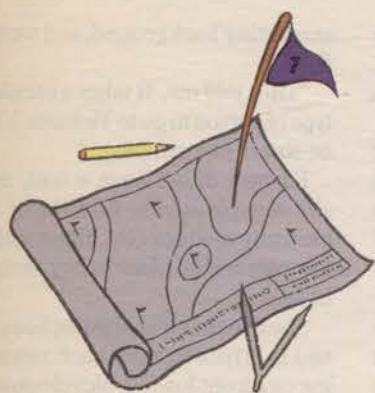


BRIEFS



GRAVES PROMOTES TWO

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. — Robert Muir Graves, Ltd. has promoted Dan Bucko and Neal Meagher to associate golf course architects. Graves said the promotions reflect an appreciation of the comprehensive services the two provide RMG clients.

YOUNG'S MAPLE RIDGE TAKES SHAPE

COLUMBUS, Ga. — Maple Ridge Golf Club, a 6500-yard, par-72 course designed by Mike Young of Watkinsville, Ga., is expected to open in the fall. The 18-hole layout on a wooded property of rolling terrain will be an upscale daily-fee course. It is being built in conjunction with the Maple Ridge Residential Community, a recreational development that will include nearly 500 single-family homes, a clubhouse, pool, tennis courts and walking paths.

JOHNSON IN NAME CHANGE

AVON, Colo. — Golf Design Associates has changed its name to Andy Johnson Design. Johnson has 20 years experience in golf course development. His latest project is an 18-hole private club in Winter Park.



Andy Johnson

RIVERSIDE REMODELING

FRESNO, Calif. — The municipal Riverside Golf Course is starting a three-year program to remodel all 18 greens, enlarge tees and add and renovate bunkers. EBITGolf, a subsidiary of CourseCo., has undertaken the renovation after taking over management of the facility. Golf course architect Andy Raugust, in charge of the design update, said the course was built in 1939 and plays 80,000 to 95,000 rounds a year.

BLUE T DEVELOPED MUNI

CHILLICOTHE, Mo. — Blue T Golf of Omaha, Neb., coordinated the financing and development of the new municipal golf course for the city of Chillicothe. Blue T President Bill Tate clarified a story that appeared in the April issue, saying the facility, which opened May 1, was only designed by Fairway Development Group.

Jackie Nicklaus: Making his own mark

By HAL PHILLIPS

With an eye toward establishing his own name in the region, Jack Nicklaus II has signed his first two design deals in Asia-Pacific.

The first project, an 18-hole golf course community in Surabaya, Indonesia, was finalized at Golf Asia '93 in March. Located 10 minutes from downtown Surabaya, Bukit Darma Golf Club will feature 1,000 homesites and a Jack Nicklaus Golf Academy. The younger Nicklaus has also signed on as lead architect of an Indian project in Bangalore.

"I'm trying to establish myself as a quality designer," said Jack II, who has completed three courses in the United States and England. A fourth will open this summer in Ohio, USA.

"I think I have the creativity and knowledge to be a good architect, a top-notch architect. And it gives me unbelievable satisfaction to create something great from something not-so terrific — to see an end-product when nothing was there before."

Nicklaus knows the region fairly well,



Jack Nicklaus II

having played on the Asian Tour. Yet, even thousands of miles from his Florida home, Jack II faced the inevitable

comparisons to his father's playing ability.

The design game is no different. Jack II and his father both toil under the Nicklaus Design banner, and while Jack Sr. has been pretty busy in the region (he has three projects underway, to go along with his recently completed Bumi Serpong course in Jakarta), Jack II sees Asia-Pacific as a place to make famous his own style of architecture.

"I think I have the ability to be my own person in the design field, more so than on the playing side," he explained. "You have to establish relationships with this business. It's a long-term deal. It's not a week, like some tournament. Or two-and-a-half years, like some project. It's a long-term commitment that goes on after the course is finished."

"In that sense I feel I can establish myself as my own person, through my own actions."

The Bukit Darma project is ambitious. In addition to the 18 holes, an aquatic range is planned and a short, three-hole course will ring the range facility.

Though Nicklaus paid his first visit to

Continued on page 37

Golf in the Far East

Vietnam — yes, Vietnam — joins blitz

By HAL PHILLIPS

No longer an insular backwater content to watch its neighbors soak up the foreign capital, Vietnam has leapt into the golf development arena with both feet.

While investors are looking at numerous projects all over the country, two projects — one outside Hanoi, the other near Ho Chi Minh City — illustrate the opportunity in Vietnam and the willingness of its government to embrace free market notions. Indeed, both golf resorts are being developed in concert with the state-run tourism department.

"It's a one-party system that wants to establish a free market economy," said Rose Earhart, marketing director for King's Island Golf Club and Resort outside Hanoi. "The government has been very cooperative. This is a country that sees the opportunity."

"We've even had the army assist in building the course — driving bulldozers, for example. They're good workers, very disciplined."

King's Island, situated on Dong Mo Reservoir 45 km west of Hanoi in the Ha Tay Province, will eventually feature two 18-hole courses — designed by American architect Bob McFarland — a golf school, sports center, boating facilities, 80-room



The sun sets beautifully on Vietnam, including the 9th hole, left, at King's Island near Hanoi is nestled in the forest.

guest lodge and 50 corporate villas for long-term rental. Ground was broken on the first 18 holes in February. The first nine should open before the close of 1993, said Earhart.

King's Island Corp. Ltd. of Bangkok is the developer, in cooperation with the Ha Tay Province Tourism Dept. Earhart said it will cost individuals US\$5,000 to join the club, US\$15,000 for total resort privileges. However, King's Island is designed to be a

true destination resort that also caters to non-Vietnamese doing business locally.

