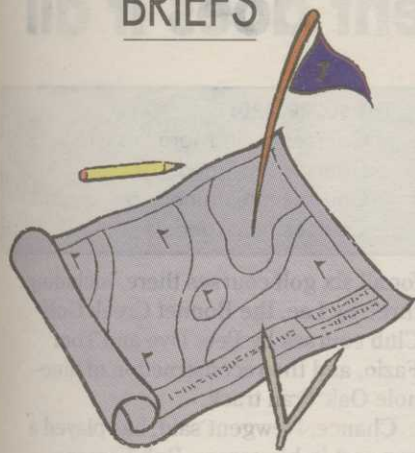


## BRIEFS



#### BARBARON BUILDING NEW 18 AT CYPRESS LAKE

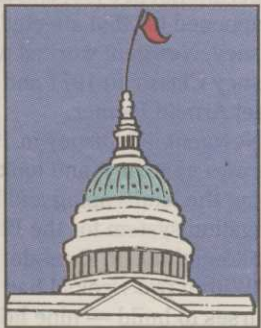
LAKELAND, Fla. — Barbaron, Inc. of Crystal River has been selected by Cypress Lakes Ventures to construct a new 18-hole additional course at the Cypress Lake Golf and Country Club here. The course has been designed by Powell Golf Design of Bradenton and is scheduled to open in the early fall.

#### COURSE DESIGNERS EXEMPTED

A Mississippi bill that exempts golf course designers from being licensed as landscape architects has been signed into law by Gov. Kirk Fordice.

Landscape architects in some states, including Florida, also have tried to force golf course designers to be licensed.

The bill also allows the state Board of Architecture to run continuing education programs for landscape architects.



#### GRAVES PICKS UP THE PIECES

Salgados Praia Golf Course, in the West Region of Algarve, Southern Portugal, is nearing completion. Robert Muir Graves, Ltd., of Walnut Creek, Calif., was brought in as course architect when the course was about 70 percent completed. Graves made a number of revisions and generally upgraded the layout to meet international standards for resort play. The completed course will measure 6,560 yards from the back tees. The course is part of a large homesite and hotel development.

#### NEW CLUBHOUSE FOR ARGYLE

SILVER SPRING, Md. — Argyle CC is renovating and expanding its clubhouse. The \$2.4 million project will expand the clubhouse to 22,000 square feet. BeechTree Golf Co. is coordinating the project for the club. The building architect is Reithlingshoefer-Smith & Associates of Annapolis and the contractor is Coleman & Wood of Rockville.

#### HELLMAN JOINS JACOBSON DESIGN

LIBERTYVILLE, Ill. — Doug Hellman has joined Jacobson Golf Course Design as director of business development and design associate. He will oversee new business development and marketing activities and be involved in project development. Hellman formerly was director of business development for Dick Nugent Associates.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

## Europeans coordinate environmental effort

By PETER BLAIS

BRUSSELS, Belgium — With permits and financing firmly in hand, developers of Domain Des Princes Golf Course began building their Jack Nicklaus-designed layout here in late 1989. A local environmental group went to court and succeeded in having the permit revoked. Five years later, the course is no closer to reality than it was in the late 1980s.

This is the type of situation the newly formed European Golf Association Ecology Unit hopes to stop from happening again.

### New Ecology Unit to present golf's benefits on pro-active, case-by-case basis

The ecology unit is a joint initiative of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, PGA European Tour and European Golf Association — an umbrella organization representing the 25 European national golf associations.

Launched in January, the program has been funded for the next three years in recognition of the need for Europe's lead-

ing golf associations to present a coordinated approach to environmental issues.

"We [golf industry] haven't handled those problems well in the past," said Executive Director David Stubbs, an experienced ecologist who has specialized in golf-ecology issues the past seven years and gained considerable experience matching golf and conservation interests.

