

BRIEFS

**TURLOCK GREENS REMODELED**

TURLOCK, Calif. — Remodeling of the greens has begun at Turlock Golf & Country Club under the design supervision of architect Andy Raugust. The back nine were scheduled to be completed by late February and ready for play in early spring. The club is using washed sod on the new USGA greens. Raugust will also remodel the front nine and that construction is scheduled for the fall.

BARBARON BUILDING PRACTICE FACILITY

OCALA, Fla. — Barbaron, Inc. of Crystal River has been selected to construct the new practice facility at Oak Run Country Club here. The facility will include a driving range with target greens and bunkering and will include chipping and putting areas and practice bunkers. Oak Run is owned by Decca Development & Construction Corp. of America.

MAKI BUSY ON TWO FRONTS

COLUMBUS, Ga. — Construction is underway on an 18-hole high-end daily-fee golf course here, serving as a cornerstone of a residential housing development. Fox Chase Plantation is the creation of developer James F. Day, while the course is being built by Bilberry Golf and designed by Lisa Maki of Golf Design Services International. The par-72 course will measure 7,100 from the back tees, Maki said. Meanwhile, Maki expects to begin work in April on Eagles Nest in Sacramento, Calif., south of the U.S. Air Force's Mather Field which closed last fall. Developed by the Takehara family of Japan, it will be an 18-hole stand-alone public facility, she said.

CHICAGO'S MR. GOLF HONORED

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Joe Jemsek, an octogenarian who pioneered public golf in Chicago and is known in that area as Mr. Golf, will be presented the William D. Richardson Award from the Golf Writers Association of America. The award is given for consistent outstanding contributions to golf. Jemsek owns and operates eight public courses in Chicago. Jemsek is a past Professional Golfer of the Year, chosen by the PGA of America, and has been inducted into the Chicago Sports Hall of Fame. The National Golf Foundation presented him its Herb Graffis Award in 1977 and his family its Jack Nicklaus Family Golf Award in 1991.



Joe Jemsek

Caribbean sings siren song

By PETER BLAIS

Caribbean golf resort/residential development is warming again after a relatively long cold spell, according to golf industry experts working the area.

Hurricane Hugo devastated certain islands in the late 1980s, denting the Caribbean's reputation as a safe and peaceful retreat, according to Ralph Stewart Bowden, a Virginia real estate counselor who has thoroughly researched the Caribbean market.

Just as the islands were recovering from that natural disaster, a financial calamity struck in the form of a worldwide recession. The financial downturn struck particularly hard and long at the northeast United States, historically the main source of Caribbean tourists and second-home buyers, Bowden noted.

Certain islands and island groups are recovering faster than others and looking at golf to help lead the way. Barbados and the Bahamas are two good examples.

Here's a look at the different regions and how golf is developing in those areas.

NETHERLAND ANTILLES/LESSER ANTILLES/WINDWARD ISLANDS

The real estate market has been relatively soft, but golf development fairly strong in the past year in these southernmost islands.

"There hasn't been much in the way of quality golf in the Caribbean, until recently" said architect Steve Schroeder of Robert Trent Jones II International. Jones designed Hyatt-operated Tierra del Sol, Aruba's first 18-

Continued on page 46

Mexican woes only slow golf

By PETER BLAIS

Mexico's financial crisis may slow but certainly won't stop golf development there, according to industry experts working the area.

"The recent devaluation of the peso has brought most projects to a halt. That will continue until things settle out," said Joe Finger, a Texas-based course designer with five Mexican projects recently opened or planned.

"In the long term, the devaluation won't affect development that much. We had a similar devaluation 15 years ago and work eventually resumed."

The government devalued the

Continued on page 44



The 4th hole at Joe Finger-designed Cabo Real

**Joe Finger still keeping a hand on design business**

QA &A

Joe Finger, 76, is a technologist at heart. Born in Texas, he obtained a bachelor's degree in engineering from Rice University and a master's from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He worked in the oil refining, plastic manufacturing and dairy businesses before designing his first course, a nine-hole addition to Houston's Westwood Country Club (CC),

back in 1956. Since then, he has designed and remodeled courses throughout the United States and notably Mexico [see story above]. The engineer's attention to detail demonstrated itself in his invention of the Percolometer, a device used for on-the-job control of seed-bed mixtures for greens. Priding himself on getting projects in on time and on budget, he also wrote one of the first books dealing with the costs of course design, "The Business End of Building or Rebuilding a Golf Course," in 1973

Golf Course News: You supposedly retired from active design work in 1990. What have you been doing since?

