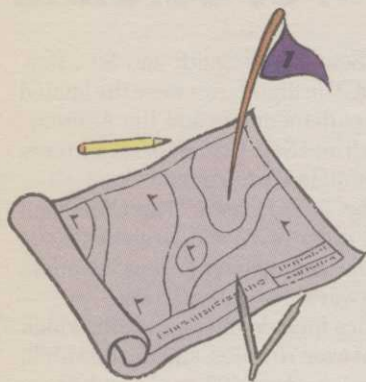


BRIEFS



KOCH, ROBBINS JOIN FORCES

TAMPA, Fla. — Gary Koch, president of Gary Koch Golf, Inc. and Richard Robbins, president of Robbins & Associates, International, Inc. have formed Robbins Koch Golf Designs, Inc. Robbins Koch will provide golf course design, master planning and construction management services in the United States, as well as selected projects in Asia. Koch, a six-time winner on the PGA Tour and golf analyst for ESPN-TV, began his career in golf course design in 1990 when he was selected to design the Las Colinas course at Mission Inn Golf and Tennis Resort, near Orlando. Robbins has actively practiced course design, land planning and project management for more than 20 years.

MORE BUILDERS CERTIFIED

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — The Golf Course Builders Association of America has approved a second group of companies as certified golf course builders. They are Central Florida Turf of Avon



Bill Kubly, certified

Park, Fla. (Jeffrey Harstine, president); Environmental Golf of Santa Ana, Calif. (S. Gene Giannulli, president); Fairway Construction of Temecula, Calif. (Glen A. Gosch);

Landscapes Unlimited of Lincoln, Neb. (Bill Kubly, president). GCBA Executive Director Phil Arnold called the certified builders "a very elite group."

MASON'S AWBREY GLEN OPENS

BEND, Ore. — The Awbrey Glen Golf Club held its grand opening July 23-25, featuring the groundbreaking ceremonies for its 15,000-square-foot clubhouse. Mark Wendt Construction has been awarded the contract to build the clubhouse. The 18-hole, 7,007-yard championship private golf course, designed by Gene "Bunny" Mason, is now open to members and limited outside play.

NIEBUR MOVES, KEEPS BUSY

MEDFORD, Ore. — Niebur Golf, which has been operating out of Atlanta, Ga., has moved its headquarters here, according to Joe Niebur. Niebur recently completed construction of AnnBriar Golf Course in Waterloo, Ill., and is working on an 18-hole course that will be the centerpiece of the Meriwood at Hawks Prairie subdivision in Olympia, Wash. Weyerhaeuser and Vicwood are developers and Bill Overdorf is the course architect for the Meriwood facility. Niebur's new address is 820 Crater Lake Road, Suite 205, Medford 97504; 503-779-2771.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Swan-e-Set bills construction as embracing 'new era' of harmony

By PETER M. BRUYERE

In its promotional brochure, Swan-e-Set Bay Resort and Country Club claims it "embraces the new era of environmental harmony in which man and nature can once again find a rare beautiful balance."

Swan-e-Set is the \$120 million Lee Trevino-designed golf course soon to open in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, Canada. The 36-hole course will be spread over 922 acres of riverfront property.

To ensure "environmental harmony," the Swan-e-Set Environmental Task Force was formed. It was comprised of members from the provincial and federal ministries of the environment, as well as members of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Canadian Wildlife Services. TERA Planning, an environmental consulting firm, rounded out the committee. In conjunction with eight other firms, TERA put together a 400-page environmental impact assessment.

According to TERA President Helmut Urhahn, there is a "no net loss" policy for fish habitats in British Columbia. During construction of a golf course, if a fish habitat is lost, a new one must be

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The 16th hole at Wailea's new Gold Course.

Robert Trent Jones Jr. adds touch to the 'new look' at Wailea resort

From staff reports

MAUI, Hawaii — Two distinctly different golf courses — one wild and demanding, the other traditional and landscaped — are taking shape at the former Orange Course at Wailea, with housing nowhere in sight.

Robert Trent Jones II International is completely changing the old 18-hole Orange Course into two tracks, a new Orange Course and a Gold Course. Combined with the resort-style Blue Course, these will give Wailea 54 very varied holes.

Jones' lead architect Gary Linn said the "pure golf" facility is new for Maui and rare for anywhere in the Hawaiian islands. The no-housing concept was incorporated by Shinwa Golf Group when it bought the property several years ago.

When the project is complete, none of the original 18 holes of the Orange Course

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Tennessee offers \$20M in bonds for golf projects

By MARK LESLIE

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Developers are being invited to apply for \$20 million in general obligation bonds the state of Tennessee is offering for construction and operation of golf courses on state land, including eight state parks.

Under discussion for years, the plan was passed by the state Legislature on July 1. The deadline for proposals is Sept. 15.

