

## Rolling Rock goes 18 with Silva 9

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to copy features from the old course. The 18th green is a mirror image of the 8th green, for example, right down to the grades. The 1st green is folded so the middle is lower than the front and back; at the 10th, we did the same thing."

Founded early in the century, Rolling Rock is far more than golf club. RRC maintains its own trout hatchery to stock its streams, raises duck and pheasant for drive and field shooting, operates a four-season clay-bird shooting facility, offers tennis and swimming during summer months, not to mention dining and lodging year round. Golf is not the focal point. Indeed, the club's nine-hole track was deemed sufficient for more than 70 years.

When the membership decided to expand, it turned to Silva, whose restoration portfolio includes a sizable Donald Ross section. Yet all this familiarity with Ross had not prepared Silva for the flamboyance of RRC's original nine, not to mention the challenge of creating a companion nine.

"I still can't believe how severe the original greens are," said Silva. "You often hear that Ross was 'the master of subtlety.' But he designed a 220-yard par-3 at Rolling Rock [no. 3] with about four elephants buried in the green. ... When you're standing in fairway bunkers 8 feet deep, the last thing you're thinking about is subtlety."

The new nine — measuring just 3,200 yards to complement the 3,000-yard original — was built by Ranger Construction of West Palm Beach, Fla. Feature work was subcontracted out to Mark Eitleman's Agri-Scape, Inc. of Ellington, Conn. Silva was a constant presence on site, visiting Rolling Rock every week for more than a year.

The membership rewarded Silva's dogged efforts by placing

## Palmer honored

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burst onto the golf scene at the same time as television technology. He and the army of admirers who followed him on Tour became a staple in America's living rooms as he won 91 tournaments worldwide. Despite a busy schedule devoted to course design and a limited number of tournaments, Palmer actively supports the children's hospital in Orlando, Fla., that bears his name and serves on the board of The Golf Channel.

"There isn't a person in the golf industry who doesn't owe at least part of his business existence to Arnold Palmer," said GCBA Executive Vice President Phil Arnold.

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his name on the scorecard, beside that of Mr. Ross. "We thought Brian should be so recognized because the reaction to his work has been most favorable," said RRC Club Manager John Douglas. "Brian did a wonderful job carrying the Ross flavor over to the new nine, on very difficult terrain."

Silva's many trips to Pitts-

burgh dovetailed with work at Seth Raynor's Fox Chapel Golf Club, which he is restoring in anticipation of the USGA's Curtis Cup matches in 2002. CSM is no stranger to USGA tournament preparation: Silva partner Mark Mungeam recently renovated Chicago's Olympia Fields CC, which hosted the 1997 USGA Senior Open and was recently named site of the 2003 U.S. Open.

## PGA Southern Cal to build courses

CALIMESA, Calif. — The PGA's Southern California Section (SCPGA) has announced plans to build two 18-hole golf courses across Interstate 10 from Oak Valley Golf Club here. Section Executive Director Tom Gustafson said the builders hope to begin construction in the fall and open the course in the summer of 1999. The section needed to negotiate with Oak Valley Partners L.P. to create a formal development agreement for the 400-acre site. The entire Oak Valley project includes 6,700 acres that were designated nine years ago for golf, residential and commercial development. The acquisition "will allow us to run our own tournaments ... and provide us with another source of income," Gustafson said.

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