"Basically we've just put out fires wherever they've erupted. We need to take a more pro-active approach and get a dialogue underway with the environmental

Continued on page 44

## Hurdzan pursues yellowed pages & hickory sticks

By MARK LESLIE

It is like "Christmas and an Easter egg hunt all rolled up in one."

It captivates, excites and enlightens. And it has made Dr. Michael Hurdzan a frequenter of flea markets and dusky old book stores.

It is the hobby (and treasure hunt) of golf collecting. "I just can't describe to you the excitement of finding something you've been searching for for years," said Hurdzan, a golf course architect whose massive collection includes books, clubs, ceramics, glassware, buttons, games, you name it.

"I can almost tell you the time, date and place I found each one of them, and what I paid for them. It's like an Easter egg hunt and Christmas all in one. And every single day is like that. Collecting is the most exciting thing, if you really treasure the things — which I do."

Hurdzan, then young and far from wealthy, caught the collecting bug unaware on Christmas Day 1967. "Someone gave me *Book of the Links* by Sutton. I had



Dr. Michael Hurdzan relaxes in his Columbus, Ohio, office, which brims with trinkets from golf's past.

no idea these kinds of books even existed — let alone on golf course architecture. I was absolutely captivated by the idea. I read it and reread it. It was a wonderful experience. It became so exciting to me that I started to collect more and more things. I went to book stores and flea markets — and still do."

Hurdzan pulled out an old cigarette dispenser for rolled cigarettes. "Just last week-

end I discovered this. It's probably from the '20s or '30s, but it's a wonderful piece."

Hurdzan's "primary love is books," and, indeed, like beloved family, every one in his cache has a story.

• There's *Scotland's Gift*, written in 1885 by Charles Blair Macdonald, and *Golf in America*, which Hurdzan bought in a book store in 1969 for \$3 and \$5, respectively.

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## Von Hagge lays claim to the unbearable lightness of course design

Q & A



Robert von Hagge

An agricultural engineering degree-holder who played on the PGA Tour a few years and as a club professional before joining Dick Wilson's architectural firm in 1957, Robert von Hagge has established his own design practice around the world. Eighty percent of his work is abroad, "and it doesn't seem to be letting up," he said. Managing editor Mark Leslie caught the 63-year-old von Hagge at his Spring, Texas, headquarters.

**Golf Course News:** It seems you have your own idea of golf course design. What do you do that says: "This is a von Hagge design?"

**Robert von Hagge:** Visually, our courses speak profoundly to folks because I think we're the only ones who really work with light. We've studied light for years. The way the light works from morning to evening across this plane of vertical ex-

pression you've created, and how it works from season to season allows a very romantic mystique to come forward at all hours of the day.

When you see photographs of great golf holes, or courses, they are always taken at that dramatic time of day when the angle of light is most profound. We've proven significantly that we can bring those dramatic hours into the middle of the day, so that hour after hour you're playing a different-appearing golf hole. It eliminates the repetition and boredom that you find in so many courses.

In earth movement, the only thing you can rely on ad infinitum is the light. It's the only thing permanent. Trees and grasses die and horizons change with cityscapes

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## Perry Dye: 'We have redirected'

By HAL PHILLIPS

DENVER, Colo. — To paraphrase Perry O. Dye and quote Mark Twain directly: "Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated."

However, Dye offers this qualifier: "Not greatly exaggerated, but exaggerated."

Rumors have been flying from here to Singapore concerning the financial condition of Dye Designs, as the Japanese development market — which had supported 87 percent of Dye's business in 1989 and '90, for example — continues its downward slide.

The result for Dye Designs has been diminished work overseas and a new focus on its domestic business plan.

"We have redirected. We're going after some of the smaller projects," said Dye in late-April. "To be frank, it's hard to adjust, but I think we can do it. Getting golf courses built for municipalities will go a long way towards changing our image."

"But frankly, a lot of people don't know what I can do here on the main

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## Playing hickory in the Old World

When Dr. Michael Hurdzan goes to Scotland or Ireland he plays with wooden-shafted clubs. Why?