Erskin Bonds, who manages the state's golf courses, said feasibility studies were done in 1988 for Reelfoot Lake State Park in Tiptonville, Chickasaw State Park in Henderson, Natchez Trace State Park in Wildersville, Tims Ford State Park on Normandy Reservoir, Rock Island State Park in McMinnville, Panther Creek in Morristown, Cedars of Lebanon State Park in Lebanon, and Old Stone Fort in Manchester, where a nine-hole course already exists

State land available for feasible projects

and nine more would be added. He said non-park state land could also be used, if an appropriate parcel is found.

"There's always a demand for golf courses," Bonds said. "How much, I don't know. We do very well with the eight we currently operate." The state has eight golf courses in state parks — seven championship layouts and the nine-holer in Lebanon.

Bonds said all types of proposals will be accepted.

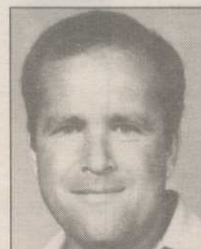
"There are any number of options. A person may give us a lock-and-key arrangement and make it work. Maintenance contracts could be involved. We could run it...

"But in any case, they have to pay off the bonds in 20 years. After

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Mark McCumber: Designer cum Tour pro



Mark McCumber is an anomaly in this world of golf and course architecture. McCumber was designing his first golf course before he earned his PGA Tour card. He learned golf, and to love the game early, growing up at Hyde Park Golf Club in Jacksonville, Fla., where he and brothers Jim, Gary and Tim earned free greens fees by digging up crabgrass. They later formed a golf course construction company that has evolved into Mark McCumber & Associates architectural firm in Jacksonville. McCumber has juggled his playing career, winning close to \$3 million, with his love for design.

Golf Course News: Only two professional golfers — you and Jack Nicklaus — are members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA). Obviously, you're serious about this part of your work. How serious? And how does it compare to your devotion to the play-side?

Mark McCumber: I think my situation may be one of the most unusual of Tour players who are doing "golf architecture." My brother started a landscape company in 1969. Out of school [Brooklyn Bethel College in Brooklyn Heights, N.Y.] I went to work for him in 1971 — literally working in the ground as a landscape designer, doing state jobs,

regional malls, big irrigation jobs. We used to get irrigation jobs for golf courses back in the early '70s — always knowing we wanted to be in the golf course building and design business, preferably design. But we had to get into it by the back door by the construction side. In 1978 we got our first piece of land and started designing our first golf course before I even had my Tour card. So I got my Tour card in July of 1978 while we were in the middle of designing our first golf course — The Ravines, which to this day is one of our most dramatic pieces of land. So the irony is that this is something I had been doing before I ever won money swinging a golf club.

I have a passion for both — tremendously and equally. The one thing I am trying to do this year — which has made both jobs better — is try to segregate the two. They are intertwined, but while I'm playing I'm trying to only think about playing those five days on tour. Then when I come home, I'm dedicating time to design.

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Q&A: McCumber

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GCN: You, Mike Beebe and Chris Commins (McCumber's staff architects) are all members of the ASGCA. There are other companies with multiple members, but not 100 percent...

MM: We're tickled about that... We're very proud of that.

GCN: What if you had to make the hard choice right now: one career or the other?

MM: If for some reason, like Solomon, they brought these two careers to me and said, "You must choose," it would probably be golf

course architecture. It is something that not only do I love, but I can do it the rest of my life. I know that I can not play Tour golf the rest of my life. Even though I am very blessed that the game is one of longevity, and I'm 41 and having one of my best years ever, I'm a realist. I know that when I'm 46, 47, 48, at some point that is going to diminish. There's no reason why the golf course architecture business should do anything but get better because of the wisdom of years and experience.

GCN: How much influence does having played the world's great classic courses have on your design philosophy?

MM: The classic courses probably have 90 percent effect on my design. It's a gigantic effect. I attribute the way I grew up to having a big influence on how I like to design. I grew up on a Donald Ross course built in the mid-1920s in Jacksonville — Hyde Park. It's a place where [Ben] Hogan and [Byron] Nelson and all the great players came to play the Jacksonville Open in the 1940s. It has a lot of gentle contours, sight greens, sight tees. Not a lot of dirt was moved on Hyde Park. Two little ponds. No real estate on the course. I have a passion for Pinehurst #2-type golf courses, where the ball can be played on the

ground and in the air. I'm not a giant fan of 18 holes of target golf, although I do like short par-4s where if you lay up you play a short iron to a very small green.

I like greens that are subtle. I like options around the green — pitching, putting, wedge play — not just one type of shot. I'm not a fan of bulkheads. I like slopes that continue out, grass slopes that can be maintained all different heights to change the character of the course.

GCN: Has growing up in golf affected how you look at design?

