

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**FRESNO, Calif.** — The long, sad decline at the Airways Golf Course may soon turn around. Earlier this fall, the city council voted 6-1 to enter into a 20-year agreement with Golf Corp. that includes plans for \$1.6 million in capital improvements for the run-down, neglected 9-hole course near the airport. If all goes as planned, there will be a new clubhouse by January. Plans call for new maintenance and cart buildings, an automated irrigation system, and renovation of all greens, tees and bunkers..

**PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.** — The Gary Player Group has moved to 3930 RCA Boulevard, Suite 3001, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. 33410. Its phone numbers remain unchanged: 407-624-0300; Fax: 407-624-0304.

**ROSS TOWNSHIP, Pa.** — The 18-hole Highland Country Club here in this suburb of Pittsburgh may have been sabotaged with weed killer that turned the tees and putting greens brown and closed the course for weeks. The club's grounds crew sprayed the tees and greens the morning of Aug. 2. A few days later, the sprayed areas turned brown. An analysis of the chemicals on the grass showed that weed killer had been used instead of the usual mixture of fertilizer and fungicide. Clubhouse manager Robert Duhon has filed a report with police.

**DANVILLE, Ind.** — Twin Bridges Golf Club is being developed by Heritage Golf Management, Inc., an Indianapolis-based development management and consulting company. Thomas H. Rodems, director of operations, has registered Twin Bridges to become part of The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Designed by Lohmann Golf Designs, Inc. of Marengo, Ill., it's expected to open in late fall of 1996.

**WRIGHT'S DEBUT ON THESE SHORES**

The Cliffs Valley golf course community in Travelers Rest, S.C., is site of the first U.S. course designed by CBS commentator Ben Wright (right). It opened Oct. 2. The opening of Cliffs Valley adds to The Cliffs Communities' portfolio, which also includes The Cliffs at Glassy and The Cliffs at Keowee here in South Carolina. The new Cliffs Valley golf course features a minimalist design, reminiscent of traditional American golf. By maintaining the beauty of the existing landscape and enhancing the course with 20,000 shrubs and 3,000 trees, Wright has created a course for the traditional "bump-and-run" game.



## No immediate future for long lost Tilly track

By HAL PHILLIPS

**JAMESTOWN, R.I.** — It appears the long since overgrown Beaver Tail Golf Links, the only known example of a seaside A.W. Tillinghast design, will remain dormant.

An effort to restore the 9-hole layout and add another nine, designed by Steve Smyers, has been thwarted by the presence of wetlands on the site, which sits on Jamestown Island between Newport and west coast of Narragansett Bay.

"We had trouble finding enough land that wasn't wetlands," said Stanley Abrams, head of Boston-based Senior Tour Development Co., which had an agreement to develop the parcel. "It wasn't a problem 50 years ago. But some cascading ponds, which were built in 1925 and abandoned in 1945, are now considered wetlands.

"We could no longer find 18 holes there. We ended up with a 14-hole golf course, and there isn't great demand for 14-hole golf courses."

Mel Lucas, an agronomist who has walked the site, agrees with Abrams' assessment:

"There are just so many things in there, all man-made and silted," said Lucas. "I'm sure through the right methods and means, they could've been rebuilt and made acceptable to all parties, including the DEM [Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management], golfers, architects, you name it. But in a number of places, these water features had been so mucked up over time, it was more a rodent haven than a nice, pristine wetland."

The Beaver Tail saga shows how much golf has changed over the course

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