firm Von Hagge, Smelek and Baril is preparing for a fall 2001 opening of an 18-hole championship layout here at a gate-guarded development called Paradise Village Beach Resort & Spa. This will be Von Hagge's 11th course in Mexico, making it the most prolific course design company in the country. Mexico ranks second only to Hawaii as a golf destination for mainland Americans, and according to Von Hagge, the potential for golf in Mexico is "unlimited, and magnificent properties are still available in abundance." The firm also has a new project under way in Genoa, Italy.



Mungeam breaks ground on Westchester County's first daily-fee course in 63 years

By PHILIP HALL

NEW CASTLE, N.Y. — It's been 63 years since a new public golf course opened for play here in Westchester County. Exclusive private clubs abound (there were 59 at last count), but a dense population and real estate prices gone berserk make the development of public-access facilities a virtual impossibility.

This shortage of affordable golf courses is something local players have come to accept. Indeed, the nation gained insight into this regional problem last year when *The New York Times* published a front-page story on the subject.

But help is on the way.

Ground was broken in June at Hudson Hills Golf Course, an 18-hole daily-fee layout designed by architect Mark Mungeam, a partner with Uxbridge, Mass.-based Cornish, Silva and Mungeam, Inc. Developed by Westchester County itself, the course is scheduled to open for play in 2002.

"The main portion of the land we're using for Hudson Hills used to be a golf

course," explained Mungeam. "The club changed its name many times. It was called Pine Ridge when it opened in the 1920s, then Sunset Hills, then Pine Ridge again before it took the name Hudson Hills Golf Club in the mid-1960s."

reincarnation."

CONTROLLING GREEN FEES

How do 110 acres sit unused for nearly two decades just 30 miles north of New York City, in the heart of one of America's most outrageously priced real estate markets?

Well, the club closed down because IBM purchased the property with plans to build a corporate research laboratory there. Those plans never materialized.

Five years ago, the county successfully negotiated to buy the property back. At that time, the county had intended to develop the project privately, via a third-party lease arrangement.

"Eventually, the county decided to develop the course itself," said Mungeam, who recently completed tournament renovations at Chicago's Olympia Fields Country Club, site of

the 2003 U.S. Open. "That was the only way to control green fees. In Westchester County, a private operator could charge just about anything and get away with it. Better than anyone, county officials recognized the need for affordable golf here."

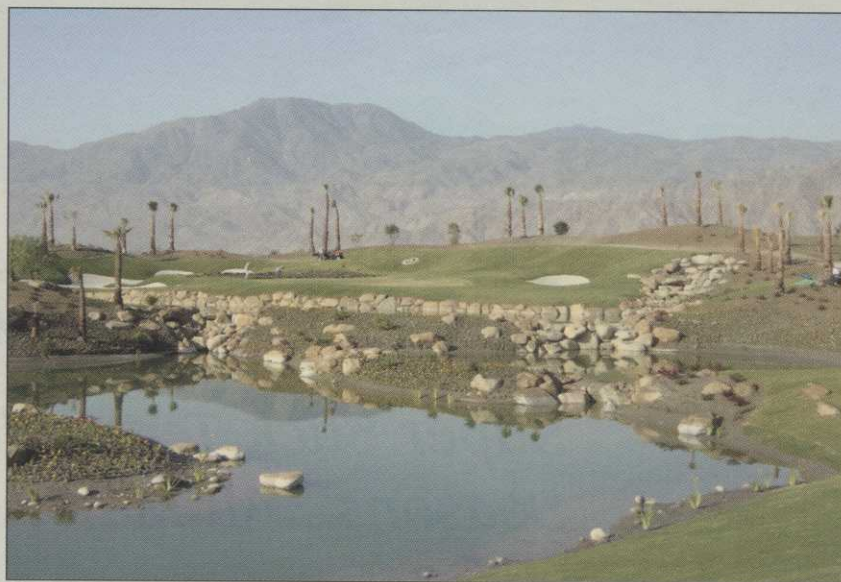
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Number 14 at Mungeam's Charleston Springs course, in New Jersey, opening this fall

The club shut its doors in 1982 and today the course site is totally overgrown.

"We've appropriated the most recent name for this new project," Mungeam added, "but we've essentially designed a brand new golf course here, a completely new routing. This isn't a restoration; it's a



Number seven at the Clive Clark course at the Country Club of the Desert

New 54-hole complex taking shape near California's Palm Desert

By JAY FINEGAN

LA QUINTA, Calif. — The Country Club of the Desert plans to open the first 27 of 54 holes of golf by the end of the year, adding another marquee complex here in the arid Palm Desert area south of Palm Springs. There are already some 100 courses in this part of the Mojave.

