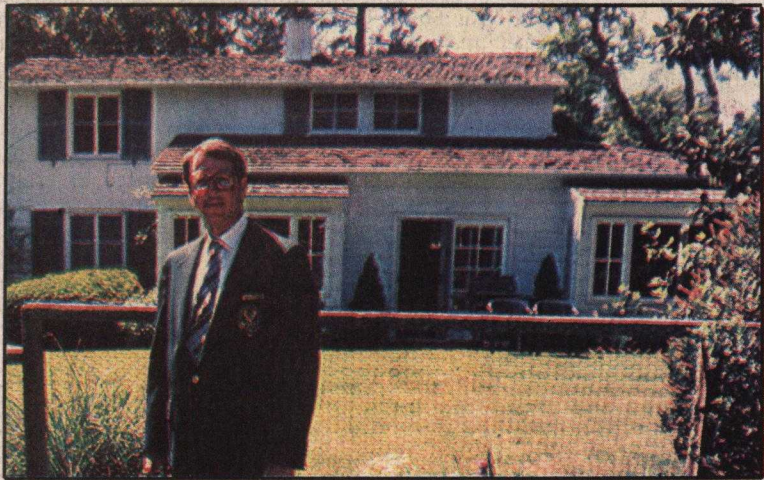


The SPIRIT of MACKENZIE

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Dan Coyro/Sentinel

To Barry Staley, MacKenzie's house is a special place.

Discovery of book is a story in itself

By ED VYEDA
Sentinel sports editor

COUNTLESS TIMES as he has hit approach shots to the sixth green at Pasatiempo Golf Club, Barry Staley could only dream about meeting Dr. Alister MacKenzie, who designed the Santa Cruz course in 1929.

It would take only a brief pause at MacKenzie's house along the left side of the sixth fairway. Staley might find MacKenzie typically relaxing in the back yard, watching foursomes parade by. Staley would ask the world-renowned golf course architect to join him at his home after the round, and they would talk about their common passion.

Although MacKenzie died in an upstairs bedroom of that house along the fairway in 1934, and his ashes spread on the course, Staley nonetheless was able to realize his dream of a sit-down with MacKenzie last year — through the original manuscript of an unpublished MacKenzie book on golf that had been hidden away with other family heirlooms for 60 years.

"I was the first one to read it," says Staley, an Aptos periodontist who has played at Pasatiempo for 21 years, and is a leader of the MacKenzie Society, which studies and honors the history of the famed designer whose major works include St. Andrews in Scotland, Cypress Point on the Monterey Peninsula, and Augusta National, where today the final act of another Masters drama is to unfold on the revered grounds in eastern Georgia.

"I always go to bed at 9 every night," Staley said, "but I was up past midnight with the book, then up at 5 in the morning reading it again. I just couldn't put it down. As he wrote it, it was like he was

talking to you."

Staley had always wanted to meet MacKenzie. That night, he thought, "I knew this was my chance."

