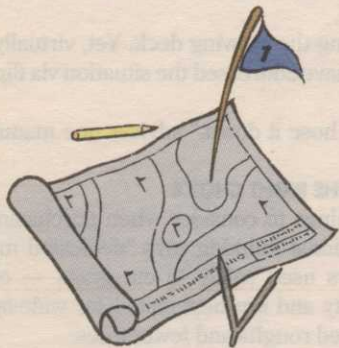


Briefs



MASON TAKES ON PROJECTS

BEND, Ore. — Golf designer Bunny Mason, who April 1 bid a fond farewell to Black Butte Ranch after a 23-year connection, the last as director of golf, has plunged into three projects that belie retirement talk at 64.

Mason's chief designing/construction concentration is on the 18-hole Awbrey Glen course here, which he terms "the dream of a lifetime." He's also working on projects in Gresham and Stevenson, Wash.

Black Butte head professional J.D. Mowlds, Mason's successor as director of golf, noted that 28 head pros in the section have worked under Mason, and countless others have benefited from his guidance.

CARTON JOINS BURNS DESIGN

FERNANDINA BEACH, Fla. — Edward L. Carton has joined Burns Golf Design.

Carton has been in golf course design for six years, including a short time with Hurdzan Design Group, and 5-1/2 years with Tom Fazio.

While with Fazio, he was involved in the design of more than 30 golf courses, including Emerald Dunes in West Palm Beach, Osprey Ridge at Disney World, Caves Valley Golf Club in Baltimore, the town of Oyster Bay (N.Y.) Golf Course and Black Diamond Ranch in Lecanto.

He graduated from North Technical Education Center in 1986 with honors in architectural design and drafting.

CUPP SIGNS ANGEL PARK REMAKE

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Plans are being made for Cupp Design of Atlanta, Ga., to revise Angel Park Golf Club here.

Designed by Arnold Palmer, the public resort features two 18-hole, par-71 courses, an 18-hole putting course and a night driving range.

John Fought, design associate at Cupp Design, and Bob Cupp will reorganize the existing range and a few strategically placed holes to accommodate a larger range and add a par-3 course.

INDONESIAN RESORT INKS NICKLAUS

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — Golden Bear International has agreed to build a Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course on Bintan Island in Indonesia. The Nicklaus design will be the first golf course built for Bintan Lagoon Beach & Golf Resort.

"We are excited to be the first to build a golf course on such a rare and beautiful piece of island property," said Nicklaus. "This resort promises to be one of the best in the Far East."

The property is part of the Bintan Beach International Resort. Nicklaus will design the first of three championship courses along the white sand beaches of the island. Construction will begin in the fall.

Ross lives!

Kay keen to keep lasting influences

By Mark Leslie

If Stephen Kay had never read that feature article on golf course architecture 26 years ago, he might be a teacher of English classics today. Instead, he is a keeper of the classics — golf courses, that is.

"When I was 13 or 14 I read a two-part article in *Golf Digest* about golf course architecture. I was on the school golf team, and I read that article and thought it was the greatest thing in the world. And I said, 'God, please let me be a golf course architect,'" Kay recalls.

The Lord apparently heard. Following the advice of architects Robert Trent Jones Sr. and Bill Mitchell, Kay followed a well-designed plan that led to a landscape architecture degree from Syracuse University, a turfgrass degree from Michigan State University, and work as both a course and construction superintendent. The result: a six-year hitch as a designer with architect Bill Newcomb of Ann Arbor, Mich., and the launching of Kay's own business in 1983.

Since then, he has gained increasing fame and respect as a champion for the masters of golf course architecture, especially Donald Ross and A.W. Tillinghast.

Though he has designed two courses and is planning two more, Kay has concentrated on renovations. He has completed more than 75 golf course renovations, most in the Northeast, and a number of designs by Ross and Tillinghast.

"I'm glad my career has gone this way," Kay said. "I turned down a chance to do a course in Florida in 1983. I wanted to come back East and renovate some of the old golf courses because I thought they were the best. It's taken me some years to really learn what their techniques and styles were, to the point where I feel I can go in and do Tillinghast or Ross or Seth Raynor and do them so well people won't know that I did it."

"This is exactly what I wanted to do and I

Continued on page 26

... while super restores greens to original form

By Frances G. Trimble

Tommy Grisham vividly recalls his first interview with the greens committee at Highland CC in Fayetteville, N.C. It was obvious to the 17-year agronomy veteran that Highland's vintage mid-40s course "was in distressed condition." Yet the committeemen were not of a mind to consider major renovation.

Said Grisham, "They wanted to know what to do, but at the same time they said, 'Don't

Continued on page 24

... and Crenshaw views classic as player/designer

By Bradley S. Klein

Hidden gems. That is what professional golfer Ben Crenshaw seeks in his travels around the world. Once in a while he happens upon a priceless diamond — a golf course with character and memorability, a classic.

Such a discovery occurred last summer when Crenshaw visited The Orchards in South Hadley, Mass.