Joe Finger: Working my rear end off. I've built two courses in Mexico, have two more on the drawing board and one up in the air. We remodeled the greens at Cedar Ridge in Tulsa [Okla.] and Colonial Country Club in Memphis [Tenn.] We're doing a long-range plan for Pleasant Valley CC in Little Rock [Ark.], which we built for Winthrop Rockefeller 27 years ago. We also did consulting work on the Napa Valley (Calif.) CC clubhouse. I'm doing a lot of gardening and orcharding at home and working for the club [River Hill]. Byron Nelson and I built River Hill back in 1974 and we both have homes

Continued on page 52

UNEARTHED!**Mackenzie's mysterious manuscript**

By TERRY BUCHEN

BOULDER, Colo. — Raymund Haddock, the step-grandson of Dr. Alister Mackenzie, is a successful insurance agent here. Little did he know that his life was going to change dramatically with the discovery of an item stored for years in a cedar chest in his home.

The story begins in 1978 when course architect Geoffrey S. Cornish and writer Ron Whitten were researching their book, "The Golf Course," and discovered in Dr. Mackenzie's obituary that he had written a manuscript shortly before his death but that it had never been published. Whitten called Charles Scribner and Sons in New York, inquired about the unpublished work and was told it had "long since been destroyed!" An unfortunate dead-end, to say the least.

In 1982 Robert Trent Jones Sr. told Whitten he had a typed version of the lost manuscript which he had given to the legendary Red Hoffman. Whitten called Hoffman, who insisted that he no longer had the manuscript and had returned it to Trent Jones. But Jones insisted that Hoffman still had it, and it was never to be seen again. Another dead-end.

Fast-forward 10 years to 1992. The Mackenzie Cup was being played between four 10-man teams representing Cypress Point, Meadow Club, Green Hills, Pasatiempo, The Valley Club and Crystal Downs. At a gathering in the garden of Mackenzie's house along the 6th fairway at Pasatiempo, Whitten told the golfers that 60 years later it was difficult to research Mackenzie. In particular, he was

Continued on page 50



Dr. Alister Mackenzie

Photo courtesy of "The Spirit of St. Andrews"

Q&A: Finger not 'going nuts'

Continued from page 39

here. A reporter once asked Byron if there was just one course he could play for the rest of his life, what would it be. He said River Hills.

GCN: How did you get involved with that first nine-hole design at Westwood in 1956?

JF: My father designed the clubhouse at Westwood, which got him a free membership. I basically grew up out there. I was the club champ in 1956, which meant I was the club's construction chairman. I had playfully designed golf holes since high school, but that didn't mean I knew anything. I had just resigned from the chemical manufacturing company and I was on a year sabbatical. I also had a dairy farm and knew something about soils, dam building, grasses and fertilizers. We hired Ralph Plummer to design the new nine and I offered to do the engineering work. Ralph was busy working on Shady Oaks with Robert Trent Jones in Fort Worth during the week and came down to Houston weekends to show us how to build greens. Originally I had just planned to work on Westwood for a couple of years. But Ralph recommended I get into it full time.

"You're a good golfer, an engineer and you've got a knack for design," he said. "Why don't you become a golf course architect?" I was going to go back into plastics. In fact, I had already bought a plastics extruder. But golf course architecture was so much fun, I sold the extruder to Mexico and settled down to a life of catching planes, living out of a suitcase and working at home on weekends.

GCN: What are your favorite courses you've designed?

JF: The Championship Course at the Concord Hotel in Kaimesha Lake, N.Y., [with Jimmy Demaret] is the best resort course I ever built. We were told to build the toughest course we could, and we did. Tommy Bolt had the lowest 36-hole total ever there at 4-under.

River Hills is the best retirement course. It's not easy. It can hold its own with any course from the back tees. The Texas Golf Association holds a tournament here every year and they don't tear it up.

Cedar Ridge is a very underrated course. They've had qualifying tournaments for the U.S. Open there and at [nearby and better-known] Southern Hills Country Club. The average score was a stroke higher at Cedar Ridge.

GCN: Who is your favorite architect?

JF: The public believes the best architects are the ones who can make the most spectacular-looking golf course, often with grotesque land forms. There is more to it. Certainly the ability

to conceive of and put on paper beautiful golf holes is part of being a good architect. But putting out accurate working drawings and adequate specifications, plus personal supervision to ensure the final product, is what a really fine golf course architect should do. Keeping the design natural, while creating interesting land forms and challenging golf shots should be the goal.

