

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**WILMINGTON, Ill.** — Golfers who land in the traps at the new 18-hole Cinder Ridge Golf Course north of here will find their balls resting on something different: coal cinders. George Kappos, a Chicagoland restaurateur who developed the 230-acre course, replaced the traditional sand traps with coal cinders. Assistant pro Brian Tulk said cinders are actually softer than sand and play similarly, but do not cause as much wear on golf clubs.

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** — Two long-closed holes at the 27-hole Tartan Park course at 3M Co.'s Lake Elmo recreational facility have reopened. The two holes were flooded repeatedly in the mid-1970s and were closed. Tartan Park has three nines: Red, White and Blue.

**ANAHEIM, Calif.** — The city has swapped 143 gas-operated golf cars at its two city-owned golf courses for electric cars. Gas-powered cars will be outlawed in California by 1997. The battery-powered cars go about three rounds between charges. Anaheim's Hills and H. G. "Dad" Miller courses host about 200,000 rounds of golf annually.

**SARDIS, Miss.** — North Mississippi's Sardis Reservoir is widely known for its excellent bass fishing. Its reputation may soon expand to include fine golf. Construction is underway at the new \$3.4 million 27-hole public golf facility (regulation 18-hole course, 9-hole par-3 course, driving range) at John Kyle State Park. Golf course construction and park renovations are part of a \$39 million state package to improve state parks.

**VAIL, Colo.** — Construction is underway on Cordillera's Valley Club Golf Course, a par-72 course scheduled to open in spring 1997. Designed by Tom Fazio, the course is located in the Cordillera Valley Club community.

## White House putting green restored to former glory

By MARK LESLIE

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The Eisenhower putting green. Ike built it, some fellow named Haldeman had it bulldozed when perhaps he needed to express some control during the uncontrollable Watergate months, and two decades later another man in another party has had it restored.

The legacy of the Eisenhower green, built on White House grounds when Ike was president in the 1950s, was renewed last September at a dinner celebrating the President's Cup. It was then, during a discussion with U.S. Golf Association (USGA) President Reg Murphy and course architect Robert Trent Jones Jr., that President Bill Clinton agreed that this centennial of the USGA would be the perfect time to restore Ike's practice green.

*'It turned out that while Nixon was away for a weekend, H.R. Haldeman had it removed.'*

— Robert Trent Jones II

It became a project of the people.

When temperatures warmed this spring Jones got the job done. Shaper Doug Ingram of Jones' Greenscape construction firm spent a week in late April and early May contouring the tiny 1,500-square-foot surface and installing the irrigation. Indianapolis irrigation consultant Tony Altum of A.S. Altum Irrigation Design designed the irrigation system. Toro Irrigation donated the system and mow-

ing equipment. Summit-Hall and Patton sod farms gave the turf. Lofts Seed Co.'s Dr. Rich Hurley consulted on the project, and Par Aide gave the flag and cups.

USGA Green Section Mid-Atlantic Region Director Stanley Zontek and Glenn Smickley, superintendent at nearby Robert Trent Jones Golf Course in Manassas, Va., have provided the agronomic expertise, and the Jones Course will loan any specialty equipment for aeration or other jobs necessary in the once-a-year program.

Saying the restoration project doesn't have to do with presidents or political parties but with the game of golf, Jones said: "The White House is the peoples' house. It has trees planted by Andrew Jackson. It has the cuttings from a tree planted by John Quincy Adams. The

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## ROUGH OUTLINE

The par-5 11th hole takes shape at the Sanctuary, an ultra-exclusive, 18-hole layout designed by Global Golf Design (GGD) outside Castle Rock, Colo. Developed by Dave Liniger, founder of RE/MAX Real Estate, the Sanctuary will be seeded Sept. 15, and should be ready for play next summer. Niebur Golf is handling course construction. In other GGD news, Bill Howard has joined the design staff. A graduate of Colorado State with degrees in landscape architecture and fine arts, Howard is working on-site at the Sanctuary.

## Watson assails short course 'lip service'

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** — Long-time PGA star Tom Watson said more mini-, four- and five-hole golf courses should be built in the United States to encourage and develop junior golf. The demise of caddie programs and the increasing costs to play 18 holes are keeping U.S. youngsters from learning and playing the game, he said.

