

BRIEFS



**SINGLETON JOINS HNTB IN KC**

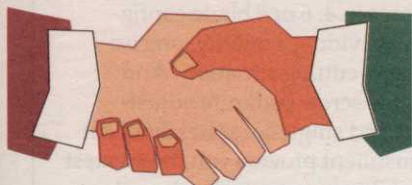
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — HNTB Corp. has appointed E. Crichton Singleton, FAIA, as vice president and director of architecture in the firm's office here. Singleton's distinguished career includes numerous architecture and urban design projects that have received national recognition. Singleton can be reached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

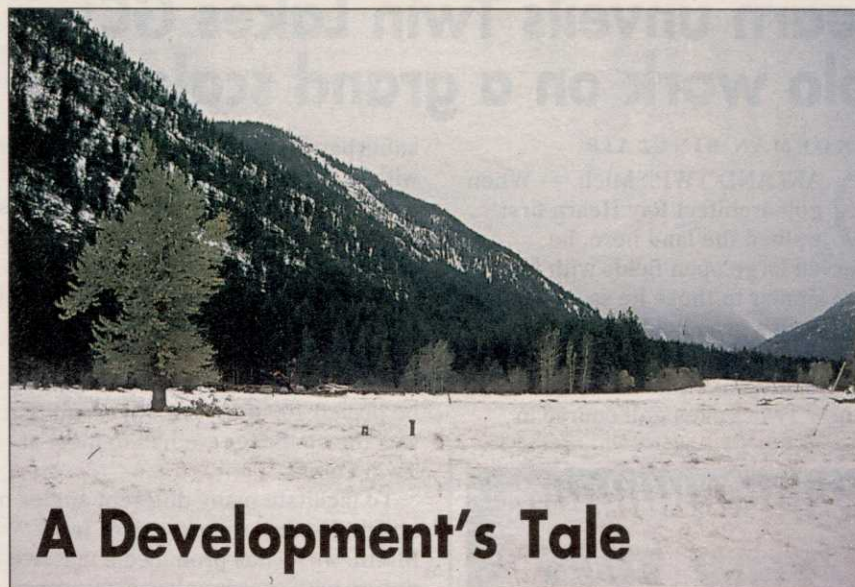
Within the last year, an increasing number of public golf course projects have been proposed for sites at or very near airports. Some, like the under-construction Airline Golf Club at the Hattiesburg-Laurel Airport in Mississippi, are close to becoming reality.

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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Bob Spiwak photo

## 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.

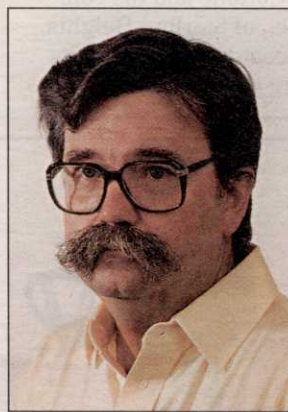
Until last year, the hamlet of Mazama comprised a store/gas-station and an inn. Located at the county's northwest corner, the town is surrounded by national forest, a wilderness area and the North Cascades National Park. State Highway 20, which bisects the resort, is closed by snow from November to April. 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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## Robinson Q&A

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projects there three to five years ago, and they are only just now beginning to break even.

**GCN:** And France?

**CR:** France took a dive about five years ago and is still in the doldrums. They are trying to digest the courses they built because, basically, they over-built, underplanned and misconceived. Too many people suddenly found golf in vogue and built courses where they shouldn't have been built. There wasn't the market for them. As they say in France, it's the third owner who makes the money. Eight to 10 years ago, when France discovered golf was not just an elitist sport, many landscape persons and building architects got into golf course architecture. Now half of them are out of business.

**GCN:** Is there any positive activity?

**CR:** Germany has built a lot of courses toward the Berlin area... For years there was a tax incentive: If you were a non-profit club you could only charge a certain amount of dues to members and a certain entrance fee. That curtailed big investments in golf because developers wanted to run them as non-profits but the numbers didn't work out to get an expensive course and an expensive architect. Of all the countries in Europe, Germany with all its money has turned out the fewest first-rate courses of any of the western European countries. First, they couldn't justify the expensive course and vis-a-vis the "big-name" architect and maintain their tax-exempt status because if you can only charge \$50,000 in membership fees you can't justify a \$3 million to \$5 million course.

The other thing: Germany has been at the forefront of the ecological movement — The Greens. It is very difficult to get planning permission to do anything in what was West Germany.

**GCN:** Will this change?

**CR:** I don't know. The environmental movement is still pretty strong. Like in the States, they are coming to grips with the fact golf is not all bad. But it's been an uphill fight — very slow going.

**GCN:** Is there a trend toward coming out of the doldrums?

**CR:** Looking at the tourist areas — essentially around the Mediterranean or coastal areas of Portugal: Portugal remains very strong, given the population base. [Architect] Rocky Roquemore has done a lot of work there. I have some projects there. It's a very English market, and a secondary German market touristically. They have had good success with golf as a tourist amenity. In south of Spain, what is generally called Costa del Sol, it is almost built out.

**GCN:** What type of projects

are being undertaken?

**CR:** I recently took some Cyprian clients to Spanish golf resorts. We concluded that Spain has no golf resorts in Costa del Sol in the sense that you might consider them in the States, where there is a big hotel and two or three golf courses. It's primarily real estate. There may be a hotel. But there is always that bastard marriage between a hotel and one or, at best, two

courses, having to deal with their clients and the homeowners who buy around it.

In that sense, in the south of Spain and the south of Portugal, for the most part, it's a mixture of real estate plus hotel and golf. The drawback here is that that solution works with two or three courses, but it doesn't generally work well with just one course.

**GCN:** Is golf gaining popularity in Europe?

**CR:** Definitely. In Spain, you see far more Spaniards [on the golf course] than you ever did. In the summer months, everyone is playing their own courses. The courses used to be absolutely barren in June, July and August. Now they're full of Spaniards. I tried to play in Dar Es Salaam in Morocco two years ago and couldn't get on it. It was sold out to Moroccan members.

**GCN:** What's your outlook for

the short-term future in Europe?

**CR:** I think it's good. Golf is cyclical. Real-estate development is cyclical. At the end of every cycle, they learn the lessons of what went wrong before... The real estate and golf relationship is now a proven fact in Europe. Whether in central and northern Europe (north of the Pyrenees) they will allow more golf and real-estate development to occur is a big question.

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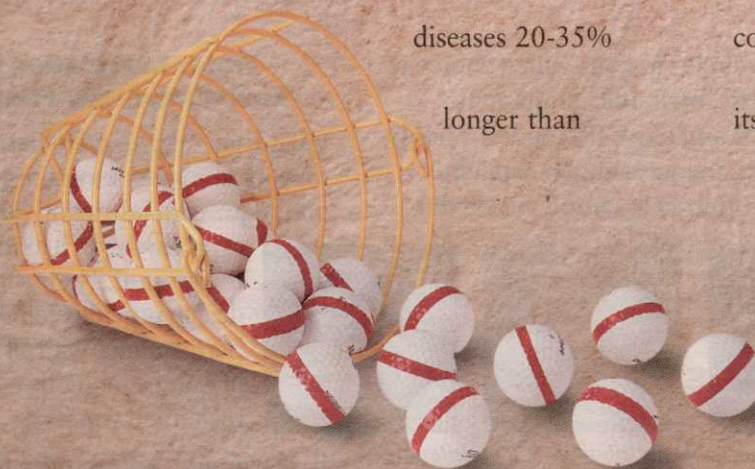
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