#### DEVELOPMENT

# Covering all of the angles

From golf course to graphics design, Richardsons do it all

By Mark Leslie

World, the Disney folks feel they have hit a home run with their graphics package designed by a less-wellknown architect.

Richardson or Richardson — translated architect-cum-artiste Forrest and graphics expert Valerie — have received high praise from Disney Development Co., whose accolades are given sparingly.

Tom Sunnarborg, development manager for Disney Development Co., said: "The graphics are a home run. Our criteria was that the signs be durable, readable, functional, but also unique. And they are. There is nothing else like them. From the signs along the



Forrest and Valerie Richardson of Richardson or Richardson

entry road to the signs in the clubhouse, tee signs and cart path directional signs, yardage markers, flags, logo, everything is really well done. They have clearly exceeded expectations."

Saying that "part of our challenge is to do projects that are so special they're worthy of our company," Sunnarborg placed the Richardsons in the company of Dye and Fazio in painting a picture of high-caliber success that has enveloped Disney's Bonnet Creek *Continued on page 27* 

# From play to profession

By Mark Leslie

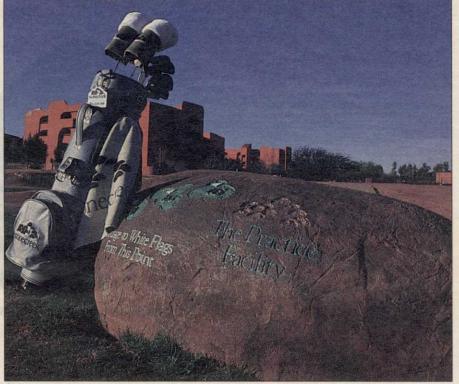
Little did Arthur Jack Snyder know what seeds he was planting 20 years ago when he gave a teenager a topographical map and told him to "go design a golf course."

The 13-year-oldkid was Forrest Richardson. And Richardson now owns Golf Group Ltd. and works alongside Snyder on many projects, although their companies are not officially related.

"I bothered Jack a lot as a kid," Richardson said. "I'd bike over to his house. He'd give me topo maps and say, 'Here, kid, go design a golf course.' I learned a lot from him."

Snyder helped fan the growing flame of interest to the point that Richardson published a newsletter, "The Golf Course Designer," for four years. Richardson was 13 years old when .

His 80 readers spanned the globe. When he once wrote that lack of finances might force him to discontinue publication, sub-*Continued on page 29* 



The Richardsons gave Stonecreek an entire merchandising campaign along with design of the Arizona course's signage.

# Zoeller designs 1st in Carolinas

HILTON HEAD, S.C. — Island West Golf Club at Hilton Head, a daily-fee course designed by golf professional Fuzzy Zoeller and Clyde Johnston, opened Dec. 21.

An 18-hole championship course, Island West is Zoeller's first design in the Carolinas. According to Zoeller, "Island West Golf Club will provide a challenge to the high- and low-handicapper alike. While the course will present several opportunities to 'go for it,' there is also a 'safe' route to the green. There will be no forced carries. Who wants to come to a resort to get beaten up by a golf course?"

Island West is being developed by the Fairways Fund, an investment fund recently introduced to the market by Marion Bass Investment Group, parent company of Bass Golf, Inc. and headquartered in Charlotte, N.C.

Arthur Jeffords, who heads up Bass Golf, said of the course: "Fuzzy and Clyde have given us exactly what we asked for — a golf course that's fun to play. It will challenge you but not break you."

The course plays from 4,938 yards to 6,803 on three sets of fees. It is located on 150 acres of low country terrain with more than 24 acres of lakes and strategically placed bunkers.

Island West is open to the public, but the whole operation has been designed to elicit the feeling of a private country club.

Island West's 8th and 17th par-3s feature side-by-side greens 125 yards wide, as viewed from the air. Though a body of water fronts the greens, architects Fuzzy Zoeller and Clyde Johnston have designed "safe" routes.

Photo by Skip Meachen



#### CUPP, MCBROOM COLLABORATE

Briefs

BLUE POINT, Ontario—Cupp Design, Inc. will collaborate with Canadian-based Thomas McBroom Associates Ltd. to design Shadow Creek Golf & Country Club, an 18-hole equity golf course here.

The complex will be developed on 396 acres on the shore of Lake Huron, within a short distance of Sarnia, Ontario (near Detroit) and is planned to be a private equity club. Members will own a transferable share of the facility. The projected opening date has not been determined.

Bob Cupp first worked with Tom McBroom at Beacon Hall in Toronto. Cupp designed the course and McBroom served as project coordinator. They subsequently collaborated on the design of Deerhurst Highlands near Huntsville, Ontario. Both courses are ranked in the top 10 in Canada.

# KERNS REMODELING PLAYER'S CLUB

ST. LOUIS — The Player's Club at St. Louis is planning to remodel its facility on the southwest side of the city beginning this fall. The work will follow a master plan under development by Gary and Ron Kern, golf course architects based here.

Plans include reconfiguration of eight holes, reconstruction of 12 greens, and modifications to lakes, tees, bunkers, and the practice facility. Construction will be phased in over-five years, and the course will remain open for play throughout the process.

