

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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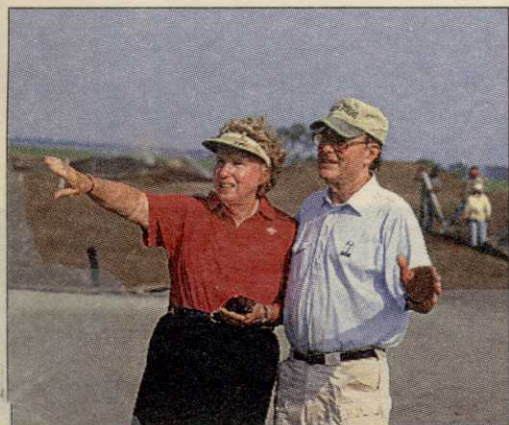
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The First Tee's First Year

Executive Director Tod Leiweke says the effort is steaming toward 100 facilities by 2001 11



ALICE GIVES PETE A FEW POINTERS
Alice Dye tosses Pete Dye a couple of suggestions as Pete puts the finishing touches on his new design at Colleton River on Hilton Head Island, S.C. Colleton is scheduled to open in April. See story on page 40.

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Y2K Crisis: Two little numbers, one big problem

By MARK LESLIE

"On New Years Day I wouldn't want to be on a golf course because the sprinkler systems will probably be going nuts," said Pebble Beach Co.'s Dominic Van Ness.

Van Ness, director of the Information Services Department at the world-famous resort, foresees major problems beginning — and then perhaps snowballing — when the world's clocks tick over from midnight Dec. 31, 1999, to 12:01 a.m. Jan. 1.

The situation has been dubbed

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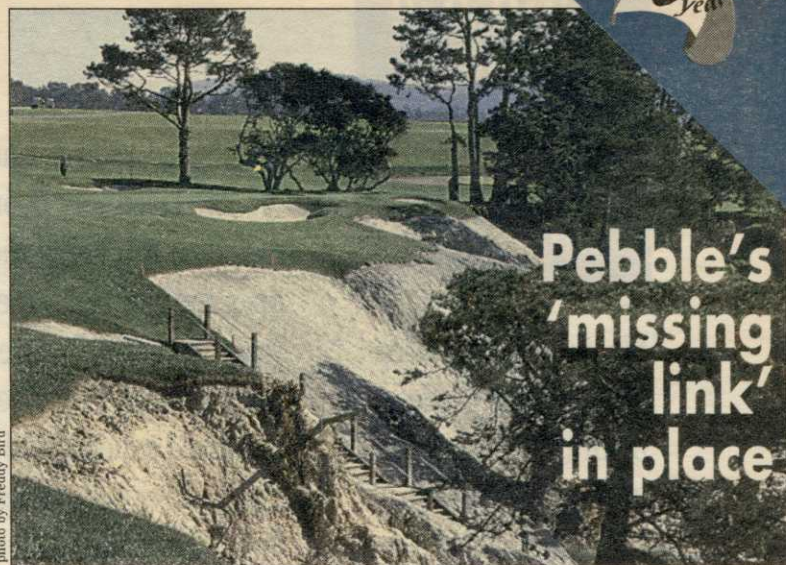


photo by Freddy Bird

Pebble's 'missing link' in place

Pebble Beach's new 187-yard 5th: Now overlooking, not moving away from, the ocean.

By DOUG SAUNDERS

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Eighty years and \$9.5 million after Pebble Beach Golf Links was built, the parcel of land that should have formed the 5th hole now does.

The missing link, a private estate that Pebble Beach owners have craved ever since they sold it, was finally wrested from the heirs last year and has been transformed by Jack Nicklaus.

The new 187-yard hole will play along the bluff overlooking the ocean. This hole was designed by Jack Nicklaus, who is making all efforts to create a hole that reflects that character of the rest of the course. The intention is to add a hole that should have been constructed in 1919 and have it look and play as though it were.

The hole that it will replace is the awkward par-3 5th that inexplicably played away from the ocean in the original design. Why this hole was laid out as it was years ago is an interesting story of how, when golf courses and real-estate projects meet, the best intentions can cause conflict.

Pebble Beach Golf Links was created to stimulate land sales of the

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DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT Q&A: Steve Smyers' Old Memorial GC in Tampa is one of the top 10 new private courses in the country. See Q&A with Smyers, page 33.

Huizenga's FPH to 'add value' to resorts, golf

By PETER BLAIS

PLANTATION, Fla. — Wayne Huizenga's Florida Panthers Holdings (FPH) Inc. recently purchased and is set to begin renovations to the Golf Club of Plantation, a 47-year-old,

18-hole course here that will complement the firm's two hotels in the Fort Lauderdale market.

The Plantation course was closed recently in anticipation of a major renovation under the guidance of an as-yet-undetermined architect.

A year ago FPH acquired Rolling Hills Golf Course, the site where the movie "Caddyshack" was filmed, and recently completed a major renova-

tion to the facility located in nearby Davie. Rolling Hills will also service FPH's Fort Lauderdale resorts.

The concept is to add value to our resorts and hotels," said FPH Vice President of Golf Development Jim Applegate.

"We know what an im-

portant component golf is when people decide where to spend their vacations and leisure time."

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FPH's Jim Applegate

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

Textron: Burtner takes helm of Golf, Turf Care

By M. LEVANS

RACINE, Wis. — Textron has reshuffled the top management of its recently expanded Golf, Turf Care and Specialty Products Group on the way to finalizing its consolidation with Ransomes.

The company has named Carl Burtner as the group's chief executive officer effective January 1. Burtner will be based in Elgin, Ill., and will oversee nine global operations, 3,600 employees and more than \$700 million in revenues.

Under Textron's Golf, Turf Care and Specialty Products group umbrella falls E-Z-GO golf cars, Cushman utility vehicles, and Ransomes,

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