

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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INSIDE

## Asian Downturn Foreshadowed

Golf course architect Ron Fream chronicles Asian economic woes' effect on golf market ..... 14

## Browner Steps to the Tee

Federal EPA administrator says government & the golf industry making great cooperative strides .... 19



### IT'S ALL ABOUT PERMITTING

Permitting planner Dianna Almini, here with senior architect Neal Meagher, puts Graves & Pascuzzo Design Co. on the fast track in the approval process. See page 49.

### COURSE MAINTENANCE

- Wildlife Links Program bearing fruit ..... 19
- Roger Barrett sets environmental standards ..... 25
- Ali Harivandi on effluent and salt studies ..... 32

### COURSE DEVELOPMENT

- Course openings top 400 plateau again ..... 5
- Perry Dye heats up Furnace Creek ..... 56
- Newport Bay — new look, new name ..... 61

### COURSE MANAGEMENT

- Crown Golf portfolio surpasses two dozen ..... 63
- Golf Ventures' Marchant resigns post ..... 65
- Alfonso: Cross-training yields better employees .... 66

### SUPPLIER BUSINESS

- LawnNibbler chows down golf turf ..... 73
- Jake signs Trims to produce software package ... 74
- Bookshelf adds IPM & insect-control texts ..... 79

## Troon inks first international deal

By PETER BLAIS and wire service reports

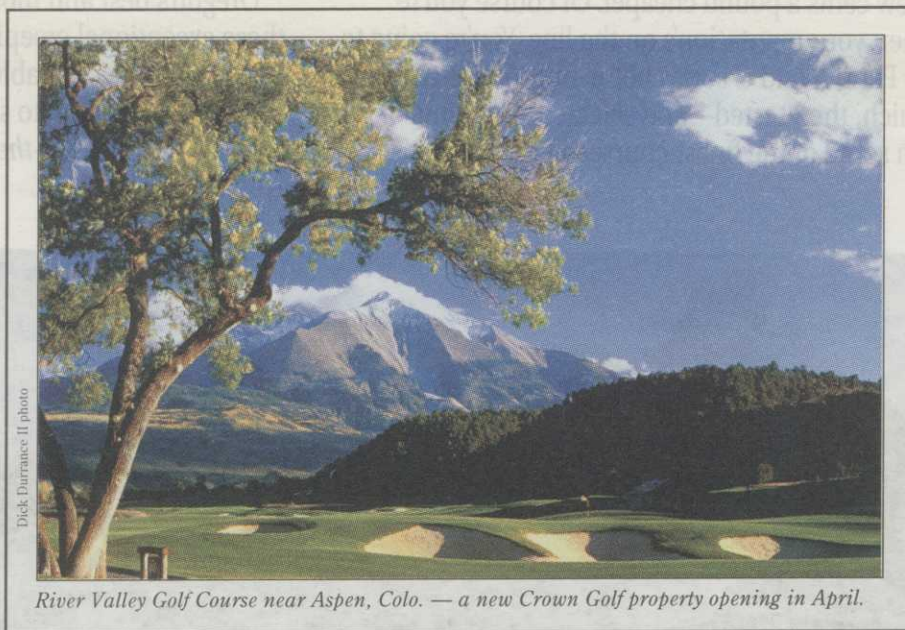
SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, USA — Troon Golf, a major U.S. course development and management firm, has expanded into the international market with the addition of two of Scotland's most famous layouts, the Ailsa and Arran courses at Turnberry.

The Scottsdale, Arizona-based company will manage the two courses and hold a minority subordinated ownership interest.

The resort was acquired for approximately \$51.5 million by Starwood Lodging Corporation, based in Phoenix, Ariz., from Nitto Kogyo Co. Ltd., a golf course ownership firm based in Tokyo. Nitto Kogyo had owned the 800-acre development since 1987 and invested \$35 million in the property.

"Today [Dec. 23, 1997], is a momentous day for our company," said Troon President Dana Garmany. "Ex-

Continued on page 67



Dick Durance II photo

River Valley Golf Course near Aspen, Colo. — a new Crown Golf property opening in April.

## Philippines puts golf development on hold



By M. LEVANS

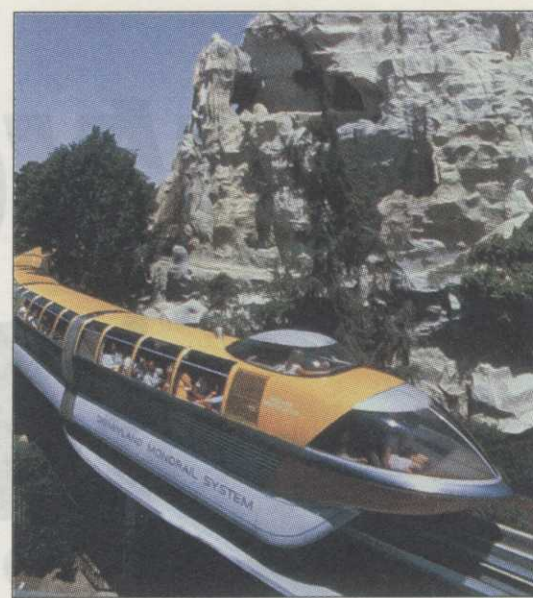
MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine government has ordered a halt to the building of new golf

courses due to water shortages caused by the El Nino weather pattern.

