

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2001 • \$7.00

www.golfcoursenews.com

INSIDE

Paspalum proliferating

Paspalum's popularity is surging worldwide due to its ability to tolerate adverse conditions.....15

On the blocks

Course acquirers find the best market in years, but funding is growing tight.....46



SUPERINTENDENTS ROLL INTO DALLAS

The 72nd annual Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference and Show will be held in Dallas Feb. 10-17. Turn to page 38 for comprehensive coverage of this year's show including a schedule of events, election information, award updates and a city guide to Dallas.

COURSE MAINTENANCE

Krueger warns of water wars.....13
Tools of the Trade at Burger's The Quarry GC....14
Modular greens extend playing season.....19

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Newport National finally on track 21
Black Gold Golf Club near L.A. opening soon 24
International report: Fream in the Sahara 32

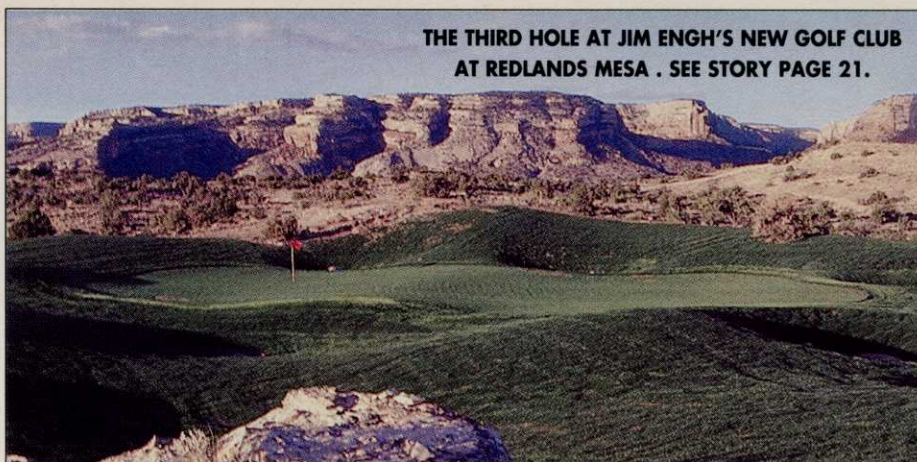
COURSE MANAGEMENT

Heritage Golf Group adds five 44
Honours Golf continues to grow 45
Myrtle Beach named top golf resort 47

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

Syngenta ready for business 50
GreenIndustry rolls out Internet software.....50
New products abound 55

PERIODICAL



THE THIRD HOLE AT JIM ENGH'S NEW GOLF CLUB AT REDLANDS MESA . SEE STORY PAGE 21.

Big lenders throttling back on new course development financing

By JAY FINEGAN

ATLANTA — Is the party over?

After an all-time high for new golf course openings — 515 last year — the financing climate for course construction has suddenly turned cold. Bankers such as Jeff Burkle at Textron Financial Corp. here in Atlanta, and others across the country, are sharply curtailing new loans.



By some estimates, the number of courses securing financing this year will fall between 30 and 50 percent from 2000 levels.

"There are a lot of projects on the books, just waiting to have their finance packages completed, that are dying on the vine," said Lee Hetrick, executive director of the Golf Course Builders Association of America. "It's got to be a smokin' deal to get funded right now."

SUPPLY OUTSTRIPPING DEMAND

Bankers cite several reasons for the credit tightening, beginning with the overall economy, which may be verging on recession. During an economic downturn,

Continued on page 58

Textron Golf & Turf continues integration, closes Racine plant

By ANDREW OVERBECK

AUGUSTA, Ga. — In a continued effort to integrate its businesses, Textron Golf Turf & Specialty Products has announced that it is closing its Jacobsen manufacturing facility in Racine, Wis. The company plans to consolidate the manufacturing done at the Racine plant at its more modern Jacobsen facility in Charlotte, N.C.

The decision to streamline its manufacturing processes builds off the company's original consolidation plan announced in May that combined the management of its turf care equipment and E-Z-GO product lines.

The division's new CEO, Greg Hyland, said improving manufacturing efficiencies is of prime importance.

"We are continually looking at our manufacturing processes to improve efficiencies, reduce cycle times and be a much more effective manufacturer," he said. "We have started the process and



Greg Hyland

Continued on page 54

Colorful cowboy converts ranch into links-style layout

By DOUG SAUNDERS

ANTIOCH, Calif. — For the past 26 years Jack Roddy has lived the life of the American cowboy, raising cattle on his 2,200-acre ranch on the eastern edge of the town of Antioch. Just as his father did in the 1940s, Jack ran cattle across the rolling grasslands and toiled to make ends meet.

During the prime years, 40,000 head of cattle roamed these hills, located 45 minutes east of San Francisco. But the stupendous Bay Area population surge of the last decade has turned Antioch into a city of 82,000 people, while the profits in

Continued on page 37



Photo: Freddie Bird

The 12th hole at Roddy Ranch Golf Club, 45 minutes east of San Francisco

Experts urge global assault on Asian beetle

By JOEL JOYNER

WASHINGTON — Insect-control officials here and elsewhere are calling for a worldwide attack on the Asian Longhorned Beetle, one of the most lethal tree-killers on the planet.

A native of China, Japan and Korea, the beetle has now been found in 14 locations in the

Continued on page 58



The Asian Longhorned Beetle