

By BOB SPIWAK

MAZAMA, Wash. - In an April 29 press release, Seattle's R.D. Merrill Co. and Harbor Properties, Inc., also of Seattle, announced an Agreement in Principle linking the two family corporations in the Arrowleaf golf resort project here. (GCN Feb. '97.)

The new partnership will remove Lowe Development Corp. of California as a participant, ac-

ording to the joint statement from Charlie Wright, Merrill's CEO, and Stimson Bullitt, chairman of Harbor. "We owe a debt of gratitude to Lowe Development for their excellent services to date," said Wright in the prepared statement, "Going forward, we feel that Harbor would be a superb partner - the Bullitt

family takes a long term view, as we do, and joins us in our enthusiasm for the resort plan that the county has approved."

Along with the long term view Harbor had another asset - money. In an interview prior to the formal announcement, Wright said that Lowe Development was offered the opportu-

nity to buy into the project. Lowe opted not to invest any money and Merrill found Harbor Properties a willing participant.

The project, literally at the end of civilization a few miles from North Cascades National Park, has a convoluted history of being thwarted by environmental lawsuits for the past quarter cen-

tury. Merrill is the fourth developer of the property, whose golf course will lie in a spectacular mountain bowl. In the previous developer's plan, Robert Muir Graves was to be the course architect, but when Lowe became involved in 1993, President Andy Norris chose Bob Cupp to design the course, citing past experience with the latter's work. According to Wright, Cupp will remain on the job. The fairways have been cleared, but progress has been halted by yet another environmental roadblock.

Arrowleaf ownership changes again

Sultan's Run

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that for the eternal success of Sultan's Run, we needed to go in and rectify all of the course's internal problems. Along with that, we wanted to enhance the playing characteristics and aesthetics of each hole."

Liddy had a couple of goals in his approach to the renovation. First was the functionality of the course such as improving the bunkers by tying them into the proportions of the course, and widening fairways, making them more receptive to the average player.

The second goal was adding strategy to each hole to keep the interest of the better players. For example, "You orient the bunkering to the good player, and keep it out of the way of the bad player," said Liddy.

All of the existing 52 bunkers were blown out and 72 new ones were sprinkled throughout the layout. Three greens were rebuilt due to their environmental setting, three due to severity of slope, and one due to a routing change.

All of the green surrounds were reshaped with pitching and chipping hollows and collection areas, and covered with zoysiagrass sod. More than 25 additional acres of zoysia sod was added and 200,000-plus yards of total sod was laid.

Trees were cleared to help better turn holes and to lessen the visual intimidation of some tee shots. Fairways and irrigation were expanded, and several new tees have been erected.

A short-game complex has also been added to the practice facilities so players can warm up and see what's to come when they head to the first tee.

The course derived its name from the World Champion American Saddlebred Horse "Supreme Sultan," who used to roam the land. It has been the birthplace of more World Champion American Saddlebred horses than any other place on earth — all sired by this horse.

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