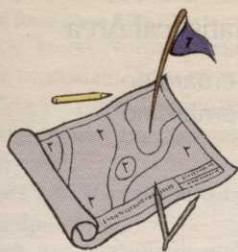


Briefs



100 YARDS LONGEST HOLE

CANCUN, Mexico — One hundred yards is the longest hole on a new executive course that opened Dec. 6 at Melia Cancun, Melia Hotels' flagship property in Mexico.

The 2,500-yard course features 18 par 3 holes — all between 60 and 100 yards long. It is the newest amenity at the \$60-million, 448-room resort which opened last February on the Yucatan Peninsula's east coast.

The course will take approximately two hours to play, according to Jacques de Paep, vice president of sales and marketing for Melia Hotels of Mexico, and will be open only to hotel guests of the Melia Cancun and its sister hotel, the nearby Melia Turquesa. Greens fees will be \$10.

ANTELOPE HILLS ADDING 18

PRESCOTT, Ariz. — Antelope Hills Golf Course, a municipal facility, will add a second par 72 18 holes.

Play is scheduled in the summer of 1992.

Course architect is Gary Panks. Tim Gray is the head professional.

MCCUMBER DESIGNS MISSISSIPPI COURSE

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — The new 18-hole Timberton Golf Club course is on target for anticipated opening this summer.

Grassing of both nines and the practice range complex is complete.

Timberton is the centerpiece of a 460-acre semi-private country club community near the intersection of U.S. Highways 59 and 11, just south of Hattiesburg.

The Florida firm of Mark McCumber & Associates designed the course hewn from the 4,500 acres comprising Timberton. James Ray Carpenter, honorary president of the PGA of America, is director of golf.

DYE'S KIAWAH COURSE NAMED

KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C. — The Pete Dye-designed course that will host the 1991 Ryder Cup Matches in September has been named The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island. But Joe Walser, senior vice president of Landmark Land Co., which owns and operates all resort amenities at Kiawah, said this is one instance where a course, and not its developers, virtually named itself.

"It was a year-long thinking process," said Walser, explaining how The Ocean Course came to be named. "But when it came time to make a final decision, the natural drama of the site itself won out. Having the ocean right there — where you can see it and hear it throughout an entire round — is something truly unique in golf."

YOUNG SIGNS AT DOUBLE CREEK

Snellville, Ga. — Mike Young Designs of Watkinsville, Ga., has been named golf course architect for Double Creek Country Club here.

Construction will begin in January on the new 18-hole private course in Gwinnet County.

Young's design exploits native rock outcroppings to enhance the beauty and challenge of the 6,950-yard, par 72 course.

In addition to the course and adjoining clubhouse, the private club will feature four guest cottages. Membership will be limited to 250.

Wadsworth Construction voted #1

'Nobody does it better,' say golf course architects in national survey

By Peter Blais

There's a saying that goes something like an army is only as good as its sergeants.

That could also be true of Wadsworth Golf Construction Co., runaway winner of Builder of the Year honors for the second consecutive time in the *Golf Course News'* annual survey of architects.

Chairman of the Board Brent Wadsworth credits the presidents of the four regional offices for much of the firm's success.

"They all have similar characteristics,"

Wadsworth said. "They get along well with their employees. They build loyalty and trust in their work force. We're fortunate to have four such talented people running the various divisions of our company."

Wadsworth's NCOs are:

- **Paul Eldredge, Midwest.** A Pekin, Ill., native, Eldredge, 49, first joined Wadsworth when the company built the Country Club of Pekin in 1962. Eldredge worked summers before graduating from Southern Illinois University with an engineering degree. He

worked full-time as an irrigation specialist until 1983 when he was promoted to president of the Midwest office. He still consults on irrigation matters nationally.

- **Ion Shapland, Southeast.** The son of a Champaign, Ill. course owner, Shapland, 43, worked part-time summers before graduating from the University of Illinois and joining the firm full-time in 1970. He organized and became president of the Oldsmar, Fla., office near St. Petersburg that same year. "He re-

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Architects: Cypress Point best in U.S.

By Peter Blais

Cypress Point fought off a determined challenge from Pine Valley to retain its title as the best-designed golf course in the United States in *Golf Course News'* second annual survey of golf course architects and builders.

Cypress Point, Alister Mackenzie's masterpiece along the rugged shore of Northern California's Monterey Peninsula, was listed among the top five courses in the country by 60 percent (27 of 45) of those responding.

Pine Valley, running through the sand barrens in the Philadelphia suburb of Clementon, N.J., was mentioned by 56 percent (25 of 45). The George Crump/H.S. Colt

collaboration moved past Donald Ross-designed Pinehurst No. 2 (N.C.), last year's runner-up.

Rounding out the top five were Pinehurst, Pebble Beach (Calif.) and Augusta National (Ga.), each listed by 33 percent (15 of 45).

"Cypress Point and Pine Valley are what we are returning to as architects," said Gregory Martin, director of golf course design with Ives/Ryan Group, Inc. of Downers Grove, Ill.

