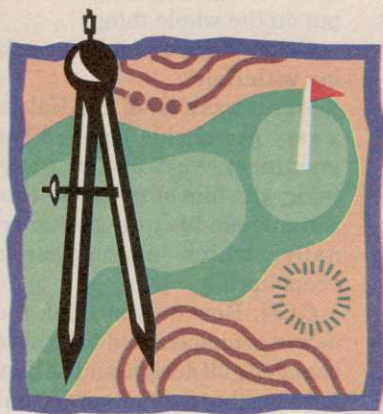


BRIEFS

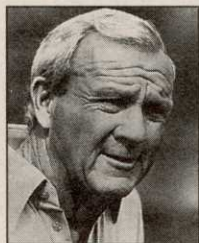


GCBAA BUSTING OUT

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — The Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBAA) grew by more than 25 percent in 1998, adding 46 construction companies and suppliers to bring its total membership to 212. "I think it's a sign that the golf course construction industry is maturing," said Phil Arnold, executive vice president of the 27-year-old organization. "Naturally I'd like to think our association has had a lot to do with fostering that process, but we've also benefited from the explosive growth in the golf industry as a whole. There are some huge general contracting companies that have been building golf courses for years, but as a small part of their overall business. Those companies are now coming to our association."

PALMER INKS MICHIGAN PROJECT

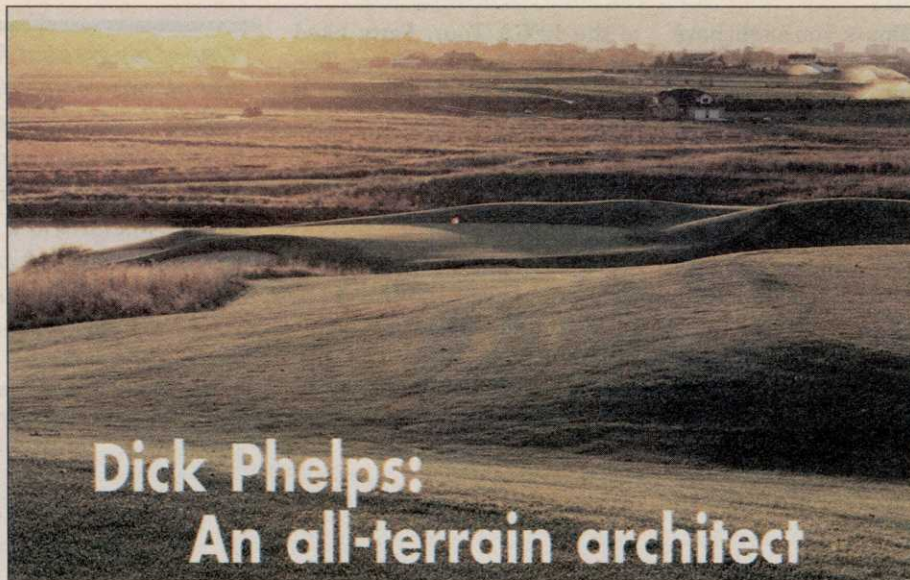
FENTON, Mich. — Arnold Palmer and Palmer Course Design Co. have selected to design the Preserve at Black Bear Resort here. The 18-hole championship course is being developed by the Preserve Corp. The Preserve at Black Bear Resort is scheduled to open during the summer of 2000 and will feature a clubhouse and 72 natural wooded home sites. Lakes and pristine hardwoods pave the way for large ravines that run the entire property. Eagle Golf Construction will be the contractor.



Arnold Palmer

CAL OLSON COURSES PROGRESS

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif. — Cal Olson Golf Architects is busy with two golf courses under construction — Sonoma Ranch in Las Cruces, N.M., and Mountain Falls in Pahrump, Nev. — while Diamond Hill in Fontana is expected to start construction in October. Sierra Star Resort in Mammoth Lakes was completed last year and will open this summer. Olson is also remodeling El Dorado Golf Course in Long Beach, Calif., by adding and improving on the water features and bunkers and extending the yardage.



Dick Phelps:
An all-terrain architect

The 16th green at Saddle Rock Golf Club in Aurora, Colo., invites a clean approach shot. Designed by Dick Phelps, Saddle Rock was voted 8th-best new public course in 1998. It hosts the Colorado Open, the state men's championship whose past winners include Hale Irwin and Dave Hill.