Having signed on to play the Canon Greater

Continued on page 28



A bunker on the 18th hole at Oyster Harbor had lost the shape Donald Ross first gave it. Above is the deteriorated bunker; below, the bunker as Stephen Kay rejuvenated it.



The 'ins' and 'outs' of the ASGCA

Hills takes over as president

By Peter Blais

Art Hills can thank the Yellow Pages for launching his career.

The newly elected president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects was a struggling, 32-year-old landscape architect trying to raise five children when he placed an ad in the Toledo, Ohio, phone book. Buried in the space were the words *golf course design*.

Bryan, Ohio, officials wanted to build a nine-hole addition to the municipal course. Someone saw the ad and called Hills. That job led him to a developer with 350 acres and a dream Hills helped fulfill.

Thirty years after that first addition, Hills, 62, is one of the country's hottest architects. *Golf Digest* recently picked Harbour Pointe in Washington and the Golf Club of Georgia the nation's top new daily-fee and private courses, respectively. Windsor Park in Jacksonville, Fla., finished fourth in the daily-fee voting.



Art Hills



Tom Clark

Clark leaves strong legacy

By Mark Leslie

His term as president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects was "a tremendous year, a transitional year in the development of golf courses," according to Tom Clark.

A partner in Ault, Clark & Associates, Ltd. of Kensington, Md., Clark reflected on the challenges and successes after stepping down as president of the ASGCA in May.

"We opened a record number of courses the year before (1990)," he said. "But, with this recession a lot of the developers — through environmental issues and financing — are finding it more difficult to develop courses... Consequently, we directed everything this year at improving that situation."

The major accomplishment in aiding development is a publication Clark hopes will be printed in July.

Continued on page 19

Continued on page 19

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Original and complete Ross plans inspired Gresham's greens renovation

Continued from page 18

tell us we have to rebuild (the greens) because we don't want to talk about that."

Two years, a practice area, and 19 greens later, Gresham has yet to mention the "R" word. But rebuild he did; in record time, under budget, to Donald Ross' own specifications.

"It was a dream come true for me," said Gresham, who did his reconstruction with the help of his assistant, Jeff Beal, and a single bulldozer. "It was awe-inspiring to get to work with the original and

complete Donald Ross plans."

The Highland odyssey began with a 6,400-square-foot practice green, visible from the clubhouse lounge, the 19th hole, and the golf shop.

"It bothered everyone because it was in such bad shape and there was no way to keep from looking at it," he said. The superintendent explained the green suffered from an advanced case of Fairy Ring, and had three varieties of grass.

"It was a disaster," Gresham said. "And, it was 50 percent dead!"

The superintendent and Beal —

whom Gresham describes as "luckily coming from a family of heavy equipment experts" — plowed up the practice surface and found two decaying tree stumps. A new seed bed was prepared and the green was seeded with Pencross bentgrass. Total cost: \$778.

"Then, it became real hard for the members not to make comparisons between their new practice green and No. 18, which is only 40 feet away," said Gresham.

The Highlanders were leaning toward change, though they weren't totally convinced. "They decided if

the bentgrass lived through the summer, they would consider redoing the greens in bentgrass on the entire course."

The practice surface thrived.

"The actual Donald Ross plans had been located for the club's 40th anniversary," said Gresham. "They were rolled up in the locker of a deceased member and were intact."

Gresham said the plans include several views of fairways and greens, Ross' agronomic plan, and written descriptions of the land areas where greens were to be constructed. There was other informa-

tion — but Gresham said he did not immediately know how to use it.

"Ross gives you a view facing the green, one from above, the side view, and, in some cases, a diagonal view. There were marks to indicate rises and falls in elevation, too," added Gresham. "But in the beginning, I didn't know what all this meant."

The superintendent contacted Pete Jones of the Donald Ross Society and Jones began a long-distance short course in Ross style and methods.

"Jeff and I started out just working from the drawings and we realized we were doing everything right, but things weren't coming out as drawn on the plan," said Gresham.

Suddenly it dawned on Gresham that he was not using all the tools Ross had provided. "The written paragraphs were actually instructions for blending everything so that the bunkers, mounding, and putting surface came together."

Whereas modern architects use

Continued on page 25

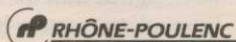
WHEN WE SAY NEW CHIPCO® ALIETTE® WDG IS LOW DUST, WE'RE NOT BLOWING SMOKE.



We're also not pulling your leg. Lying like a rug. Or otherwise fibbing either. Because new CHIPCO® ALIETTE® brand Water Dispersible Granule (WDG) is truly like a breath of fresh air. The hassle of loading and mixing has been virtually eliminated. And that's a fact. ☛ With a formulation of free-flowing granules that pour like liquid, new CHIPCO® ALIETTE® WDG adds further convenience and cleanliness to an already top-ranked fungicide. Making the best Pythium prevention and protection money can buy even better. ☛ The truth is, CHIPCO® ALIETTE® brand fungicide protects every blade of turfgrass, even the roots, for up to 21 days. And just one application stimulates your turf's natural ability to fight off infection. Plus, a foliar application on a wide variety of ornamental and landscape plantings actually prevents Pythium and Phytophthora. ☛ So this year, clean-up on Pythium with new CHIPCO® ALIETTE® brand WDG fungicide from Rhone-Poulenc.

