

## Army wins Presidio battle

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — The Army appears to have outflanked the National Park Service in the battle for Presidio Golf Course control.

Fighting a delaying action to retain the precious ground over which it has enjoyed exclusive control for nearly a century, the Army seized upon a tactical error to press its mastery of the terrain.

The Park Service knew for five years it was scheduled to inherit the Presidio as the Pentagon swung its budget-slashing sword. Yet it had neither hired its own operator nor sought bids for one.

The Army said it needed a source of money to pay for its base social programs. The Park Service, facing Congressional heat for the estimated \$38 million price tag to annually operate the Presidio, sees the course as a \$1.6 million profit center.

The Park Service has the option of taking over the course in 1999, but would have to pay the Army for part of the cost of a new course irrigation system. And the Park Service may press for an estimated \$350 million in rehabilitation projects for buildings.

Congress understandably would not be pleased. The Presidio Golf Club is an invita-

tion-only organization of 305 members who play the course even if not members of the military.

The club gets 20,000 rounds of golf a year for its members in exchange for helping to pay for the course. The military gets the other 38,000 rounds.

Holding the Presidio GC high ground comes at extremely low cost — unlimited use for Army personnel for as little as \$18 a month.

## Seaside plans to take control of Fort Ord layouts

SEASIDE, Calif. — This city and the Army are huddling over Seaside's proposal to assume operation of Fort Ord golf courses through a three-year interim lease.

The Army has put a \$1 million price tag on the courses, which are deteriorating because they are in a state of transition, said City Manager Tim Brown.

Brown said the city considers future development around the golf courses more important than the courses themselves.

Brown said the city wants fees collected for use of Fort Ord golf courses kept separate from other tax revenues that are to be shared among the entities. The other revenues — property, sales, gasoline and other taxes — are to be used for rebuilding the post's infrastructure, including roads and utilities.

### TENN. INSECTICIDE PROGRAM HELPS EASE SKUNK PROBLEM

VALPARAISO, Tenn. — Skunks that last year did much damage at Forest Park Golf Course now are close to being skunked by consultant Jim Cavanaugh. A fairway dose of insecticide in the spring killed grubs and destroyed a major food source. Urban construction is blamed for the skunk problem.

## Calif. city fast becoming a golfer's paradise

PASO ROBLES, Calif. — Paso Robles is coming to the fore as a golf center. Developer Jack Munari has requested that the City Council support the development and construction of an 18-hole public golf course on the 884-acre Santa Ysabel Ranch along South River Road south of the city.

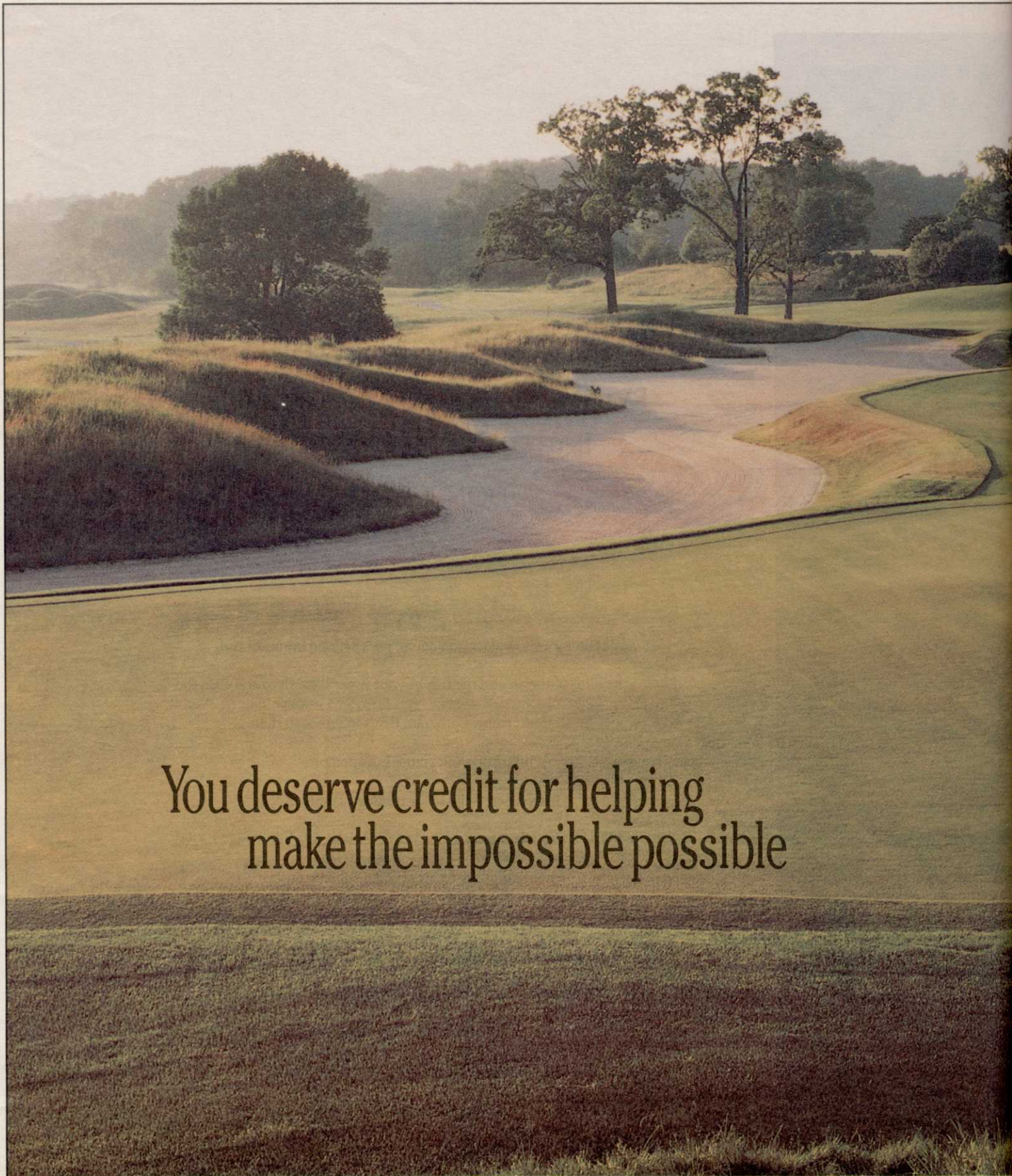
Owners of the Hunter Ranch Golf Course on Highway 465 East earlier asked the council to support annexation of more than 200 acres for the golf course, 250 acres of open space, and 400 acres for home sites.

Munari would sign an annexation agreement

ensuring that the golf course would be developed before houses are built. The houses make the golf courses and resort economically feasible for the developer.

There could be four 18-hole golf courses within the city limits by the turn of the century if other planned developments are completed, according to city officials.

Chalk Mountain Golf Course operator Rudy Duran has proposed a new 18-hole golf course near the Paso Robles Airport, and the City Council is negotiating for the purchase of Munari's Paso Robles Golf and Country Club.



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