**New Nicklaus course in Sonoma for walkers only**

**By DOUG SAUNDERS**

HEALDSBURG, Calif. — Mayacama Golf Club, the newest Jack Nicklaus signature course, opens this summer in the wine country near Healdsburg, and it promises to be one of the more distinctive private golf courses of 2001. The 6,759-yard track features an intriguing blend of five par-5s and five par-3s that fit the landscape like a glove. Only 150,000 cubic yards of dirt had to be moved to bring the layout to life. The course has no yardage markers except at the tees, and golfers will learn to rely on caddies and their own judgment to play the correct shots.

The 650-acre property is a blend of three rolling hillside dotted with mature oaks, madrones, redwoods and firs - the terrain lends itself perfectly to golf. On monthly visits to the site, Nicklaus saw the opportunity to design a traditional golf course that relies on early design concepts to create a top-level experience.

"This was an exciting piece of property to work on, and I think it will be a great experience for the members of the club," he said.

**WALK, DON'T RIDE**

Disgusted by walking only, members will use carts solely to travel to the private "casitas" being constructed for overnight stays. In contrast to most private golf developments, only 31 homes will be sited at Mayacama; even these will be hidden away from the course to preserve the secluded atmosphere.

The property was formerly owned by a partnership that included the late Charles Schultz, creator of the "Peanuts" comic strip and an avid golfer. But after struggling for 13 years to obtain permits, the group sold the property to the new ownership that has created Mayacama Golf Club. Schultz, unfortunately, passed away before completion of the course, but his widow has been given an honorary membership.

Final permit approvals were secured when the new plans were obtained on May 1999. But on December, when all 18 holes at the club nearing full play

**Frontier, Love break ground on municipal track near Pittsburgh**

**By PHILIP HALL**

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, Pa. — Construction is well underway here at Cranberry Highlands Golf Course, an 18-hole collaboration between Frontier Construction Co. and course architect Bill Love.

The first spade of dirt was turned March 1. A grand opening for this upscale, municipal facility has been scheduled for the fall of 2002, according to Frontier president Nick Scigliano.

"Our desire was to create the finest private club imaginable," said general manager Phillip Norfleet. "The combination of Jack Nicklaus as our architect and this wonderful site has infrastructure helped to move Mayacama towards reality."

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Fazio’s Oaks
Continued from page 15

allowed us to build the course more quickly than you normally can in New England, with all the rock and ledge,” he said. “We did some minor blasting on the first hole, and that was it.”

The Oaks has no residential component. “That’s the reason Tom Fazio agreed to do the project,” Lynch said. “He loves pure golf. When people try to squeeze out that one last building lot, by moving a tee someplace else, that can jeopardize the integrity of the course.”

PARACHUTE DROP ON FOUR
Fazio’s design wraps around the original course. It stretches to 6,945 yards over rolling terrain, plays at par 72, and provides multiple tee locations.

“The people in the area actually assisted us in the permitting process.”
— Brian Lynch

The signature hole is the par-3 fourth, running 175 yards and featuring a 100-foot drop from tee to green. “It’s a lot of fun, and it gives you a 90-mile view to the northwest that shows three mountain ranges,” Lynch said. “So standing on that tee you have a breathtaking vista, and combined with the quality of the golf hole, it’s just stunning. You hit your shot and you feel like the ball is hanging out there, being dropped down by parachute.”

The Arklow partners opted for a second layout to accommodate the club’s higher level of play. “We have an upwardly mobile membership here,” Lynch explained, “and the use of golf as a business tool has risen dramatically in the last six or seven years. During the week we have a high level of business entertainment going on, and on weekends it reverses to a more socially driven club.”

The Pines Course has 225 members and 10 corporate members. The new 36-hole complex will have a combined membership of about 500, Lynch said, plus 25 corporate memberships. Fees run from $60,000 for an individual membership (plus annual dues of $6,200) to corporate memberships (for three people) at $42,500 per year.

CADDIE PROGRAM
Twenty-five caddies, recruited from local high school golf teams, handle some 4,000 caddie rounds a year, earning $30 a bag, plus tip. “We have a high school outreach program we’re very happy with,” Lynch said. “They’re usually good players with a good understanding of the game.”

Frontier, Love
Continued from page 14

LOVE ACTIVE IN ALASKA
Love has designed several courses in Pennsylvania, including Tom’s Run at Chestnut Ridge and Iron Forge at Penn National. His firm also has projects in Alaska, California, Nebraska and Virginia.

“It will be good to work in the Pittsburgh area again,” Love added, “especially since it’s close to home for Nick and his crew. I am confident that Frontier will produce a great course for Cranberry Township.”

The par-70 layout at Cranberry Highlands will measure 6,400 yards. Frontier will build two lakes to accommodate a double-row irrigation system, designed by Brian Vincnes of Pepperell, Mass.-based Irrigation Consulting, Inc.

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