

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

10 years anniversary

A UNITED PUBLICATION
VOLUME 11, NUMBER 1
JANUARY 1999 • \$6.00

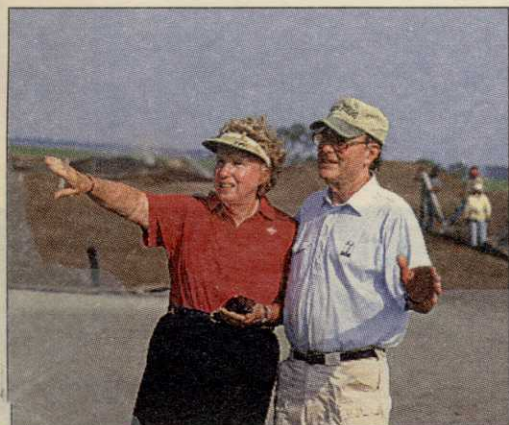
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The First Tee's First Year

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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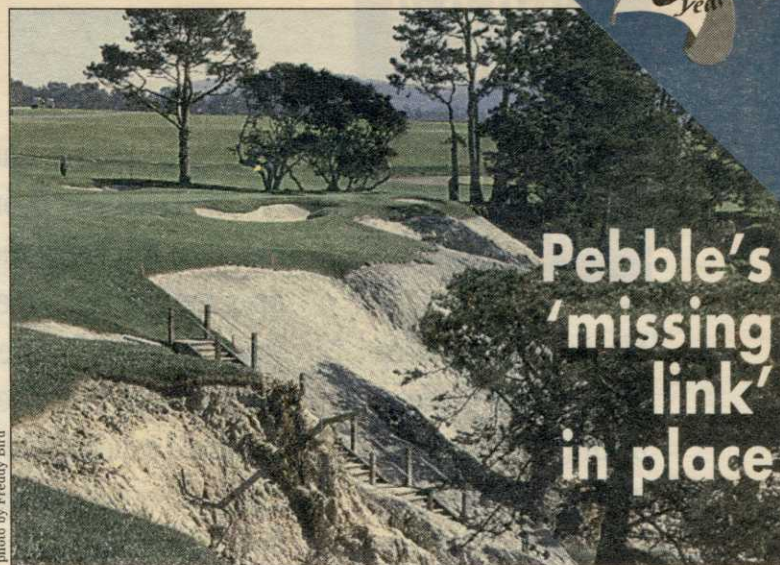


photo by Freddy Bird

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

Continued on page 45



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



FPH's Jim Applegate

Continued on page 48

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,

Continued on page 62

KSL Recreation purchases Maui's Grand Wailea

WAILEA, Hawaii — KSL Recreation Corp. has contracted to purchase the Grand Wailea Resort Hotel & Spa in Wailea Resort on Maui. La Quinta, Calif.-based KSL Recreation owns and operates such destination resorts as La Quinta Resort & Club and PGA West in La Quinta, Calif. and Doral Golf Resort & Spa in Miami.

KSL will purchase the 781-room facility, which opened in 1991, from New York-based International Hotel Acquisitions, LLC, (IHA), an affiliate of Credit Suisse First Boston; and Secured Capital Corp. which has controlled the resort since a financial restructuring in June, 1998. The property operated as a Grand Hyatt

Hotel from 1991 to 1993.

There are three 18-hole courses within Wailea Resort and another four located within 15 minutes.

KSL Recreation also owns and/or operates The Claremont Resort & Spa in Berkeley, Calif.; Lake Lanier Islands, near Atlanta; and the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City, Mich. The firm

also owns KSL Fairways, a Manassas, Va.-based company that owns and operates 31 community courses located east of the Mississippi.

The sale was expected to be completed in December.



ACQUISITIONS

Huizenga

Continued from page 1

The issue of public stock in the Florida Panthers National Hockey League team gave rise to the Florida Panthers Holdings Inc. leisure division approximately 18 months ago, according to Applegate.

The company quickly acquired six resort hotels: The Boca Raton (Fla.) Resort and Club; The Bahia Mar and The Pier 66 in Ft. Lauderdale; The Edgewater Beach Hotel and The Registry in Naples, Fla.; and The Arizona Biltmore in Phoenix.

"Where there is golf, we're making improvements to it, through redesign or renovation" Applegate said. "Where the hotels do not have golf, we're making acquisitions to complement the hotels through a golf component."

In addition to Plantation and Rolling Hills, the 1930s-era course at the Boca Raton Resort was completely renovated for \$6.5 million last summer by Gene Bates. A Rees Jones-designed course called Grand Naples recently broke ground in Naples and will open in late 1999 with two more to begin construction in 2000. A use treaty is in place for the existing two courses at the Arizona Biltmore with no plans for additional courses at present.

Applegate said there is no timetable for additional acquisitions or developments. "We'll just take them as they come," he explained. "With American Patriot, Starwood and KSL out in the marketplace, every time a property comes up, there is a lot of competition. We're after the same properties they are, so it's competitive."

"The general plan is to buy good properties, add value to them, add a membership structure and create more volume and recurring income."

Huizenga is chairman of the board and Rick Rochon president of Florida Panthers Holdings.

"It goes back to his basic business premise of consolidation and diversity with all his public companies," Applegate explained of Huizenga's interest in the golf business. "He doesn't put all his eggs in one basket with any company he's involved with."

Applegate owned and operated Gary Player's design firm for many years before selling the company to Player and his son, Mark. Applegate started his own firm, Signature Course Design, several years ago, before Huizenga offered to put him in charge of FPH's golf development operations. Applegate sold Signature to a Philadelphia Group called Prime Golf before joining Huizenga. Applegate's son, Scott, is one of Prime's lead architects.



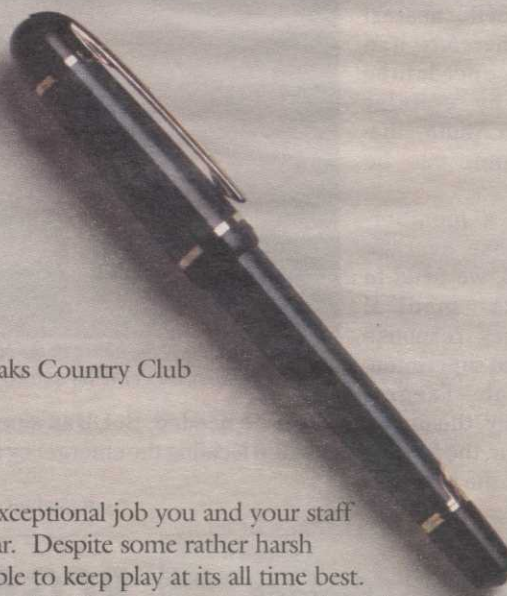
TO: Robert Sackman, GCS

FROM: The Greens Committee, Tall Oaks Country Club

RE: CONGRATULATIONS!

Dear Bob,

We want to thank you for the exceptional job you and your staff did with the course this past year. Despite some rather harsh weather conditions, you were able to keep play at its all time best. In fact, guests from surrounding clubs frequently commented on what great shape our course was in and wondered what your secret is. We know it's a lot more than magic, but whatever you do — aside from your hard work — it has made the membership very proud. We look forward to another season with you at the helm!



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

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