The Philippine Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) stopped processing land conversion applications by golf course developers until the drought situation ends, which may not be until mid-1998.

"This is an initiative...to conserve water in the light of the El Nino phenomenon and the growing criti-

Continued on page 60



## It's GCSAA Showtime!

It's time to lace up the comfortable shoes. The GCSAA's 69th International Golf Course Conference and Show rolls into sunny Anaheim, Calif., February 2-8, with more than 650 exhibitors and seven days of conference sessions. For more details on GCSAA annual awards, conference schedule and ways to get the most out your show experience, see pages 43-48.

## Course projects upgrade disadvantaged communities

By JERRY ROSE and PETER BLAIS

PHOENIX — What do you usually see behind the flagstick on the front cover of most golf magazines?

Pounding surf, red rock cliffs, majestic mountains, virgin forests.

Rarely do you see smoke stacks, turnpikes or housing projects. But it's the courses built with these backdrops that often have the most positive impact on their immediate surroundings. A new golf development in a less-than-desirable part of town can have a tremendous influence on the local community's overall economy.

A perfect example is the Raven Golf Club at South Mountain in Phoenix. It was built in 1995 at a cost of more than \$14 million, almost all of which was spent with local companies involved in the development project. It also provides 80 jobs to local residents with an annual

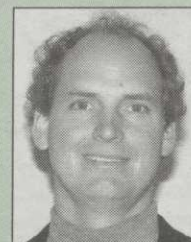
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## BEST BUILDERS OF THE YEAR

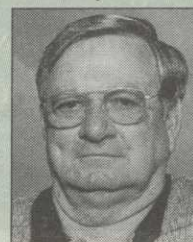
Landscapes Unlimited and its president, Bill Kubly, have won the Golf Course Builder of the Year Award, while President Howard Barnes and V-P J.W. Thomas of Quality Grassing & Services grabbed Best Small Builder of the Year Award. A Small Builder Honorable Mention Award goes to Turf Drain, Inc. and its president, Geoffrey Cortlett. See pages 38-42.



Bill Kubly



Geoffrey Cortlett



J.W. Thomas



Howard Barnes



## Golf being put on hold in Philippines

Continued from page 1

cism that these projects compete with our water supply," said Artemio Adasa, undersecretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

Adasa said two golf projects — Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, and Covite and Mount Arayat Golf and Country Club in Arayat, Pampanga — have been stopped and future projects will also be rejected as

long as the water shortage continues.

According to reports from Manila, a presidential task force monitoring golf course projects will form teams to inspect the water use of golf courses, particularly those without water permits.

"The good thing is that the government is showing a concern for the implications of adverse environmental factors," said Ron Fream, founder of Santa Rosa,

Calif.-based Golfplan, which has several projects going in the Philippines. "But the short-term solutions don't help anyone."

Water shortages have been a reoccurring problem for golf course developments in the Philippines, where a reported 150 courses are up and running. Since this problem continuously plagues the region, Fream said that golf course developments are going to have to work smarter, with long-term solutions in mind. "Developments need to work with in-

termittent water supplies and design cost-effective irrigation systems that don't water the entire course. You have to conserve," said Fream. "Tourism is growing and they have to address the problem."

Fream's current project in Silang for Kuok's Shangri-La Hotels was designed to take the sewage-treated water from the eventual community and reuse it on the golf course. The project will have reservoirs on site to store 30 days worth of irrigation water.

## South Africa

Continued from page 49

second homes. The Golfplan-designed course will occupy land known as East Head, one of two dramatic sandstone bluffs standing sentry at the mouth of Knysna Lagoon, a natural amphitheater that features a maze of tidal lakes, the resort town of Knysna and myriad species of wildlife — all framed by the dramatically serrated Outeniqua Mountains to the north.

"I've been working in golf course design for 32 years, all over the globe, and I've never seen anything quite like the site on East Head," said Fream. "It's nearly too good to be true: mild climate, 100-foot cliffs, the crashing waves below. The vistas are out of this world; the Indian Ocean can be quite rough in this area, which makes for wonderful animation in the seaside views — lots of white water.

"Even more impressive is the natural character of the terrain, which is covered in heather and features fantastic movement. It looks as if there has been an army of shapers working here for centuries."

Senior architect David Dale, who will head up the project for Golfplan, has routed a 6,764-yard layout in the Scottish Highland tradition. The design will depend primarily on the land's considerable natural contour, as only 400,000 cubic meters of dirt will be moved.

"The word 'Sparrebosch' — like 'tundra' or 'marshland' — is used here to describe a specific ecological system unique to the South African coast," Fream said. "Since the fall of apartheid, the South African government has become more stringent when it comes to environmental concerns. As a result, the permitting process was extremely complex; there was much revising and adjusting. We worked very hard to reach a preservational design solution."

Sparrebosch PK Developments Ltd. has targeted the second-home/holiday market from England to Southeast Asia. Located some 500 kilometers southeast of Cape Town, the village of Knysna is located in the heart of South Africa's fabled Garden Route that runs along the southern coast from George to Plettenberg Bay.



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