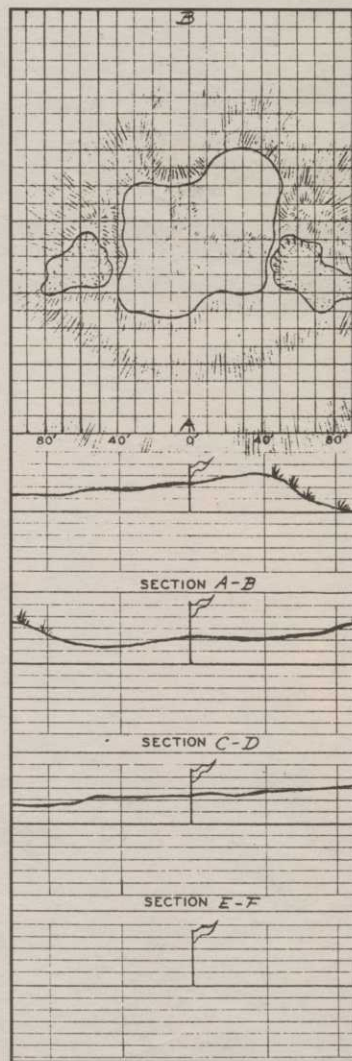
Chipco® Aliette® WDG

Brand Fungicide



Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company, 2 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC, 27709 For additional product information, please call: 1-800-334-9745. CHIPCO and ALIETTE are registered trademarks of Rhone-Poulenc. As with any crop protection chemical, always read and follow instructions on the label. ©1992 Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company

CIRCLE #124



Ross' own rendering of the 11th green at Highland. He noted: "Entire hole is flat. A wide-open grass hollow can be cut across the front of the green, draining toward the left, to provide material for the green. Green raised 2 feet at front to 3 feet at left rear and 4-1/2 feet at right rear. An irregular rolling undulation through the rear center of green and extending to the right side, with a flat area just short of the center of green. The undulation can be from 1 to 2 feet high with easy grades on all sides. Two large rolling mounds on each side of the green with pot bunkers cut into the slopes. Mound on right to be 4 feet high, mound on left to less than 5 feet high. Entire green to be slightly saucer shaped. Long slope on front approach."

Ross Society's Ferron helped Highland CC

Continued from page 24

minute measurements to arrive at precise elevational changes, Ross used words to create visual formulae.

The Ross plans do have elevational readings, but Gresham thinks Ross intended for construction teams to trust their eyesight and rely on his written instructions to put finishing touches on each green.

"Jeff and I started out using transits," said Gresham. "But before long, we were visualizing things as Ross intended and only using the transits to double-check what we had done."

The project began last Aug. 5, with the closing of holes 10 through 18. Work progressed quickly, and Gresham reported, "We were mowing grass by the end of the month."

Highland CC members were so pleased they decided to close the entire course and finish the job at one time. On Sept. 9, the front nine was closed. On Nov. 16, Highland re-opened with a tournament.

"There was one green that wasn't completed with the rest," said Gresham of his only problem child, No. 4. "This green always had a problem growing grass. Tree roots had grown out under the green and it had been re-built once before with no success. Jeff and I looked at the plan and realized that the present location had no similarity to the green site Ross had chosen. The hole was shorter than on the plan."

"We looked around and found an area to the rear of the existing green which was very close to the terrain Ross had selected. We took out 30 trees and started building there in February. We mowed for the first time on March 23."

The total cost of Gresham's "re-Ross-ing" of Highland CC's greens was \$44,000 — and he hastens to add that part of the reason for the small cost was that he used Rossian green construction methods.

"We did not build to exact USGA specs, because we would have had to add extra drainage that neither I, nor our consultant from North Carolina State University, felt was absolutely necessary," he explained.

Highland CC sits on a bed of 20 feet of sand. An hour after a one-inch rain, Highlanders are playing golf. "The Ross plans called for water to be carried off the greens in two to four different directions at once. That, plus the sand, provides plenty of drainage," said Gresham, "although we did add some extra in some valleys."

The superintendent feels it was attention to drainage that makes typical Ross greens so difficult to read and play. "You need to read a putt from every different angle and get all the subtlety that's there," he said. "And even though your ball hits a green, if you're within 10 or 15 feet of the edge, the natural drainage pattern can carry you off once again. The handicaps around here have gone up about five strokes, but I think overall the members are very pleased."

Gresham's colleagues are im-

pressed, too.

Highland CC was recently the site of the Triangle Turfgrass Association's spring meeting. Eighty-six superintendents from the Fayetteville, Raleigh-Durham and Pinehurst areas were in attendance to hear Gresham and Pinehurst No. 2's Bob Ferron do a show-and-tell on remodeling in the Ross tradition.

