

BRIEFS



SASSER FORMS GDC, PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY

TEQUESTA, Fla.— Tom Sasser has formed Golf Development Consultants (GDC). The company will specialize in pre-development project management and technical service support for golf course construction. "Many developers begin projects without a full understanding of the methodology and costs associated with the development of a golf course," said Sasser, who has more than two decades of experience in land planning and golf course construction. Sasser retired from the Golden Bear organization after 18 years, and most recently served as president of Paragon Construction. Sasser can be reached by calling 561-748-9052.

CALDWELL JOINS OLSEN TEAM

ANAHEIM, Calif.— Jerry Caldwell, a construction management veteran with more than 30 years experience in hospitality and golf course development, has joined R.D. Olson Construction as senior project manager. Caldwell, who resides in Phoenix, Ariz., served as project manager of hotel development for La Quinta Inns & Suites before joining the R.D. Olson Construction team.

NIEBUR PROMOTES MCGRAW

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.— Niebur Golf, Inc. has promoted Frank McGraw to the position of general superintendent. He will be responsible for the field operations on multiple projects. Niebur Golf provides construction services across the nation. Its current clients include projects ranging from Salt Lake City, Utah, to Southport, N.C.



BAY HARBOR NINE EXPECTS COMPANY IN '97
Bay Harbor Golf Club in Petoskey, Mich., is one of 10 projects Arthur Hills and Associates will open for play during 1997. Nine holes opened at Bay Harbor during '96, but Hills will open another 18 this year. For a rundown of Hills projects, see story page 45.

NEW FRONTIERS

Domestic golfers make Colombian market viable

By MARK LESLIE

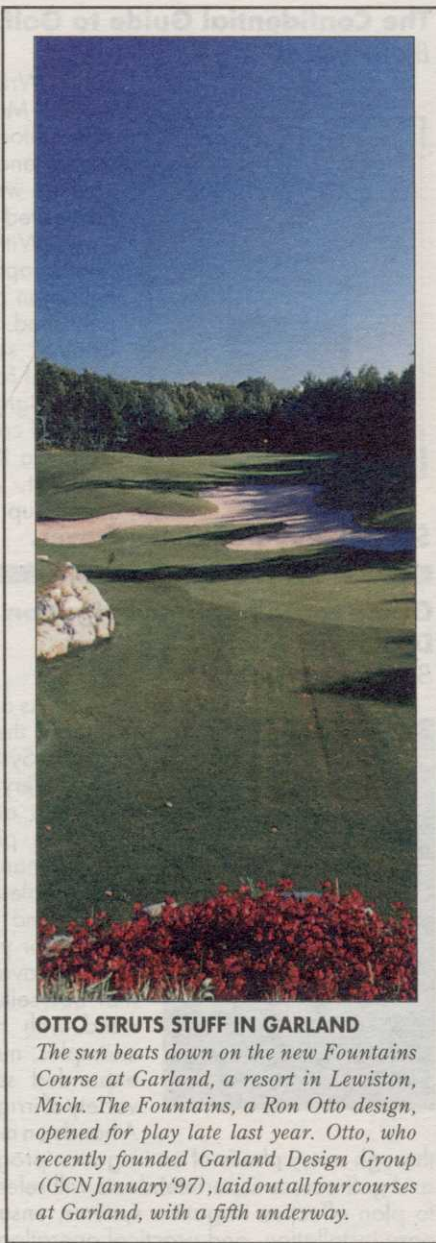
BOGOTA, Colombia — "I think Colombia now is like the U.S. was in the early 1960s when we just discovered golf and found that people could afford it," said American golf course construction consultant Jerry Pierman.

Pierman, former president of the Golf Course Builders Association of America, is working with Jack Nicklaus and his Golden Bear International golf course design company on a project in Bucaramanga. Other foreign course designers are also busy here as this country awakens to the world of golf and its attraction to tourists. Not only are middle-class Colombians discovering the game of golf, but so are the operators of its resorts, which draw tourists from Europe and Canada to this country where temperatures are inviting year-round.

"It's ideal," golf course architect Gary Linn said of Colombia. "It's Hawaiian. It's California at its best. Mountainous, but with palm trees, thatched roofs... a special place."

The mountains here are cool and inviting while the oceanfront is beautiful. American course architect Jeff Myers, who is remodeling Club Compestra of Medellin's nine-hole city course on the

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OTTO STRUTS STUFF IN GARLAND

The sun beats down on the new Fountains Course at Garland, a resort in Lewiston, Mich. The Fountains, a Ron Otto design, opened for play late last year. Otto, who recently founded Garland Design Group (GCN January '97), laid out all four courses at Garland, with a fifth underway.

ASGCA Directors speak on design



The officers of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) sat down in February to speak with Golf Course News, for a second time following a November visit, on issues affecting golf course design and maintenance. Taking part were ASGCA President Denis Griffiths, Vice President Alice Dye, Secretary Bob Lohmann and Treasurer John LaFoy. Here are excerpts from that conversation.

Golf Course News: Many courses are billing themselves as "playable for the high-handicapper yet challenging to the better golfer." Does this inhibit your design style, and are we making cookie cutter courses?

Alice Dye: I don't think so at all. By changing the angle of your tees, and a few things like that, you can make golf courses that are very challenging for back-tee players and still very playable and manageable for everyday players.

Let's take one of the hardest golf courses in the world — PGA West [a Pete and Alice Dye design]. From their tees, the ladies play in less time than the men because it is very manageable for them. We gave them a good angle. There may not be an opening to the pin, but there is one to the green, and there are no forced carries except on par-3s... Because of the angle of the back tee, low-handicappers are shooting over the lake, through the fairway, into a bunker, whereas the angle

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Marsh gains U.S. foothold with HNTB

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Golf course designer Graham Marsh, who has long been active in Asia-Pacific, has formed an association with the golf course architect group of HNTB Corporation to offer design services in North and South America.

Graham Marsh Golf Design/HNTB will provide full-service de-

sign of upscale golf courses, as well as related developments — residential communities, resorts, hotels, retail and entertainment facilities.

The association's first project is in Independence, Minn., for Burnet Realty. Graham Marsh Golf Design/HNTB is master planning a 600-acre development to include 60 to 85 residential lots, and 18-hole, high-end daily fee course, a learning center, equestrian facilities and trails, and a 15-

Graham Marsh (2nd from left) surveys a Filipino site with HNTB's Steve Bauer (left) and a bearded Terry Morgan, representing developer Fil-Estate Group.

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