"Mini-courses" are happening in Kansas City. A three-hole course opened last month at Ironhorse Golf Club in Leawood. A four-hole course, sponsored by the Kansas City Golf Foundation, is planned for the Blue River Golf Academy in Swope Park.

"There are no places for kids to play," Watson said at a junior golf clinic at Blue River attended by 800 youngsters. "I've seen many times in Scotland and Ireland where they've set up small parks with four or five tiny greens, no bunkers, just a place for people learning the game to hit a ball to a target and putt the ball in a hole."

"This is the most important thing we can do for golf," Watson told the *Kansas*

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# PALMER ACQUIRES FIRST COURSE IN NORTHEAST

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Arnold Palmer Golf Management Company has purchased Brierwood Country Club in Buffalo, N.Y. Brierwood is the first of several planned acquisitions in the Northeast. Brierwood is considered one of the most challenging courses in western New York and the focal point of a \$150 million, master-planned community being developed by the E. F. Burke Company. It includes an 18-hole course and 84,000-square-foot clubhouse.

# Kentucky strip mine reclaimed for golf course

JENKINS, Ky. — When a coal company turned a local country club into a strip mine, most area residents thought that was the end of golf at the site, despite promises that a golf course would eventually be built.

Two years later, a new \$1.5 million nine-hole public golf course has indeed emerged from the mining rubble. Raven Rock Golf Course, one of the few public-access courses in Eastern Kentucky, opened in late spring thanks to the efforts of the Pike-Letcher Land Co.

Parts of the strip mine were incorporated into the design. Golf carts travel up the side of

an old hollow fill, a valley where bulldozers once dumped soil disturbed by mining. Old silt ponds which once collected muddy water are now water hazards.

Raven Rock is apparently only the second golf course built on a former strip mine. As a general rule, coal companies reclaim sites by sowing grass for pasture land. This process is far less expensive than building a golf course at the site.

In Eastern Kentucky, once-mined areas have also been converted into airports and residential housing developments.

# Eisenhower

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grounds themselves were designed originally by Thomas Jefferson, and redesigned by the Olmstead brothers. They maintain this as a curator does a museum. It's a living museum, not just a building. It's the only head of state's home in the world that the people go through every day.

"It has a jogging track, a tennis court, a children's garden, a swimming pool, bowling alleys, all sorts of different sports that Americans enjoy. So why shouldn't it have a putting green if presidents play golf?"

The fact some presidents don't golf, and others who do haven't remained in office terribly long, explains the troubled past of the Eisenhower green. Of course, Ike was an avid golfer, had it built and kept it. "It remained in place during Kennedy's time and Kennedy used it a bit," Jones said. "[Lyndon Baines] Johnson didn't use it. When [Richard] Nixon came into office, for some reason around 1972 the green was bulldozed. The story goes that David and Julie Eisenhower, during a visit, went out to putt on the green and it was gone. It turned out that while Nixon was away for a weekend H.R. Haldemann had it removed.

"Ford wanted to restore it, but he had too short a time [in office]. My father [Robert Trent Jones Sr.], brother [Rees] and I went by there one afternoon to look at it and help him in 1975. But it didn't come to pass. Carter was a tennis player; he didn't care. Reagan was noncommittal; he dabbled in golf for political reasons. Bush wanted to restore it, but instead put in a plastic miniature golf putting surface, which is there but not in the same location."

Along came Clinton and, Jones said, therein lies "the wonderful news that the White House is honoring the game of golf during its centennial year by restoring the Eisenhower putting green. The game is flourishing and our president acknowledges it."

Jones and crew restored the green as faithfully as possible, using old pictures. "With one exception," Jones said, explaining that Clinton opted not to include the small bunker that once sat next to the green.

"Our assistance from the USGA and Glenn Smickley has been spectacular," said White House Chief Usher Gary Walters, under whose charge the National Park Service cares for the grounds. "Glenn is giving us a real lesson, donating his time and expertise in advising and counseling us how to maintain, manicure and grow this green."

"It's like taking care of a baby in diapers," said Groundkeeper Manager Dale Haney. Haney's immediate superior, Executive Grounds Superintendent Irv Williams, might be able to relate to Haney's feelings. Williams worked at the White House when Ike had the green built. History, indeed, has repeated itself.

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