



Frontiersman

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# Nicklaus to desig

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The Golden Bear, Jack Nicklaus, has signed a contract with local entrepreneur Victor Trygstad to develop a world-class Jack Nicklaus Signature golf course in the Butte, beginning next season. Now, Trygstad just needs to get the land from the Mat-Su Borough.

Nicklaus' office, Golden Bear International, confirmed the company is ready to break ground next year if Trygstad can get the proper permits and borough approval to move forward with the plans.

"The contract is all contingent on the owner getting local approval, which is fairly standard for us," said Tim Kenney, Golden Bear International vice president of design marketing. "If he is able to do that, there will be a Nicklaus Signature course in Palmer, Alaska, within the next few years.

"It is a very exciting possibility for both the golfers in Alaska and for our company," Kenney added.

Nicklaus has personally designed and developed 140 courses in operation around the world, and another 40 are under construction or in the design phase.

Nicklaus' sons, Gary and Jackie, have designed another 25. Their courses are considered to be among the best in the world.

"Jack, unlike other pros who

design courses, is very intense and closely involved with courses that bear his signature," Kenney said. "He would be making at least six trips to the site if it goes through. Designing golf courses is a labor of love for Jack, and he is extremely involved in the design, strategy and philosophies of every course bearing his name."

Kenney would not say how much the contract is worth, but said his company usually gets between \$6 and \$8 million for similar sites.

"It would be safe to say that we are somewhere in that range with Victor Trygstad," Kenney said from his Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., office on Friday.

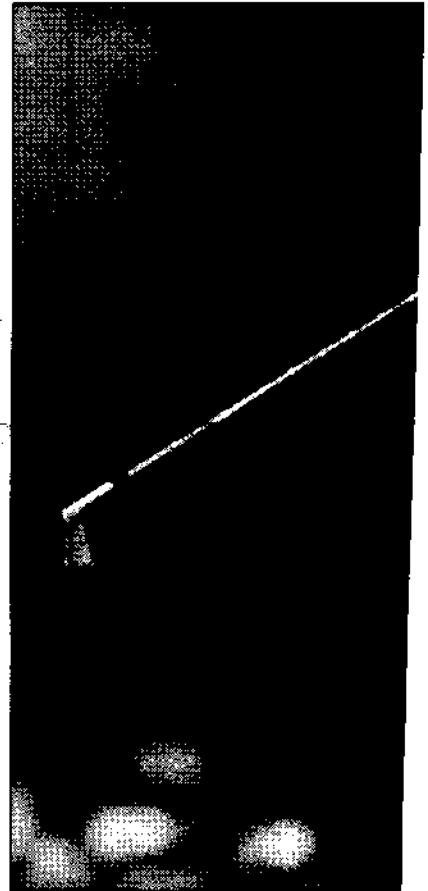
The cost would not include the clubhouse or any equipment, Kenney said.

"That money is used solely for our fees and the playing area. It covers the grass and all the labor involved in designing and developing a world-class course," he added.

According to Kenney, Nicklaus has long been interested in the Anchorage and Mat-Su Valley area.

He frequently visits the area to fish and stops over on his way to Japan, Kenney said.

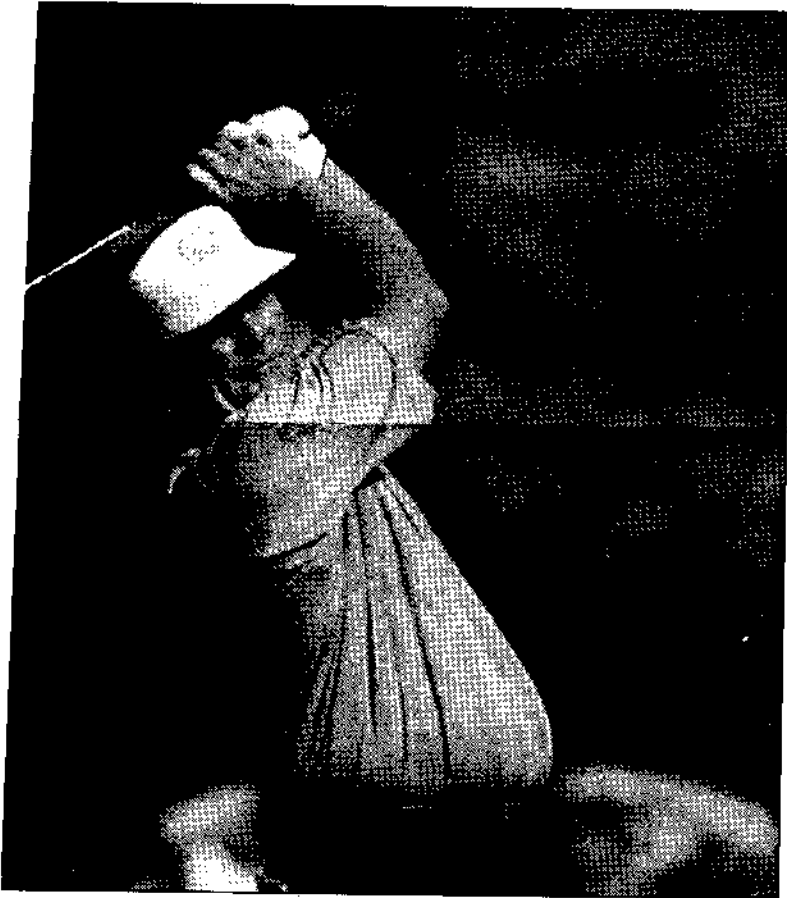
"It is an interesting area. There are not any world-class golf courses and this would be a hot commodity," Kenney said. "It will be interesting to see how things work out."



Jack Nicklaus eyes his shot in Pacific Palisades, Calif. Nicklaus signed a contract with local entrepreneur Victor Trygstad to develop a world-class golf course in the Butte, beginning next season. Now, Trygstad just needs to get the land from the Mat-Su Borough.

Kenney said he did not think the design would be complicated by Alaska's adverse winter weather or varying climate. He said Golden Bear International designers have tackled much greater challenges than the

## n Butte course



STEPHEN DUNN/AllSport

**the 1995 PGA Championships at the Riviera Country Club in us' golf course design firm, Golden Bear International, has developer Victor Trygstad to design and construct a world-area, beginning next year. If the land is approved for con-**  
**cklaus would be making several trips to the Valley to oversee**

Butte course might pose to them.

"We have basically had to import every piece of dirt to build courses on mountain tops, so the Butte would not be that much of a problem for us,"

Kenney said. "It would basically be average, difficulty-wise."

Kenney also said Trygstad has expressed interest in trying to get the course built in one season, meaning golf would be played on the course in 1999.

"The owner (Trygstad) has asked if it will be possible to double-team the construction phase, and that is able to be done," Kenney said. "It will be a little more hectic, but it is very possible."

According to Kenney, the usual time it takes to design and construct a course is two years, on the average.

"It usually takes two golfing seasons to get the course ready to be played, but we can speed that along somewhat," Kenney said. "The short Alaska summers should not be a problem to the designers."

But all of the fluff and hoopla of bringing the Jack Nicklaus Signature course to the Butte will be for naught unless Trygstad can get the necessary borough approval and lease the land from the borough.

Thus far, that has been a challenging task that Trygstad has not been able to overcome.

Trygstad envisions a private resort with a residential community surrounding an immaculate golf course.

The issue will come up again in front of the Mat-Su Borough Assembly July 15.

A public hearing will be scheduled at that time, but only if the borough accepts the introduction. The Butte Community Council is against the proposed course's development, and members also oppose the residential areas Trygstad has planned.