"Bobby Ferron was a big help to us, especially when it came to making a decision on whether to sod or seed our bentgrass," said Gresham. "He had restored

Pinehurst No. 2, although he had to use lasers to shoot elevations and computer-enhance that information to make up for not having Ross's actual plans."

And what is Gresham's next project? According to Pete Jones of the Donald Ross Society: "It's gotta be the bunkers. I'll have his head if he doesn't go ahead and do that, too!"

Gresham responded: "I would be miserable if all I had to do was mow grass. But the members need a breather from construction. They want to just play golf for a while and I don't blame them a bit."



Photo courtesy of Tommy Gresham
Tommy Gresham and his crew had to enlarge the 17th green to the flags.



NOW THAT'S CLASS!

Now, you can add a touch of class to your golf course with practice green markers from Fore-Par. The perfect finishing touch, Fore-Par's distinctive markers are designed to enhance the natural beauty of your course. Maintenance free and built to last, our practice green markers are available in the classic golf ball on a tee or the all new flag type. They come in a variety of colors, plain, numbered or personalized.

Recommended by golf course superintendents worldwide, Fore-Par's better known

innovations include the classic golf ball on a tee marker, custom cast tee markers, the tubular swivel flag, the modular flagpole and our virtually indestructible elasto signs. For innovation, durability and ease of maintenance, *it doesn't get any better than this.*

So equip your golf course with the finest markers and accessories ever made. Call for your free Fore-Par catalog today!

FORE-PAR

DISTINCTIVE GOLF COURSE ACCESSORIES

16761 Burke Lane, Huntington Beach, California 92647

714 842-8494 • 800 843-0809

Kay feels comfortable putting himself in Ross' or Tillinghast's place

Continued from page 18

thank God for it. I thank God every day."

Kay said many courses are being renovated "because they are deteriorated, like a roof or carpet deteriorates. Most of these courses haven't done any work in 25, 50 or 70 years, and they realize they have to start rebuilding bunkers, leveling tees, making tees larger because they aren't big enough for the amount of play they get today."

This often involves a master plan which Kay drafts.

"My average master plan is a five-year plan and they spend about \$200,000 a year," he said. "Seldom do you rebuild many greens. In an average master plan we will probably rebuild two greens. We will rebuild almost all the bunkers, do a lot of drainage work, enlarge and rebuild most of the tees, and oftentimes install a fair amount of bunkers."

Kay aims for a look of authenticity in his work, whether it is renovation or an original design.

"In renovation I want to do work to the intent of the original architect, and I don't want my fingerprint on it," he said. "In doing my own design, I want it to look like an old golf course. If it has mature trees, give it four to five years for the grass to mature and I want the golfer to think the course is 50, 60, 70 years old."

Kay's advocacy of the classic look is because "I'm not crazy about how the new architecture had gone. That has changed the last couple of years; people are starting to get back to the old style. But the style we had five, 10 years ago was the moonscape and the high-tech look. That's not something Donald Ross or Tillinghast did and I think they're the best. The old architects in the 1920s and '30s are the best."

Helping those old courses stand the test of time even longer — or returning them to their original state — is Kay's primary concern.

At his latest renovation — Oyster Harbors Club in Osterville, Mass., on Cape Cod — he followed Ross' plans "98 percent."

In cases like "Hempstead (by Tillinghast) on Long Island, or Oyster Harbors or Winchester (Mass.) Country Club (by Ross) ... we try to get the architect's plans, old aerial photos, and photos taken within the first 10 years after the course was built. Then we try to restore to those Tillinghast or Ross specifications...I try to keep the character or style of the golf course."

At Oyster Harbors, Kay had Ross' green plans, complete hole plans, old aerial photos, and old photos taken during a tournament when the course was young.

Listed by Golf Magazine as a "hidden gem," Oyster Harbors is "a marvelous golf course. I think it has the best greens, contourwise, I've ever seen," Kay said.

Those greens went untouched. Rather, Kay rebuilt the bunkers.

"They had never been touched since Ross had done work on it. But they either had eroded and gotten

bigger, or grown in and gotten smaller — every part of every bunker being different. A couple of bunkers had been taken out over the years. A couple that were real big had been made into two bunkers," Kay said. "We went in and followed the plan 98 percent and rebuilt the bunkers."

Alluding to his scores of renovations and the slow, long process of learning how Ross and Tillinghast conceived their designs, Kay said he feels comfortable putting himself in their place, as if they were

themselves revisiting one of their courses that he is renovating.

Inspecting a site, Kay thinks, "What would they do if they were here today?"

That sometimes leads to minor changes to the original design. In Ross' day, there were no golf cars. So when facing a spot at Oyster Harbors, where people were driving golf cars between a bunker and a tree, Kay enlarged the bunker so a drive-through is impossible.

