

### MARTTY GOLF ADDS TWO TO FOLD

FAIRHOPE, Ala. - Martty Golf Management has inked agreements with two golf facilities. Martty will manage Jennings Mill Country Club, an 18-hole Bob Cupp-designed course in Athens, Ga. The Alabama firm has also signed a consulting agreement with Chantilly Manor Country Club in Rising Sun, Md.

### NGP ACTIVE IN SEATTLE, SAN JOSE

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SANTA MONICA, Calif. — National Golf Properties has acquired Summitpointe Golf Course in Milpitas Calif., and Lake Wilderness GC in Maple

Valley, Wash., from Japan's Sumitomo Bank. The acquisition gives NGP its second course in the Seattle



area and first in San Jose. NGP plans renovations and upgrades of both facilities. NGP also recently purchased The Golf Club at El Dorado Lakes in Gilbert, Ariz. American Golf Corp. will manage all three facilities. NGP's portfolio now includes 55 golf facilities.

### **NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR AT PALMER**

ORLANDO Fla. - Arnold Palmer Golf Management Co. has appointed Beth Sargent as director of membership and affiliation services and Jon DePriest as general manager/director of golf for Spencer T. Olin Community Golf Course near St. Louis. Sargent was most recently director of membership for Palmer's Bay Hill Club and formerly with Club Corporation of America. DePriest, a 14-year golf-industry veteran, was promoted from head golf professional at Spencer T. Olin.

### **COUNTRYSIDE ADDS DUNBARTON NINE**

DUNBARTON, N.H. — Countryside Golf Inc. recently purchased nine-hole Valley View Country Club here. Countryside plans to begin design and permitting of an additional nine holes in 1995. Improvements to the existing nine and the clubhouse are currently underway. J.A. Canfield & Co. of North Conway represented the seller.

### VIRGINIA OAKS, HURDZAN TAP GPA

HARRISBURG, Pa. — HP Companies recently retained Golf Property Analysts of Harrisburg to provide appraisal and analysis services for the Virginia Oaks Golf Club in Gainesville, Va. Hurdzan Golf Course Design has also employed GPA to provide feasibility analysis services for a proposed golf course community near Athens, Ohio.

## Course photography adds to image, bottom line

By MARK LESLIE

A picture says a thousand words — and can sell hundreds of golf club memberships or thousands of golf rounds, for that matter. So, taking the best photograph at the best time takes on crucial dimensions, say world-known photographers Mike Klemme and Tony Roberts.

"The power of the picture" can make or break a golf course, said Klemme, whose Golfoto, Inc. is located in Enid, Okla.

When Interfive Co. Ltd. of Nagoya, Japan, hired Klemme to photograph its World Woods Golf Course in Florida, Interfive paid his fee for two days but reaped many times that amount in free advertising.

"We got photos in 25 different magazines. Six calendar companies ran photos. And it didn't cost [Interfive] a dollar," Klemme said. "We kind of turn into a marketing partner."

"I can oftentimes make a marginal-looking place look good," Roberts said. "Sometimes there's not one good hole to photograph. Then you have to pull a rabbit out of the hat."

Real or conjured, photos are necessary for many areas at a golf course: on scorecards, in yardage books, marketing materials, advertisements, and elsewhere.

Continued on page 61



## May trains lens on life after Dye Designs

Ken E. May, formerly of Dye Designs, Inc. of Denver, Colo. has formed Rolling Greens Photography, located in Aurora, Colo.

May had been Dye's marketing and advertising coordinator and photographer for more than five years. Some of his most notable work has been the Dye Family Golf Course Calendar, awarded the Bronze Award for Most Creative Marketing Application in 1993 by the Calendar Marketing Association. May takes with him to Rolling Greens the Dye Designs photographic collection covering more than 80 Dye courses in various stages of completion, along with more than a decade of images of the Dye family, all of which he offers through a stock agency.

For more information, contact May at 303-366-4915; or write Rolling Greens Photography, 12246 East Second Drive, Aurora, Colo., 80011.

The Trophy Club in Houston, one of the new Cobblestone additions.

## Cobblestone making strides in Sun Belt

"We like to think of ourselves as getting a Mulligan in this business. Because of the experiences we've all had, we get to throw out the bad and keep the good.'

That's how Cobblestone Golf Group President James 'Bob' Husband, explains the success of the 18-monthold company founded by he and financial partner Brentwood Associ-

Since October 1992, Cobblestone has purchased or leased 10 Sunbelt courses. The most recent was February's acquisition of Pecan Grove Plantation Country Club, a private facility that marked the San Diegobased firm's entry into the Houston market. Plans are to add approximately five clubs a year in the foreseeable future.

Toward that end, Husband has assembled an experienced manage-





ment team. Husband is a 20-year golf industry veteran and former chairman of chief operating officer of GolfCorp, ClubCorp International's public golf subsidiary.

He oversees an executive staff that includes Vice President of Operations Gary Dee, former head of operations for the PGA Tour; Vice President of Golf Operations Robert West, a former golf course owner and director of golf at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla.; Vice President of

Continued on page 50

# American Links, with you every step of the way

By PETER BLAIS

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Four partners with extensive experience as owners, lenders, course designers and contractors have formed a company that can guide a course developer from initial planning through actual opening and operation of a golf facility.

