

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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Beaver Tail, RIP?

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of 70 years. One thing remains constant, however: Beaver Tail occupies a stunning piece of land, nestled as it is on a corner of Jamestown Island with Narragansett Bay and Rhode Island Sound lapping against it. The original 18-hole course was opened for private play in 1926 — very private play. In fact, Tillinghast designed Beaver Tail for one man, owner Audley Clarke, on whose estate it was built.

Shortly after he christened the course, however, Clarke started leasing it to various management companies, who could never make it profitable. At that time, Jamestown Island was accessible only by ferry, and the Depression era didn't help matters.

Nine holes were eventually sold for housing and, when Clarke died in the 1940s, the situation went from bad to worse, culminating in the complete abandonment of the course operation in 1947.

There it stood, dormant and overgrown, until the early 1970s when a distant relative of Clarke's, Robert Munro Clarke, became intrigued by this course in hibernation. Clarke the younger is not a golfer and owns only 18 acres of the former course. Yet he decided the nine remaining holes could be restored to profitably serve the Newport summer crowd.

Then he discovered it was a Tillinghast original and lightbulbs went off in his head.

Steve Smyers was retained to design a new nine to accompany the Tillinghast nine, while Clarke set about securing enough land. He couldn't do it. As it turned out, neither could Abrams and Senior Tour Development.

Phillips comment

Continued from page 12

tion tourney reaches the man on the street, while the firm's backing of the GCSAA's Environmental Steward Award is designed to create positive vibes in the turf market. There is new leadership here, as well. Senior Vice President Michael Kely has succeeded Dick Stahl as head of the Professional Business Group.

• Then there's the new kid on the block: **United Horticultural Supply (UHS)**. This Aurora, Ore.-based firm has been around for a long time, but it has thrust itself into the fertilizer fray with its new temperature-sensitive, controlled-release product, ESN. "It's been going real well," reports Fertilizer Product Manager John Walther, "but we feel we still have a long way to go. Even the researchers need to better understand these technologies."

These aren't the only firms fighting for a piece of the fertilizer pie (a less-than-appetizing but apt metaphor for the growing importance fertilizer has in this, the heyday of IPM). There's **Lebanon Chemical Corp.**, which has taken the same route as Scott, supplementing its strong product line with sponsorship of the GCSAA's Environmental General Session. **Milorganite** has gone to new packaging, expanding its market outside the Midwest, where the Milwaukee-based firm has been extremely successful. **Vicksburg Chemical Corp.**, along with its sister company, Haifa Corp., are now the largest producers of potassium nitrate in the world, providing significant backing to its coated KNO_3 product, Multicote. When you add the strong and growing regional presences of **The Andersons** and **Terra Products**, it's hard to imagine anyone can earn the market share they seek.

Consolidation, anyone?

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