Sometimes, if a bunker has been eliminated, Kay will build a new

one. He usually places it farther from the tee to allow for today's longer drives.

Kay does not favor mass bunker changes to allow for distance. He said building tee boxes further back can compensate for longer drives.

"Pinehurst No. 2 was originally under 6,000 yards, I believe. Now it's 7,000 yards from the back tees," he said.

Kay points to a major misconception of Donald Ross: his bunkers. Since a magazine article several years ago, many in the industry

have stated as fact that Ross built only flat sand bunkers, always bringing the grass down the banks.

Doubting that statement, Kay researched and read George Thomas' 1927 book 'Golf Architecture in America.' Among the many old photographs in the book were several donated by Ross.

Kay reported: "Photos Ross gave Thomas for the book showed flash sand all the way up to the top. I think he did it both ways."

"From what I have seen from

Continued on page 27

It Stopped Just To Have Its Pi

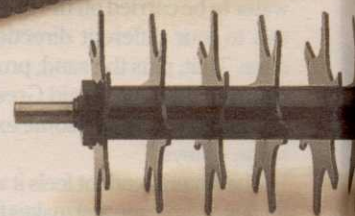
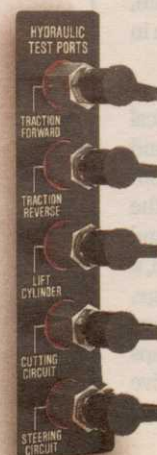
You're witnessing a rare sight. Toro's Reelmaster® 450-D actually standing still. A rare sight because the Reelmaster 450-D is so dependable that it goes and goes and goes. Giving you the high capacity mowing and precise even cutting you've been looking for.



Each cutting unit is connected to a universal joint, so it can float freely in any direction, following the contour of the turf for an even, uniform cut. Or can be locked in a fixed position.



The Toro 450-D gives you protection against hydraulic fluid leaks. Wherever possible, hoses have been replaced with strong steel lines and O-ring seals protect connections. A hydraulic warning system flashes an alarm when the fluid level drops. For easy servicing, test ports for the hydraulic system are right on the side of the machine.



The Reelmaster 450-D can be customized with these accessories: ROPS, Cab, 5- and 7-bladed reels, rollers and thatching reels.

The Toro Company, Commercial Marketing Services, 8111 Lyndale Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55420.

Ross Society gaining membership, eyes regional events

PINEHURST, N.C. — Pinehurst's No. 2 course would be a "magical" site for a U.S. Open.

So said David Eger, senior director of rules and competitions for the United States Golf Association, at the Donald Ross Society's recent annual meeting here.

Eger noted such a prestigious event would be fitting tribute to course designer Ross.

Eger cautioned that Pinehurst would have to meet several USGA stipulations, such as course conditions and greens fitness in June.

Eger: Holding a U.S. Open on Pinehurst No. 2 would be 'fitting tribute' to designer

The USGA title event is booked through 1996.

Eger, current North/South Amateur champion, shared the speaking spotlight with former N/S Amateur titlists Peggy Kirk Bell (1949) and Harvie Ward (1948). Eger, 40, made his first N/S title try in 1990.

Eger was among prominent golf names welcomed into the Ross Society, now 3 years old and numbering 525 members.

Ian Baker-Finch sent along with

his membership application a scorecard he'd used while winning the 1991 British Open.

Other new members included PGA Tour standout John Cook and golf course architect Arthur Hills of Toledo, Ohio. Hills joins peers Dr. Michael Hurdzan, Jack Nicklaus, Stephen Kay, Ben Crenshaw, Ron Prichard and Tom Doak.

The Ross Society was formed to assist with restoration and preservation projects at golf courses de-

signed by Ross and contemporaries.

Barry J. Palm of Phoenix, Ariz., Donald Ross Society president and co-founder, said some day his organization hopefully will be headquartered at Pinehurst. From such a base, he declared, the society could serve the members and the game, and continue to promote Ross' memory.

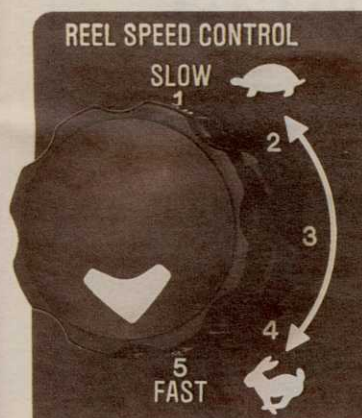
Palm, assistant executive director of the Arizona Golf Association,

pointed out that Ross members are from 40 states, the United Kingdom and even the Middle East.

"People who appreciate preserving classic golf courses are finding out about us," Palm said, noting that there are members from more than 200 Ross clubs across the country.

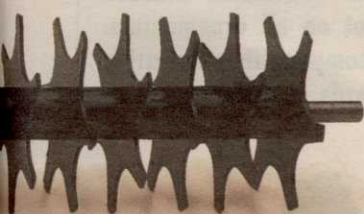
At the suggestion of members, the society plans regional meetings and golf tournaments and outings at Ross courses such as took place last fall at Salem (Mass.) Country Club.