A development consortium called La Quinta Land Partners, in tandem with Nationwide Realty Investors, is building the three new courses and 819 houses on a 1,000-acre piece of real estate near the Santa Rosa Mountains.

The first course to come on line, designed by Pete Dye, will play to

7,331 yards. The second layout, by Clive Clark, will run to 7,184 yards. No architect has been named for the third course, but plans call for a 7,132-yard track. Par for each course is 72. Some 40 lakes and ponds will be excavated on the courses.

Landmark Golf Co., of nearby Indian Wells, is managing construction.

A huge clubhouse — 65,000 square feet — will serve the three courses and act as a focal point. "It will be one of the largest clubhouses out here, probably the largest," said John Gasper, CGCS MG, director of golf course and property operations. "It's a total of

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Fream's Nine Bridges GC puts Gleneagles in Korea

By JAY FINEGAN

JEJU ISLAND, South Korea — Architect Ron Fream has opened his fifth course in Korea since 1984. Nine Bridges Golf Course here on this subtropical ocean resort destination, less than an hour's flight from Seoul, Tokyo and Osaka, held a soft opening June 1. The layout will hit full swing in August.

Fream said early players have been



Fream's seventh hole at Nine Bridges

"very impressed" by the par-72, 18-hole course, which runs to a championship length of 7,200 yards and down to 5,250 from the front pegs. The scenery is "amazing" around the site, said Fream, who noted that volcanic outcroppings line the several creeks that cross the property. The entire island is volcanic.

BASED ON GLENEAGLES

The California-based architect, who has designed courses all over the world,

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Stone Tree

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23 months to complete. Continental Golf Construction Co. of Auburn, Calif., handled the heavy lifting. The great challenge was shaping the 10 holes that play along the flattest part of the golf course. Care was taken to frame each hole with mounding, so only the hole you are playing is in view.

"This was a very difficult site to

build on, as we could not impact any wetland areas, and these areas continued to be declared even during construction," Summers said.

To tie this area to the tree-laden hillside portion, more than 13,000 trees were planted along these holes, satisfying a permit requirement to replace – on a three-to-one basis – trees that were taken down from other parts of the course.

"Every tree we removed was inventoried by an on-site arborist

to determine how many trees we would have to add to other areas," Summers said. The new trees – live oaks, valley oaks, willows and alders – were mostly placed on the flat, treeless section of the property to give the course more definition."

PLAYING SURFACE

The mounding in the flat areas was another challenge, built as the mounds were on bay mud that behaved like Jell-O. "We moved

over 300,000 cubic feet of dirt on the property and imported over 180,000 cubic feet of sand to add a full sand cap to the course," said Harvey Lundershausen of Capital Golf Construction. "All of this took a lot of time."

According to Pryseski, the effort paid off. "We have a firmer playing surface during the winter – our rainy season," he said.

The course offers bentgrass greens and a rye/bluegrass mix

on the fairways and tees. Water comes into play on several holes, with six acres of man-made wetlands, three ponds and two creeks. "There are only 40 bunkers, because the wetlands, hillsides and water features add enough challenge," said director of golf Soczka.

The difficulty of the design and construction lead to the development of Stone Tree's motto – "A handcrafted classic." ■

Mungeam

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Mungeam – a member of the board of governors at the American Society of Golf Course Architects – has become a familiar name in Met area golfing circles. His recent designs include High Bridge Hills GC, the North Course at Charleston Springs GC in Millstone Township, and Colt's Neck Golf and Country Club. All three courses are in New Jersey.

Course construction permits were secured for Hudson Hills back in 1997; Mungeam has spent the past two years honing his design plans here in New Castle. Several of the overgrown holes are still discernible, though none will be part of the new Hudson Hills 18.

"We have aerial photographs of the old course, and if you go out in the field you can see everything," Mungeam continued. "You come across these depressions, and if you scrape around you'll find the old bunker sand. We found a tee sign the other day – a post with fancy wrought-iron work and a board hanging from it. But the writing has been worn away by time."

"The former course was wedged onto just 110 acres, but today we have 150 acres to work with," he added. "It's great land, steep in some sections but lovely, rolling terrain with nice views to the west. When we're finished, I daresay Hudson Hills will be the best public facility in Westchester County."