Dick Phelps has been designing golf courses since he graduated from Iowa State University in 1963 with bachelor's and master's degrees in landscape architecture. In 1966 he and land planner Donald Brauer formed a partnership in Minneapolis and a year later Phelps opened his own office in Denver. When they split in 1973, he formed a partnership with Brad

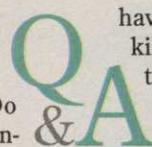


Benz, and in 1981 they added J. Michael Poellot. Benz and Poellot left a year later to form a company in California, and "from 1981 until now I've been master of my own destiny and I enjoy it," Phelps says. In 1990 Phelps and U.S. Open champion Hale Irwin began working together, but Irwin has since started his own design firm.

Golf Course News: When I hear the Phelps name I think mountains. A lot of your reputation was gained by your work in the mountains. Do you feel you have mastered designing courses in the high mountains of America?

Dick Phelps: We certainly have had experience in the high country. But I think more of the golf courses have been out of it now — quite a few in the flat lands of Colorado. And we've been fortunate to have done courses, some of them with Hale Irwin, from Florida to North Carolina to Colorado to Sun Valley, Idaho, to central Illinois. So, we have gotten around to other kinds of sites as well.

GCN: What do you prefer?
DP: The mountain courses I've done have been on difficult sites. However, we



have not had a lot of heavy rock and the kinds of obstacles you often have on the East Coast. So we've been fortunate that we've been able to move dirt without a lot of interference. I think [architects] all like to have a gentler rolling site with some rock, some water, some trees and so forth. I've had the perfect site only twice in my career and I've done close to 70 courses. Probably one of the prettiest was in the Sacramento area called Twelve Bridges. It has beautiful oaks, a couple of streams, wetlands and gorgeous rock — big granite boulders. The other site was Perry Park Country Club between Colorado Springs and Denver. It's back in the Ponderosa pine, with vertical redrock formations similar to the Garden of the Gods.

Continued on page 22

Wildhawk fills void of 'affordable public'

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Aiming to fill the need in Northern California for affordable, public-access golf, Southgate Recreational Park District has opened Wildhawk Golf Club here.

"We believe that Wildhawk will prove to be a prototype golf development concept for local municipalities, county governments and park districts who have the vision and desire to use idle land, and at the same time provide an income-producing, high-quality, affordable golf facility for their constituents," said J. Michael Poellot Golf Design Group senior designer Mark Hollinger.

The course was created on a completely flat piece of farm land "with almost no existing natural features with which to work, not even one tree," said Hollinger. "We had poor, rocky soils ... and a short timetable. The completed project, however, has become a high-



Undulating fairways and creative movement on the greens set Wildhawk apart.

quality, daily-fee recreational golf facility that is now coming into its own with a significant level of play." Builders moved more than 350,000 cubic yards of dirt to mold the 6,695-yard parkland-style course. The course fea-

American Skiing delays projects

By PETER BLAIS

NEWRY, Maine — A disappointing ski season has slowed golf developments at several American Skiing Co. (ASC) properties, according to Peter Webber, special assistant to ASC golf operations.

This past winter's lack of snow in the Northeast and Colorado, the core of American Skiing's holdings, led to a disappointing fiscal second quarter. Consequently, the company decided to sell some non-strategic holdings and cut capital improvements.

In terms of golf, that meant putting construction of the new 18-hole Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed course at Sunday River in Newry on hold for a year and temporarily tabling plans for new courses at Sugarloaf USA in Carrabassett Valley, Maine, and Attitash Bear Peak in Bartlett, N.H., Webber said.

"We cut the trees on all 18 holes and the driving range this winter," said Sunday River Managing Director Chip Seamans. "We've taken some money from our capital budget for the resort to continue working on it this summer, mostly drainage issues and the sort of thing that will put us ahead in the future when we really jump into it again."

"We're not doing as much as we'd like, but it's definitely going to happen in the future."

The original plan was to open the Sunday River layout in 2001. A revised opening date has yet to be determined. BMR Inc. of Vancouver is the builder.

In addition to Sunday River, Sugarloaf and Attitash, ASC operates Killington, Mount Snow and Sugarbush in Vermont; Steamboat in Colorado; The Canyons in Utah; and Heavenly in California and Nevada.

tures four sets of tees, undulating fairways, medium-sized greens, lush landscaping and meandering, strategically placed streams and lakes.

Wildhawk is being managed by Crown Golf Properties.