

## Baird globetrotting from U.S. to Far East

The monsoon seasons of the Far East have been challenging Nashville, Tenn., architect Gary Roger Baird in one of 15 projects he is working on from the Southern United States to Thailand.

Baird is nearing completion on the earthwork design on the championship Royal Gems Golf and Sports Club complex 30 miles south of Bangkok, Thailand. But for Baird to get to this point, it has taken a two-year construction cycle of building dikes, draining a rice paddy site, letting the earthwork sit for a year to lose moisture, then doing final shaping on the course. It all has to be accomplished between monsoon seasons.

Meanwhile, an 18-hole semi-private course that Baird designed in Ronan, Mont., at the base of the Mission Mountains, just opened for play and the second nine holes at the Heatherhurst Course at Fairfield Glade, Tenn., is to open soon.

Furthest along among his in-progress projects is the state-owned Montgomery Bell State Park in Tennessee, which Baird completely redesigned. It is in the growing-in stage and is scheduled to open in the late fall.

Also opening this fall is the Baird-sculpted Rancho Solano course in Fairfield, Calif. The 6,900-yard championship course near the wine country north of San Francisco was developed for the city of Fairfield within a 2,000-acre, private residential development for which all lots already have been sold.

Construction will begin soon on the Guntowne Golf Course in Huntsville, Ala., where Baird is incorporating a split fairway on the 5th hole, with a water hazard greeting attempts at the straightest, shortest route and a "moonscaped" series of undulations serving as the alternate, longer approach.

Guntowne's 18-hole, 6,500-yard layout is being built as part of a luxury residential development nestled on 200 acres at the foot of a pine-covered forest.

It will be a daily fee course and is being developed by C.K. Irby Construction Co. of Huntsville.

Baird also plans construction to begin early next year on the 6,650-yard Inkster Valley course outside Detroit, Mich., which he designed for the County of Wayne.

In addition to that public course, Baird has completed the master plan for the restoration and reno-



Montgomery Bell State Park in Tennessee.

Photo courtesy of Gary Roger Baird

vation of one of the few remaining undisturbed Donald Ross courses — the 36-hole Warren Valley Golf Course in Detroit.

Baird has two projects with a developer in Japan — one modifying the existing 27 holes at the Shisido course in the Ibaraki Prefecture about 50 miles north of

Tokyo, and designing nine additional holes at that private course, and another designing a second full 18 holes at the Shizu course.

He designed both original layouts.

He has been selected to oversee the complete renovation of the Woodmont Country Club in Nashville and design a new nine holes

there, and has finished a study to extend to 18 holes the course at Carnton Country Club in Franklin, Tenn.

Baird has also completed route plans for courses at Natchez Trace, Rock Island, Panther Creek, Cedars of Lebanon, Chickasaw, Tims Ford and Reelfoot state parks.

## Graham/Panks get major projects underway

The site has been cleared and the shaping is underway on the Windham (N.H.) Country Club course being designed by Graham/Panks International.

Scottsdale, Ariz.-based architect Gary Panks and PGA Tour veteran David Graham, who formed the partnership in 1987, now are facing a busier schedule ahead, they say.

"With our first two major proj-

ects under construction and several more in the preliminary stages, we now have the need to increase our staff and expand our headquarters," said Panks. "However, David and I will never lose sight of our philosophy to undertake only three or four projects per year. But to complete three or four, eight to 10 must be in various stages of design or construction."

The 18-hole private Windham

course is located on 200 acres of rolling forested hills. It is scheduled for completion by the fall of 1990.

Panks and Graham are also working on a project begun several months ago in Coffs Harbor in New South Wales, Australia. Called Pacific Bay Beach & Golf Resort, it is part of a \$400-million development financed by Australian businessman Peter Montgomery.

Australia's Civic Construction Co. is building the course, with Wadsworth Construction Co. of the United States serving as a consultant.

The course is expected to be completed by July 1991.

Graham/Panks has also been contracted to begin preliminary work on a tournament-style course in the Melbourne, Australia, area. Graham, who will play about a

dozen PGA Tour events this year, has placed his design partnership as his top priority.

"With my playing schedule winding down, I am excited to move on to the next stage of my professional career," Graham said. "With more than 20 years of professional playing experience under my belt, I feel I have a lot to offer the world of golf course design from the players' perspective."

### Please keep us informed about projects

Each month, Golf Course News — in cooperation with the American Society of Golf Course Architects — will publish news stories on new golf courses being built in the United States.

We are asking people who are planning or have begun construction of new courses, or rebuilding or expansion of existing ones, to write to Golf Course News, P.O. Box 767, Yarmouth, Maine 04096.

Golf Course News is particularly interested in:

- The city and state of the course.
- The owner, builder and architect.
- The number of holes and total yards.
- Whether the course is private, daily fee or municipal.
- The target date for completion.
- The type of terrain or any outstanding features of the layout of the course.
- Color or black and white photos of unique holes.

## Irwin courses near completion

Hale Irwin Golf Services, Inc. has designed two courses at opposite ends of the earth that will open this year and has two others under construction and five in planning stages.

The St. Louis-based firm designed New England Country Club in Bellingham, Mass., a private club that will open in September, and Nara (Japan) Sports Shinko Country Club, a private club that just opened for play but will open with official ceremonies in the fall.

The 6,500-yard New England CC is cut through an ancient forest and features bent-frass tees, fairways and greens. It is the landmark for an exclusive country club and residential community developed by Forge Development, Corp., a subsidiary of Monarch Capital Corp.

The Nara course, located north of Osaka, will play 7,023 yards through forest and mountain glades. It features two greens per hole planted with different season grasses to accommodate golfers the year round. It is being developed by Sports Shinko Co.

Irwin-designed courses that are under construction are the Ocean Inlet Golf Club and Plantation in North Myrtle Beach, S.C., and a facility in Chiba, Japan.

The 18-hole public Ocean Inlet layout incorporates the coastline and Carolina forest to create "a demanding and beautiful venue," Irwin says.

The course will be the centerpiece for a residential community developed by Southern Land and Golf Co. and is expected to open late this year or in the spring of 1990.

The Chibo course is located east of Tokyo and will be a private club developed by Sports Shinko Co. It will take more than two years to build and grow-in.

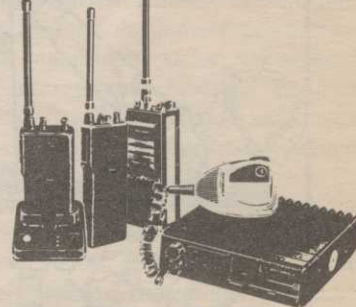
The firm's courses in planning or design stages include The Bayview Golf Club in Cape Charles, Va.; The Plantation Club at Sugarmill Woods in Homosassa, Fla.; and Gold Creek Golf Club in Jackson, Calif.

Irwin is planning two others that it will not only design, but also own and operate — the Spirit Golf Club in St. Louis and the Ridges Golf Club in Grand Junction, Colo. Spirit Golf Club will be built on land leased from Spirit of St. Louis Airport, the course built in the links style and spread out along the Missouri River valley with views of the bluffs.

The Ridges Golf Club will be built on upland desert and mesa land with "breath-taking" vistas of Mesa National Monument and the Colorado River Valley.

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