GOLF COURSE NEWS

DESIGNING FROM MEMORY

Three legends join forces to recreate their 18 favorite holes

BY MARK LESLIE

At the Legends at Chateau Elan, which will open in mid-July. The 15th is meant to mimic no. 12 at Augusta.

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The golf course design consulting firm Forse Design has moved, according to president Ronald E. Forse. The company’s new address is 45 East Main St., Suite 200, Uniontown, Pa. 15401; telephone 412-438-1727.

NICKLAUS MUSEUM IN THE WORKS

DUBLIN, Ohio — The Jack Nicklaus Private Operating Foundation has announced plans to develop the Jack Nicklaus Museum adjacent to the Muirfield Village Golf Club in Nicklaus’ native Ohio. Organized by friends of the Nicklaus family and business associates, the $5 million museum will exhibit to the public for the first time Nicklaus’ private collection of trophies, awards, scorecards, art, photos, books, film and other golf and personal memorabilia collected during his lifetime. Said Nicklaus: “I am grateful to the organizers of the museum, and I will also offer memorabilia for use by other golf museums and Halls of Fame.”

DYE NAMES GLORSO PROJECT MANAGER

THAILAND — Dean Glorso of Dean Glorso International has been named project manager for an 18-hole golf course as part of a seaside development here. Since January, Glorso has been established full-time on the construction site. He is organizing the team of consultants and contractors in bringing a unique product to this town of 4,000 located in southern Thailand about 70 km (43.5 miles) North of Phuket City. Project owners Thai Muang Beach Resort Co. Ltd. are constructing 18 holes, a clubhouse, and golf lodges as phase one of the project along the Andaman Sea. The course is scheduled to open in mid-1993.

BRIEFS

GROUND BROKEN AT KUEHN SITE

Construction is well underway at the Country Club of Wisconsin, a new 7,000-yard public golf course, located in Grafton, Wis. The actual golf course site is only a 20-minute drive from downtown Milwaukee. The course is being built by The Bruce company of Middleton, Wis. Work began last November for an anticipated Spring 1994 opening. The golf course is being designed by Mattingly & Kuehn Golf Design, Inc. of Grafton, Wis. The architectural firm is also supervising the construction.

CHANGE OF VENUE FOR FORSE

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THE LATEST FROM MR. HILLS

Trees frame the fifth fairway at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort in San Antonio, Texas. This Art Hills design was opened for play on Feb. 24. For details, see page 45.

WADSWORTH TO RECEIVE ASGCA’S ’93 ROSS AWARD

Brent Wadsworth, who has built more than 350 golf courses throughout the United States during the past 35 years as the head of Wadsworth Golf Construction, Co., has been named the 1993 winner of the American Society of Golf Course Architects Donald Ross Award. Wadsworth will receive the award at the annual Ross Award Dinner Monday, April 26, at Philadelphia Cricket Club during the ASGCA annual meeting.

“Many ASGCA members have worked with Brent Wadsworth during the past three decades,” said ASGCA President Art Hills. “They trust his experience and expertise to construct superior golf courses. We wanted to recognize his contributions by awarding Brent the Ross Award—the highest honor we can bestow.” Wadsworth’s firm has been chosen Golf Course Builder of the Year for three consecutive years from 1989 to 1991 in polls conducted by Golf Course News.
Golfplan busy in Malaysia

KUCHING, Sarawak, Malaysia — The Golfplan-Ronald Fream Design Group has completed conceptual planning and design studies for a 27-hole residential country club course being developed at Kuching, Sarawak, East Malaysia. Sarawak is on the tropical island of Borneo. Playing lengths vary from around 3,500 yards to 2,500 yards for each of the par-36 nines. Golf is a new activity to Sarawak, and a heavy use by beginners is anticipated.

Coordinated planning introduces 450 homesites into the golf courses. About 3,500 oil palms, monkey pod, flamboyan and other tropical trees are to be planted to yards for each of the par-36 nines. Golf is a new activity to Sarawak, and a heavy use by beginners is anticipated. Bermudagrass turf will be used throughout. The original site was a military storage area not far from the center of Kuching. Construction will begin after the end of the

Continued on page 48

GBI opens Asia practice facilities

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — Golden Bar International has announced the opening of two multi-million dollar teaching and practice facilities in Asia, the Jack Nicklaus Golf Center in Japan and the Jack Nicklaus Academy of Golf in the Philippines.

The Jack Nicklaus Golf Center, the first ever in Japan, has opened in Tsukuba through an exclusive agreement between GBI and Mitsubishi Corp., and Sumitory Limited for the country. In Manila, the first Jack Nicklaus Academy of Golf opened under an exclusive agreement between Golden Bear and American Golf Centers, a subsidiary of AIA and American International Group, the New York-based insurance conglomerate and the Fil-Estate Group.

Japanese debut for Graham/Panks

HAKODATE, Japan — David Graham and Gary Panks will design the new Hakodate Nikkatsu Golf Club in Hakodate, Japan.

"We have been searching for the right opportunity to make our appearance in the Japanese golf market, and now we've found it," Graham said. "The Hakodate Nikkatsu Golf Club is a great project."

The private golf club is being built by the Japanese conglomerate Nikkatsu Corp. The course is located in the historical port city of Hakodate on the southern coast of Hokkaido, Japan's northern-most island.

Construction crews are slated to break ground on the project in September clearing the land and creating the infrastructure of the golf course. Graham and Panks have begun the design work, and shaping will begin in May 1993, with an opening date set for the spring of 1995.

Nelson & Wright eye projects on Chinese Mainland

Continued from page 41

gion. "They have to offer them something. They expect to sell a lot of memberships to the industries going in there. A lot of those memberships will be bought as investments."

Haworth added, "If two sites are vying for a manufacturing plant, the company will go to the site with the golf course."

Golf courses, land ownership and environmental controls are creatures of another persuasion in China. "They treat golf courses as part of the infrastructure as they build roads, parks, water mains...." said Nelson. "I think there will be a flash boom [in golf course construction], then it will slow down."

"Land ownership?" The idea of owning land is a fairly new concept in China," said Haworth. "In one of our projects in China we got to choose the property lines. In new areas and out in the country, there are no real deeds or titles. The government is building an eight-lane highway that will run next to our site and they've asked us to tell them where to put it."

Environmental controls? Haworth said if land for a manufacturing plant needs to be level, construction crews will take soil from nearby hills — without reparation.

Nelson said his firm will design two courses in Shenzhen — one a 36-hole facility and the other 27 holes. The third facility calls for 36 holes in Guangzhou. They will all be private clubs with housing developments.

Construction will begin in the first half of the year, he said. Nelson added that he and Wright are also involved in one project in Vietnam and two others in China — one in the west and on the coast in the north.

Developers are adamant that a low profile be maintained until all government approvals are received.

"To get things done you have to know somebody in the government. So developers don't want others to find out about their ideas and 'steal' them," he said.