

# 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

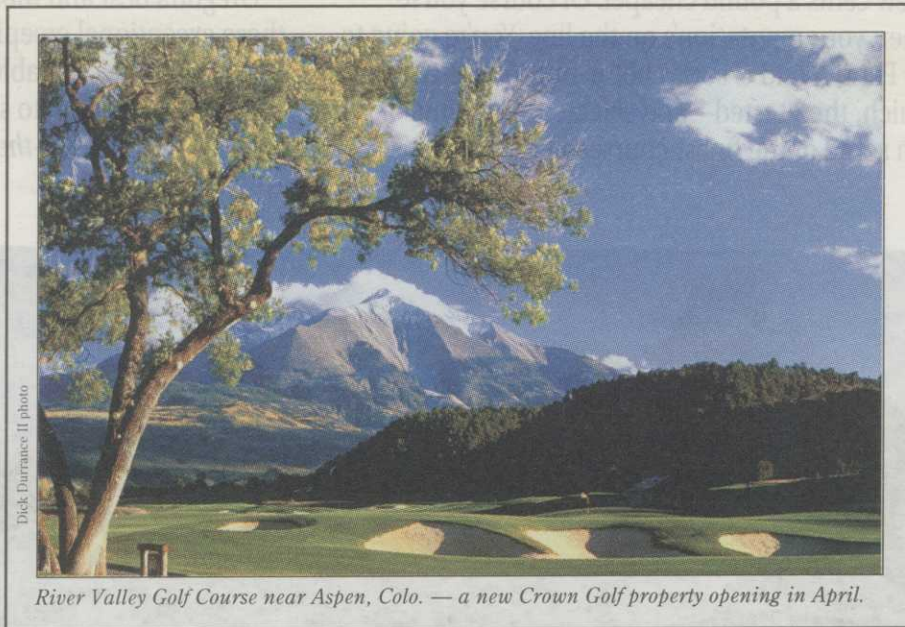
SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, USA — Troon Golf, a major U.S. course development and management firm, has expanded into the international market with the addition of two of Scotland's most famous layouts, the Ailsa and Arran courses at Turnberry.

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

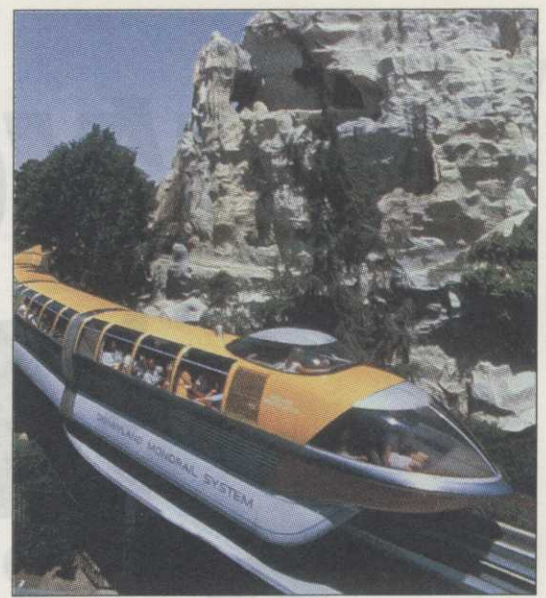
MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine government has ordered a halt to the building of new golf

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

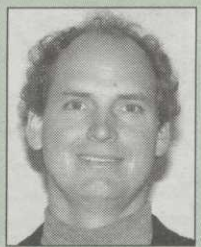
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## BEST BUILDERS OF THE YEAR

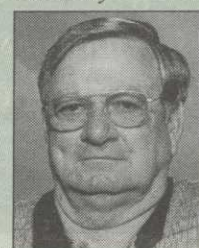
Landscapes Unlimited and its president, Bill Kubly, have won the Golf Course Builder of the Year Award, while President Howard Barnes and V-P J.W. Thomas of Quality Grassing & Services grabbed Best Small Builder of the Year Award. A Small Builder Honorable Mention Award goes to Turf Drain, Inc. and its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



Bill Kubly



Geoffrey Cortlett



J.W. Thomas



Howard Barnes