I have always been an admirer of Donald Ross' works, particularly what he was able to do with-

out modern equipment. Ross created interesting golf course situations without going nuts. River Oaks Country Club in Houston is a Donald Ross course that I helped remodel. It's been mentioned in lists of top 10 Texas courses for many years.

Among contemporary architects, I believe my old firm meets all the criteria. Rees Jones is also doing excellent work.

GCN: What is the major change you've seen in course design over the past 40 years?

JF: It's a temporary change that is coming to an end — the trend to the spectacular. Some

architects actually seem to want to defy nature and replace it with something else. This reflects the willingness of developers to pay much more for building a course than 20 years ago. And much more for maintaining the sharp slopes. Eventually the cost of maintenance falls on the membership, or home owners, or the third owners of the hotels. Then they long for the more natural and maintainable look.

Good architects realize trees, hazards and waterfalls can beautify a course and challenge a golfer without adding significantly to the maintenance cost.

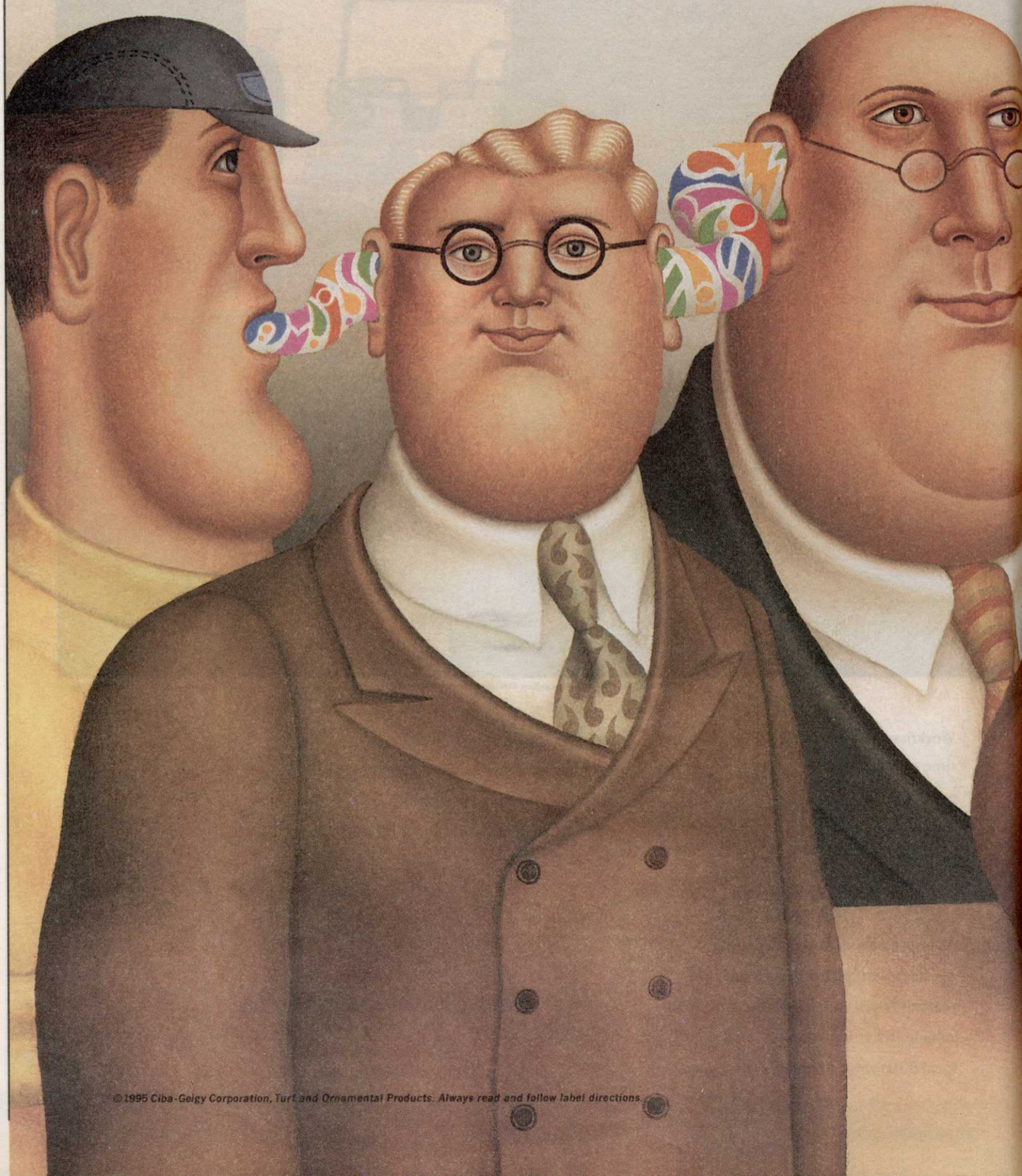
But the public still seems to want the frills. It's like those big wings on cars 40 years ago. You had to have them while they were hot. But they disappeared when the automobile boom ended. The high-maintenance frills on new golf courses will disappear, too, when the development boom ends.

