Designing from memory
Three legends join forces to recreate their 18 favorite holes

BY MARK LESLIE
RASELTON, Ga. — Special memories. Special people. Together, they translate into a special golf course, according to all parties involved.

Gene Sarazen, Sam Snead and Kathy Whitworth — Hall of Fame legends all — have combined their golfing memories, pleasures and partialities and designed The Legends at Chateau Elan, which will open in mid-July. Joining highly rated sister course Chateau Elan Golf Club, the new 18-hole Legends track is “the essence” of the three famed golfers’ favorite holes in the world, said coordinating architect Denis Griffiths.

“Each one picked holes memorable to them,” said the Braselton designer. “We wanted to provide potentially the same shot or memories to other golfers. It involves similar strategy at a similar hole, like No. 12 at Augusta National.”

Sarazen loved it. Whitworth had a blast. Snead had “a lot of fun.”

“I’ve been out there quite often to look at my work because I’m anxious to see it,” said Sarazen from his Marco Island, Fla., home.

“I’m so glad they [owners Don and Nancy Panzo] included a woman,” said Whitworth. “To be in the company of Sam and Gene was quite nice.”

Kathy and I played as a team years ago on the West Coast. We played pretty well. She still plays well,” Snead said, adding that working with old friends was a joy.

Snead, who 2-1/2 years ago joined architect Robert Muir Graves, was the only one of the three who had previous design experience. In fact, the 90-year-old Sarazen, who has played thousands of golf courses, had never seen one under construction.

But Griffiths, who designed the original Chateau Elan course, said working with this

Nelson, Wright eye Mainland China

BY MARK LESLIE
Architects Robin Nelson and Rodney Wright are moving into Mainland China in a major way, having secured three projects totaling 99 holes and maneuvering for two other facilities.

What they are discovering is a country hungry for foreign investments and a culture full of strange twists quite unlike the West.

In a country where few golf, the impetus to build golf courses is to attract foreign manufacturers, according to Nelson.

“What a lot of foreign investment will be going on in China, so they are gearing it up to attract other people,” he said.

All are being financed by foreign money — Malaysians, Taiwanese, and Singapore and Hong Kong interests, and others.

“A lot of people are buying land, putting up manufacturing plants. There are a lot of big opportunities over there right now,” Nelson said.

“They’re trying to attract expatriate managerial staff to the middle of China,” said Neil Haworth, Nelson & Wright’s principal architect in the Singapore region.

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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

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 4

DEVELOPMENT

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

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.”

DY E NAMES GLORSO PROJECT MANAGER

THAI MUANG, THAILAND — Dean Glorso of Dean Glorso International has been named project manager for an 18-hole Perry 0. Dye 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.

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Near. His firm has built many golf courses that have been selected as the best courses by various rating systems. Many of these facilities are chosen as sites for PGA Tour and tournament events.


KEY LINK IN GROWTH PERIOD

"Wadsworth has been involved in one of the most dynamic growth periods in the history of golf course development in this country," said Hills. "Facilities are integral to the game of golf and it is through building them that he has made an outstanding contribution to the game."

Wadsworth, who grew up in Joliet, Ill., graduated from the School of Landscape Architecture at the University of Illinois. He then worked for a short time in the office of ASGCA founding member Robert Bruce Harris. Following service in the U.S. Air Force, he joined with ASGCA member Edward L. Packard in 1954 to form a golf course design firm known as Packard and Wadsworth.

In 1958, he established the Wadsworth Golf Construction Company to build courses because his interest in golf and course construction became more appealing than designing courses.

"There were too few persons specializing in golf course building at that time and even fewer that met my goals of creating superior facilities," said Wadsworth.

FOUR REGIONAL OFFICES

His determined interest and ability to carry out a designer's desires has created a demand for his work. Most recently he was inducted into the Illinois PGA Hall of Fame for his efforts within the golf industry. Wadsworth's firm now has four regional offices, including Plainfield, Ill., Oldsmar, Fla., Buckeye, Ariz., and Honolulu, Hawaii. He and his wife Jean have four children, Leslie, Martha, Stanley and Eric.

In addition to building courses, he helped build and served as chairman of a major resort company that provided superior golf facilities to the travel industry. He also serves on several golf related advisory boards.

"Receiving the 1993 Donald Ross Award is an overwhelming thrill and a joy," said Wadsworth. "I'm honored to be recognized by so many of my colleagues and am proud to be associated with so many prominent former recipients."

Past winners of the Ross Award

1992 — Paul Falterer, ASGCA Executive Secretary
1991— Michael Bonfiglio, Secretary, Royal and Ancient (St. Andrews)
1990— John Zoller, Former Executive Director, Northern Golf, Golf Alaska
1989 — Dick Taylor, Editor, Golf World Magazine
1988 — Frank Hovisnian, USGA, Executive Director
1987— Charles Price, Golf Digest Columnist, Author
1986 — Deane Beman, PGA Tour Commissioner
1985 — Peter Dabeireiner, London Observer, Columnist, Author
1984 — Dinah Shore, Sponsor of Women's Golf Tournaments
1983 — Alla Ruda, Former Director, USGA Green Section
1982 — Geoffrey Cornish, Golf Course Architect, Historian
1981 — James Rhodes, Governor of Ohio
1980 — Gerald Micklem, Former Captain, Royal and Ancient
1979 — Joe Day, Former, Executive Director of the USGA and PGA Tour Commissioner
1978 — Herb and Joe Gaal, Founders, National Golf Foundation
1977 — Herbert Warren Wind, Golf Digest Columnist, Author
1976 — Robert Trent Jones, Founder, Member of ASGCA

HNTB Corp. takes shape in K.C.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The architecture, engineering, and planning firm of Howard Needles Tammen & Bergendoff has announces the formation of HNTB Corp. All new businesses conducted by the firm will be handled by the corporate organization. Previously, the firm operated as a partnership.

Harvey K. Hammond Jr. was named chairman and chief executive officer of the new corporation. The president and chief administrative officer will be Robert S. Coma, and the executive vice president and chief operating officer will be Gordon H. Slaney Jr. Together they will make up an office of the chairman that will provide the strategic direction and decision making for the firm.

According to Hammond, HNTB has created the new organizational structure to better meet the needs of the A/E marketplace and to provide expanded growth opportunities for both the firm and its employees.

HNTB Corp. will comprise five regional divisions and one service division.