

Dredging OK'd as Coeur d'Alene saga continues

By Bob Spiwak

The Idaho Land Board voted on Feb. 25 to allow Coeur d'Alene resort to dredge a portion of Lake Coeur d'Alene. The action comes three months after developer Duane Hagadone first sought the permit.

Lake Coeur d'Alene in North Idaho is well protected. Consider this actual scenario: The state Department of Lands has filed suit with the State Attorney General against the state Department of Transportation for polluting the lake. The pollution includes a bulldozer, at least one other piece of heavy machinery, and gobs of earthen debris, all dumped into the crystalline waters during a lengthy attempt to build an interchange on Interstate Highway 90.

So resistance was expected to a request by Hagadone to dredge 9,000 pickup loads of silt from the lake bottom. The request came about after the resort's 14th green, the behemoth floating island, was found to lack the water to float its 5 1/2-foot draft from September to June.

Well, not entirely. The green was designed to move to an fro in the lake, with variable mooring positions from 100 to 175 yards from the tees ashore. However, when the lake level drops each year as mountain runoff freezes, there is only about four feet of water at the closer positions.

A trench was needed to facilitate the float be deepening the water.

The permitting process began Nov. 13, with a 30-day period allowed for research and public input. The matter was in the hands of the Department of Lands and its parent organization, the State Land Board in Boise.

The waters got a little muddied, however, when a planned rip-rapping, or boulder lining of the sides of the trench was proposed. The rock faces were an idea to keep the trench sides from sloughing to the bottom, which would require consequent dredging in the future.

Unlike the bulldozer in the lake, which was accidental, putting in the boulders represented "introduction of foreign matter" to the lake, and permitting for this is under the purview of the Army Corps of Engineers. Another delay.

Aside from concerns about "favoritism" to Hagadone, the acknowledged benefactor of the north Idaho economy with his resort and marina, there were ecological worries about siltation of the lake, damage to aquatic life, and the stirring up of old memories in the form of heavy metals.

The latter are in the lake as a result of mining in Idaho's Silver Valley over the past century.

There's irony here. When the mines began to lay off workers and close, the economy slumped. Hagadone gave it a shot in the arm by building the resort, recently voted tops in the nation by readers

of "Conde Nast Traveler."

Now the residue of mining days was a problem.

Why the water depth was not accounted for at the outset is still unknown. Asked about this, a representative of Scott Miller Design, the Scottsdale, Ariz., course architect, refused to speak for the record. An executive of Hagadone Hospitality said the green was originally slated to be placed 400 yards from its final location, inferring that the water was deeper there. Others have disputed this.

On Jan. 21, the resort notified the Corps of Engineers that it was altering its plans to line the slopes with rock. On Jan. 24, because of design changes, the Corps advised the resort that the revisions in the dredging plan did not involve the Corps' authority to enforce the Federal Clean Water Act.

Back in the hands of the state, the final plan was to dredge the bottom and lessen the angular severity of the underwater trench banks. The dredge material would be pumped to settling ponds onshore, where

sediments would settle.

Water would be decanted out of the ponds and put into "infiltration beds" where analyses would be made of the water composition. If toxic materials were found in either the water or the silt, they would be removed as hazardous waste. If not, the material would remain and could, conceivably, be recycled.

Samples of the lake bottom found traces of heavy metals through what is called the E.P.A. Toxicity Method. Samples are placed in a container and overwashed with acid

to leach out the metals. Then, a different test was utilized; TCLP, an acronym for Toxic Characteristic Leaching Potential, according to Will Pitman, director of the Idaho Department of Lands. This test, Pitman said, requires an 18-hour period of settling and designed to reflect how much matter would leach into the environment.

The results here were more positive, with lesser traces of heavy metals appearing.

According to Al Oldmark of the

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Archer conquers Fazio gem, the remodeled Bayou Club

LARGO, Fla. — George Archer may not have stolen the thunder from the pre-grand opening of the heralded Bayou Club, but the PGA Senior Tour star merited a full share of the glittering spotlight.

Archer's recent 18-hole exhibition round to showcase the championship course turned into a tour de force while highlighting course designer Tom Fazio's meticulously-groomed layout devoid of first-year rough spots.

"Archer's 10-under-par 62 score

'will stand forever,' " exclaimed awestruck Brad Stevenson, assistant to head pro Tom West. Stevenson noted that while Archer holed out from a sand trap on the fifth hole to aid his card cause, he didn't hole any long putts. "Iron shots covering the flag did the job," Stevenson said.

The course opened for members the next day. Though they settled for less spectacular results, all marveled at the course's splendid condition.



Tom Fazio, center, receives the Architect of the Year Award for 1990 from Golf Course News Publisher Charles E. von Brecht. At left is Bayou Club President Rand Gentry

Davey Johnson adding golf to Celebrity Resorts in Fla.

WINTER PARK, Fla. — Davey Johnson, former New York Mets baseball manager, now is taking his executive swings in the golf field.

Johnson founded Celebrity Resorts Inc., which has entered into a lease agreement to develop a three-hole golf facility as an additional recreation unit associated with its Celebrity Fish Camp now under construction near Ocala.

Johnson, president and chief executive officer, noted that the golf facility will add another dimension to the development now under way on Orange Lake, 11 miles north of Ocala.

The course, as well as 75 to 125 permanent housing units, will accommodate visiting athletes and guests.

Coeur d'Alene

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Environmental Protection Agency in Seattle, in the former test a copper lid is placed over the material to be tested. This, he said, could produce its own share of metal residue to the mix, and possibly skew the results. He explained that EPA was going to use the TCLP method as its standard test.

With the granting of the dredging permit, work will begin immediately on the operation. Steve Wheeler, director of corporate communications for the resort, said he did not know how long it would take, but was still anticipating an opening day of April 1 at the golf course.

"It will be a 'soft' opening," he said, "with only guests of the resort and the Holiday Inn (also Hagadone-owned) allowed to play. It will open to the public on May 1. Greens fees will be \$65 for resort guests and \$100 for the public."

The fees, he said, include cart and range balls.

The entire course has been designed in such a way that no contaminants can enter the lake. Any matter, from water to pesticides, applied to the floating green are collected after percolation and pumped inland to holding tanks. Runoff water from the cart paths is likewise collected and pumped inland. At Fernan Creek, which parallels the 11th fairway, a large berm separates it from the playing area. The creek is a delicate fish spawning stream.

Pitman said that as the dredging progresses, work and materials will be closely monitored by his agency as well as the Division of Environmental Quality, a branch of the state Health Department.

Coeur d'Alene's floating 14th green may at last have found safe haven from the stormy seas it created.

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