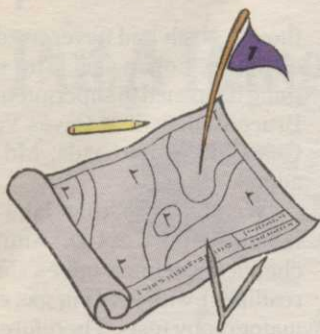


BRIEFS



GILMORE GRAVES IN WIS., ARIZ.

Gilmore Graves Golf, Inc. of Phoenix, Ariz., and Spring Green, Wis., has completed several projects in Wisconsin. The design, irrigation and construction is near completion on the expansion of nine to 18-hole facilities in Evansville and Prairie Du Chien. These expanded projects will open for play this year. Gilmore Graves golf also has designed a new 18-hole complex in St. Germain, of which nine holes will be ready for play this year.

FOSTER MAKES PEBBLE CREEK A FULL 18

MESA, Ariz. — Keith Foster and Associates will design the second nine holes at Pebble Creek, a master planned community west of Phoenix.



Keith Foster

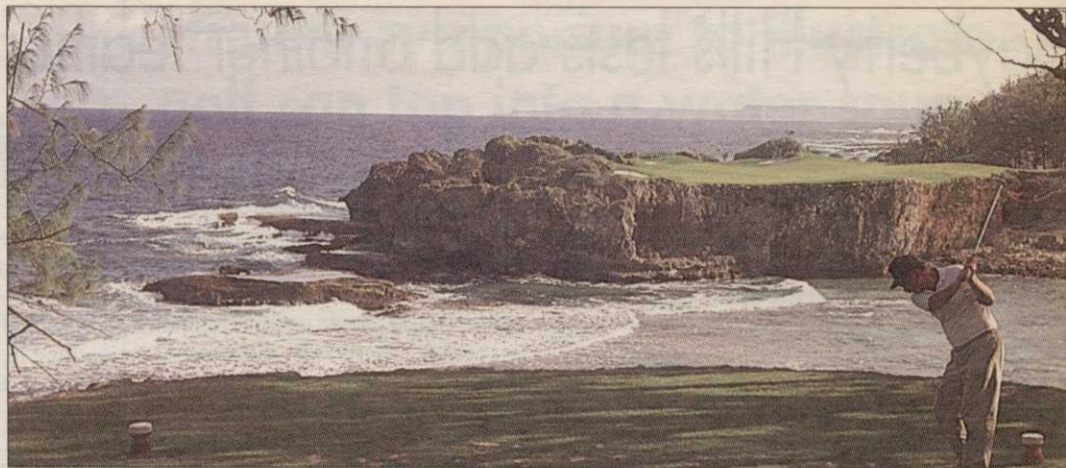
The local golf course architects also designed the first nine for the developer, Robson Communities. Foster also has been retained by Robson to begin work on another 18-hole course in Sun Lakes. Both projects are scheduled to begin construction in January. Foster will update and redesign City Park, the city's other municipal course, and will renovate the private Pueblo CC.

CUPP, FOUGHT COLLABORATE IN OREGON

PORTLAND, Ore. — Golf course architect Bob Cupp and design associate John Fought, who operates the West Coast office here, will collaborate on Timbershores Country Club in Lincoln City and Meadowood at Sunriver in Bend. "It's dramatic terrain," Fought said of the Timbershores property which offers panoramic Pacific Ocean vistas, rolling and sloped terrain, and heavily wooded areas. The former PGA Tour player and 1977 U.S. Amateur champion added: "With the ocean view, the beautiful trees, slopes and natural creeks running through the property, it has everything you could ask for in order to build a really striking golf course."

NICKLAUS FIRM CHANGES NAME

The design organization of Jack Nicklaus has a new look. It is no longer Jack Nicklaus Golf Services but Nicklaus Design. This change recognizes Jack's son, Jack Nicklaus II, taking his place within the organization, having completed several notable golf courses in the United States and Europe. The firm also announced it has modified its fee schedule "to try to accommodate the developers' needs" during times of economic pressures.

Mangilao:
Then ...
and Now

You may recognize the photo at left from our first Asian issue last March. It shows architect Robin Nelson of Honolulu at the tee station of the 168-yard 12th hole at Mangilao Golf Course in Guam. Above, Nelson's partner, Rodney Wright, tees off at the 12th hole after the course is finished. Golf Course News will keep track of Asian development with a quarterly publication beginning in March.

Three Sisters developers: 'We've lost a treasure'

By PETER BLAIS

CANMORE, Alberta, Canada — Officials of the multi-million-dollar Three Sisters Resort project near Banff National Park have received permission from provincial officials to begin construction of three golf courses.

While pleased with the approval, the company is disappointed the National Resources Conservation Board forbid development of a fourth track in the environmentally significant Wind Valley area.

"It's a very unique piece of property," said Three Sisters President Rick Melchin of the 525 acres the NRCB said must remain forever wild. "The province said it will compensate us financially. But we've lost a

treasure."

