

BRIEFS



**JOHNSTON DESIGNING ATLANTA TRACK**

ATLANTA — Clyde Johnston has been retained to design an 18-hole upscale, daily-fee course at Hampton Creek, a 514-acre planned community located just north of metro-Atlanta. The dominant natural design feature on the course is a set of four creeks that meander through the property and create both forced-carry and lateral hazards. Additionally, an 18-acre manmade lake that dates back to the 1940s will frame the 18th hole and retain water for irrigation uses. Johnston will work in concert with Landscape Unlimited of Lincoln, Neb., on the construction of the course.

**GOLF RESOURCES CHANGES NAME**

DALLAS — Golf course design firm Golf Resources Group has changed its name to D.A. Weibring/Golf Resources Group Inc. to capitalize on the national identity of 22-year- PGA professional golfer and company chairman, D.A. Weibring. The company has also announced the addition of Steve Wolfard to its design team. He formerly worked with Jack Nicklaus/Golden Bear International, Inc. and Gene Bates Design. Wolfard will oversee all Weibring/GRI design and renovation projects and the staff of Maury Miller, Jimmy Fechter and Mike Brown.

**SHORT-GAME AREA HELPS PAR-3 TRACK**

SAN DIEGO — The Four Points Hotel Sheraton San Diego has opened a short-game practice facility at its nine-hole par-3 course, according to General Manager Nabih Geha. Geha said the new facility, which features a large putting green, chipping area and sand bunker, is ideal for golfers to practice their short game with shots up to 40 yards away. Designed and built by Agoura Hills-based Golf Projects International, the 3 Par At Four Points golf course features a challenging golf experience for players of all abilities. The eight-acre course has nine holes ranging from 60 to 130 yards and includes sand bunkers, grass bunkers and two-tiered greens.

**PALMER OFFICE OPENS IN MALAYSIA**

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Palmer Course Design Inc. has opened an Asia-Pacific regional office here. J. John Hamilton is operating the office as regional vice president. Hamilton, a registered landscape architect, planner and golf course architect, has nearly 20 years of design experience and has worked six years in Asia.

**A Tillinghast tour de Force**

Ron Forse renews several designs by the master

By MARK LESLIE

NEWPORT, R.I. — The year 1998 was "The Year of Tillinghast" for golf course architect Ron Forse, and it is spilling over into 1999 with work on one of the great historic clubs in America: Newport Country Club.

"It's really a restoration 'tweak,'" said Forse of his work at Newport CC, which was one of the original five clubs that formed the United States Golf Association. "The course is so pure. The character is very strong and it's still there. The [A.W.] Tillinghast greens are magnificent."

"I'm really excited about this," he added. "They approved the master plan a couple years ago, and it's great to get started."

While awaiting the go-ahead here, Forse was busy restoring the Tillinghast mark elsewhere:

- Last fall he restored the bunkers on three holes at Sunnehanna Country Club in Johnstown, Pa., "a job done wonderfully by Frontier Construction,



The 18th hole at Golden Valley Country Club in Minnesota before reconstruction, left, and afterwards, above.

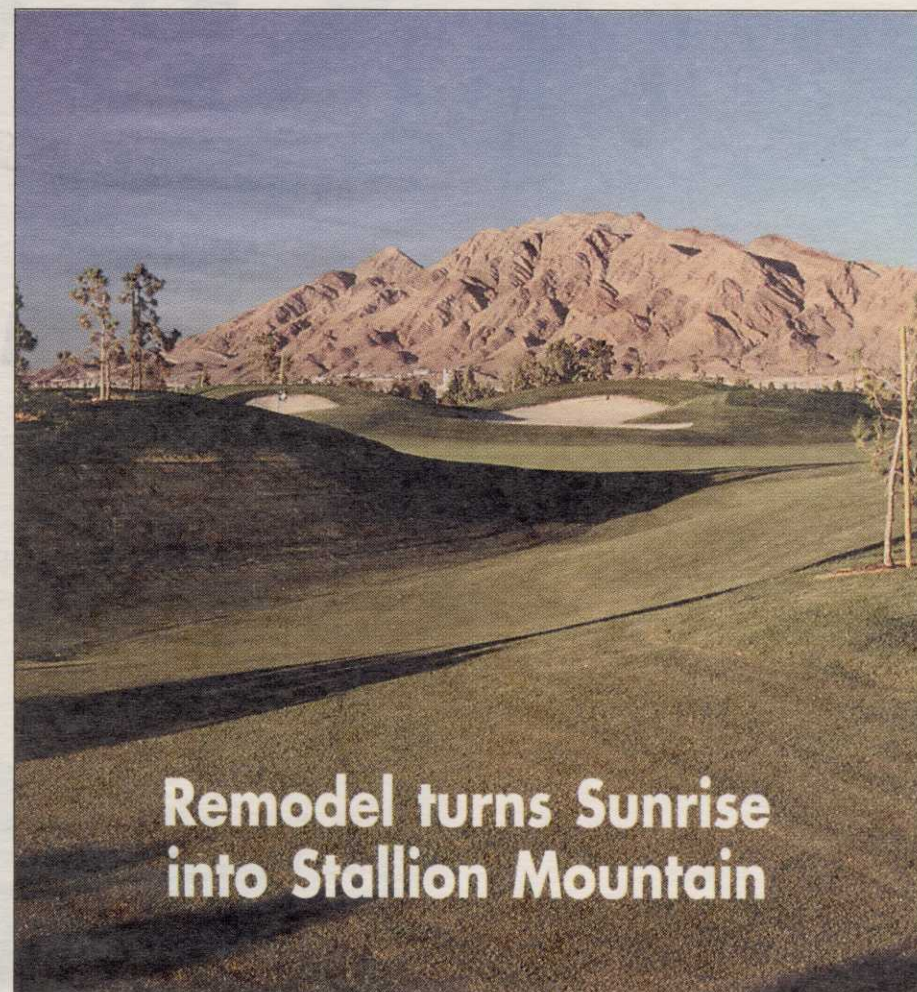
by the way."

