

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

BAY CREEK GOLF CLUB STRIVES FOR
AUDUBON'S SILVER SIGNATURE
STATUS. SEE STORY PAGE 3.



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INSIDE

It takes two

Barbaron and Southeastern Golf team up to build
Tom Fazio's North Course at Mediterra19

New chemistry

Golf Course News takes a look at what's new in pesti-
cides, herbicides and fungicides.....32



SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE "BIG DIG"

After roaming the globe building golf courses most of his
life, Massachusetts native Gary Kessener, 42, has re-
turned home to oversee construction of one of the most
ambitious golf projects ever undertaken in the United
States - Quarry Hills Golf Course. The John Sanford
design is taking shape just outside Boston. The story
begins on page 13.

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PERIODICAL

Secondary turf equipment market facing growing pains

By ANDREW OVERBECK

With the popularity of leasing turf equipment surging
over the past five years, the market for used equipment has
expanded as well. Industry insiders estimate that the used
market now exceeds \$90 million in annual sales and will
continue to grow as more equipment comes off leases.

Sales figures, however, do not tell the whole story.
The industry is still learning how to approach the sec-
ondary turf market. While high residuals make leasing



A three- to four-
year-old John
Deere
ProConditioned
3235 fairway
mower (left) re-
tails for around
\$22,000, com-
pared to \$36,000
for a brand-new
3235B model. It
comes with a one-
year warranty.

packages more attractive, they make it more difficult for
dealers and wholesale brokers to unload used equipment
at a reasonable profit. In order for leases to grow, there

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Chicago credit giant to finance golf

By JAY FINEGAN

CHICAGO — A new source of capital has en-
tered the golf industry, and this one comes with
deep pockets.

Heller Financial, a \$20-billion credit firm, recently
established a golf lending group with plans to fill
some of the void created when
Bank of America abandoned
the golf-financing field last fall.

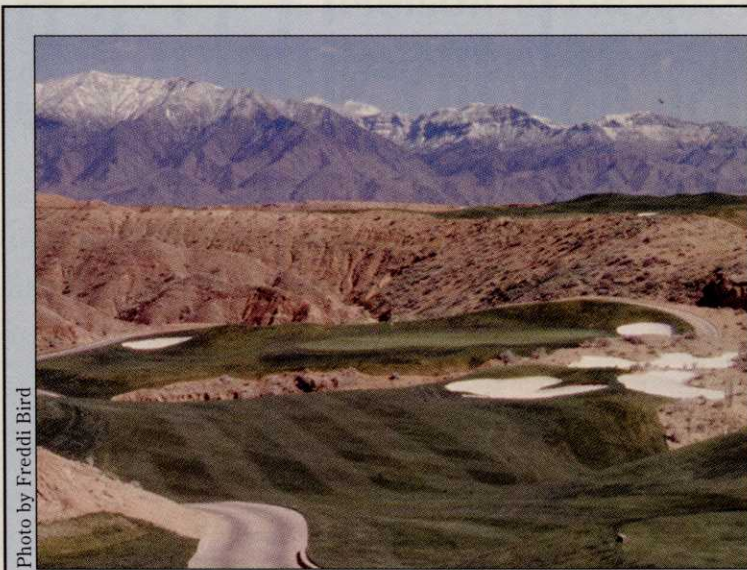
Ironically, two of the key
players in the new Heller golf
brain trust have sailed in from
Bank of America. Rick
Nekoroski, who completed
\$275 million in golf course
investments for Bank of
America, will handle the eastern half of the coun-
try from Boston. And John Seeburger, a West
Coast loan officer for B of A, will take charge of the
action in the western United States from his office
in Costa Mesa, Calif., south of Los Angeles. Both
men will hold the title of vice president and invest-
ment officer.

Real estate specialist Christy Lockridge, an 11-
year Heller veteran, has been named product man-
ager for the golf lending group. She will direct the



Christy Lockridge

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The third hole at Wolf Creek GC, 80 miles north of Las Vegas

Wolf Creek offers high drama in Nevada desert

By DOUG SAUNDERS

MESQUITE, Nev. — The fairways of
the recently opened Wolf Creek Golf
Club pour through the stark desert
terrain like green lava flowing through
the landscape. Their stunning contrast
against the multi-colored sandstone
cliffs creates a spectacular setting that
begs a golfer to come out and play in
this high desert setting in southeast-
ern Nevada.

Your first thoughts are: how could a
Continued on page 24

Drought-stricken N'west faces dry summer

By JOEL JOYNER

SPOKANE, Wash. — The Northwest is
confronting record-low water levels that
may result in some severe shortages this
summer. The drought also has poten-
tially serious implications for energy-
starved California, which relies on hy-
droelectric power from the Northwest.