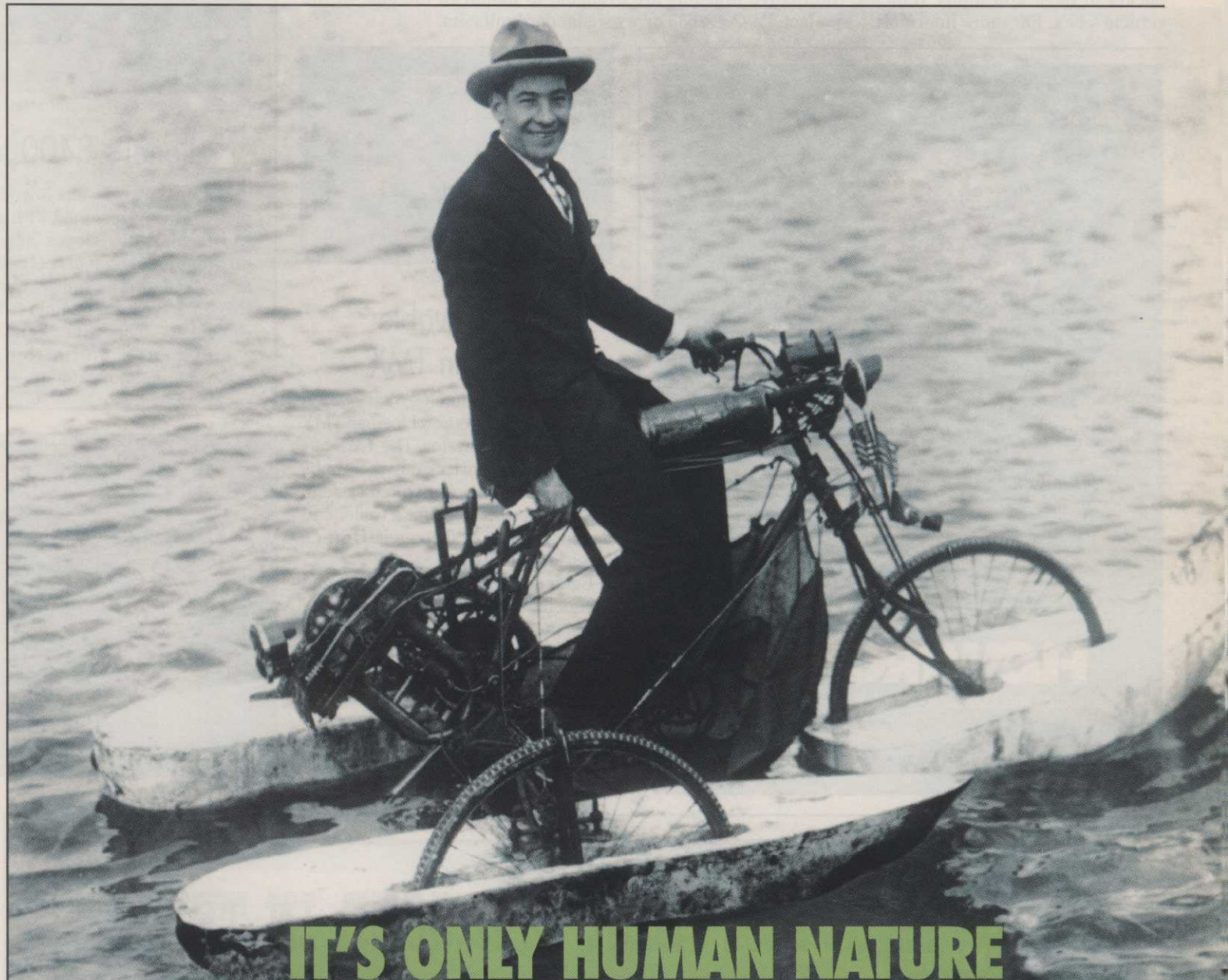
A COURSE FOR CLINTON

Much has been written about where Bill Clinton, now a resident of neighboring Chappaqua, will play his golf. Mungeam, for one, has a suggestion. "Hudson Hills will definitely be affordable enough for anyone on a government pension," he quipped.

Having christened four original layouts last year (including partner Brian Silva's much praised Black Creek Club in Chattanooga, Tenn.), Cornish, Silva and Mungeam will open four more original designs in 2001, including Mungeam's LeBaron Hills CC, a private club in Lakeville, Mass.

Also, the Mungeam-designed South Course at Charleston Springs will open this fall. ■

GOLF COURSE NEWS



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