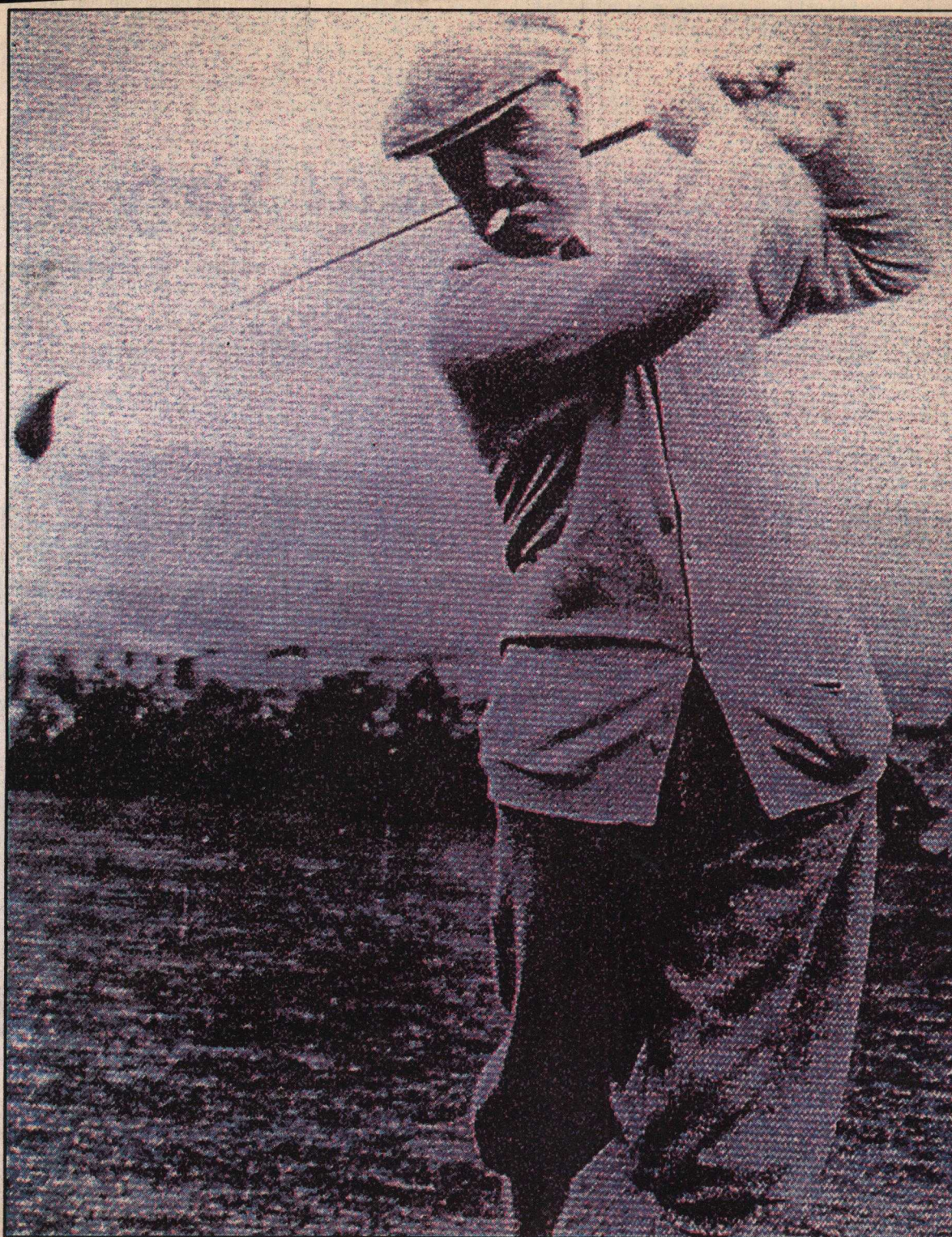
The book is titled "The Spirit Of St. Andrews," and is regarded as an important piece of golf history, complete with a foreword written by famed golfer Bobby Jones. MacKenzie not only "talks" about golf courses, but about the game and its future, with insight from the 1930s that still holds up today. And he unveils other bits of information — like confirming that it wasn't him, but Marion Hollins, who developed Pasatiempo, who designed the famed par-3 16th hole at Cypress Point.

"He comes to life in the book," says Brian Lewis, the head of Sleeping Bear Press, which last month released the book that was first mentioned in MacKenzie's obituary in the Sentinel. "You get to meet a legend in the book. And his thoughts need to be heard: to play faster, play for fun, and build courses for everyone."

The book might still be buried away had it not been for Ray Haddock, a 63-year-old insurance businessman in Boulder, Colo., who in the fall of 1993 was finally getting a chance to play more golf. He decided he wanted to come to California to try to get on Cypress Point and Pasatiempo.

Haddock ran into little trouble securing tee times, since he is the step-grandson of MacKenzie, and lived for a while as a toddler in the Pasatiempo house.

One thing: Cypress Point club pro Jim Langley asked Haddock if he had any material on the revered seaside course that he could bring along with his clubs. So, Haddock ventured down to his basement, rummaged through some papers left to him by his



Alister MacKenzie worked to become 'the most improved player around Pasatiempo.'



One of MacKenzie's favorite spots: his back porch, along Pasatiempo's sixth fairway, where his ashes are spread.

father, and grabbed some things. That's how it started, innocent enough.

"The whole thing is terribly fortuitous," Haddock says of getting the lost book to publication. "The people I have met, and the way things have come together, I'm looking to see what guardian angel is sitting on my shoulder."

The spirit of MacKenzie, he suspects, provided the guidance to all those involved.

"Perhaps the discovery of this

manuscript was not quite as dramatic as discovering the burial ground of Tutankhamen," says Peter Alliss, a golf analyst and author, "but for lovers of golf it must run damn close."

"This is a great find for golf, and golf history," Staley said. "The whole thing kept falling together in such a weird way."

Staley is glad it just didn't fall out of the back of a golf cart.

The day after Staley stayed up reading the manuscript, he met

Haddock at Pasatiempo to return the documents. Haddock was playing the second hole, "So he just threw it in the back and continued to play," Staley said.

Staley nearly fainted. "I thought, 'Oh, my gosh, what if he loses it?'"

