

BRIEFS



**SINGLETON JOINS HNTB IN KC**

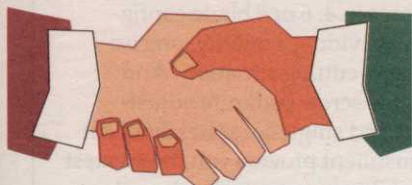
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — HNTB Corp. has appointed E. Crichton Singleton, FAIA, as vice president and director of architecture in the firm's office here. Singleton's distinguished career includes numerous architecture and urban design projects that have received national recognition. Singleton can be reached at 816-472-1201 or by email at [ksingleton@hntb.com](mailto:ksingleton@hntb.com)

**SEDONA GC RETAINS AZUL VERDE**

SEDONA, Ariz. — Azul Verde Design Group, Inc., a Cave Creek-based landscape architecture company, has been hired by SunCor Development Co. to design the exterior landscape around the soon-to-be-completed Sedona Golf Resort clubhouse. Plans call for a 16-foot multi-tiered natural waterfall feature and a unique boulder and red rock formation to highlight the practice greens and clubhouse area. In addition, a number of devegetated pinyon junipers and singleleaf pine trees will be added to accent the smaller vegetation surrounding the practice facilities.

**AURORA TAPS KAVANAUGH FOR MUNI**

AURORA, Colo. — The city of Aurora Golf Division has hired Ken Kavanaugh to design The Homestead at Murphy Creek Golf Course, planned to open in 1999. The site will include a mixed-income, single-family golf course community. The \$7 million project is expected to break ground in late 1997 or early 1998 and will be the latest addition to the expanding Aurora Golf Division. The homestead and farm concept will be evident throughout the golf course design.



**HAZARD, ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM UP**

SAN DIEGO — Improvements here at Encinitas Ranch Golf Course are being handled by R.E. Hazard Contracting Co. and Environmental Golf, Inc. The two firms are acting as construction manager and general contractor, respectively. Construction began in September at the \$11 million project on 150 acres, which include the 18-hole Encinitas Ranch GC, a bridge and a temporary clubhouse. Completion is scheduled for this summer.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

# Airport-area courses ready for take-off?

By J. BARRY MOTHES

"Cheap land near airport. Water, sewage and electricity already in place. Located near transportation center. Possible neighbors include office or industrial parks. Round-the-clock security available."

Sound like a good fit for golf course development? In a growing number of locations across the country — from Mississippi to Los Angeles to Minneapolis-St. Paul — it is.

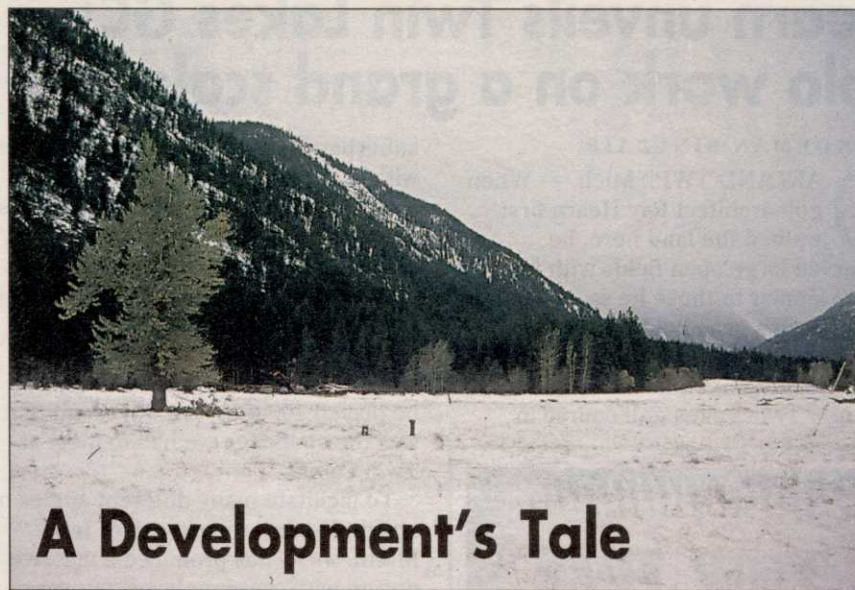
Within the last year, an increasing number of public golf course projects have been proposed for sites at or very near airports. Some, like the under-construction Airline Golf Club at the Hattiesburg-Laurel Airport in Mississippi, are close to becoming reality.

