

Florida county approves two private clubs

NAPLES, Fla. — Collier County has approved two private, non-residential golf clubs. They are Arete National Golf Club, an 18-hole course to be designed by Naples resident and PGA professional Ken Venturi, and Olde Florida Golf Club, a 36-hole layout whose principals include Chicago Bears football head coach Mike Ditka.

Arete would encompass 240 acres on County Road 951, between Davis Boulevard and Rattlesnake Hammock road.

Olde Florida would be on 550 acres off County Road 951, 11 miles north of Arete. Arete would have 254 members. Olde Florida would cap membership at 350 while a one-course club, expanding to 650 for a second 18 holes. Olde Florida's first Rees Jones-designed course is scheduled to open in the spring of 1992.

Memberships at Olde Florida will cost \$40,000, at Arete \$55,000. Membership in either club brings an equity interest.

The formula at Old Florida will be no tee times, no social club, no tennis courts. Strictly golf.

Arete will have more luxurious services and facilities.

Architect C. Mark Mahannah dies of cancer at 85

NAKOMIS, Fla. — Charles Mark Mahannah Sr., who designed more than 80 golf courses, mostly in Florida and the Caribbean, died of cancer at his home here March 18 at the age of 85.

The Delta, Iowa, native attended the University of Florida in Gainesville and began designing courses in 1946. His first job was on the construction crew for William S. Flynn at Boca Raton Hotel and Country Club, north of Miami. He later was on the maintenance crew at Miami Biltmore Country Club, becoming its head greenkeeper in the early 1940s. The club was closed during World War II, and Mahannah spent the duration as a technical adviser on turf problems at an Army Post in Pinellas County, Florida.

After the war, he renovated one 18 at Miami Biltmore, which reopened under the name Riviera Country Club, and he served as its superintendent.

His experience at restoring the course led to other contracts, which he handled part-time until the early 1950s when he resigned to practice design full-time.

Elected a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in 1961, Mahannah was named a fellow in 1976.

Survivors include two sons, course architect Charles Jr. and Gary; a daughter, Suzanne; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

State agency takes over Pease AFB course

Development Authority opens ex-military 18 as daily-fee facility

By Peter Blais

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. — A New Hampshire state agency has taken over the golf course at Pease Air Force Base, the first military facility to close among the 86 installations targeted by the Commission on Base Realignment and Closure.

The 18-hole, Alexander Findlay-designed layout opened in early April as a daily-fee facility after 35 years as a strictly military course, according to Skip Jones, chairman of the seven-member Pease Development Authority.

"The course is in better shape than when we took it over," said Jones, whose agency has had two mechanics attending to the machinery and a crew renovating the clubhouse since it signed a lease for the course in January.

The development authority,

which is seeking new uses for the former Air Force facility, plans to operate the course for many years, Jones said.

"Having another public course fills a need in the area," Jones said.

"And we're hoping it will generate some revenue. We're looking for 20,000 to 25,000 rounds this year. I'd be ecstatic with 30,000."

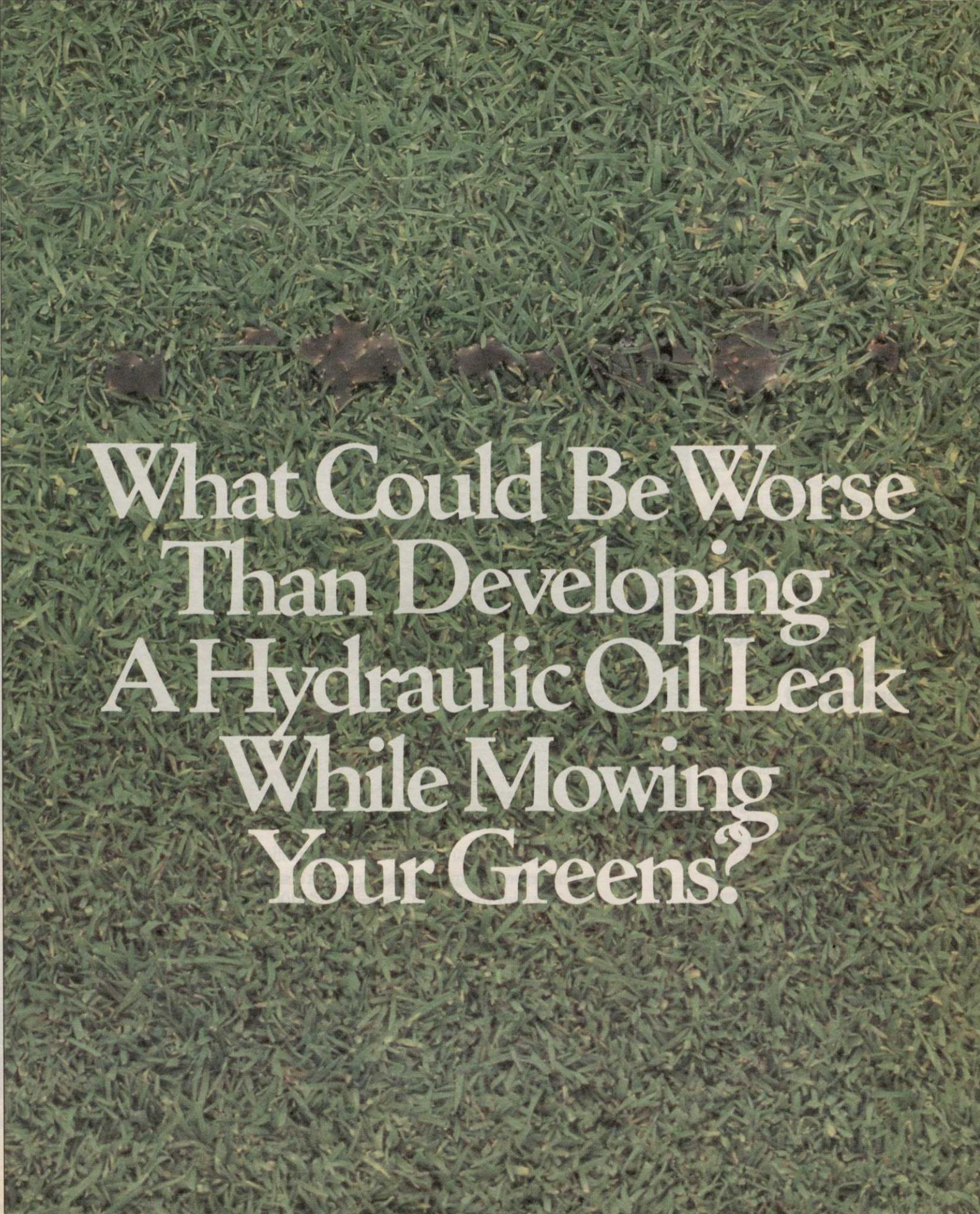
Long-time Portsmouth Country Club head pro Tony Loch is the general manager and former

Portsmouth CC superintendent Bob LaRoche the superintendent.

"We have the best superintendent in New England," Loch said. "Bob is planning to enlarge some of the greens, edge the traps and put in new sand, contour the fairways and build two or three new tees."

Expanding the course to 36 holes has also been discussed.

"The area needs two more public courses," Loch said. "This is one of them. Hopefully we'll build the other 18, too."



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