"We impart to any project the unique ability to incorporate all these perspectives in our service to our clients," said American Links Consulting (ALC) President

"This combination of experience enables us to guide a client from the initial concept to a fully operational facility. Our services will include assistance in developing a concept, determining objectives, selecting the right designer and planning well-functioning facilities.

"Not only can we provide construction management during the project, we can also extend our services to implementing programs for the operation phase and longterm management of the facility."

While many management companies claim to offer developers similar conceptto-operation services, Trull said many are simply too small in scope and too inexperienced to be truly effective.

"I felt a need for a company that could offer a wider range of services while still providing detailed, efficient management," Irull said. "I believe we've put the right team together to do just that."

The team includes:

 Trull, President/General Manager — Trull spent the last 10 years with Wadsworth Golf Construction Co., starting as a shaper at Barton Creek Country Club in Austin, Texas, and working his way up to project superintendent. At Wadsworth, he was involved in more than 20 courses, nine of which appear in Golf Digest's most recent

Continued on page 49

# Golf Course Marketplace

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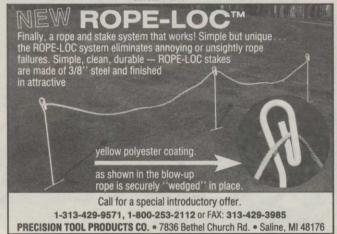
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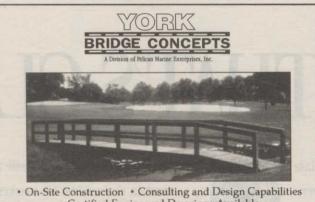
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### ADVERTISERS' INDEX

S#	AdvertiserPage
47	A.S.I
32	The Andersons 39
72	
	Aquamaster
34	Aquatrols42
51	B.H.Sales
13	Becker Underwood
49	C-LOC Rentention Systems, Inc
38	Cedar Chemical
05	Ciba-Geigy 6-7
35	Ciba-Geigy43
53	Ciba-Geigy 58 Ciba-Geigy 25
19	Ciba-Geigy *25
18	Club Car24
70	Contech Construction Products60
62	Continental Bridge60
69	Double Springs Grass Farm60
08	E-Z-GO
45	Envirogenesis
66	Environmental Compliance Systems 60
15	Farmer's Marketing20
54	Fore Par
63	Formost Construction Co
65	Furness Golf Construction60
52	Golf Course Expo57
25	Griffin Industries/Nature Safe31
36	Growth Products
50	HCC, Inc55
46	Highland Bentgrass Commission 54
24	Hoechst-Roussel
01	ISK Biotech
10	Jacklin Seed Co
23	Jacklin Seed Co28-29
55	Jacobsen 64
41	Jesco Products/Pinhigh49
11	John Deere 16-17
67	IPF Distributors 60
56-160	Kalo 63
31	Kirby Markers
03	Kubota
37	Lofts, Inc
73	Markers, Inc
61	Master of the Links
16	Miles Inc. 21
02	Otterbine/Barebo
40	Partac 49
77	Pavelec Bros. Construction
43	PBI/Gordon Corporation
68	Precision Small Engine
74	Precision Tool Prod. Co. 61
76	Precision Tool Prod. Co. 61
79	Quail Valley Turf Farm
	Regal Chemical
26 12	
22	Regal Chemical 18 Regal Chemical 27
33	Pokes & Hose
27	Rohm & Haas
42	Salety Storage, Inc
	Sandoz
17	The Scotts Co
29	The Scotts Co
28	Seed Research of Oregon34-35
14	Smithco
09	
	Standard Golf
.06	Toro Comm'l. Prod. Div. 8-9
20	Toro Comm'l. Prod. Div
75	Trims International Software
.07	Turf-Seed
44	Turfline, Inc
71	Unit Structures61
48	United Soil Blenders55
30	Valent *38
21	Verti-Drain/Emrex
39	Watertronics
.64	Yard Edge60
.78	York Bridge Concepts61
Appea	rs in regional editions.
_	
-	

## Course photography

Continued from page 47

"We do a lot of sales of photos back through the pro shops," Klemme said. "They use them for decorations and sell them to members and guests. It's a great marketing tool because it ends up on a golfer's wall in his office. Visitors ask where the photo was taken, and it works as wordof-mouth advertising."

Golf course personnel "needs to understand just how important it is that they work hand in hand with the photographer to make sure everything is done correctly because of the power of these photographs,' he said. "If a picture is published somewhere and it's not perfect, it reflects on everybodythe developer, superintendent, head professional and golf course architect.

'People need to be very careful about their image. No matter who they choose to photograph their course, they need to make sure they control these images better.'

From a promotional standpoint, the best time to bring in a photographer, the two agree, is three or four months prior to opening. That, Klemme said, is "for a light, one- or two-day shoot. Get some good shots of the signature hole and the environment around the course. Capture the overall feel of the property to give people a sense of place."

Then, at the opening or within six months afterward, a more detailed picture session should be set up, where all the holes are photographed.