

Baird conjures up 'Dances' scenes at Costner resort

By MARK LESLIE

DEADWOOD, S.D. — Scenes from *Dances with Wolves* flash before you, a train whistles by on a 110-foot-high trestle and an enormous resort lodge looms in the background. This spot, in the valley of the White Wood Creek, is The Dunbar resort, which is being built by actor Kevin Costner. And featured among its attractions will be an 18-hole golf course designed by Gary Roger Baird of Nashville, Tenn.

"This is the best piece of property I've ever seen," Baird said. "A lovely valley contains the beginning and finishing holes and the remaining holes are slightly higher in a Ponderosa forest. You can see for 100 miles for 360 degrees. And it's 400 feet straight down to the river below."

The golf course is tentatively called The Trestle, drawing on the fact that the 110-foot-high trestle stands as a backdrop behind the 18th green. A steam-engine train, carrying resort visitors from Rapid City 40 miles away, will loop around one of the par-3 holes and stop at the hotel.

"This is one of the best, most spectacular finishing holes anywhere," Baird said. "Imagine the view from the train to the 18th green far below it."

Costner fell in love with the site, which is in the area where his movie *Dances with Wolves* was filmed. He and his brother Dan are the principal owners of the \$9 million to \$11 million project, which will include all sorts of recreational, convention and fitness facilities.

Of Costner, Baird said, "Kevin is one of the most sensitive, caring individuals about our environment I've ever met in 26 years in this business. He brought in one of the largest tree-moving pieces of equipment in the world from Hungary to try to save every tree on the site. They are transplanting enormous, 100-foot-tall Ponderosa pines. That's a remarkable feat."

Because of the short construction season here, Baird expects not to open the course until 1997.

The Dunbar sits two miles north of this town which was founded in 1876 with the discovery of gold in Deadwood Gulch. One of few communities listed as a National Historic Landmark, Deadwood's business district displays Victorian architecture, period lighting and cobblestone streets. Small-stakes gambling was introduced in the Black Hills in 1889, and The Dunbar will have an area dedicated to gaming machines.

TOLEDO BEND RESERVOIR, La. — An 18-hole golf course nestled in the hills of northwest Louisiana is scheduled to open in the spring of 1996 at Toledo Bend Reservoir.

The 185,000-acre reservoir forms the border between Texas and Louisiana.

The reservoir has been a fishing paradise since its creation 25 years ago as a result of the construction of the Toledo Bend Dam across the Sabine River.

The golf course will be the centerpiece of a multimillion-dollar recreation complex under development by the Sabine River Authority of Louisiana which operates the Dam in partnership with the Sabine River Authority of Texas.

Louisiana-Texas border site of major destination project

Plans include a 100-room Radisson Resort Hotel, rental condominiums and a convention center. The golf course will sport a clubhouse, driving range and golf academy.

The development is located on 400 acres covered with hardwood, pine and cypress trees. Meyer & Associates, Inc. is the project planner and Dave Bennett Organization, Inc. is designing the course.

Buena Vista Management Group, which manages the PGA National Golf and Sports

Club in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., and the LPGA National Headquarters in Daytona, Fla., will manage the course and resort development.

The reservoir is an integral part of the golfing experience, several holes playing directly over or along the shoreline.

According to Linda Curtis-Sparks, executive director of the Sabine River Authority, "The primary goal of the project is to stimulate economic growth and encourage quality lodging to the area."

Anticipation of the complex has created great interest. New residential developments and commercial businesses are locating near the site. Texas is also preparing for the future on the reservoir shores.

Keep On