The 18-hole Airline Golf Club is scheduled to open for play by September. The daily-fee golf course will cover 141 acres and sit near an 800-acre business park run by the airport authority.

"We think we've got a very good match with the golf course at our airport," said David Senne, executive director of the Hattiesburg-Laurel Regional Airport Authority, which is leasing the land for 25 years to the developer, Deerfield Golf. The golf course was designed by Rich Fulkerson, who is also part of the development, design and management team.

"We have excellent transportation access," Senne said, "with the airport and an

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## A Development's Tale

Some fairways have already been cut at the Bob Cupp-designed Arrowleaf course.

### Happy ending for 25-year-old Wash. state proposal?

By BOB SPIWAK

M AZAMA, Wash. — Okanogan County here is getting its first planned 18-hole golf course. This is a major event, considering this county is larger than Connecticut and Rhode Island in area. Even more significantly, this project, designed by architect Bob Cupp, has taken more than a quarter century for construction to begin. And, although fairways have been cleared in the forest, the new Arrowleaf development is not yet out of the woods.

To understand the conflict — which has, at times, pitted neighbor against neighbor — a closer look at the resort site is necessary.

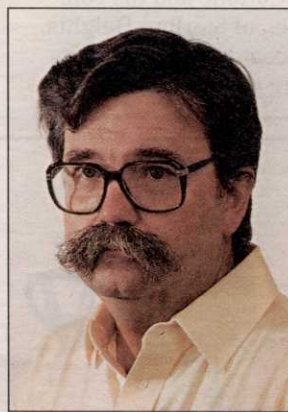
Until last year, the hamlet of Mazama comprised a store/gas-station and an inn. Located at the county's northwest corner, the town is surrounded by national forest, a wilderness area and the North Cascades National Park. State Highway 20, which bisects the resort, is closed by snow from November to April. The area contains the nation's second-largest groomed cross-country ski area. At the upper end of the 70-mile-long Methow Valley, the pristine setting has attracted new residents from throughout the country.

In 1970, when The Aspen Corp. conceived a destination downhill ski re-

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## Robinson sees ray of hope for tepid old world market

*He may be an American native and a Princeton University graduate, but Cabell B. Robinson has lived in Spain for 26 years and conducts business from his office in Mijas. Robinson spent 1967-86 with Robert Trent Jones Sr. He was sent to Europe in 1970 to open an RTJ office. Robinson enjoyed it so much, he stayed, and opened his own design practice in 1986. His solo projects include Stockley Park in England, Golf du Club Med in France, Golf Club Castelcontrubia in Italy, Golf de la Palmeria in Morocco, and the Red Course at La Cala G&CC in Spain.*



Cabell Robinson

## GCN EUROPEAN REPORT

### Destination: Morocco? It's not far off

By PETER BLAIS

MARRAKECH, Morocco — With plans for more than 30 to 40 new courses ready for play by the 21st century, this small north African country clearly seeks recognition as a leading worldwide golf destination, according to Kamil El Kholti, chairman of the Communication and Development Committee of the Royal Moroccan Golf Federation (RMGF).

"King Hassan II has given his blessing to developing golf in Morocco and has put Mr. Driss Basri in charge of putting the plan into operation," Kholti said. "There are three parts to the plan.

"First, we want to develop more Moroccan golfers. There are 6,000 licensed golfers now and each club has golf schools to develop more.

"Second, we want to develop new courses, especially in conjunction with real estate and hotels.