"It's my way of gently protesting that you don't have to have [expensive] graphite-shafted clubs. You can enjoy the game with whatever equipment you have.

"Secondly, it gives me that feel of what links golf was all about. A lot of times I play with

a reproduction gutty ball. When I played St. Andrews I played one hole with a real 1890s gutty. It allows me to relate to what golf was like at that period of time. Wooden shafts were popular until the '30s."

Playing with wooden-shafted clubs, Hurdzan said, is "a different brand of golf. You don't hit the ball as far. You have to be a lot more accurate. You have to learn to keep the ball down."

## Hurdzan Collection

Continued from page 37

"As it ended up, they probably both came out of Mac's own library. *Golf in America* has his signature and personal stamp in it." And the value of *Scotland's Gift* today? "A thousand dollars."

• Then there's a little paperback written by Robert Trent Jones Sr. The booklet was to be auctioned and Hurdzan wanted it so badly he bid \$95. "The auction results came out and I didn't get it. I was stunned." A friend who bid \$225 himself told Hurdzan it had sold for \$375. A short time

later, Hurdzan received a packet in the mail from architect Roger Rulewich, who had ripped a page of one of Hurdzan's books while photocopying. The packet contained the Jones book — signed by Jones and by Rulewich, who wrote: "For someone who collects rare treasures from the history of golf from someone who only manages to destroy them."

• In the realm of clubs, Hurdzan has many sets, but perhaps none as special as the wooden-shafted set made by George Nichols Co. in Scotland. While in Scotland, he visited the Nichols company and asked an old clubmaker about his

clubs. The man couldn't believe a set still existed intact, but when Hurdzan showed them to him, the clubmaker "broke down and cried," Hurdzan said. "He remembered those particular clubs."

• There is a world of clay pipes — you know, the kind you see the old Irishmen smoke in "The Quiet Man." Hurdzan found one, with crossed golf clubs, in a flea market in Columbus, priced at \$15. He bought it and later discovered it's worth about \$2,100 because the end isn't broken.

• Then there's the rare Braille Book for Golf, printed 1935.

• The greatest treasure of all is a Rembrandt print, *The Cloven Player*, sometimes called *The Golf Player*. Circa 1660, it is a second-state printing of a man golfing.

Club-fitting and teaching devices, scores of wood-shafted clubs ("I would buy any wood-shafted club for \$10. I've got thousands of clubs I've bought for \$5."), club buttons dating to the 1700s, an array of unique clubs — Hurdzan has them all.

"Among new items, I usually look for something that's not going to be on the market long — that I know is weird, or so ridiculous it won't be around long," he said, "like the putter with a level on it, which you can hide with a shutter. How many of those will sell? Not many. But my son 50 years from now will have an oddity."

On the one hand, Hurdzan said, "I've overdone it here. I collect everything. There isn't anything on the market that I wouldn't try to get some of." But on the other hand, "I get dupes to trade, but I never sell anything."

Hurdzan laments that golf collecting has become a business, and, today it is "buyer beware."

"A lot of people now are in it for the money, unfortunately," he said. "When I started, it was just collectors. And it was inexpensive. You could amass these things. A book like this that I bought for \$50 is now \$600 or \$700. And, not only is it a business, but there are forgeries. You have to be very careful."

His advice for collectors beginning today? "You have to decide: Are you collecting as an investment, or for something that you love. If it's for something you love, pick what you like — if it's books, stick with books. Then isolate yourself to instruction books, architecture books, travel books, whatever."