# FOLEY DESIGNS LEGENDS CLUBHOUSE

NASHVILLE, Tenn.— Construction began last month on the traditional-style clubhouse at the Legends Club of Tennessee. Foley Design Associates, based in Atlanta, Ga., is the clubhouse architect. Legends Club will be the permanent home of the Tennessee PGA, Tennessee Golf Association and Tennessee Golf Hall of Fame. Their offices will be located in the 26,000-square-foot clubhouse.

Legends club of Tennessee is a 36-hole resort golf club that has been developed by Atlanta based Kite/Cupp Golf Enterprises.

# BAIRD'S IN NASHVILLE

Gary Roger Baird is headquartered in Nashville, Tenn., not Memphis as stated in a story in the April issue.

His office is located at 2505 Hillsboro Road, Suite 301; telephone 615-298-3537. We apologize for the error.

#### HURDZAN MOVES OFFICE

Dr. Michael J. Hurdzan's Hurdzan Golf Course Design has relocated offices in Columbus, Ohio, to 1270 Old Henderson Road; telephone 614-457-9955.

# Richardsons

#### Continued from page 27 beginning to end. The golf courses at

Bonnet Creek are no exception.

"We started working with all the people at Disney in defining the place. Is it a traditional Augusta-like setting or something else? A lot of questions had been answered by the architects. We decided upon a real quiet, simple, elegant, modern approach.'

That character was reflected in the final design for the logo and signage-asubduedlook centered on the diamond shape.

"The diamond expresses the architecture and geometry of the clubhouse. It's a simple, elegant icon that goes with everything," Richardson said. "The name Bonnet Creek and the names of the courses were derived from suggestions from Disney. We went from one extreme to another and always came back to the natural theme of the osprey and the eagle."

The result is one big photo opportunity.

"If you look at all the Disney properties and attractions, they center around the concept of photo opportunity," Richardson said.

Sunnarborg said: "A well-done golf course graphics program could involve thousands of signs. You could group them into maybe 10 categories. Each of our categories is probably a different material. The signs in the clubhouse are brush stainless steel, which are very elegant and nice. The signs on the golfcourse are one-inch-thick, solidaluminum plate. It's thick enough to be durable, but thin enough so thatitalmostlookstwo-dimensional.

"It'safullgranitecolor, butit'sgreen so that it's meant to fade into the background of green grass. The top of the sign is a diamond-shaped mes-

### Designing courses Continued from page 21

scriber Desmond Muirhead sent him acheckfor\$70 to subsidize his efforts.

Now he has turned his childhood fantasies into reality - in more ways than one. "When I was 13 or 14 I designed a par-6 and a big par-2," he said. "Tve always liked that idea and I'm always looking for creative things to do - not to make a parody of the game but to make it more exciting. And now we have a par-2 on a ninehole kids course in Hawaii."

Richardson is excited about the Hawaiian project because of its characterand because his and wife Valerie's company, Richardson or Richardson, is doing the graphics design for the facility

Kealakehe Golf Center near Kona is unique in that it will contain an 18hole, par-72 course and a keiki (kids') course. The kids' course will be 1,095yard, par-29. It is scaled down to about 60percent of the hitting range of adults so that adults can use it as an irons course or play it at a different par. The 310-yard par-5, for instance, could play as a par-4.

Asin his graphics work, Richardson has an eye toward imagination and change.

"There's a lot of sameness in golf course design today," he said.

He intends to do his part in changing that.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

sage carrier that seems to float in midair so you don't see the base of it."

Richardson said: "The main thing was not to call attention to the signs. The diamond helps a great deal. They are recognizable, shiny and bright, and you look for them the rest of the round.'

Mission accomplished.

The mission was also accomplished at Stone Creek.

Henry DeLozier, president of Resort Management of America which operates Stone Creek, said of the Richardsons: "We see a lot of folks who end up with the same solution to design questions. Perhaps it is a great solution. But when we talk with Forrest or Valerie we

> The Penn Pals: Right on Course

come up with new solutions that are the overall visual theme, the tradeingenious, innovative and give the mark and the color palette. Then golfer or potential customer a differ- we moved into the huge task of ent message than what we see as a developing the sub-palettes of color standard in the golf industry."

DeLozier added: "They have a cawhat they're going to give you (in a project), with full knowledge that are absolutely whacky and off the wall and some things that touch a new sense of understanding for your own project."

Stone Creek's image "we developed harbingers.

for merchandise. Although we weren't as involved in the design of pacity to touch a different plane than merchandise, we gave them conmanyoftherestofusare operating on. cepts and ideas and guidelines to I can only attribute that to imagination follow about how to implement the and ingenuity. You look forward to logo on merchandise. We coordinated the signage (tee markers, tee signs, and signs on the course) and you're going to get some things that a great deal of work consulting in print graphics - yardage books and things like that."

Richardson hopes projects like Stone Creek and Bonnet Creek, Richardson said that to enhance where graphics is stressed, are

"There's a lot of conservativeness in people who run golf courses," Richardson said. "I think that's about to change. We're starting to get the people who have gone through golf management programs ... and they're starting to get into the top jobs. They're running these places and they have marketing backgrounds. They know -like Stone Creek — that the guest experience is important. It's not just important that the food is good. Everything has to be nice. It's a total, holistic approach to the experience on the golf course...

"People are starting to think for themselves. I'm excited by this because it relates to both sides of what we're doing.'

Paul R. Latshaw, Superintendent Wilmington CC, Montchanin, DE

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