- Last fall, working with Zona and Henderson Construction Co., he also restored half the bunkers at Valley Country Club near Hazleton, Pa., and

rebuilt three green sites because they were too steep for today's low-cut turf.

- He is in the process of "one of the best projects we've ever done," at

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**Remodel turns Sunrise into Stallion Mountain**

LAS VEGAS — Several million dollars have been spent remodeling Sunrise Country Club since June 1977, when Southwest Golf bought the 640-acre property from a group of individual investors.

Now known as Stallion Mountain Country Club, the facility includes three 18-hole golf courses — Secretariat, Citation and Man O War, a 16-acre practice facility and an 18,000-square-foot clubhouse.

Southwest Golf has enhanced and refurbished Stallion Mountain and its clubhouse.

More than 500 pine trees and 2,000 shrubs were planted, and a number of colorful flower gardens were added. Irrigation systems have been upgraded to improve watering schedules and to prepare for the planting of a new hybrid Bermudagrass next summer.

**RTJ II CHANGES**

**Charlton returns; Jones, Phillips ink an alliance**

PALO ALTO, Calif. — Bruce Charlton, who in January left Robert Trent Jones II International to form a design firm with colleagues Don Knott and Gary Linn, has rejoined RTJ II as a senior designer.

Robert Trent Jones Jr. announced that Charlton and Ty Butler are his new senior designers.

"I spent 18 years of my career working with RTJ II and I'm excited about carrying forward Bobby's and Mr. Jones Sr.'s legacy of building the world's great golf courses," Charlton said. "I wish my good friends, Don Knott and Gary Linn, who I believe to be among the finest golf course architects anywhere, success in their new venture."

Charlton is a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects and a graduate of the University of Arizona

Butler, a graduate of Kansas State University, has nine years of experience with RTJ II in all aspects of golf course design.

•••

Meanwhile, Jones also announced he has formed a strategic alliance with another former employee — Kyle Phillips.

Kyle Phillips Golf Course Design of Granite Bay will design a limited number of golf courses each year

Continued on page 44



## Classic Newport CC returned to 'old self'

Continued from page 39

Golden Valley (Minn.) Country Club. Using old photos, Hartman Construction Co. is restoring bunkers. "Jeff Hartman is doing phenomenal work there," Forse said. He added that Golden Valley is a unique par-73 track with one extra par-3 and two extra par-5s — meaning six par-5s and five par-3s.

- He is in the midst of a master restoration plan for Brooklawn Country Club in Fairfield, Conn., site of the 1987 Senior Tour Open.

- He is wrapping up a master plan for Williamsport (Pa.) Country Club, preparing to restore many of the bunkers this fall.

Meanwhile, Forse is one-third through his work at Newport CC, which he described as "sort of a hidden gem. It's only a par-70, but you'd never know it was that short because it is routed so beautifully over the ground."

The course was originally designed by Donald Ross in 1915 and had hosted a couple of U.S. amateur competitions, including one in which C.B. Macdonald, one of the classic course designers, lost in the finals. Tillinghast was hired in 1924 to design seven new holes on property across the road and to rework the entire property of Ross's design.

Working with those 1924 plans, Forse is performing this "gentle renovation."

Already he has restored some of the key bunkers and intends to expand the greens to their original size.

