

Santa Fe project close to approval?

SANTA FE, N.M. — The city of Santa Fe is inching closer to approving a massive new public recreational complex that would include a nine-hole and an 18-hole course.

The courses would be part of a proposed \$17 million recreational complex to be built on a 1,200-acre site off Caja del Rio Road southwest of the city. The complex would also include baseball/softball fields and a soccer field, with

tennis and basketball courts and bicycling trails planned for the future.

The city has already put \$2 million into the project for design and construction of an irrigation pipeline to the site. Both courses would be irrigated with treated effluent. Yates Horgan Architects, a local architectural firm which also specializes in course design, has worked on the project.

Del. officials shut down renegade course owner

BEAR, Del. — Authorities here have moved in on Emile "Sonny" Walther and shut down his backyard, homemade 9-hole Cedar Run Golf Course for failure to follow county building codes.

In late July, a magistrate ruled that Walther violated New Castle County Code last year by converting his 60-acre Porter Road cow pasture into a nine-hole course without obtaining the necessary permits. The magistrate ordered the course closed until various improvements are made to its buildings and its per-

mits are in order. He also fined Walther \$1,624.

The shutdown was prompted by a complaint from another golf course developer in the area, Vandegrift Golf Course owner Bruce Standley, who was upset that Walther had not followed the procedures nor paid the costs associated with getting all the necessary permits. Walther and his supporters are upset with the decision and said it could lead to development of the property, which is an oasis of green space in an area many fear is being

overrun by developers.

Walther said he will try to salvage the course, which started as a simple one-hole hobby on land his family has owned since 1917. Over time he added another hole and then another. Neighbors began playing the course, and eventually he had nine holes and started charging modest greens fees.

As well as never getting the proper permits, Walther illegally converted a barn to a golf course office and cart garage. The course doesn't have a bathroom for the disabled, as law requires, or a paved parking lot.

Walther, a retired iron worker, did spend \$30,000 on legal fees and improvements last year and was granted a zoning exemption on the condition he would satisfy other requirements. He was not supposed to open the course this spring without county approval, but did so anyway.

Restored Sooner course reopens

OKLAHOMA CITY — Seminole businessman and golf enthusiast Jimmie Austin has helped give the University of Oklahoma (OU) the golf course it has long dreamed about.

Austin recently made a \$1 million contribution that put the university over the top in its effort to raise \$2.5 million for renovations on its 45-year-old layout, which was designed by Perry Maxwell. University regents voted to rename the course for Austin.

The renovated OU course opened in August with a 22-acre practice range, \$400,000 maintenance building and new soddings of Bermuda and Cato-Crenshaw bentgrasses. A varsity practice facility, named for former OU golfer Charlie Coe, is still on the drawing board.

Course architect Bob Cupp has handled the renovations and redesign. Because of the renovations, Oklahoma has already landed next year's NCAA men's regional golf championship.

Another spur for renovations was the recent completion of the Karsten Creek course, a show-piece facility near rival Oklahoma State University.

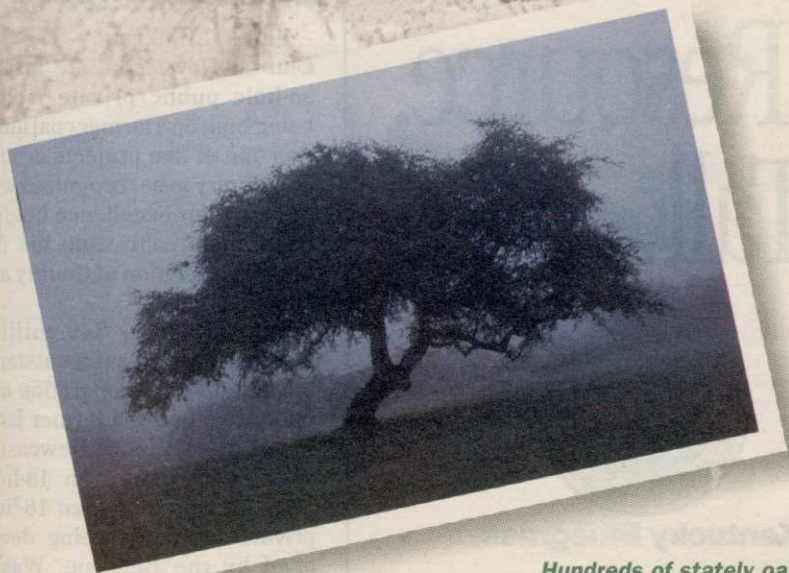
BOOTH LANDS N.H. PROJECT

SOMERSWORTH, N.H. — Architect William Bradley Booth has been chosen to design an 18-hole public course for the city of Somersworth. The proposed course will be built in the area of Lily Pond on a city-owned parcel of about 289 acres. The course is expected to take up between 125 and 150 acres. The city, with a population of about 11,500, has not announced what role it plans to play in building or operating the course. Construction is scheduled to start in 1997.



The Barton Creek Country Club includes three unique 18-hole experiences with courses designed by Tom Fazio, Arnold Palmer, and Ben Crenshaw/Bill Coore.

Barton Creek Country Club, home course of Ben Crenshaw, represents one of the top facilities in the golf-rich Austin, Texas, area.



Hundreds of stately oaks and wild deer are part of the natural beauty of the Barton Creek Country Club.