Long Enough cture Taken.



Toro's exclusive variable clip control allows you to calibrate reel speed and mowing speed to give you the highest quality of cut in varying course conditions. Combine that with faster mowing speeds, up to 7.5 mph and 12.5 mph transport speed, and you're going to witness an increase in productivity. All controls are in easy reach of the operator to provide greater comfort.

The 450-D is designed with its weight evenly distributed around a center-mount 50 hp engine for better balance. This means more uphill climbing ability than other machines and better traction.



Compared to tractor gang mowers, the Toro 450-D weighs less and is equipped with wide 31-inch tires that spread the weight for the lowest PSI, further minimizing turf marking.



For faster, easier mowing with more beautiful results, call your local Toro distributor for a demonstration of the Reelmaster 450-D or contact Toro at the address below. A machine built from the ground up with proven Toro design experience. And that translates into the kind of productivity no one can argue with.



The Professionals
That Keep You Cutting.

"Toro", and "Reelmaster" are registered trademarks of The Toro Company. ©1988 The Toro Company.

CIRCLE# 126

Kay: Keep it classic

Continued from page 26

looking at plans of Ross and from old aerial photographs, it appears he always wanted the golfer to see the sand. So if you were playing downhill, he would maybe leave the sand flat and bring the grass down the bank because you could see it. If you were playing uphill, and if you left the sand flat, you would be blind. So he would flash the sand. He says on a couple of holes at Oyster Harbors: 'I must see the sand. Flash it up the face.'

Indeed, Kay said Oyster Harbors even has both styles in one bunker alone.

Meanwhile, although Kay's renovation work of the masters' courses mainly involves bunkering, at Bel Air (Fla.) Country Club this year he will rebuild all the greens on the South Course to Ross specifications. When new owners bought the course in the 1970s, they built ponds on the site and raised all the greens but changed their contours.

HIS OWN WORK

Kay intends to cling closely to the classic look in two 18-hole golf courses he is designing this year—Blue Heron Pines near Atlantic City, N.J., and Stanton (N.J.) Golf Club.

Blue Heron Pines will be a mixture of Pine Valley, Bethpage Black, Oyster Harbors and Pinehurst No. 2, which are all on sandy soil with pine and oak trees, similar to Blue Heron Pines.

Yet, Stanton is on a hilly site and will have "a completely different style," Kay said. "We're not copying holes, but I'm trying to get a (classic) feel and concept."

His first full 18-hole course—Hiland Golf Club, which opened in 1989 in Glens Falls, N.Y.—is hosting the New York State Open this year.

"I want to keep my work to around two 18-hole courses a year and a certain amount of renovation because I personally shoot the grades on every green," Kay said.

Remaining true to his feeling for the classics ("They have stood the test of time."), Kay said his best compliments come on holes that were completely changed over the years and that he tries to put back to their original state. If a golfer plays it and says it is one of the best holes Donald Ross ever did, that is what I'm looking for."

And has that happened?

"Yes," is the happy reply.

Crenshaw scrutinizes Ross with the special eye of pro/architect

Continued from page 18

Hartford Open in Connecticut, Crenshaw set out for Massachusetts. His trip was without fanfare. Only the host professional and course superintendent were given notice.

The Orchards was originally built in 1922 as a nine-hole course. A local textile magnate, Joseph Skinner, hired Donald Ross to create a sporting layout for his athletic daughter, Elisabeth. She enjoyed the course so much that Ross was asked back in 1927 to add another nine. In 1941, the Skinner family sold the 200-acre site to Mount Holyoke College, whose campus lay in town. The school now administers the course in conjunction with the club membership.

Whenever a golf course boasts the handi-

work of Donald Ross, questions are raised as to what this means. Nearly 600 courses across North America claim the honor, though in many cases the authenticity is doubtful.

With The Orchards, however, the pride is fully merited. Ross's original drawings for the holes are preserved in Pinehurst, N.C., and though it is not known how much time the master himself spent on site, there is no doubt that one of his two senior associates, Walter Hatch, based nearby in North Amherst, was entrusted to oversee construction. Moreover, The Orchards features enough authentic Ross touches as to leave no doubt of its pedigree.

Credit also goes to the current greenkeeper, Paul Jamrog, who combines a thorough knowl-

It's amazing. Modern architects can't build this anymore. Greens speeds today would make this green obsolete. I hope you never change it.'

— Ben Crenshaw



edge of modern turf science with a classical appreciation of the game.

When he arrived in 1984 as the only full-time member of the maintenance crew, Jamrog found a neglected course, with fairways mowed in

straight lines, the greens rounded off, and many of the bunker walls in a state of collapse. Overwatering had led to the loss of native fescue grasses, while poa annua and crabgrass had proliferated from tee to green.

To overcome these problems, Jamrog began a vigorous program of upgraded maintenance designed to restore the course's natural character. He also convinced the club to hire more full-timers and purchase improved equipment.