The Wind Valley restriction forced developers to scale back the resort component slightly to about 1,000 hotel rooms, Melchin said.

Construction will resume on the first course this spring, the company official said.

The Scott Miller-designed layout was just 10 percent complete last spring when the government slapped a stop-work order on the project while the NRCB debated the resort's fate.

Weather permitting, he expects the first course to open in summer 1994 and the second perhaps a year later. Miller is designing both.

"We want to build the first 36 holes as

soon as possible and see what happens from there," Melchin said.

Barry Gunn, a reporter following Three Sisters for the Canmore Ledger, said making Wind Valley off limits to development silenced the project's most vocal critics.

Gunn said local residents and officials are relieved the controversy is behind them and expects the project to receive local permits with little difficulty.

Stuart Cohen of Environmental & Turf Services Inc., who was retained by Three Sisters to conduct an environmental assessment, said that while they did not get everything they wanted, developers were still fortunate to receive permission to build

Continued on next page

A Myrtle Beach
original: Hamm

By MARK LESLIE

Combine a love of art and mechanical drawing with pro-caliber golfing abilities and the result can be a rare talent.

In the case of Gene Hamm, the result was the pioneer of a phenomenon of the 1980s: The PGA Tour player/designer. The 69-year-old Hamm, who earned his Tour card in 1958, has designed some 80 golf courses, including a dozen of Myrtle Beach, S.C.'s 70 courses.

The career designing golf courses wasn't planned. The PGA Tour was. Indeed, Hamm played in the first medal play, won by Dow Finsterwald in 1958.

But that was the same year pro and friend Al Smith approached Hamm to help rebuild greens, tees and bunkers at the Country Club of Danville.

Continued on page 36



The 18th hole at the Gene Hamm-designed Magnolia Course at Pinewild

Hamm — a marquee commodity at famed Myrtle Beach

Continued from page 24

Goodbye Tour. Hello, golf course architecture. (Since then his victories include the North Carolina Open in 1966 and the North Carolina Senior Open in 1978 and 1979.)

Word spread about Hamm and his abilities and, before he knew it, he had remodeled and added nine holes at Forest Oaks in Martinsville, Va., and designed nine holes at Spoon Creek outside Martinsville.

After doing a half dozen golf courses on his own, Hamm began what became a long relationship with Myrtle Beach developers in 1966.

At that time only seven courses graced the Myrtle Beach. Hamm was about to put his fingerprint on it. Namely, Sea Gull Golf Course at Pawley's Island, Quail Creek, 36 holes at Burning Ridge, Eagle Nest, Beachwood Golf Club, Azalia Sands, Indian Wells,



'I shaped every green on my courses at Myrtle Beach. On 10 golf courses that's a lot of greens.'

— Gene Hamm

Pineland Country Club and Raccoon Run. His latest — in 1986-87 — was River Oaks.

No one alive or dead has had such an impact on golf design in

this golf mecca.

Why?

"I learned a lot with Robert Trent Jones Sr.," Hamm said. He had served in the U.S. Navy

during World War II and was an assistant to club pro Ellis Maples in Pinehurst, N.C., when Hamm took a job as construction supervisor of the Jones-designed Duke University Golf Course in Durham, N.C. After Hamm worked on a second Jones project — in Wilmington, Del. — his friend Smith entered the picture — and the rest is history.

Hamm said his three courses at Pinehurst were a perfect canvas on which to apply his skills. Pinewild Country Club's Holly and Magnolia courses — completed in 1987 — stand as his best work, he said.

"It was one of those rare pieces of property," he said. "I had 2,000 acres to work with and we did it as a development plan."

But he honed his skills in the other Carolina as well.

"I shaped every green on my courses at Myrtle Beach. On 10 golf courses that's a lot of greens," he said.

Is there a trademark of his work?

"I've done all kinds," he said, adding that budget and the site dictate a design's emphasis.

"You have to basically follow whatever topography and terrain you have to work with. After that, I try to do greens that have enough contour to keep them interesting and not get too severe," he said.

"Generally, you do what folks want to pay you for, with what kind of money they want to put into it. If they want a championship course, it takes a lot of money. If a group doesn't have the money, you build what they have the money for."

Hamm said developers in the last decade have spent more money on golf courses, and that means "you can design in a lot more mounds, larger sand traps, things like cross ties and landscaping.

"When we started years ago, there was no such thing as doing landscaping because the money wouldn't last that long. Now you can build amenities that make the course more picturesque. And you find a lot of landscapers working with golf courses, keeping the courses in flowers all year long. That wasn't done years ago."

A major improvement in golf, Hamm said, was development of the first hybrid Bermudagrass (328), which was used on the Duke course in 1956. Although it couldn't stand the cold winters, it led to more plant breeding and, shortly thereafter, introduction of Penncross bentgrass, a pioneering bentgrass for the South.

The future, Hamm said, includes son Gary "working with me in some areas. He has worked with me on four or five golf courses."



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