"Third, we want to create strong events to enhance Morocco's image. We already have events like the Hassan II Trophy

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## Q & A

**Golf Course News:** Looking at it historically, how strong is the European golf development market today?

**Cabell Robinson:** Today, and over the past year, is basically the nadir, with the possible exception of 1973-76 when we had gasoline rationing and the Arab-Israeli war. Golf development here was on the uprise for quite awhile and then, about three years ago, it went into a nose dive. I think there were a number of factors. Germany started pumping US\$75 to US\$100 billion a

year into East Germany, which makes sense but took a lot of money out of other markets they might otherwise invest in. Other countries — like Spain and Portugal — went into the

Common Market. In some sense that was great for the infrastructure of the countries, but Portugal is the only country right now in Western Europe where there is a modicum of decent golf course development.

In the last couple of years, there have been projects going on, but all the "big names" have pretty well pulled out of Europe the last few years because there was a real slowdown... London is a good example. The big names — Rees [Jones], [Jack] Nicklaus and Bobby [Robert Trent Jones Jr.] — did some

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## Wash. resort

Continued from page 59

sort at the base of Sandy Butte, was not a consideration.

Opposition was so fierce that Aspen Corp. soon bowed out and took its money to the Whistler-Black-comb area of British Columbia.

The project was rescued by a local group calling itself Methow Recreation, Inc. During the 1970s, it battled opposition spearheaded by an environmental group calling itself the Methow Valley Citizens' Council (MVCC). Eventually, in the mid-'80s, the company was sold.

The new developers called the project Early Winters, after a creek in the area.

With the most grandiose plans yet established, this group planned, at ultimate build-out, 8,400 skiers at one time on Sandy Butte, plus 27 holes of golf in season; the clubhouse would be used as a Nordic center in winter. This news raised the hackles even of fence-riders. After all, the entire population of the valley is less than 4,000.

The conflict grew and old players, such as Department of Ecology and MVCC, were joined by the Sierra Club, The Yakima and Colville Indian nations, an alphabet soup of governmental agencies.

In a dispute over the Environmental Impact Statement, the case went to the U.S. Supreme Court, whose ruling over four contentious points in the EIS appeared to be a split decision, with two points going to the plaintiffs and a pair to the defendants.

The opposition once again prevailed. The Early Winters company went bust and the 1,208-acre property was purchased in foreclosure in August 1992 by R.D. Merrill Co., a family-owned Seattle firm, for \$5 million. Merrill, according to CEO Charlie Wright, engaged Lowe Development Co. to act in a consultant role on the project. Lowe recently bought the Sunriver Resort in Oregon, where it built the acclaimed CrossWater course. Lowe has properties across the land such as Wild Dunes in South Carolina and Inverness in Denver.

With cross-country skiing already well established, downhill was not part of the Merrill-Lowe equation. Golf was a priority item on a piece of ground surrounded by mountain peaks more than 5,000 feet tall and punctuated on the north by the 2,000-foot Goat Wall, a sheer-faced monolith which brings forth visions of Yosemite.

Andy Norris, president of Lowe Development's resort group, engaged Bob Cupp to design the course. Why Cupp? "I've had a long experience with

Bob, over 20 years," said Norris, "back when he was still with Jack [Nicklaus]. He is a superb master of minimalism and the topography he has to work with is probably the best in the world."

Cupp's plans call for a four-tee layout ranging from 7,423 to 5,391 yards.

Asked what construction would cost, he responded, "It will be surprisingly low, in the \$3.5 million range," though

Wright adds a million to that estimate. His tees will be "a fast-growing bentgrass, Penncross or such," and greens will likewise be of bent. The fairway mix has not yet been decided but he is leaning toward a drought-tolerant mix, perhaps rye, fescue and bluegrass.

"I loved the location," Cupp declared. "It might be just as nice a site as you'll ever find. You don't have to work very hard

to put a golf course on that property."

Last Aug. 20, Okanogan County commissioners approved preliminary plans for the resort. However, the opposition has filed yet another lawsuit having to do with the location of four holes. Andy Norris is certain the litigation has no merit and hopes to have play on the first nine holes by July 1998, with the remaining nine in the spring of '99.

However, it could be delayed by the suit.

Nonetheless, fairways have been cleared and the developers are confident. In response to a question about the project's success, Wright said, "Nothing is a sure thing."

How about on a scale of one to 10? "I'd give it a nine," he quickly responded.

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