

Make-over for Mr. Wilson's Pine Tree, courtesy of Forse

By MARK LESLIE

BOYNTON BEACH, Fla. — One of the unique restoration projects for a post-World War II course begins here this month with a major greens and bunker facelift on Dick Wilson-designed Pine Tree Golf Club.

"His [Wilson's] courses bridged the gap between the classics and the modern era," said course architect Ron Forse, who is in charge of the project. "They had great strategy and playing interests, but, unlike his teacher, William Flynn, Wilson started introducing a lot of the in-your-face smash-mouth golf of the modern era — like the aerial attack with green-fronting bunkers."

Forse, who worked on a restoration project of Wilson's Westmoreland Country Club in Pittsburgh, said he is "thrilled to work with this dynamic bunkering and people willing to restore it faithfully." He credited General Manager Roger Omlie, Committee Chairman John Gerald and superintendent Tom Vlach.

Regularly ranked among the nation's Top 100 courses, Pine Tree is awash in 130 bunkers. Using photographs from 1962

when the facility opened, Forse and MacCurrach Golf Construction will restore all the bunkers as well as core out and bring all 18 greens to U.S. Golf Association standards. All this by July 4, Forse said.

"This is a great golf club," Forse said, pointing out the bunkers. "Some of the bunkers are gigantic and have an extremely intricate and natural dune-like appearance. Three large bunkers have natural, irregularly formed low grass islands in them — what Doral used to look like.

"It's like somebody dropped an octopus from an airplane into the bunkers. There is high grass around them with long, draping fingers dropping down to the floor of the bunkers."

The greens vary in size from about 4,800 square feet to a 9,500-square-foot green on a 666-yard par-5.

Meanwhile, Forse is doing work at Tamarack Country Club in Greenwich, Conn., a Charles Banks design. They are in the middle of a long-range plan, including bunker restoration and expanding the greens back to their original

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At Old Carolina Golf Club on Hilton Head, course architect Clyde Johnston made extensive use of native grasses.

Johnston unveils Old South sister course, Old Carolina

HILTON HEAD, S.C. — Old Carolina Golf Club, the long-awaited sister course to award-winning Old South Golf Links here, has opened.

Designed by Clyde Johnston, Old Carolina is an upscale daily-fee facility located minutes from Old South, a Johnston design named one of the "Top 10 New Public Courses of 1992" by *Golf Digest*. Both courses are products of the development team of David Staley and Tom Jacoby.

Working on his home turf, Johnston brought a singular character to Old Carolina with the help of a unique piece of land that years ago served as a thoroughbred horse farm. The open nature of the farmland provides counterpoint to other Hilton Head courses. Old Carolina has a minimal number of water features.

Old Carolina was built by Landscapes Unlimited of Lincoln, Neb.

Meanwhile, in Little River, S.C., Glen Dornoch Waterway Golf Links, the newest fixture on the South Carolina Grand Strand, was recently unveiled.

Johnston's attention to integrating Glen Dornoch with the local ecosystem is evident in the 26,000 feet of silt fence used to secure the surrounding wetlands and waterfronts from construction activities. With the exception of sediment and erosion-control plans, no working drawings were made for the design and construction of Glen Dornoch. All design ideas were sketched in the field, and several holes were created without any sketches at all.

Redstone busy, from Colorado to Cozumel

COZUMEL, Mexico — Redstone Development Services has continued to expand its involvement in the international golf course arena with projects ranging from the planning and construction of Castle Pines North in Colorado, USA — developed by Japanese investors (see photo at right) — to the master planning, design and soon construction of the first golf course here on the island of Cozumel, Mexico.

Although each project is unique, the common thread running through the firm's international work is a focus on shortening construction windows, while ensuring the highest quality product, according to Andy Bush, a principal at Denver, Colo.-based Redstone Development.

Redstone's first experience outside the United States began nine years ago when its principals prepared the plan for Playacar Resort located in Quintana Roo, Mexico, the Yucatan's first master-planned golf course community. Soon thereafter, the firm was hired to prepare an overall development plan for the Elbow Valley Golf Course and Resort, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

While the firm is currently exploring projects in the Dominican Republic and the island of Bali, the majority of its international opportunities are located in Mexico. Redstone is providing master planning, golf course design and con-



ANOTHER GEM FOR CASTLE PINES

While work was essentially finished on Oct. 4, 1996, Castle Pines North, designed by Tom Weiskopf, is scheduled to open in Castle Rock, Colo., on July 15. Denver-based Redstone Development Services handled all initial planning, approvals, and construction management. Once opened, the facility will be managed by Troon Golf Management. This small Denver suburb is already home to a pair of Nicklaus designs at Castle Pines Country Club, Jim Engh's ultra-exclusive Sanctuary, and a municipal course, designed by Engh, now under construction.

struction management services for a series of projects here, including a 225-hectare (500-acre) resort development on the north end of Cozumel; a second resort, located south of Cancun on the mainland; and preliminary concepts for a 400-hectare (1,000-acre) development on the Sea of Cortez.

The Cozumel project is the furthest along of the three, with the master plan complete and design work proceeding on the golf course. The 18-hole resort-style track will wind through the jungle, providing an attractive backdrop for 140 single-family homes, condominiums and a 300-room golf hotel. Clearing is under-

way on the main roadway to the clubhouse, while construction of the golf course is expected to begin in April.

"Working in Mexico creates a series of unique challenges that we don't regularly deal with constructing golf courses in the United States," says Jay Benson, the firm's construction principal. "It requires special attention to logistics related to equipment, staffing and materials. For example, we have rented a helicopter to pick up sand samples from a variety of sources in the Yucatan to determine whether they will meet our standards for bunker or top mix. We are also exploring barging sand from Vera Cruz, Mexico — or even Houston — if that is what's necessary to create a top-notch facility."

As with most international projects, Redstone is facing an increased level of regulation related to development intensity and environmental issues. Development and construction practices that were considered the norm five to 10 years ago are not being permitted today.

"Our clients and government agencies within the country are increasingly concerned about the scale of development and preserving environment quality," said Benson, "and recently we have found ourselves helping to write environmental regulations addressing ocean-front development intensities, development in areas with mangroves, and strategies to improve water quality and control runoff. The days of unrestricted development in Mexico are over."