In all of this, he was supported by longtime head professional Bob Bontempo.

As Jamrog's maintenance program began to register its effects on the course, Bontempo convinced the membership to seek a national

Continued on page 29



A Bed Guaranteed To Give Your Back A Rest.

With Carryall by Club Car, you're working smarter instead of harder. And whether you select our exclusive gravity-tilt cargo bed or the hydraulic-powered option, you'll get a durable vehicle that'll save time and money. Not to mention your back.

Call 1-800-643-1010, extension 142 for details on how Carryall can do it all for you.



Club Car
Drive It To Work.

Club Car Inc. • P.O. Box 204658 • Augusta, GA 30917-4658 USA • FAX: 404-860-7231

CIRCLE #127

NOW, ONE PRODUCT FOR BROAD SPECTRUM CONTROL OF DISEASE

CONTACT and SYSTEMIC
ACTIONS IN
ONE PRODUCT



"cures and prevents disease
including *pythium!"



ATTENTION!
GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS

For the first time ever, use one product for consistent disease management on all ornamentals. From the company that is setting new standards of turfgrass excellence...



Regal Chemical Company

1-800-621-5208

*FUNGISTATIC TO PYTHIUM SPECIES

CIRCLE #128

Pro Crenshaw enthralled by master designer's touch

Continued from page 28

championship. The breakthrough came when the USGA selected The Orchards to host the 1987 Girl's Junior tournament.

The course was in spectacular condition for the tournament, receiving rave reviews from players and officials. It was during a practice round that then-USGA Executive Director Frank Hannigan set history in motion. While watching play on the 4th fairway, he could barely contain his excitement. "I can't wait to tell Ben Crenshaw about this place," he said.

The second hole is a particular favorite among regulars at The Orchards. At 362 yards and straight-away, it might not at first glance seem a taxing hole. But about 220 yards down the fairway, the ground starts a steady climb to a postage stamp of a green, not more than 3,000 square feet in size.

Crenshaw hit a short iron behind the pin. As he walked up the slope to the putting green, he saw the severity of contour. The green must have sloped five percent from back to front, leaving him a vertical drop of three feet in a 60-foot putt to the front pin placement.

"It's amazing," said Crenshaw to Jamrog. "Modern architects can't build this anymore. Greens speeds today would make this green obsolete. I hope you never change it."

"No chance," replied Jamrog.

Crenshaw did not appear to be hitting the ball particularly well this day. His concern was not with playing the course but rather with looking at how certain touches enhanced it. It was his way of answering the question, "what makes a Ross course?" It isn't enough, after all, merely to proclaim that some famous person designed it long ago. The real issue is to see how the craftsmanship that made Ross so famous lives on 60 or 70 years later.

Some architects examine visibility from the tee. Others devote themselves to how the green surrounds look from the middle of the fairway. Crenshaw attended to the putting surfaces. And whatever it was he was looking for, he found it at the 5th hole. This is a downhill 157-yarder to a green that rises in the back, then falls off precipitously. The hole looks like a very relaxed inland version of the famed 11th at St. Andrews. And it was at the green that Crenshaw noticed a feature that, for him, made the hole.

"You see those soft little knobs at each end of the green, about midway back?" he asked. "That's what creates the slope, and that's the turning point of the green."

Crenshaw saw the perimeter of green extended to the edge of the fill pad. Yet the outer three or four feet of the putting surface was folded ever so slightly outward. Those two little knobs served simultaneously to steer a well-hit shot inward while redirecting a slightly mis-hit shot away from the center of the green. Over the years, Jamrog had been extending the green surface until it had reached its proper place, just as Ross had designed it.

The 14th is a fine downhill straight-away 4-par that starts from the highest point of the golf course. The Connecticut River Valley is visible to the west, and due north, behind the green, is the ridge of the Holyoke Range. Some years ago, the USGA Golf Journal selected it for its back cover feature on great golf holes. Yet Crenshaw pointed out a feature that neither Bontempo nor Jamrog had ever noticed.

As he walked off the 14th tee,

Crenshaw referred to George Thomas' famous book from 1927, *Course Architecture in America*. "You know how Thomas says that once in a while you can landscape the green so as to suggest the contour of the distant backdrop? Well, if you trace out the top of that mountain, you'll find the basic shape reproduced just below it, in the back edge of the green, right where the mounding breaks off. It just fits in so naturally here."

All of a sudden, Crenshaw's comment had transformed their perception of the hole. What makes a fine golf course is that everything is by design. Features that seem so familiar one time around present themselves dif-

ferently the next.

The final hole at The Orchards is an unrelenting uphill 4-par to a two-tier green. The putting surface sits virtually under the clubhouse veranda. By this time, it was late afternoon, and word of Crenshaw's visit had gotten out to the membership—or at least to those who, having completed their rounds, were now recounting among themselves the day's golfing triumphs and tragedies.

