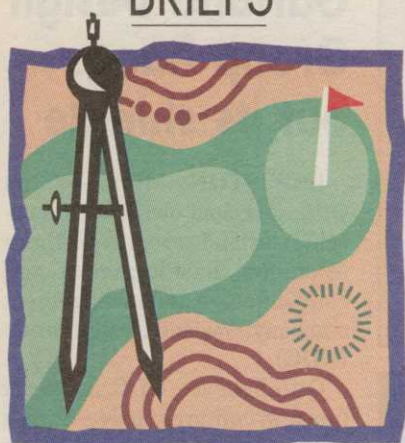


## BRIEFS



## NATIONSCREDIT PROMOTES TWO

ATLANTA, Ga. — NationsCredit's Commercial Real Estate Group has promoted Christopher J. Crovatto to vice president and Eastern Region manager. Steven J. Hersch has also been promoted to a vice president in the Eastern Region. Crovatto can be reached at 203-352-4101 and Hersch at 203-352-4033.

## GRAHAM &amp; PANKS IN DALLAS

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Graham & Panks International has opened a new office in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Directed by Gary Stephenson, senior designer, it is located at 1420 Sacramento Terrace, Plano, Texas 75075; phone 214-578-1772; fax 214-578-4746.

## OREGON COURSE 'RE-TEES'

WELCHES, Ore. — The Resort at The Mountain here is improving its Three Nines golf course by rebuilding two holes. The project includes reconstruction of the 4th and 5th holes on the Foxglove Nine. On the 4th hole, the tee area has doubled in size, going from two to four tee boxes and a retaining wall has been added to the tee area using recycled concrete. Two tee areas have also been added on the 5th hole. In addition, the existing tees were raised and landing area lowered to provide a better view of a pond located down the fairway.

## In design, blood proves thicker than water

No hazards when it comes to father-son partnerships

By MARK LESLIE

Tim Nugent was born on a golf course construction site. W. Bruce Matthews III grew up at Grand Haven (Mich.) Golf Course, managed by his father. Carter Morrish has been around the likes of Jack Nicklaus and Tom Weiskopf since he was a toddler. Heck, golf course architect Bob Cupp was his youth football coach. When Trent Puddicombe was born two years ago, his architect dad, Grant, assessed him this way: "Just another little shaper."

This father-and-son golf course design gig can no longer be dismissed as merely anecdotal. It has gone beyond fad to trend.

The golfing public generally knows the Joneses (Robert Trent Sr. and sons Rees and Robert Trent Jones Jr.), the Dyes (Pete and Alice and sons Perry and P.B.) and perhaps the Nicklauses (Jack, Jackie and Gary). But, there are more: the Nugents (Dick and Tim), Morrishes (Jay and Carter), Robinsons (Ted and Ted Jr.), Aults (Brian and Eric), Cupps (Bob and Bob Jr.),



Carter (left) and Jay Morrish: Who's in charge? Father says, "I'm the boss." But son believes "we're more partners."

Davises (Arthur and Lee), the Puddicombes (Sid and Grant and Mark), and Mootes (Bob and Dave).

The list goes on. There's Tom Fazio's boy in the dirt with his Tonka truck, and Dan Maples' son in his pile of dirt-cum-miniature golf course.

"Trent already has a toy John Deere dozer," said Grant Puddicombe. "He's the only kid with a USGA-spec sandbox."

Bruce Matthews likens the heir apparenity of course architecture to that of old-fashioned apprenticeship.

"It's like a watchmaker, tinker and

silversmith," said Matthews. "Look at what the Jones boys are doing: just what dad did. I'm doing just what granddad [W. Bruce Matthews] and uncle Jerry [Matthews] did. The same with Dan Maples [son of Ellis]. All of us, doing what dad did, with our own twists."

Many sons of architects have gone into other fields altogether, only to return to their "roots" — outdoor work with their fathers. And others know from an early age they want to work in golf — in some way, or in whatever way they can — and never stray.

"Before joining me, Tim got a degree in engineering and construction management and was building high-rise office buildings," said Dick Nugent, whose firm is based in Long Grove, Ill. "I told him, 'You know all the skills of the construction industry, but you need to know about the money.' He went back to school and got an MBA, then came here; he has added a lot to our business."

Bruce Matthews and Grant Puddicombe were superintendents before

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The Puddicombe Five (from left): Mark, Sid (holding grandson Trent), Grant (father of Trent) and Todd.



