Mangilao: Then ... and Now

By PETER BLAIS

CANMORE, Alberta, Canada — Officials of the multi-million-dollar Three Sisters Resort project near Banff National Park have received permission from provincial officials to begin construction of three golf courses.

While pleased with the approval, the company is disappointed the National Resources Conservation Board forbid development of a fourth track in the environmentally significant Wind Valley area.

"It’s a very unique piece of property," said Three Sisters President Rick Melchin of the 525 acres the NRCB said must remain forever wild. "The province said it will compensate us financially. But we’ve lost a treasure."

The Wind Valley restriction forced developers to scale back the resort component slightly to about 1,000 hotel rooms, Melchin said.

Construction will resume on the first course this spring, the company said.

The Scott Miller-designed layout was just 10 percent complete last spring when the government slapped a stop-work order on the project while the NRCB debated the resort’s fate.

Weather permitting, he expects the first course to open in summer 1994 and the second perhaps a year later. Miller is designing both.

"We want to build the first 36 holes as soon as possible and see what happens from there," Melchin said.

Barry Gunn, a reporter following Three Sisters for the Canmore Ledger, said making Wind Valley off limits to development silenced the project’s most vocal critics.

Gunn said local residents and officials are relieved the controversy is behind them and expects the project to receive local permits with little difficulty.

Stuart Cohen of Environmental & Turf Services Inc., who was retained by Three Sisters to conduct an environmental assessment, said that while they did not get everything they wanted, developers were still fortunate to receive permission to build...

A Myrtle Beach original: Hamm

By MARK LESLIE

Combine a love of art and mechanical drawing with pro-caliber golfing abilities and the result can be a rare talent.

In the case of Gene Hamm, the result was the pioneer of a phenomenon of the 1980s: The PGA Tour player/designer. The 69-year-old Hamm, who earned his Tour card in 1958, has designed some 80 golf courses, including a dozen of Myrtle Beach’s 70 courses.

The career designing golf courses weren’t planned. The PGA Tour was.

Indeed, Hamm played in the first medal play, won by Dow Finsterwald in 1958.

But that was the same year pro and friend Al Smith approached Hamm to help rebuild greens, tees and bunkers at the Country Club of Charleston.

You may recognize the photo at left from our first Asian issue last March. It shows architect Robin Nelson of Honolulu at the tee station of the 160-yard 12th hole at Mangilao Golf Course in Guam. Above, Nelson’s partner, Rodney Wright, tosses off at the 12th hole after the course is finished. Golf Course News will keep track of Asian development with a quarterly publication beginning in March.

Three Sisters developers: ‘We’ve lost a treasure’