MM: Tremendously. Literally, this is not to be corny. From mowing

greens to driving a tractor and setting manual sprinklers, it really has. I think plushness will leave golf courses to a degree because of environmental, water and chemical concerns. I think we're going to build and design courses that are seasonal — brown when it's dry, and real green when it's wet, but play both ways. We've got some courses now that really can't be played when they're bone hard and dry. When I go to St. Andrews I'm not offended when I look out in back of the hotel and I'm paying \$250 a night and the course is brown. I say, "Wow, it's been a dry season, I'm going to be bouncing balls onto the green."

If I go the next year and it's lush, I say, "They've had a wet season. I'll be carrying over the bern and spinning it on No. 1. I think American golf is going to get, not to that extreme, but more that way.

GCN: That may even help your game.

MM: It's going to help everybody's game. Everybody's talking about the Europeans playing so well. They play under more varied conditions than a lot of our players do. Our players are still the best in the world, but they have become equal now, and some of their players have dominated the last five years. I think it's because they play in variable conditions and we don't.

GCN: Who is your favorite designer?

MM: That's hard. If I had to pick one, probably because of where I grew up it would be Ross. But I love C.B. Macdonald. I love [Alister] Mackenzie. All the old designers.

GCN: What characteristic about them most impresses you?

MM: What I like about their work (and maybe it was forced and it's not that they were so brilliant) is they didn't have the ease to move as much dirt as we do. We run a dozer over here and move 10,000 yards of dirt and create something. Unless you're careful, that can look so contrived. When you're doing something literally with a cart and a horse I think you're going to take a lot more time.

GCN: With fewer courses in the pipeline and the same number of architects, maybe more, the competition is tough. Does that concern you?

MM: It concerns us in a purely business sense. You've got to feed families, meet payrolls. I don't think any of us do this out of pure dollars. There's no way you could. On the Tour, people say you worry about the money or you missed the putt, or you didn't win this or that. People don't understand. When you're a little kid hitting a million practice balls, you're not thinking about money. You'd never invest this much in the game to get the money out of it, even though it's been great to me. I could be a stock broker or sell insurance or something that if I spent a lot of time I could be really good at. But you do it because of the passion. The same is true of the architecture.

GCN: Are you eyeing any foreign work?

Continued on next page

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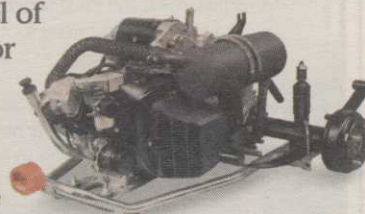
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Q&A: McCumber

Continued from previous page

MM: We've already done some. I just finished a course in Edmonton, Canada, for the Edmonton Petroleum Club that we're very proud of. We've got two under contract in Hiroshima, Japan. That's a new experience. I've played there a couple of times. I really like Japan and the people. But it's quite an experience. It's been four or five years in the permitting process, and we haven't even touched the ground yet. We're definitely actively seeking the foreign market, although I'd like to stay close to home with the family and kids [17- and 13-year-old daughters and 2-year-old son].

GCN: What have you found different about the foreign market and dealing with those clients?

MM: First, you have the cultural and language barriers, which is fascinating. It's enjoyable, humorous and challenging to communicate and be on the same page. Other than that, taking Japan for an example, regulations seem to be so much stiffer, so many more details. The amount of money spent before you touch the ground is amazing. And so is the amount of money spent to build a course.

GCN: Of the Tour players, who are your favorites?

MM: If I had to pick someone to be around, play with — whenever I get paired with him I know it's going to be a fun week, who I went to Australia with and won the World Cup with — it's Ben Crenshaw. I'm very excitable by nature. Ben's very mild and calm. He has a great appreciation for the game. He grew up in golf like I did. He loves the old designers. He and I played Royal Melbourne together in Australia when we won the World Cup. We were just giggling the whole week about "Look how he [Mackenzie] did this hole," "Look how he did that." I promise you, Ben Crenshaw is not thinking of money when he's thinking about [designing] golf courses.

GCN: Just like you.

MM: Yeah. That's what I love to do. They happen to pay us for it, which I feel very fortunate about. [A laugh.] I'm dead serious. I said that when I won the Players Championship, too. Can you believe they're paying me for something that I'd be paying a greens fee to come out here and play? It's hard to believe.

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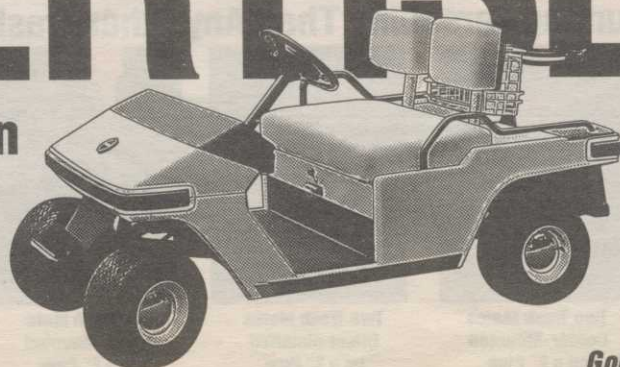
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