GCN: When do you think the boom in new course development will slow?

JF: I've always been a financial pessimist. I've predicted this growth would stop every year for the past five years. I haven't

Continued on next page

OTHER COMPANIES MERELY TOLERATE YOUR SUGGESTIONS. WE



Sadlon hangs shingle as consultant

By HAL PHILLIPS

UNION, N.J. — Former United States Golf Association (USGA) Environmental Specialist Nancy Sadlon, one of the driving forces behind creation of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, has formed her own environmental consulting firm here.

The Golf Division at Sadlon Environmental will specialize in environmental regulations and requirements associated with development of new courses in addition to responsible, environmentally sensitive course management at existing clubs.

"I hope to help new courses evaluate

what they have and which regulations they need to pay attention to," said Sadlon. "I can provide guidance to municipalities as to the balance between development and environmental concerns. I feel I can help cities and towns set up guidelines for golf development..."

Sadlon said her services are also suited to existing courses seeking to improve their management practices.

"Golf courses can use better advice, better fitted to the course and its particular needs," she said. "I've been working with one golf course here in New Jersey to determine whether it has wetlands on

the site. [The owner] wants to add nine new holes, and he wants to know where he stands."

Sadlon Environmental will focus on guiding municipalities through the regulatory maze associated with construction, including preparation of generic environmental impact statements and request-for-proposal documents. However, Sadlon's Golf Division is also prepared to provide assistance with regard to: land development analysis regarding environmental constraints; wetland regulation; pond management and restoration; habitat enhancement; and landscape architecture.

Sadlon helped create the Audubon Co-



Nancy Sadlon

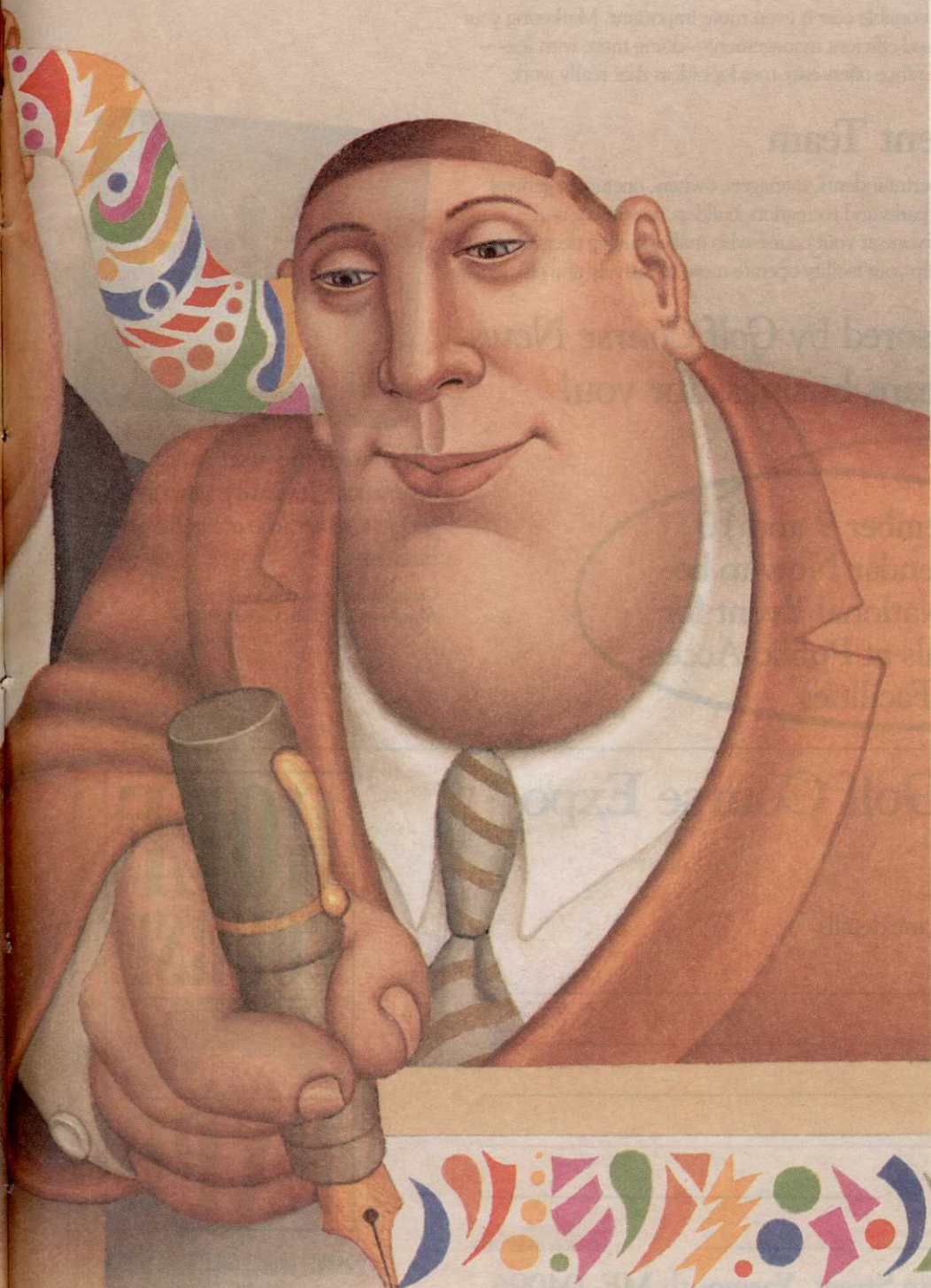
operative Sanctuary Program (ACSP), with help from the Audubon Society of New York State, and plans to continue preaching its gospel. (See stories, pages 1 and 70).