In March, Washington Gov. Gary Locke
declared a drought emergency for the
state. According to Scott Gudes, acting
administrator of the National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the
Northwest is the most drought-stricken
region of the United States.

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Wolf Creek

Continued from page 1

golf course even be built in this rugged site? Only by playing the course can you appreciate the creativity, tenacity and obvious love of the high desert environment that guided the designer, owner and builder, Dennis Rider.

Rider spent two years walking the 160-acre site to learn how to blend the course into the land-

scape. When construction finally began, he worked with his head superintendent, Kelby Hughes, his son John, three bulldozers, one scraper, and a crew of 30 men to carve out his creation.

Rider and Hughes have worked together here in Mesquite for 10 years, including a stint with Arnold Palmer when he built the Oasis Golf Club in 1995. They have watched the town of Mesquite - 80 miles

north of Las Vegas on I-15 - grow from a truck stop into a town of 20,000.

HIGH DRAMA ON SECOND HOLE

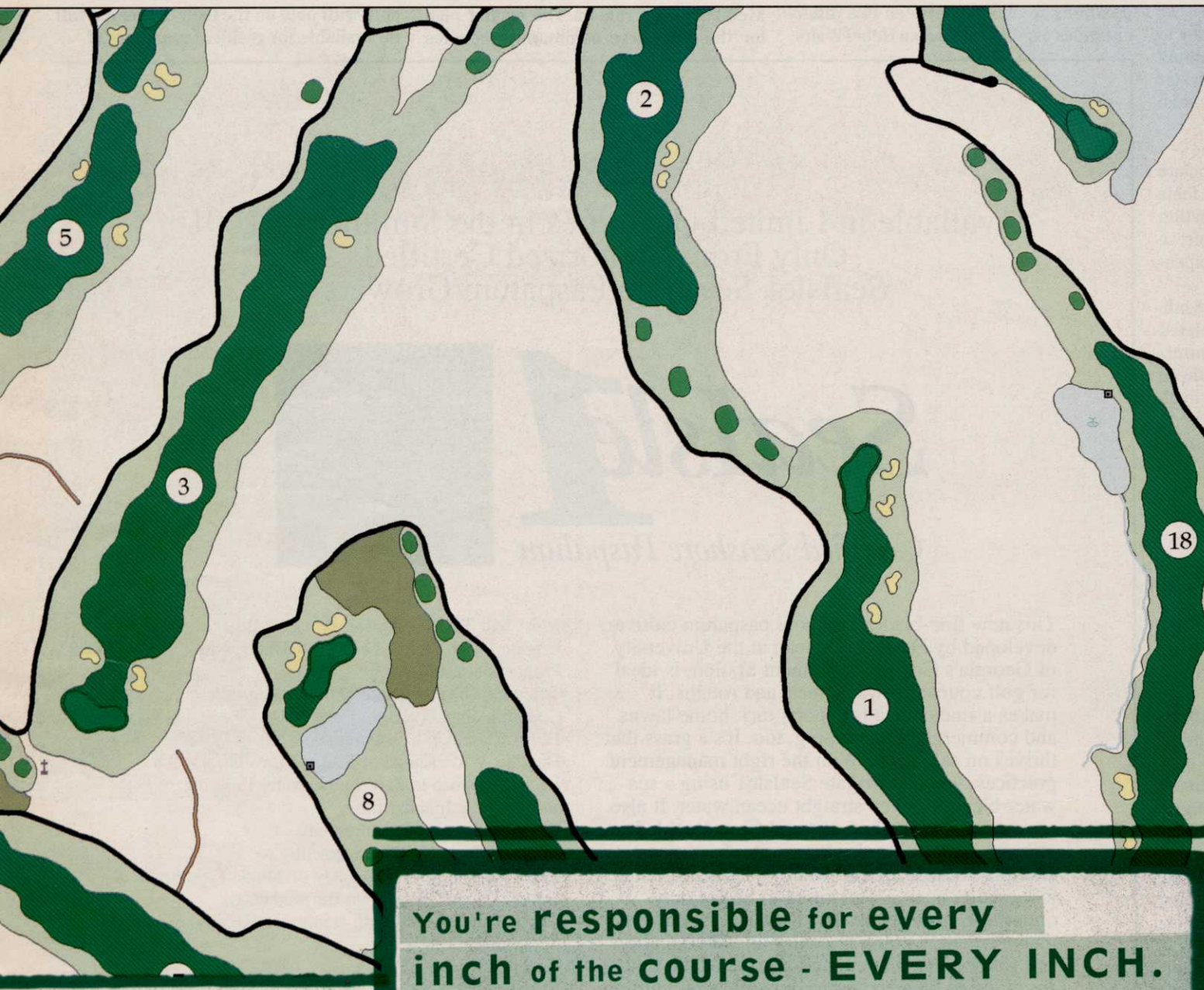
With the opening of Wolf Creek, Mesquite is stepping towards becoming an affordable golf destination to rival Palm Springs and Scottsdale.

