

## Connor 'saving' course topos for Ross Society

By MARK LESLIE

PONCE INLET, Fla. — Super-mapper Ed Connor, a golf course architect who has recorded the terrain of great golf courses from Augusta National in Georgia to Pebble Beach Golf Links in California, is cut-rating his services to benefit the Donald Ross Society.

To preserve some of "the hallowed ground of golf" and encourage promising scholars, Connor is donating half his \$3,800 fee for "mapping" Ross-designed courses to the Ross Scholarship Fund.

"There's just two of us, and we don't interfere with play or maintenance," he said. "We hope members of Ross courses will see this is a non-intrusive first step in any future work they do."

"They can preserve what they have, so that regardless of what's done to change it — an overzealous green committee or a natural disaster — they can always restore the topography. That is the hallmark of most old golf courses."

The Ross Society has grown tremendously since its inception four years ago, attracting significant names among golf course architects and owners. It was also searching for direction, said Connor, whose Golforms firm is located here. The scholarships — given to landscape architecture students each year — was one answer.

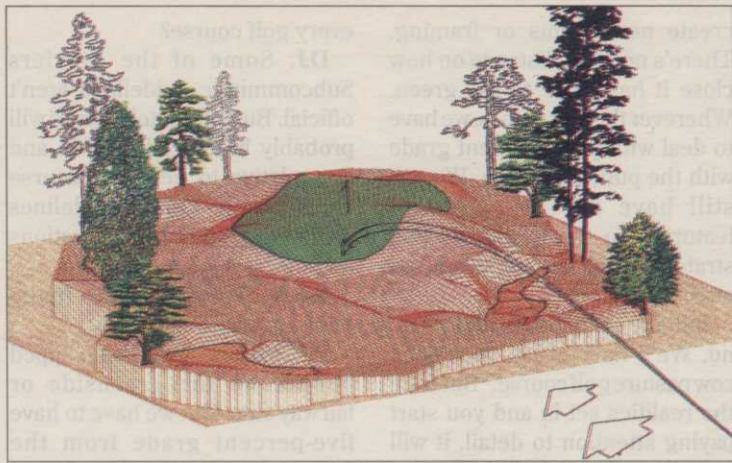
Through laser-surveying technology accurate to the smallest fraction of an inch, Connor has mapped about 100 courses, including Ross's Pinehurst No. 2 in North Carolina; Seminole Golf Club in North Palm Beach, Fla.; Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro, N.C.; Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio; and Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, N.Y.

Over the last five years, he has refined the process and, with improved equipment, can map an 18-hole course in two days compared to the former six days. At Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, Calif., he mapped the green contours to within one-quarter of an inch, he said.

Connor, who does a lot of course renovations, said he will map Ross courses when he is doing regular work in their vicinity.

Connor's terrain modeling is saved on computer disks, and is "strictly for the club's use," he said.

One club happy to use Connor's modeling was Augusta National, which saw part of its famous Amen Corner washed away in a hurricane two years ago. Connor's grids came in handy for reconstruction.



Pinehurst No. 2's 2nd green and its surrounds, as preserved by Ed Connor's computer documentation.

## History of design a Ross Society panel topic

PINEHURST, N.C. — Golf course architecture — past, present and future — will be the after-dinner fodder at the banquet climaxing the Donald Ross Society's annual meeting here May 12-15.

