

## Landmark developing first course in northern U.S.

Landmark Land Co. is getting involved in its first northern U.S. course at Petoskey, Mich.'s Three Fires resort complex, according to the Detroit News.

Three Fires is an 1,100-acre property, including 5-1/2 miles along Lake Michigan, being developed by Southfield developers Larry LoPatin and Daniel Holloway.

Included in the project is a 27-hole golf course scheduled to open in the spring of 1992.

According to the Detroit News, it is believed that Landmark Vice President and Charlevoix, Mich. native Chuck Fairbanks was influential in his company's decision to venture out of the warmer climes, where it

has developed such well-known facilities as PGA West and LaQuinta in Palm Springs, Calif. Oak Tree in Edmond, Okla. and Palm Beach Polo and Country Club in Florida.

Before getting into the real estate development business, Fairbanks was head coach of the National Football League New England Patriots, the defunct United States Football League's New Jersey Generals and the University of Colorado.

Michigan's golf boom also had a lot to do with the Landmark decision.

The state has more public courses than any state in the country and is among the leaders in number of players, frequency of play and number of courses.

## Westchester in LA closing holes for changes

Parts of the Westchester Golf Course adjacent to Los Angeles International Airport will be closed for portions of the next two years while renovations are being done.

A fully automated sprinkler system, modern clubhouse and redesigning of several holes means nine of the 18 holes will close for up to two years and the driving range for two months.

The \$3.5-million facelift will eventually result in longer holes on the executive course, a larger pro shop and better lighting for nighttime play.

## Washington

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tion in the nearby Pasayten Wilderness, completion and approval of ski hill and resort village master plans, along with state and county approvals.

Since the golf course site is on private land, the court battles thus far may have impact only if the developers tie the golf to the skiing, or if there is a land swap between the developer and the Forest Service.

There is a small National Forest Campground next to the course site which the developers have considered as an entry to the course. A trade may be considered wherein private land owned by Early Winter would be traded for the campground. Federal lands equal Supreme Court requirements.

On its own, the golf course still has to be led through a maze of permitting by federal, state and local agencies before construction can begin.

MRI's Devin is confident Graves is the architect to get the job done. Graves is familiar with the Northwest and has produced The Resort at Port Ludlow (Wash.) and Black Butte Ranch (Oregon) courses, both perennial "Top 100" courses in golf magazine rankings. He last year completed a new course, Meadowood, for Spokane County, Washington.

Graves has a reputation for being a particularly conscientious environmental planner when it comes to course design and construction.

The developers of Early Winters are optimistic that Graves will find the answers to the environmental problems.

Through what might have been a public relations faux-pas, the golf aspect of the resort was not publicized until a year or so ago. The project was referred to locally and in the Seattle and Spokane media as "The Ski Hill."

With the increased prominence of golf as a major recreation, MRI began to give it more emphasis. Many opponents of the ski hill and base village are hearing for the first time that golf is in the future, too, and they don't like it.

"It's bad enough to have an 18-hole course up there," said one, "but putting in 36 holes is a slap in the face."

The major concern seems to be for the aquifer—the quality and quantity of water.

"I'm delighted," said another. "I hope they give the locals a special deal to join. Otherwise, we won't be able to afford it."

Officially, Devin is hopeful that construction of the first 18-hole course will begin late this summer.

He's being noncommittal, however. Nobody knows better than he that any timetable will be determined by the level of opposition.

*Bob Spiwak is a freelance writer and photographer who lives in Mazama, Wash.*

## Pleasure Island eyed for championship course

Pleasure Island located adjacent to the eastern Texas city of Port Arthur would be a good location for a championship golf course, according to Jim Hardy of Golf Services Group of Houston.

Hardy made his suggestion at a November joint meeting of the City Council and island commission. The two groups hired Golf Services to do a feasibility study on the possibility of building a golf course to stimulate the island's economy.

"High-quality golf is the current, primary, large-scale real-estate and economic development tool employed throughout the United States," Hardy was quoted in the Beaumont Enterprise.

Hardy recommended building a championship, daily-fee course, something he said is unavailable in the Port Arthur-Beaumont area.

An eight-member committee of councilors and island commissioners was appointed to further study the proposal.

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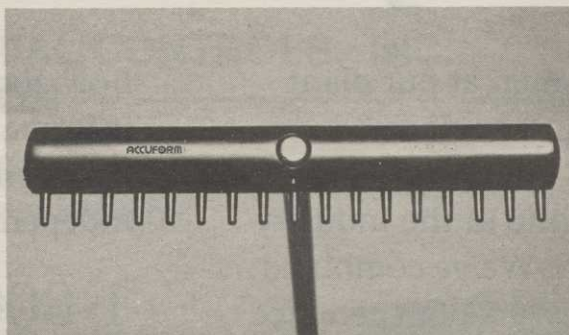
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