"The toughest part in building Wolf Creek was developing a routing with two loops," Rider said. "With this rugged terrain



Photo by Freddi Bird

The 12th hole at Wolf Creek



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you needed to allow players back to the clubhouse after nine. I really just let the land determine where we could go. We did have the chance to add challenge and fun to some of the golf holes."

Rider certainly showed imagination while creating some intriguing golf holes. Five tee shots play off cliffs over 100 feet high.

The most dramatic, the 440-yard par-4 second hole, is played from an 11-story-high tee. A player must climb up 90 sandstone steps to reach a narrow ridge line draped with grass. From here a player must drive the ball 200 yards over another sandstone ridge to the fairway far below. The views are breathtaking and the golf shot is out of fantasyland.

SLOPE RATING OF 154

This type of feel appears on almost every golf hole at Wolf Creek. From hitting to elevated greens, to gazing down on one of the seven lakes that line the course, to being struck by the contrast of grass, white sand bunkers, and multicolored rocks. You are left questioning if you can even play this wild track. Rider was careful to measure and plot each shot. He added five sets of tees so that any golfer could have a chance.

"The elevated tee shots make it hard to judge distance. But if you choose the proper tees the golf course is very playable," Rider said.

The course plays at 4,169 yards from the front tees and grows to a healthy 7,018 yards from the challenger pegs. From these back tees the course has a slope rating of 154, one of the highest in the nation. From the middle tees the rating is at 134, but a player can still enjoy the round after overcoming the intimidation factor off the tee.

CHOPPER USED IN CONSTRUCTION

To build this course took special care and ingenuity. The sand cliffs look petrified but are actually very fragile. To protect them, much of the large materials were moved by helicopter, including sod, sand, pipes, and sandstone slab steps.

"We were lucky to have the regional airport right behind the golf course," said Kelly Hughes. "We could bring in materials to the chopper and easily load things on the runway. The chop-

Continued on next page

HORIZON^{GPS}

HOW TO READ YOUR COURSE.

Nevada desert

Continued from previous page

per probably added 20 percent to the \$16 million construction costs, but it turned into a huge time saver. We were able to build the course and completely sod it in around 12 months."

The soft sand was conducive to digging and shaping, but special care had to be taken for drainage as heavy rains could lead to flash flooding. A complex system of drains carries all runoff to a drain line that runs under the center of the course.

The course boasts a state of the art dual-pumping system that handles the natural water for water features and collection ponds and keeps that water separate from the reclaimed water that is used for irrigation. Every effort was made to keep these surroundings a perfect natural habitat for the desert tortoise, desert fox, hawks, roadrunners, Gila monsters, tarantulas, and scorpions that thrive here.

HARVESTING STRAY BALLS

The entire course was covered with hybrid Bermuda sod and Dominant bentgrass sod for the greens. The 49 bunkers are filled with crushed white sandstone that was ground specifically to Rider's specifications for proper color and texture to keep it from blowing away. No extra dirt had to be brought in, as the natural sand was an excellent sub soil for the sod.

"We stress that golfers must stay on the maintained fairways and the golf cart paths because of the fragile nature of the desert," Hughes said. "We provide ball retrievers on the golf carts. If you can't reach a ball that you hit into the desert, you must leave it, as footprints cause immediate destruction of the landscape. We have two workers that go out every month to carefully harvest balls in the sensitive areas so they don't become an unsightly collection."

WOLF'S NATURAL HABITAT

Rider named the course after the Mexican Wolf that was hunted to near extinction by settlers. He feels that as man nearly eliminated the wolf, man should do something to protect the wolf's natural habitat. This continues to be the driving force behind the course's creation. That sense of wildness exists throughout the layout and will inspire golfers as they enjoy playing in this surreal setting.

"It took nature millions of years to carve out this landscape and we could destroy it in the blink of an eye," Rider said. "Wolf Creek will help to preserve this ecosystem for years to come, while giving people an opportunity to enjoy the desert's great natural charms." ■

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Monarch Bay

Continued from page 19

"When you're dealing in this part of the world, that's not a huge amount of money," he said. "Also, it included some work on the clubhouse and driving range."