"We don't adhere to the designs of a lot of courses built the past few years. We should build maintainable courses that allow us to be stewards of the land rather than artists

that use land to paint with. Both Cypress Point and Pine Valley are good examples of that philosophy," Martin said.

While many mentioned Cypress Point and Pine Valley among their top five, others were avid fans of one or the other. Their choices seem to reflect the current 'playability' versus 'challenging design' debate.

"Cypress Point is pleasurable excitement," said Kansas City, Mo., architect Craig Schreiner. "Pine Valley is treachery at every turn. Pleasure is what golf is all about, more than challenge."

"Cypress breaks all the rules — back-to-

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Best architects

Continued from page 1

we're doing, 36 holes (Newport Coast) at Newport Beach, then Two Rivers Club at Governor's Landing in Williamsburg (Va.), one east of Charlotte on 17 miles of lakefront property (Unharrie Point on Lake Badin), 36 holes in Wrightsville Beach, N.C., (Porter's Neck Golf Course), and the Disney course next door to Pete Dye's (in Orlando, Fla.)," he said.

"All are going to be as good as those we've just done."

"It used to be a Golf Club in Tennessee (which will open this spring in Nashville), or a Caves Valley (under construction in Baltimore), came along once every five years. Not that the other ones were bad but they were either just real-estate development or there wasn't as much total priority given to golf itself... Now there's such a keen golf interest that it's just tremendous."

Fazio rated 1990 a "10" on a scale of 1 to 10. "And I can say it's a 10 because the courses are done. The courses for 1991 should be a 10, but we're still working on those. We've got to work just as hard. A 10 doesn't automatically happen."

"It's like with Shadow Creek (which opened last year in Las Vegas). When I was doing that I wouldn't have said it was a 10. The concept is for a 10, the program, the commitment, but I can't tell you how good it's going to be until it's done... In 1991 these are all 10s in terms of planning."

"The ones that are further along, like Treetops... I can almost guarantee that people will put it as one of the best I've ever done. The one at Williamsburg is in the clearing and development stages; and though it's the desire of everyone to build a 10, you have to work at it. We're at about a 7 now in the mid-part of construction. We're in the shaping and contouring and we're going to bring that up to a 10."

Besides Shadow Creek, Fazio last year opened Emerald Dunes in West Palm Beach,



Photo by Nancy Pierce

One of Rees Jones' gems for 1990 is The Peninsula Club in Charlotte, N.C. This view shows the 155-yard par 3 — a peninsula hole "that has all kinds of

angles, so wherever they put the marker, it's going to be a different hole every day," Jones said. "It's a gorgeous hole."

Fazio rated 1990 a '10' on a scale of 1 to 10. The courses for 1991 should be a 10 but we're still working on those.'

Fla., Stonebridge Country Club in Aurora, Ill., St. Ives Country Club in Duluth, Ga., and Hunter's Green in Tampa Fla.

His newest creation is Champion Hills in Hendersonville, where he will live and be part owner.

"We sodded the whole course," he said. "It's a Wade Hampton type of site, only more dramatic in a lot of different ways — maybe less dramatic in some."

He said of The Golf Club of Tennessee, which will open in the spring: "No question, some people are going to think it's the best golf course we've ever done. It's so tremendous. It's a golf club — no housing, no development. We had 1,300 acres to work with and could put it anywhere. We had a stream running through it."

"The course looks like it's been there for 100

years. We sodded the fairways with Zoysia. With the natural trees, the creeks, the streams, the rock walls — you can't help but like it."

The Newport Coast course is on the ocean and "is going to be extremely dramatic and very sensational," he said.

Yet creating a masterpiece, Fazio said, "is no big deal. That's what we're getting paid for... More importantly, that's what they expect. We have to perform."

"And, of course, the golfers go out there and their expectation is so high... If you've gone to Shadow Creek or the Vintage or one of the others and then you came to one of our new courses and it didn't measure up, you'd say, 'What happened here, guys? Did you have to cut back? Didn't you work as hard?'"

Fazio said the pressure never eases.

"After 28 years of doing it, the pressure just keeps building and building. But it's fun. It's not difficult. We've got such tremendous clients with such tremendous interest in golf that it's great for the game," he said.

Fazio said he can't help criticism that he only does expensive or high-end courses.

Continued on page 20

Wadsworth repeats as best golf course builder

Continued from page 19

ally built our Southeast business and enjoys that part of the country," Wadsworth said.

• **Steve Harrell, Southwest.** Harrell, 43, is the only regional president from outside Illinois. The Nebraska



B. Wadsworth

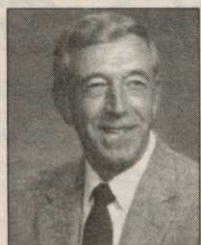
native approached Wadsworth several times before he was hired as a drainage expert in 1979. "He was persistent," Wadsworth remembered. "We're glad he was." Harrell was named president of the Southwest office in Buckeye, Ariz., outside Phoenix in 1985.

