

China's water woes

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Club and Shenzhen Golf Club, agreed. "Water for irrigation in China is a major issue," he said. "In southern China rainfall is very important during the wet season and storage lakes need to be as large and as well-sealed as possible."

At JMP's new course at Yalong Bay on Hainan Island, developers are rebuilding an existing reservoir to store irrigation water. "There are five months out of the year that are dry, so we have a fluctuating lake edge," said Hollinger. "We had to design a series of terraced paddies along the holes that we can grow crops on as the water recedes during the summer."

Many courses, having been denied access to city water supplies, are now being forced to drill wells. "As the local governments are taking a more active role in the approval process," said designer Neil Haworth, "[courses] will need to use deep wells to go down into the ground water as a source. Our Snow Mountain course [in Li Jiang] will tap into underground glacier rivers."

However, elsewhere in China, the government has put restrictions on the use of well water. "We put down water wells at Sand River," said Alexander. "But the government restricted their use."

PASPALUM

In response to the government restrictions on well-water use, Alexander was forced to use a mixture of salt water and well-water for irrigation purposes. "This is one of the reasons that we chose paspalum," he said.

Paspalum is ideally suited to these situations because it can tolerate salinity.

According to Hollinger, with the water situation worsening paspalum is going to become the turfgrass of choice in China. "It is only going get worse," he said. "Not only because you don't get the quantity you need, but because the condition of the water is just awful. That is why a lot of designers, including ourselves, are going to the paspalums. It tolerates not only the salt from the sea water but also the salts from the polluted water."

DEVELOPMENT SLOWDOWN?

Whether the growing water crisis in China will lead to a slowdown in golf development in the near term remains to be seen, but it is certain to eventually limit the amount of golf courses the country can sustain.

"I think as time goes by," said Hollinger. "You are going to find courses half built because the water isn't there. That will create some upheavals." ■

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Golf Property Analysts opens North Carolina office

ARAPAHOE, N.C. — Golf Property Analysts (GPA), a national golf-property consulting and appraisal firm based in Harrisburg, Pa., has established an office here in North Carolina to serve the Southeastern market, according to GPA president Laurence A. "Larry" Hirsh.

"The growth of golf, the

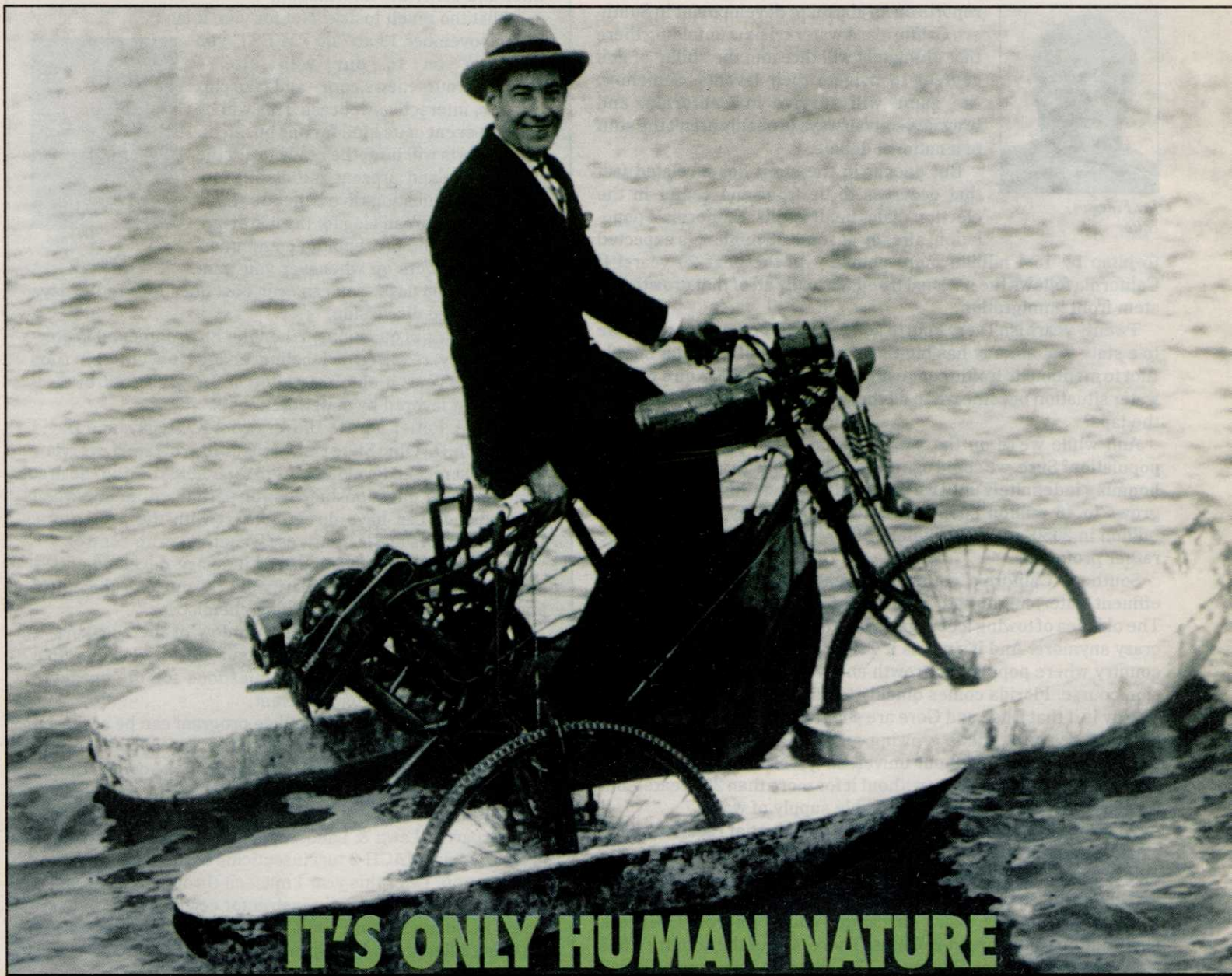
Southeast's burgeoning economy and strong residential and resort development have increased demand for the types of uniquely specialized services we can provide," said Hirsh. "The office in North Carolina will help us respond more effectively to this regional demand, which we have served in the past. As our

practice in the Southeast continues to grow, we plan to establish a Florida office in the not-too-distant future."

Alan M. "Mac" Harris, a native of Greenville, N.C., now represents GPA from the Arapahoe office. An eight-year associate with the firm, Harris is a certified general real estate appraiser

and is licensed as a broker in North Carolina, South Carolina and Pennsylvania.

Established in 1980, GPA's parent firm — Hirsh Valuation Group — engages in commercial, industrial, investment and recreational real estate property consulting and appraisal. Hirsh Valuation Group offers specialized services relating to golf, aviation and marina real estate properties.



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