## KAVANAUGH'S GOLF CANYON COMES ON LINE

The management team at Gold Canyon (Ariz.) Resort — Director of Golf Bret Greenwood (from left), course architect Ken Kavanaugh and superintendent Tom McDonald — will unveil its brand new Mountain Course on Jan. 15. The Mountain Course is a blend of the resort's existing back nine and a new nine, bringing the resort to 27 holes. The fairways are common Bermudagrass, while the greens are 328 Bermuda.



## Zontek honored with GCBAAs Rossi Award

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Stan Zontek, for 20 years an agronomist with the U.S. Golf Association (USGA) Green Section and director of its Mid-Atlantic Region, will receive the 1997 Don A. Rossi Humanitarian Award from the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBAAs).

The GCBAAs will present the award at its annual Awards Dinner, Feb. 9, in Las Vegas during the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's International Golf Course Conference and Show.

The award "is one of the most pleasant shocks of my life," Zontek said. "I knew Don Rossi. I know the kind of individual he was, all the hard work he did for the industry, and to be a recipient of this award sincerely is the highlight of my career. This is no idle comment. It is a fact."

Added GCBAAs President Paul Eldredge

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## Fathers & Sons

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jumping aboard their family design firms.

"I thought I'd always work on a golf course — in what role I wasn't sure," said Grant Puddicombe, who worked as a superintendent for two years before he and Mark confronted dad Sid, also a superintendent, at Christmastime 1980. They immediately set about opening their firm, headquartered in Nisku, Alberta, Canada.

"I've been around it [golf course design] my whole life," said Carter Morrish, "going out to Shoal Creek [in Birmingham, Ala.], living with Dad in the summers. It's always been in my head. It's just a natural thing."

A natural thing — in the genes, perhaps?

"I think it's a combination of genetics and/or background," Jay Morrish said.

Sid Puddicombe agreed about the influence of experience. "I think it's just what children are exposed to," he said. "Growing up on a golf course and being involved in it, you get attached to it. They've tried other work and the love of golf has brought them back."

"He knows the business inside out, by osmosis, growing up in it," Dick Nugent said of Tim. "He knows all the fundamentals of drafting and drawing and presentations — how to shake the ideas off your fingertips onto the paper."

"In my teen years I was drawing golf courses," said Bruce Matthews. "I think it comes inherent in a love of the land. We were an outdoor family. While hunting and fishing, you look at land forms and how and why they happen."

...

In the various father-son businesses, there is give-and-take — both ways.

"There are a lot of things we've kept in perspective that our father taught us," said Grant Puddicombe. "Do it right. Do it once. For us the biggest way to keep quality control is not to do too much work, to limit what we can control and handle."

"I've got my own style," said Bruce Matthews, "but if you superimpose one of my greens over one of granddad's, an architect could say, 'I know where that came from.'"

The children have added various dimensions to their fathers' businesses and design projects as well.

"When we added Tim, we expanded our abilities greatly, in everyday business, helping clients with their *pro formas*," said Dick Nugent. "When you do a golf course, you do a business plan, a *pro forma*, to come up with how you're going to pay for it. It

helps if you're on the same page as your client... Tim also has a lot of ability in the design area. He has a good eye for things."

"I added maintenance and operations [know-how]," said Bruce Matthews, who has now opened his own company, Design 3, based in East Lansing, where uncle Jerry also has a practice. "I had a turfgrass degree. Jerry has landscape architecture and a master's in urban planning."

Carter "has taken a lot of pressure off me in taking field trips," said Jay Morrish. "We alternate trips and every third time we go together."

Yes, but who is the boss?

"I have the final say. I'm the boss," Dad Morrish said.

But Carter put his own spin on the situation: "He's the boss, but we're more partners than me working for him."

"I try to be," Sid Puddicombe

said. "In most instances we sit down and go over the project. We have a great relationship and we use [third son and superintendent] Todd as a consultant. Until we're all totally satisfied we don't go ahead with anything."

Nugent put the question in perspective: "You don't teach your son anything," he laughed. "All you can do is listen. They just become more courteous about listening to you."

### ROBERTS JOINS PLAYER

Gary Player Design Company has hired Kirk Roberts as a design associate. Roberts can be reached care of the Gary Player Design Company, located at 3930 RCA Boulevard, Suite 3001 Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. 33410; telephone 561-624-0300; fax 561-624-304.

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