However, officials at ACSP and those at various local Audubon chapters around the country have very different

views of the golf course habitat.

"That's where New York Audubon sets itself apart — it supports new golf development. I continue to promote the program because I think it's a good program. If you can get the support of your local Audubon, go right ahead. The point is conservation."

TURN THEM INTO SOME OF OUR BEST IDEAS.



Your words are not falling on deaf ears.

We know you feel more pressure every year to use product packaging that minimizes worker exposure and container disposal problems.

That feedback shapes the decisions we make. Like introducing the 15-gallon electronic turfPak®. And becoming the only company whose major products are all available in closed delivery systems.

Each system limits worker exposure, eliminates container disposal, and saves you money.

It's the nature of Ciba to let our research be guided by the people who benefit from it the most. Our customers.

That's why we spend so much time keeping up with your needs. While other companies just try to keep up with us.



Q&A: Joe Finger

Continued from previous page

been right yet. I don't see how we can continue to develop 350 to 400 courses a year.

The demand for less-expensive courses, daily-fee and municipal, should remain strong as medium- and lower-income groups swell the ranks of golfers and watch the game on television.

The residential development market for courses will depend on the housing market, which depends on interest rates and taxes. If the Republicans succeed in cutting taxes, the market should stay up awhile longer. But if taxes keep going up, it makes it that much tougher for people to buy homes.

GCN: What is your relationship with Kenneth Dye and Baxter Spann? What do you think of their work?

JF: Except for occasional engineering and legal consultation, I am "President Emeritus in Consultation."

Ken Dye built Pinon Hills in Farmington, which *Golf Digest* rated No. 1 in value. He brought that in at \$2 million, which was within 1 percent of budget. Now that's architecture. If Ken learns to soften his greens designs a bit, he will soon be the No. 1 architect in the United States, maybe even internationally.

Baxter complements Ken with softer designs and more attention to certain business aspects. Baxter worked on a course near the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport called Timmarron, which has been a great success.

They balance each other very well. You're going to hear a lot more from them.

GCN: What's your favorite club in your golf bag?

JF: I hate them all. Just as I think I'm going to finish with a 76 or 77, I skull a wedge and end up with an 81. My clubs and I have a mutual hate society.

Actually, with everything else I do, I only get the chance to play once a week. I've got a book coming out this fall called *Golf Course Architects and Other Unplayable Lies*. It should be fun. I just hope I don't get sued.

I enjoy my work and everything else I do. I see a new challenge every time I turn around.