"If you want to get anything done in Vietnam, you have to come to Hanoi. And the common lament is, 'There's nothing to do here,'" Earhart explained. "There's a Korean businessman in the city who's waiting for his permits to come through. I've seen him hitting golf balls off the dike into the Red River."

Continued on page 33

Sun rises on two Casper, Nash additions out West

Two golf courses designed by Casper/Nash architects have opened at Del Webb's Sun City communities in Palm Springs, Calif., and Las Vegas, Nev.

The course in Palm Springs is designed around the new Sun City retirement community there. "It's a beautiful desert golf course," said Greg Nash. "The layout features sand dunes, 14 lakes, palm trees, ornamental flowers, water falls, and large greens."

"We've planted over 1,000 new palm trees, and have about 1,500 other trees on the course

— 800 of those are mature date palms, and about 200 surround the 18th green."

The course in Las Vegas is on the northwest hillside, said Nash. "It's built on the highest point overlooking the city. So we took advantage of the terrain. Most holes play uphill or downhill, with elevated tees and greens. We planted a lot of pine trees, so it doesn't look like a desert course. The greens are large, the pin placements varied, and the terrain rises and drops 500 feet. The last five holes are all downhill, and the view is spectacular."

The Las Vegas course is 6,330 yards long and plays par 72.

"Billy Casper and I represent a unique design team," says Nash. "I'm the artist and technician. Billy looks at a course from a player's standpoint."

"He knows how to make a course fun to play for senior players. He is very particular about the greens. For example, some of the greens on these new courses are 10,000 square feet, large and contoured, with various pin placements, making putting interesting every time you play the course."

Vietnam joins golf marketplace

Continued from page 31

The situation is similar outside Ho Chi Minh City in the south, where the US\$30 million Song Be Golf Resort is being developed by the Palm Song Be Golf Company, a joint venture between the state-owned enterprise Protrade and the Singapore-based TCI Group of Companies.

"There's a huge demand for golf in Ho Chi Minh City because there's very little to do during the day," explained Australian Peter Dalkeith Scott, the golf course architect of Song Be. "It's like going out to the wild west. Frontier stuff. There's just nothing there."

Song Be is also designed to be a full-service resort, complete with 18-hole golf course, banquet rooms, health/massage/sauna facilities, shops, hotel accommodations and housing lots. It, too, is taking aim at the idle business community in Ho Chi Minh City.

Named after a Mekong tributary, Song Be ("Little River") is 20 km north of the city center. Scott described the 104-hectare site as extraordinarily beautiful and quite unique, to say the least.

"We've found elaborate tunnel systems left over from the war and we keep finding unexploded bombs in rice paddies," he said. "When we find the bombs, the local expert comes out and defuses them on site,

then takes the gunpowder out and makes firecrackers with it.

"There's also an old American water tower riddled with bullet holes and a bunch of craters on site. Some we've left alone and others we've filled with sand."

In a country long fraught by conflict and cut off from the free world, foreigners are bound to harbor misconceptions.

"The Vietnamese are more vocal than many Asians," said Earhart. "In fact, I had one woman tell me, 'We're more like you Americans. When we're happy, we show it. When we're angry we show it.'"

"But the biggest misconception I had was assuming there would be ill will toward Americans," said Earhart. "It's just not true. I've never been ashamed or hesi-

tant to tell them I'm American."

This forgive-and-forget attitude toward the U.S. is more prevalent in the north, where the U.S. ground troops rarely ventured. In the south, where many natives felt betrayed by the American pullout in 1975, the situation is a little different.

"When we first saw the site, there was a little hostility because they thought we were American," said Scott.

"But I think the biggest misconception is that the Vietnamese don't know what they're doing. They're extremely placid people in the main, but underneath there is this incredible will to learn and succeed.

"We have only one expatriate overseeing the project. All other work is done under the direction of Vietnamese."

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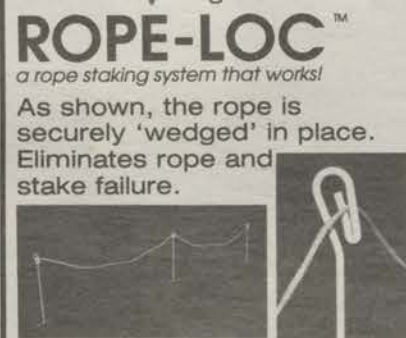
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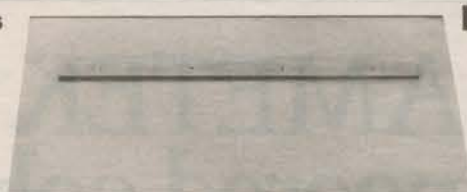
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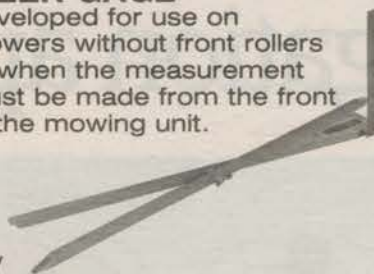


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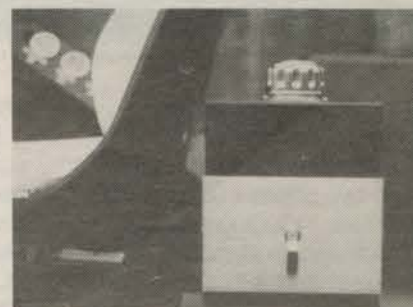


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