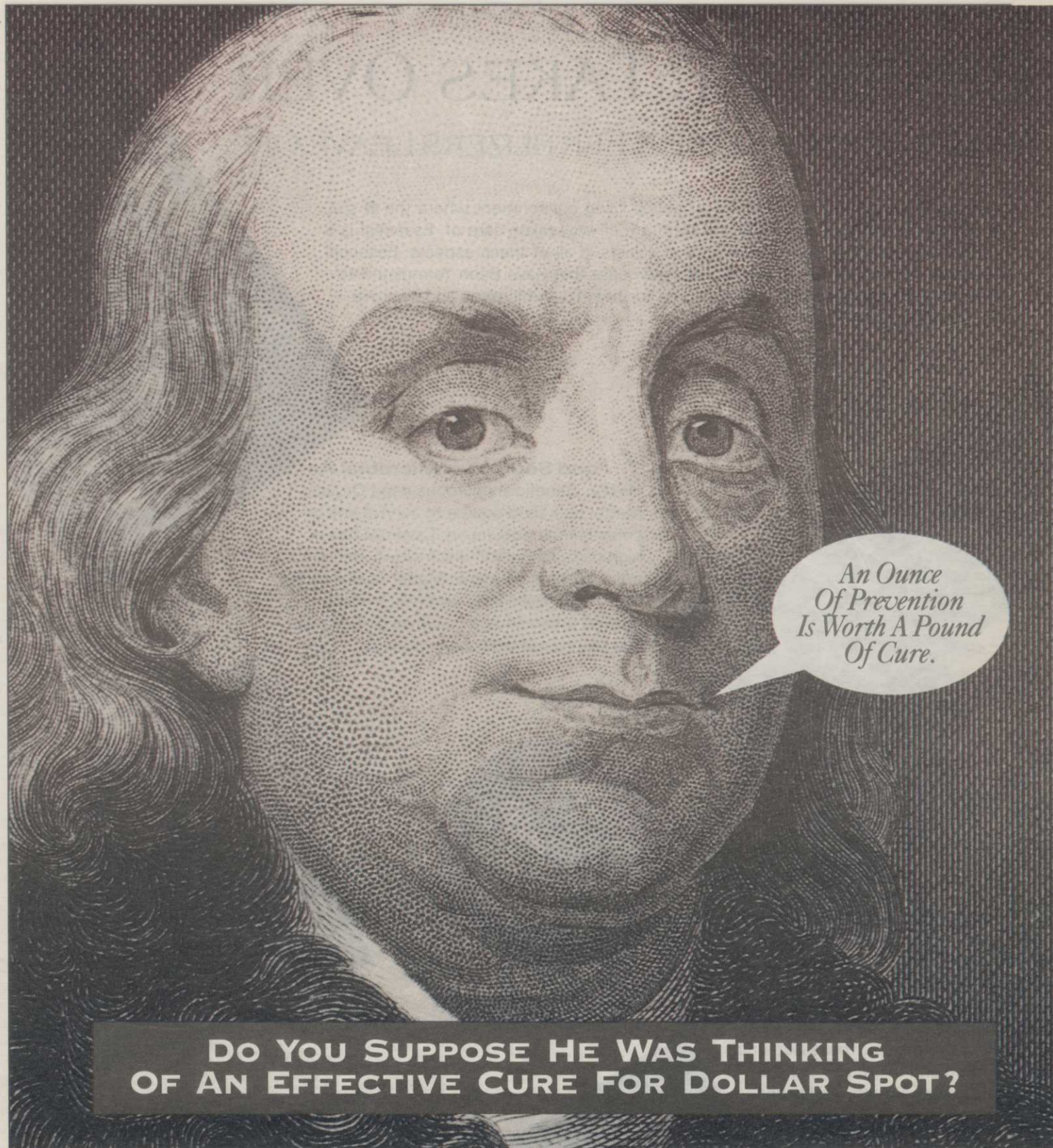
President Barry Palm said the featured program — on Saturday night, May 14 — will include a panel of Arthur Hills, Ron Forse, Ron Prichard, Tom Doak and Ed Connor. Other architects who belong to the society also are invited to participate.

Members also will elect new

officers and discuss regional meetings and the future direction of scholarship grants.

After a two-year hiatus, at which the annual tournament was played at Pine Needles and Mid-Pines, it will return to Pinehurst No. 2 this year.

Palm, assistant executive director of the Arizona Golf Association and co-founder of the Ross Society, said more information is available by calling 919-295-0906, or writing P.O. Box 403, Bloomfield, Conn. 06002.



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