"Generally," he said, "the greens are gaining three to five feet all the way around the edges. They have lost very interesting, and sometimes very difficult, intended perimeter cupping areas. So we're getting all that back, plus the ability to recover from greenside bunkers, so golf balls don't get caught up in the collar."

On the famous par-3, Redan-style 14th hole, the green is being extended at least 20 feet on the right-front corner.

The greens "may not be the wildest ones Tillinghast ever did because of the wind off the ocean there," Forse said. "But the raised spine protruding into the putting surface from the rear on many of the greens separates cupping areas and rewards good approach shots. It's a very interesting saucer-type configuration."

In fall and early winter, work was completed on key bunkers, including one on the 4th hole, where sand has been reintroduced to a grass bunker

that had become a big grassy hollow.

A huge horseshoe-shaped bunker on the 6th hole has been filled in on the right side of the green, while a long S-curving bunker on the 5th fairway was also returned to its unique flavor.

While keeping true to the

drawings on most of the course, Forse did take some liberties on the short, uphill straightaway par-5 17th hole.

"We added a Tillinghast trademark: a sea of mounds or grouping of bunkers all the way across the fairway, kind of a Sahara or Hell's Half Acre," he said. "We took the 250-yard

*'What sets the place [Newport CC] apart is, it's so historic they don't water their fairways, not even for the U.S. Amateur.'*

— Ron Forse

mark from the back tee as the center of this mound complex. We also added bunkers from left and right on the second landing area, so there are all

these strategic options. Tillinghast did this a lot at Ridgewood Country Club in Paramus, N.J., and they

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## GOLF COURSE NEWS

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**ALL IN THE FAMILY**  
Robert Trent Jones Sr. (left) has teamed with elder son Bobby to form a new architectural entity, RTJ Golf Ventures. For story, see page 37.

#### COURSE MAINTENANCE

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PLAYERS SURVEYED ON SUPERSTROKE

### Image enhanced but golfers insist on 'green' look

BY PETER BLAIS

ORLANDO, Fla. — Most golfers view superintendents as trained professionals and the person most responsible for course conditions — news course managers should find encouraging consideration efforts to elevate their image. Disturbingly, however, few golfers recognized the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America (GCSAA) as superintendents' national organization. Also troubling was the unwillingness of most golfers to accept poorer playing conditions in exchange for reduced chemical and water use on their courses. According to a recent survey of golfers conducted by the National Golf

STUDY SHOWS:

### Name designers pull higher dues and green fees

BY PETER BLAIS

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Private courses designed by signature architects command higher initiation fees. Monthly dues for architecture facilities are climbing steadily.

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**M**T. STERLING, Ky. — Graham Marsh, managing director of Graham Marsh Golf Design, and Bill Kubly, president of Landscapes Unlimited, are developing Old Silo, a daily-fee golf course here. The course will be the first design project in the United States for Graham Marsh Golf Design and the first golf course ownership project for Graham Marsh. It will also be the first course that Marsh and Landscapes Unlimited have teamed up to develop.

## Marsh, Landscapes team up in Kentucky

Old Silo was chosen as the name because the property has been a farm for more than 100 years and there is an old silo on the property that will be restored and maintained as a landmark.

The course will be routed in and around Silver Creek, a real-estate development that is already underway.

Old Silo will feature multiple tees for players of all abilities and the course will

measure 7,000 yards from the back tees. It will feature holes that play along the ridges with vista views as well as holes that run along the creek bottom with many trees and other challenges. There will be a complete practice facility featuring a driving range, putting and chipping greens as well as practice bunkers. The clubhouse will have a fully staffed pro shop, bar and grill, and will offer players

all the amenities usually found in a country club setting.

Old Silo is expected to open in October. The ownership team of Marsh and Kubly will operate and manage the facility, which will promote junior golf, host golf leagues as well as tournaments, and encourage players of all abilities to enjoy the course.

Graham Marsh said: "The site for Old Silo is one that allows us to design and build a first class golf course that will challenge players of all levels."

## Tour de Forse

Continued from previous page

needed something to toughen up this short par-5.

"Sometime in early spring we will continue," Forse said of the bunker work.

Another aesthetic renewal is the clearing of brush that had obstructed views of the ocean. Some has already been removed, and "we're evaluating whether more should be cleared to open up views," Forse said.

"What sets the place apart," he added, "is, it's so historic they don't water their fairways, not even for the U.S. Amateur. And they voted 8-1 on the committee to continue without watering them.

"It's a joy to work with the people there."