The location of the complex — it lies atop an old landfill —

also drove up the costs. "We weren't allowed to cut an ounce of dirt on the property because of the landfill cap," Harbottle said. "We had to import all the materials we used to form bunkers and greens."

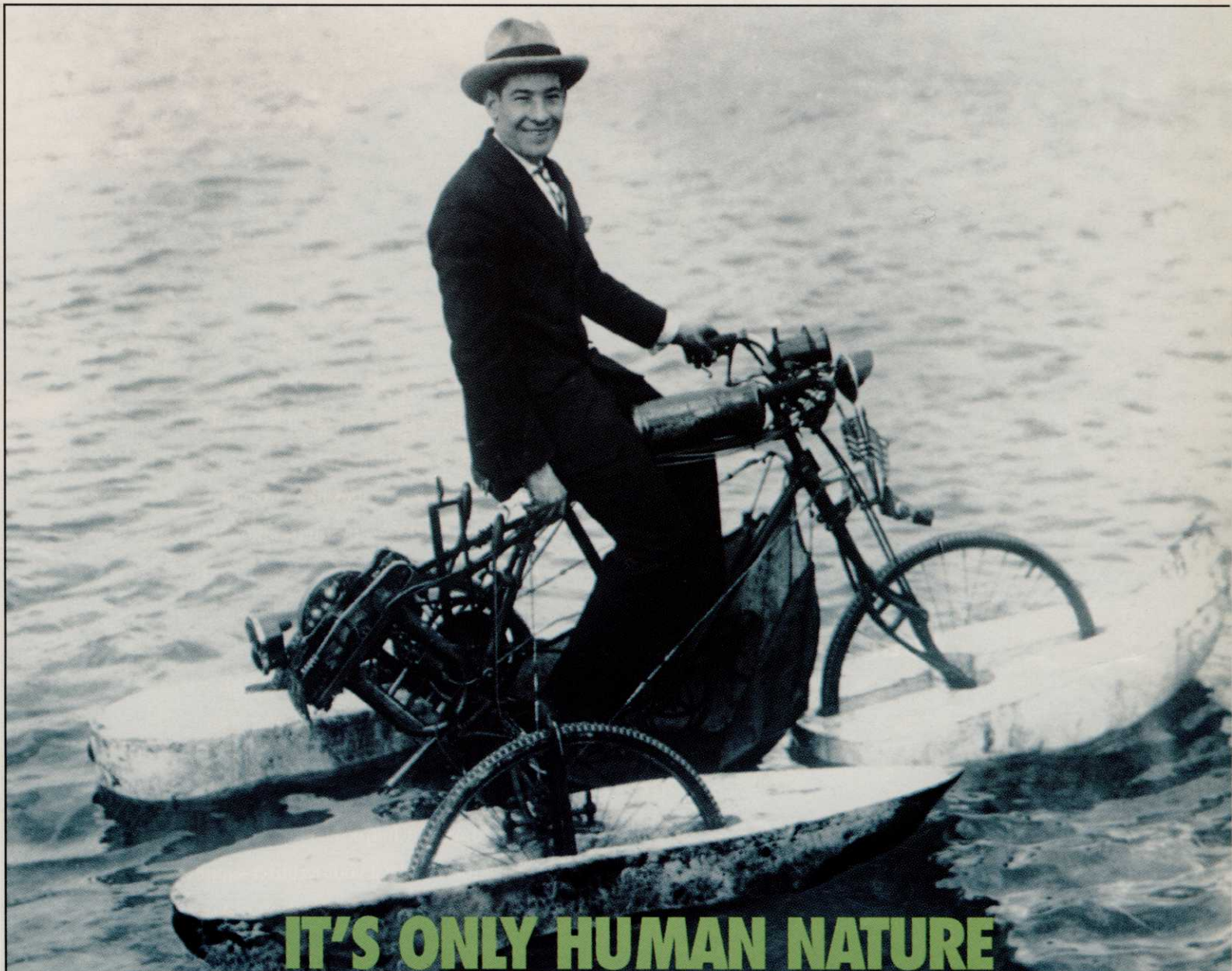
Moreover, the native soil on the fairways was nearly useless as a turfgrass base. "You couldn't grow a thing on it,"

the designer said. Some 90,000 cubic yards of sand were brought onto the site and spread to a depth of six inches. "We placed it everywhere we were going to plant to get a good firm playing surface," Harbottle said. "The fairways are rye, and the greens are L-93 bentgrass."

Wadsworth Golf Construc-

tion handled the heavy lifting.

John Harbottle Design, based in Tacoma, Wash., specializes in new golf course design as well as renovation and restoration of existing courses. A member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, Harbottle lectures on golf course architecture throughout the country. ■



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