

### **CURLEY, SCHMIDT PARTNERS**

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Golf course architects Lee Schmidt and Brian Curley have agreed to form a new golf course design company. The new alliance, Schmidt-Curley Design, will be based here. The two designers are reunited after having worked together in the 1980s at Landmark Land Co where Schmidt was the director of golf course design and construction. Since 1991, Schmidt has been a senior design associate for Jack Nicklaus, responsible for numerous projects worldwide. Curley recently made news with his buy-out of the Design Division of Landmark Golf Co., which he headed since 1992.

### **RESORT SIGNS MCCUMBER**

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — The latest venture for McCumber Golf and Mark McCumber & Associates will be the design of a golf learning center for Re-



Mark McCumber

naissance Park in the city's downtown. Renaissance Park will also include a Doubletree Hotel, conference and exhibit hall and amphitheater. The learning center will include

a 300-yard practice range, short-game area with bunker, putting course and nine-hole short course. Provisions will be made to incorporate nature trails around the perimeter of the course.

### **GRIFFIN JOINS FOUGHT DESIGN TEAM**

AURORA, Ore.—Jimmie Griffin has joined John Fought Design, a division of OB Sports, as design/construction manager. Working with Bob Cupp Design in Atlanta since 1989, Griffin was primarily responsible for the contract management of projects in Canada and the United States. He has also worked with Jack Nicklaus Golf Services.

## KAY INKS 5 COURSES

BRONXVILLE, N.Y. — Stephen Kay has been contracted to begin design on five courses. He will design three Jersey projects: Scotland Run National Golf Club in Gloucester County, which is scheduled to open in the summer of 1999; the Heritage Golf Club in Randolph, which will get underway this year; and The Grande at Holmdel — a housing development with an executive course, scheduled to begin construction in 1999. Kay will also design Logan's Reserve in York, Pa., and an 18-hole course for the I.G.A. Membership Co. in Dutchess County, N.Y.

GOLF COURSE NEWS



# Poellot maintains presence — for now

By MARK LESLIE

War in Indonesia and the continuing economic woes stifling development throughout Asia-Pacific, many golf course architects and others are pulling out of the region. Others in the industry are maintaining a toehold, hoping to ride out the crises. One of those is J. Michael Poellot, who has been designing golf courses in Asia since the early 1970s.

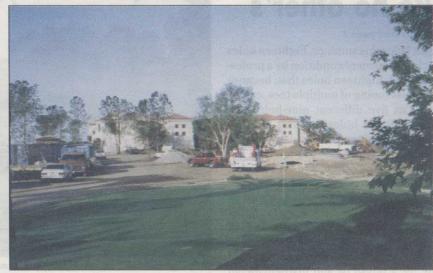
"We have weekly partners' meetings and we have to constantly discuss whether it makes sense to keep this office going," said Poellot, who has maintained headquarters here since the early 1990s. "We've committed to hang in there another 3-1/2 months and give the economy a chance to pick up."

At this point, Poellot said, "virtually all of our projects in Asia are shut down except on mainland China, which seems to be somewhat immune to what is happening around it."

Although he had not predicted the economic downturn, he said: "We had a sense that it was coming because the market was over-heated. There was too much development too quickly, and you see that happen everywhere. We saw it in Japan."

Poellot said that in recent history the Asian-Pacific economy has been cyclical, going up or down every seven Continued on page 50

# Not your normal backyard



One of three greens Carter Morrish designed for Bill O'Connor on an estate overlooking Malibu.

'Seven or eight years ago, when the madness was at its height, many so-called courses were laid out over private grounds...'

- Van Tassel Sutphen in The Outing Magazine, 1906

By MARK LESLIE

The current rage of building putting greens, and entire golf holes, on a person's property is not new, but rather a second coming of sorts. Two decades after Sutphen wrote those words in *The Outing Magazine*, Donald Ross laid out Overhills Golf Course on the Rockefeller estate at Pinehurst, N.C. But in the ensuing 70 years not much was heard of personal practice greens — until now.

Today's second coming of "estate golf courses" is one of often more modest pretensions and dimensions than their predecessors. While the very wealthy operate in their own stratosphere (see page 1 story), more people have the land for and can afford a single putting green, or a three-or six-hole practice facility.

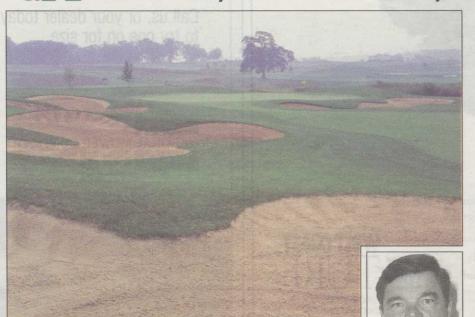
"There is a big push everywhere to put in golf greens," said Rees Jones, who designed a course for an Atlantic Golf Club member across the road from the club itself in Bridgehampton, Long Island. "The impetus is not prestige. It's the love of the game. They love golf, and if they have enough property and money to do this... People landscape their yards and build patios or gardens. This is just another form of landscaping, but it's usable."

Others who have designed greens and short "backyard courses" agree.

"I think these are people working on their game, to develop their skills," said architect Ron Kirby who, when he worked with Denis Griffiths, enjoyed a 1,000-square-foot green and a handful of tees 30 yards away outside their

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# A Lohmann, Mr. Renovation, takes ASGCA reins



The Merit Club, above, designed by Bob Lohmann, right, was named 5th Best New Private Club in 1995 by Golf Digest, and will host the U.S. Women's Open in 2000

MARENGO, Ill. - Bob Lohmann assumed the reins of the American Society of Golf Course Architects from outgoing President Alice Dye at the ASGCA's annual meeting in late April in Los Angeles. Well known for his renovation work in the Midwest, Lohmann also has designed a number of new courses. Forest Preserve National in Oak Forest, for which he worked as principle designer, was selected as one of the top new public courses in 1984. He graduated in 1974 with a degree in landscape architecture from the University of Wisconsin. We caught up with Lohmann at his offices here just before he succeeded Alice Dye for the ASGCA.

Golf Course News: What will you be focusing on as president of the ASGCA?

Bob Lohmann: We will keep going with what we've been doing the last couple of years when Denis [Griffiths, 1996 president] talked about affordable and accessible golf and Alice [Dye, 1997 president] picked up on that and added a stress on Continued on page 44