

## BRIEFS



## GULL LAKE ADDING 5TH COURSE

GULL LAKE VIEW, Mich. — Construction of the newest 18-hole design at Gull Lake View Golf Club has begun. It is expected to open for play by mid-1995. It will have a 3-3-3 format — with holes evenly split between par 3s, par 4s and par 5s. It will average 7,500 square feet of greens, and will measure between 6,800 and 6,900 yards from championship tees and about 6,400 from regular markers. Hazards will include three ponds and 50 sand traps. The new course will be Gull Lake's fifth.

## COMMONWEALTH NATIONAL HONORED

HORSHAM, Pa. — Arnold Palmer-designed Commonwealth National Country Club has been given an Outstanding Land Development Award from the Montgomery County Planning Commission for environmentally sensitive design and for protecting and preserving the existing natural features on the property. The award was presented to superintendent Larry Schlippert. The course opened for play in 1990.

## TEXTRON PROMOTES MUNOZ

ATLANTA, Ga. — Ramon Munoz has been promoted to vice president of the Golf Course Finance Division at Textron Financial Corp. (TFC) a subsidiary of Textron, Inc. Munoz will maintain and continue to expand TFC's growing golf course portfolio, now approaching \$200,000,000 in volume. Munoz has been with the Golf Course Finance Division of TFC since shortly after its inception in 1990. Prior to joining TFC, he worked in golf and real estate development in the New England area.

## UTAH DEVELOPMENT UNDERWAY

DRAPER, Utah — David Graham and Gary Panks are designing an 18-hole course for the new South Mountain Project here, 18 miles southeast of Salt Lake City. South Mountain has 1,517 acres situated in the foothills of the Wasatch Range. The project is zoned for 1,700 residential units, and construction on the infrastructure began in July. EDAW-HRV, based in Denver, is overseeing the land plan and landscape architecture. The developers are Dee Christiansen and Terry Diehl of South Mountain.

## FOSTER GROWS, MOVES

ST. LOUIS — Since opening an office here in the spring, architect Keith Foster has secured four design projects in Colorado, Texas and Kentucky. So the firm is moving into a larger office at 10411 Clayton Road, Suite A-14, St. Louis, Missouri 63131; phone 314-997-7373. Art Schaupter, associate, Midwest projects, and Lee Hetrick, associate public relations and marketing, will be moving from Phoenix to St. Louis.

## Hall-of-Famer Mann marks minority market

Golfing great forms female-led turnkey development team

By MARK LESLIE

**H**OUSTON — Her title was once LPGA Touring Pro. But now Carol Mann is taking aim on a new moniker: Golf Business Entrepreneur.

With one swift step, Hall of Famer Mann has become a pioneer among women, establishing a female-owned, female-operated golf development turnkey business.

Stepping out from its position as a "minority company," Carol Mann Golf Services is on a mission to give ordinary golfers, women, seniors, juniors and the physically disabled "the opportunity to enjoy this game as much as anyone" through design and construction "that addresses the needs of all golfers."

It is offering clients the total development package — from feasibility



Carol Mann can still coax in a putt.

studies to course and facility design and club management.

"I see myself as more than the Tour pro. I am changing my profile," Mann said from her headquarters here. "My goal in forming this company is for it to be for the rest of my life."

The new company is separate from Carol Mann Inc., which has consulting, appearance and publishing divisions.

"The appearances and the consulting sometimes are all dependent upon your profile. And it is a natural waning that happens to everyone unless you have the venue of competitive athletics. I haven't competed in about 13 years," said Mann, who won 38 LPGA tournaments during a remarkable 21-year career.

Mann cited two driving forces to starting her new business — creating playable courses for all players, and competition as a minority business in a relatively "open field."

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## Vintage Group takes 'downtown' idea on the road

By MARK LESLIE

CHICAGO — With one downtown golf course and practice center barely under its belt, Vintage Group, USA Ltd. has unveiled plans to take the concept to a half dozen other cities.

"Our game plan," said Vintage Group President Charles Tourtellotte from Illinois Golf Center, "is to either do public or institutional financing for \$25 million, initially. Because we've had such good visibility and success with this project, we will take this concept on the road, so to speak."