As historical the course is, so is the property itself, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

According to the club, the 10th fairway and green is the oldest in continuous use in the United States. And on that same

*Tillinghast 'changed his style more than anybody. He was so versatile, he was hard to peg down.'*

— Ron Forse

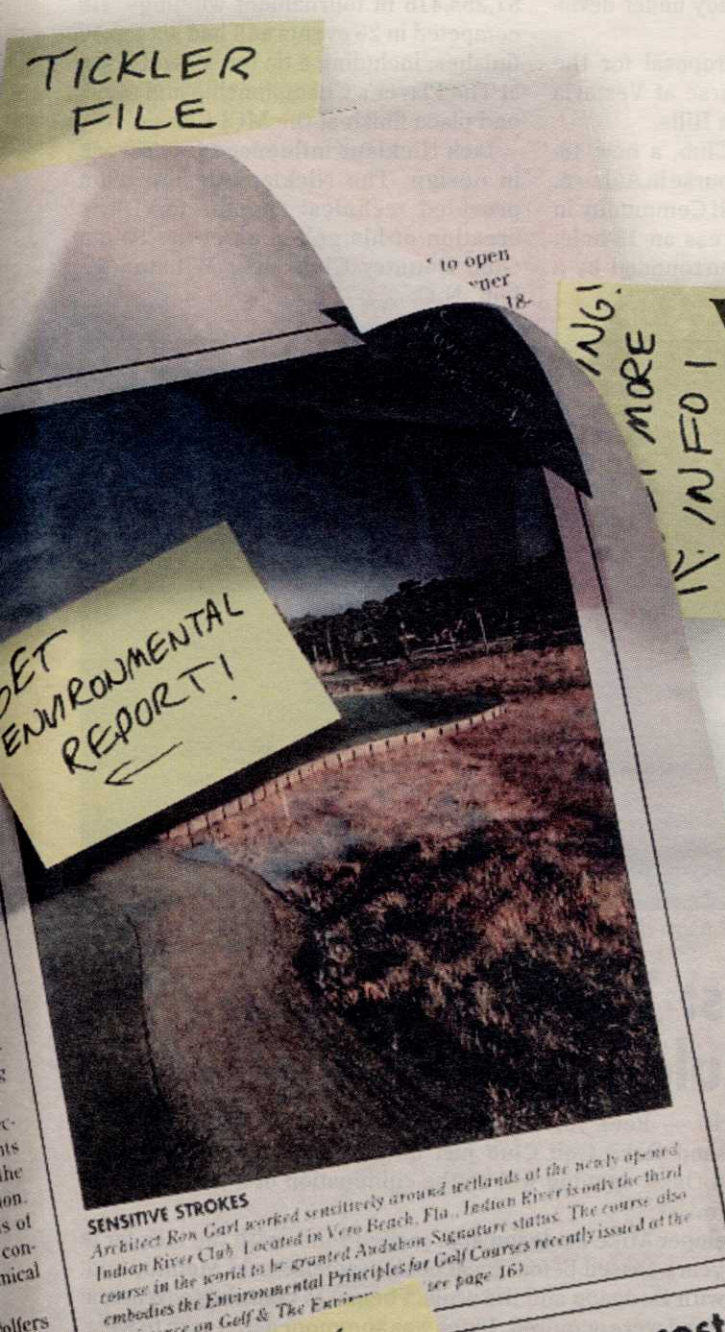
fairway Rochambeau and Lafayette camped their troops. Proof is found in the corrugated cardboard-looking ground itself. The earth was moved to build gentle ridges about 25 feet apart so the troops could set up their tents and rainwater would run between them.

...

Forse has found himself enamoured with Tillinghast's work for a number of reasons.

He ranks with Ross and Seth Reynor in Forse's book because of "his strong strategy and versatility," Forse said. "He changed his style more than anybody. He was so versatile, he was hard to peg down.

"He was very strong and bold in his strategies and bunkering in creating risk-reward. And he would plateau his greens a lot. But you get to a place like Winged Foot and they are kind of plateaued, but there was so much rock he changed that, too."



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### on course costs

By MARK LESLIE

Worried the cost of golf is starting to drive people from the game, the incoming and outgoing presidents of the American Society of Golf Course Architects have presented arguments that would lead developers to make harsh choices about their projects.

Picking sides in a point-counterpoint atmosphere, Past President Jeff Brauer of Golfscapes in Houston and new President Denis Griffiths of Braselton, Ga., agreed construction costs have escalated too high but disagreed over the cure.

"Ten years ago there were few upscale daily-fee projects," Griffiths said. "Everyone today is doing

### SENSITIVE STROKES

Architect Ron Carl worked sensitively around wetlands at the newly opened Indian River Club. Located in Vero Beach, Fla., Indian River is only the third course in the world to be granted Audubon Signature status. The course also embodies the Environmental Principles for Golf Courses recently issued at the conference on Golf & The Environment (see page 16).

Griffiths

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