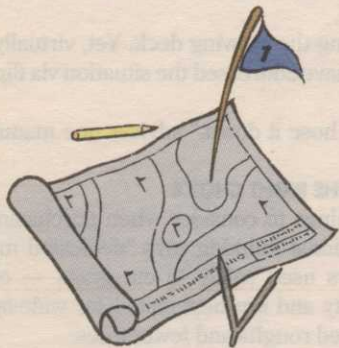


Briefs



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

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

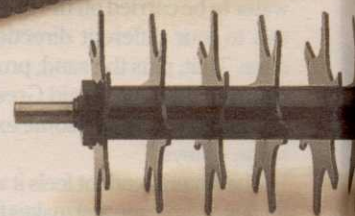
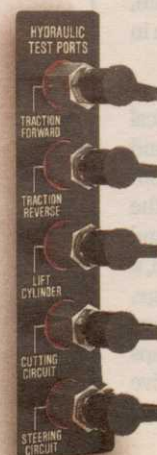
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Ross Society gaining membership, eyes regional events

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.

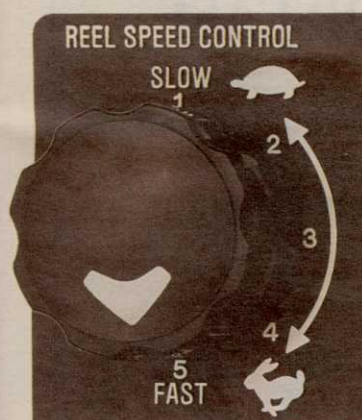
Palm, assistant executive director of the Arizona Golf Association,

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.

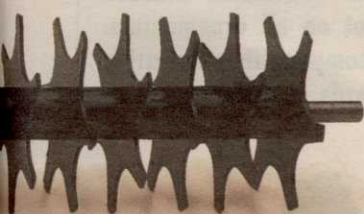
At the suggestion of members, the society plans regional meetings and golf tournaments and outings at Ross courses such as took place last fall at Salem (Mass.) Country Club.

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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.