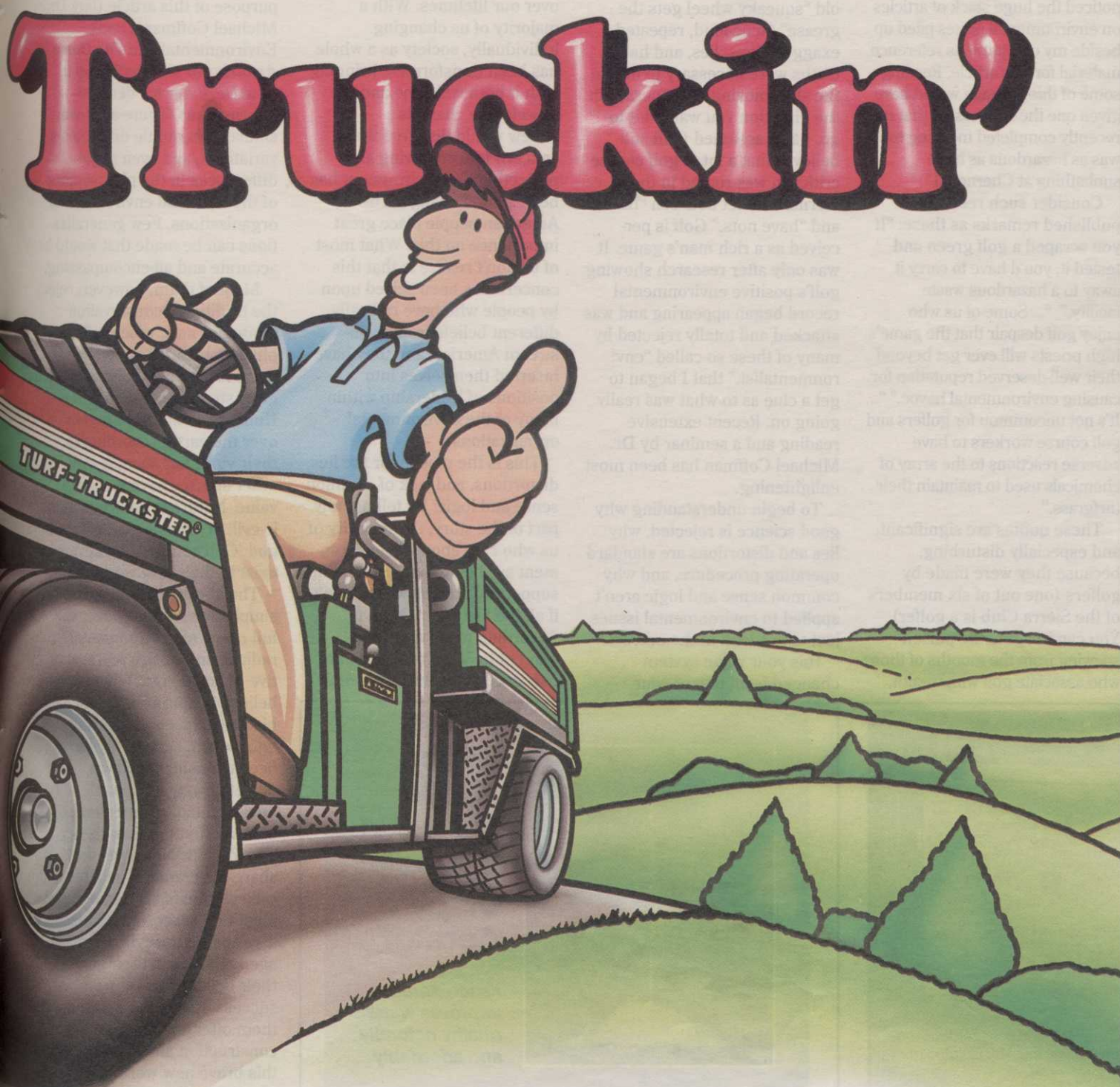
Other advice:

• Least expensively, a person can collect bag tags, pencils, tees, scorecards, balls, glassware.

• "I try to get the patterns to the golf clubs."

• "When I started out, if I could buy two second editions versus one first edition, I would buy the second editions. In retrospect, I should have bought the first editions."

• Join the Golf Collectors Society, which has regional and national meetings. "There are tables and tables of things for sale or trade. They have regional meetings as well."



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