Initial target is to finance six projects with \$25M

That \$25 million will finance six facilities like the Illinois Golf Center. The Chicago facility, which opened to the public Aug. 21 — and is bounded by Randolph Street and Lake Shore, Columbus and Wacker drives — features a nine-hole, par-3 track consisting of famous holes by Pete and/or Perry Dye. The McGetrick Hurter Learning Center, a 92-tee practice area, a putting and chipping green, and fully equipped

clubhouse at 221 North Columbus Drive fill out the center. It is open until late evening or midnight every day and provides nearby practice opportunities to tens of thousands of golfers who work in the city.

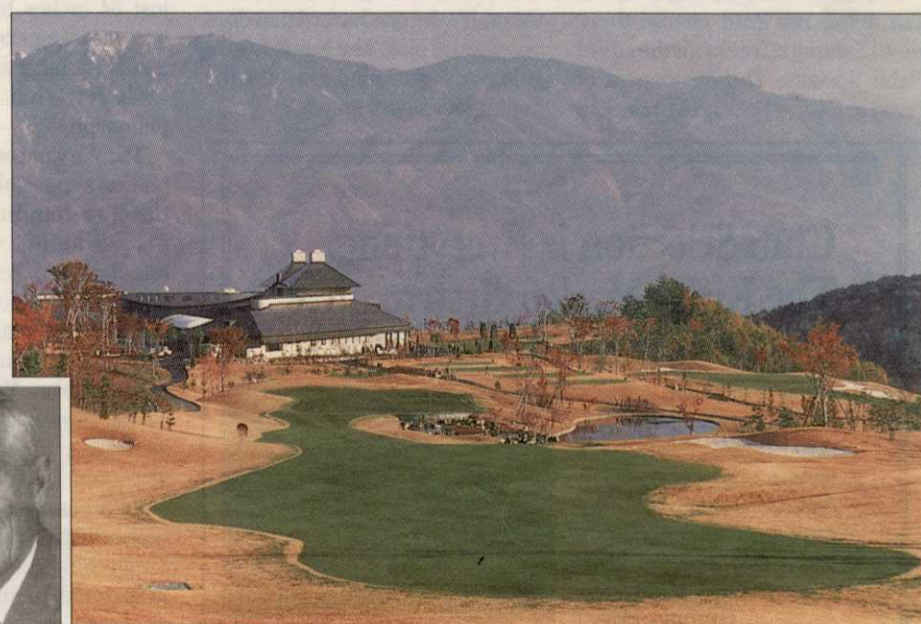
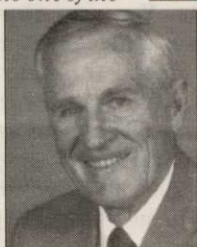
Vintage Group has property in San Diego under contract and is considering sites in New York City, Seattle and San Francisco's East Bay area, Tourtellotte said.

He expects ground to be broken on the San Diego property before the end of the year and the first six facilities to be underway within 24 months.

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## Robinson's career a fountain of success

*A University of Southern California graduate and a land planner by training, Ted Robinson, 71, has evolved into one of the best-known golf course architects in the country. He began designing nine-hole courses as part of master-planned communities in the 1960s. Vandenberg Country Club (CC) in Lomboc, Calif., was his first 18-hole, regulation-length layout. Over the past 30 years, the California native has designed 140 golf facilities throughout the Western United States and Pacific Basin. He is particularly known for the waterscapes that grace many of his layouts. Robinson is a past president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects and a member of the American Institute of Planners. His son, Ted Jr., joined the Dana Point, Calif.-based firm 2-1/2 years ago.*



The 18th hole at Akeno Golf Club in Japan, designed by Ted Robinson, above left.

He won the national seniors championship in the 70-to-80 bracket 30 years ago. He shot his age in the tournament when he was 71. I started as a land planner for residential developers and my father helped lay out golf courses as part of the master plans.

The other was Johnny Dawson. He was a well-known golfer and a major developer in Palm Springs. It took me 12 to 13 years to transition from a land planner to a golf course architect and he was very helpful.

GCN: What course legitimized you as a golf course architect?

TR: Sahalee Country Club in Seattle [opened in 1969] put me over the top. It was

a low-budget course, but it's been very well rated and will host the 1998 PGA Championship.

GCN: Do you have a favorite course you designed?

TR: That's like asking if one of your children is your favorite. Sahalee gave me some prestige and recognition. I got to design the equestrian center [site of a 1984 Olympic event] and course at Fairbanks Ranch CC [in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.]. That was a lot of fun. And I got to work with Greg Norman at The Experience at Koele. But they've all been fun.

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