

Brothers battle over Bristlecone

Lucrative partnership erupts into legal fight

By **SCOTT WILLIAMS**
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Hartland — It was somewhere on a golf course, as the story goes, that John and Mark Malec in 1993 decided to go into business together.

Over the next five years, the brothers transformed 363 acres of farmland into Bristlecone Pines, a plush golf course community that has become one of Waukesha County's marquee upscale developments.

With estates selling for \$1 million or more, it has become a favorite playground for corporate executives and professional athletes.

For John and Mark Malec, it also has started one heck of a family feud.

Behind the scenes at Bristlecone Pines, the brothers have en-

gaged in a bitter fight for control of the \$70 million development, each accusing the other of mismanagement, mishandling funds and ignoring their original deal to work side by side.

"It's kind of a sad case," said attorney Bradley Dagen, who represents Mark Malec. "Because it's two brothers, it makes it even more unfortunate than the average business case."

Neither brother could be reached for comment, and John Malec's attorney, John Maloney, declined to comment.

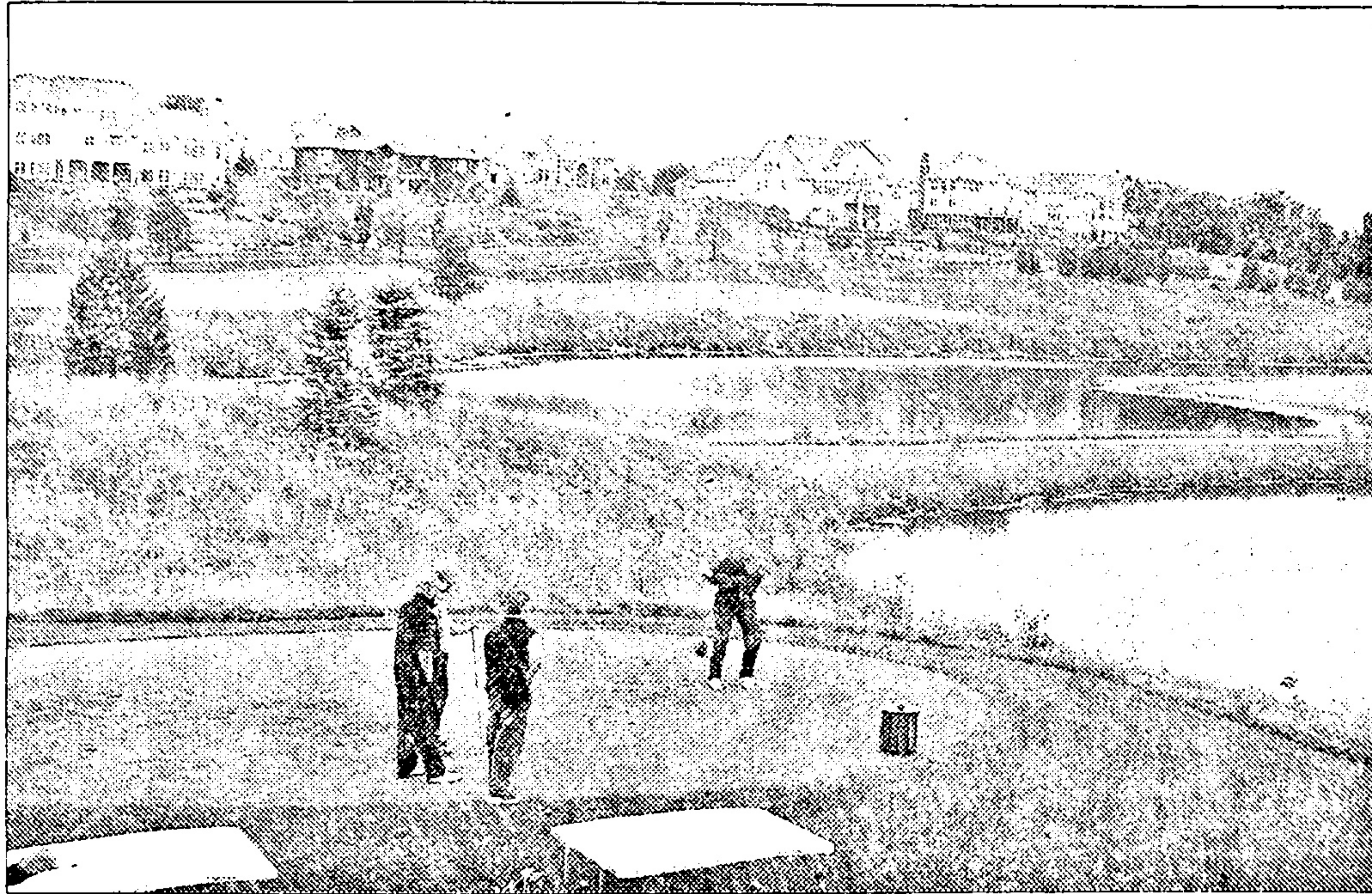
Feud taken to court

Starting today, the entire drama will be played out in a Waukesha County courtroom, as each Malec tries to persuade a jury

HOW BAD IS THE FEUD?

■ **John Malec** asked a judge for permission to erect a wall inside Bristlecone Pines headquarters to separate the two feuding sides.

■ **Mark Malec** claimed that John changed the locks on office doors and laid plans to build a door inside the main sales center to separate Mark from the rest of the staff.



WILLIAM MEYER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Golfers tee off on Hartland's Bristlecone Pines golf course, where homes line the fairway. John and Mark Malec's upscale development spawned a feud between the brothers.

Please see **DEVELOPMENT, 2W**