Considering it was figured to be lost for 60 years, who would miss it?

The night before, at dinner with Haddock and a group in Pebble Beach, Staley nearly fell off his chair after Haddock casually mentioned the items he brought along.

"He pulled out a seven-chapter manuscript, type-written," Staley recalls, "then pulled out the entire, hand-written manuscript. He put them right out on the table."

The group was in shock. The first to regain his wits was Gary Nelson, a MacKenzie Society member, who blurted, "Get the drinks off the table."

Staley asked if he could read the manuscript sometime, and Haddock told him to take it home that very night.

And so much for getting to sleep at 9 p.m.

Lewis, a long-time publisher in golf, was equally stunned when he met with Staley during the 1994 AT&T at Pebble Beach. Lewis knew of MacKenzie's first book on golf architecture, but when Staley mentioned the second book, and the title, Lewis was impressed.

"I'm thinking, 'It doesn't get

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MacKenzie

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any better than this,'" Lewis said. "Then he tells me the foreword is by Bobby Jones. I said, 'Good God, this is a book of a lifetime.'"

MacKenzie spent the second half of his lifetime in golf. Born as Alexander MacKenzie in England on Aug. 30, 1870, he was educated at Cambridge, and practiced medicine before going to South Africa to serve as a civil engineer in the Boer War. There he became an expert in camouflage.

MacKenzie played golf as a youth, but did not become an avid player until his 60s. An item in the *Sentinel* a few years before his death said, "Dr. MacKenzie is the most improved player around Pasatiempo these days. Although not a long hitter, he uses splendid judgment and is now shooting the course consistently in the low eighties. He recently made an eagle-two on the difficult par-4 seventh hole."

Jones, who collaborated in the design of Augusta National, wrote about MacKenzie's designs in the foreword to "The Spirit Of St. Andrews":

"In every instance, he has placed interest and enjoyment ahead of difficulty."

MacKenzie married Hilda Haddock, the widow of Edgar Haddock, who was Ray Haddock's grandfather. The house along the sixth fairway at Pasatiempo was built for Alister and Hilda MacKenzie, and there is where Hilda's son Tony, brought his family, which included young Raymond.

The house is still a place for grandchildren, only now they are those of Bernard and Ruth Issen-

man, who have lived in the house about seven years. Both play golf and have hosted MacKenzie Society gatherings in the past.

"They get sprinkled with golf balls, but they love it," says Tina Issenman, who has been visiting with her children.

The Issenmans would like to see a plaque designed to signify the relationship of the house with the course.

MacKenzie lived in the house about four years before he died. Now, 65 years later, his life with golf is reborn.

"This is a major discovery," Lewis says. "It is going to have a major impact on golf. His writing of Hollins' influence on the 16th at Cypress Point, which was circulated only as a rumor, is stunning. It's a storybook. And MacKenzie is a storyteller."

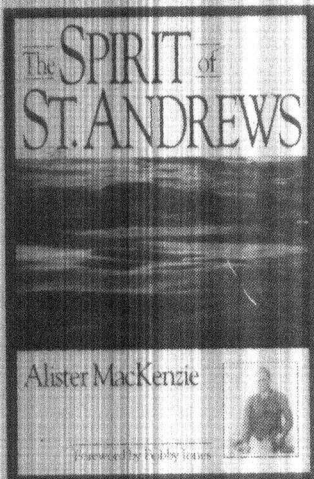
"From the writing in this book, it's easy to see how he won friends in four continents," Lewis said.

Still, there remains some mystery: Where exactly were his ashes spread? Along the sixth fairway? Or along the 16th, which MacKenzie confirms in the book is his favorite?

"I would say the sixth fairway," Lewis says. "From what we could tell (in research), it's the sixth."

"It's my understanding his ashes are scattered around the course," Haddock said. "It could be the sixth ... and the 16th, theoretically."

"I think it's the sixth," Staley says, pointing to this passage from MacKenzie:



"The Spirit Of St. Andrews" (Sleeping Bear Press, \$24.95), by Dr. Alister MacKenzie, is to be available at two bookstores in the Santa Cruz area — Bookshop Santa Cruz, and Capitola Bookcafe. For more information, call (800) 487-2323.

"I have always wanted to live where one could practice shots in one's pajamas before breakfast, and at Santa Cruz the climate is so delightful that one can play golf every day of the year."

MacKenzie's obituary in the *Sentinel* said, however, "Eventually the ashes will be sent to Dr. MacKenzie's old home in Scotland."

It doesn't matter, really, if anyone finds the exact spot where MacKenzie's ashes were scattered.

Maybe Ray Haddock should check in his basement.