• **Tom Shapland, Pacific sub-office.** Shapland, 38, is a University of Illinois graduate, like brother Jon. After joining the firm in 1974 and working in the Southeast office for many years, he was assigned to head up the new Hawaii sub-office that opened last year. His title is actually vice president of operations for the Pacific office, which has already built three courses and is working on three others.

Wadsworth's lieutenant is John Cotter, 57. The company's first employee when it opened in 1958,

Cotter and Wadsworth got together at the urging of Cotter's wife, a childhood friend of Wadsworth in his native Joliet, Ill.

"I asked him how he'd like to run a tractor for me," Wadsworth recalled of the company's current vice



J. Cotter

chairman of the board. "It turned out he had a lot of other talents, too. He had management skills, was very personable and business-oriented. He attracted other talented people. He's been of the utmost value."

That's the staff that's led Wadsworth's troops into the golf course construction wars the past 32 years and received a third of the ballots cast for best builder, up from one-fourth of the votes a year ago.

"We're extremely honored to receive the award again," said Wadsworth. "We appreciate the feelings of our associates and the people in the industry for voting for us."

The company chairman added "working as hard as ever to meet the needs of the people we work for, especially the architects," was the main reason his company has earned such a positive reputation.

Added Eldredge: "We have our own staff and equipment. That allows us to control jobs more than other contractors who have to subcontract out more work."

"We can also draw people and equipment from other areas if we're short on a certain job. That has made us good at delivering a quality product in a given time period."

Being on time and on budget is obviously important to the many architects who have worked with Wadsworth. Sample comments from those selecting the company included:

- "They still set the standard." — Gary Panks.
- "Always consistent and honest." — Jay Morrish.
- "No one does it better." — Michael Hurdzan.
- "They continue to do the best work." — Keith Foster.

Wadsworth said the recession has had a "very slight" effect on business. Revenues will again be in the \$40-to-\$50-million range, as they were a year ago. Many of the projects completed or nearing completion

were started before the downturn really hit.

"There don't seem to be as many opportunities for new courses as the past few years," Wadsworth said. "The S&Ls, banks and insurance companies have pulled back on financing."

"We didn't seem to have as many big jobs this year," said Eldredge. "For instance, there was a large earthmoving job at a Hawaiian course we're working on that the developer decided to do himself. And there were several jobs that were supposed to start in September or October that have been delayed."

Wadsworth said construction costs have risen along with the rise in petroleum prices.

"A lot of the piping we use is petroleum-based," he said. "Then there is all the gasoline we use to run our equipment."

Still, it has been a good year for Wadsworth. Following are the courses (and the architect) that the company's regional offices built and completed in 1990:

Midwest — University of Wis-

consin Golf Course, Madison, Wis. (Robert Trent Jones II); Ivanhoe Golf Club, Ivanhoe, Ill., and Seven Bridges Golf Course, Woodbridge, Ill. (Dick Nugent & Assoc.); Conway Farms South, Lake Forest, Ill. and The Landings, Savannah, Ga. (Fazio Golf Course Designers); Cobblestone Creek Country Club, Victor, N.Y. (Hurdzan Design Group).

Southeast — Cedar Creek Golf Course, Aiken, S.C., The Golf Club of Georgia, Alpharetta, Ga., and Bonita Bay Golf Course, Bonita Springs, Fla. (Arthur Hills & Assoc.); Chicopee Woods Golf Course, Gainesville, Ga. (Denis Griffiths & Assoc.).

Southwest — Black Mountain Golf Club, Henderson, Nev. (Golf Resources, Inc.); Four Seasons Golf Course, Lake Ozark, Mo. (Ken Kavanaugh); Bighorn Golf Course, Palm Springs, Calif. (Arthur Hills); Champions Golf & Country Club, Rogers, Ark. (Donald R. Sechrest).

Pacific — Hyatt Regency Kauai, Koloa, Hawaii (Robert Trent Jones II); Mid Pacific Country Club, Kailu, Hawaii (Nelson-Wright Architects).



S. Harrell



P. Eldredge



J. Shapland

Maples: American architects are in demand worldwide

American-style golf courses — considered the standard — are in record demand around the globe, according to American Society of Golf Course Architects President Dan Maples.

"Obviously the Pacific Rim has been a fertile market for American-style golf courses for the past de-

cade," Maples said, "but today our members are receiving inquiries from every continent."

Maples, of Pinehurst, N.C., pointed out that Europe is in the midst of a golf boom and has even greater potential now that Eastern Europe is interested in attracting tourists and business people with

hard currency.

"World travel and television have combined to show people in nearly every country the high-quality design and maintenance features of our courses," Maples added, "and the international market considers our golf courses to be the standard they want in

their countries."

Maples said many of the "hot" development areas, such as Spain and Germany, are naturals for golf courses, but there has been significant activity in areas not necessarily associated with golf, such as the Scandinavian countries.

"The society and individual

members are receiving many inquiries from developing countries that recognize the drawing power of golf courses designed by recognized American architects," Maples said.

He believes there will be more public/private partnerships internationally to develop courses.

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