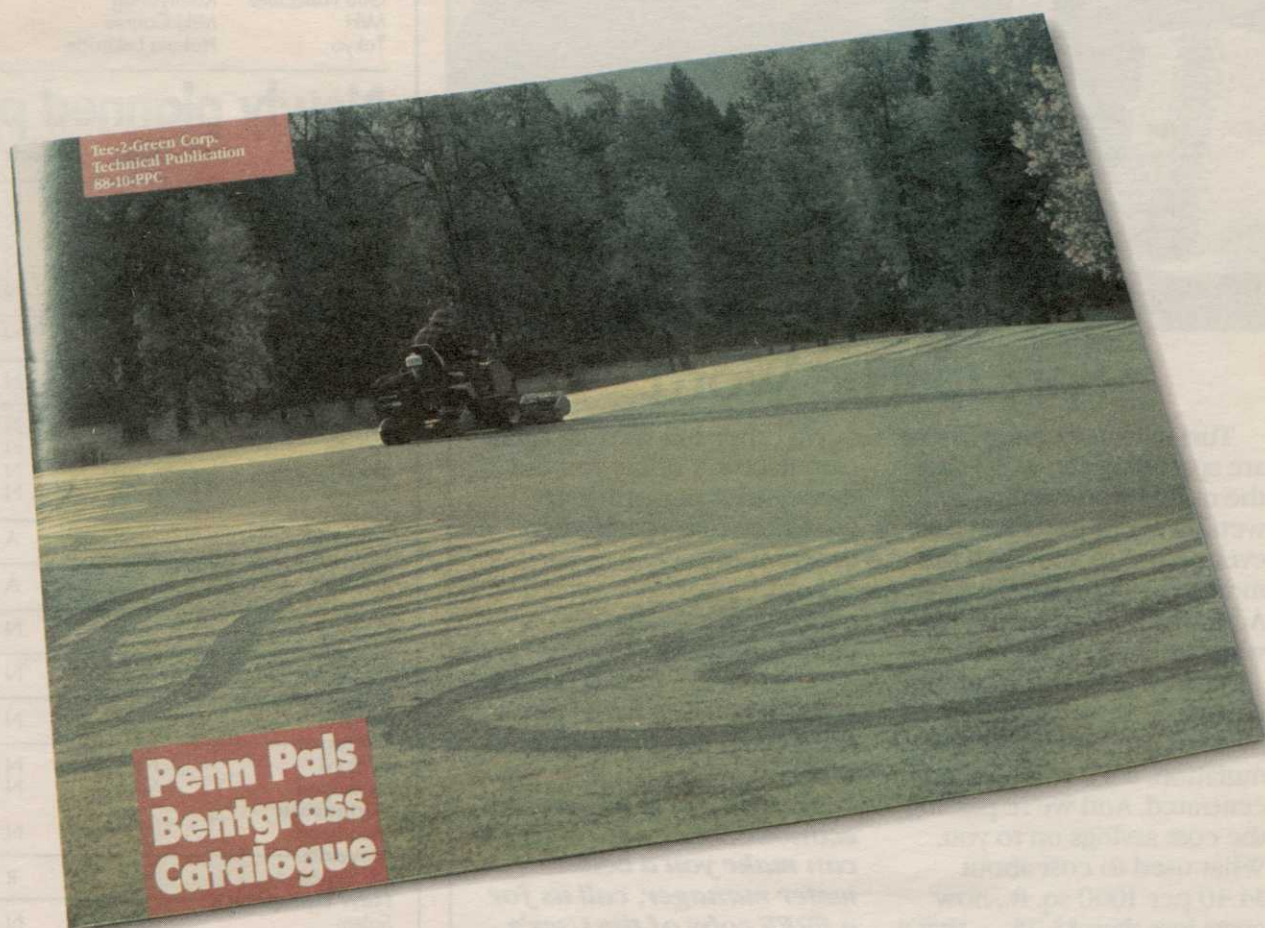
This made for a convivial reception party. From the middle of the 18th fairway, as Crenshaw prepared to hit his three-iron, there could be no doubt about the frantic betting being made on the shot. When

Crenshaw's ball landed in a greenside bunker, yet more wagering took place. And as the par-putt rolled toward the hole, the anticipation—and financial stakes—became positively feverish.

The ball plopped in, the crowd cheered merrily, and Crenshaw waved to them and promised that he'd come up and say hello.

A half hour later, his visit was completed. It was now past eight o'clock, and Crenshaw was eager to return to his hotel. To have dinner with the family? "No, they've already eaten," he said. "But I want to make some sketches of those greens while they're still fresh in my mind."

BEFORE YOU BUY JUST ANY BENTGRASS, GO BY THE BOOK.



Phone 1-800-547-0255 today for your complimentary copy of the Penn Pals catalogue. You'll see why Penncross, Penneagle, PennLinks and Pennway blend set the standard for bentgrass on golf courses.

Tee-2-Green Corp.

PO Box 250, Hubbard, OR 97032

FAX 503-981-5626

1-800-547-0255