



# TUBAC'S THIRD NINE CHALLENGE WITH A TOUCH OF HUMOR

BY JACK RICKARD

The new nine holes that were added to the Tubac Golf Resort within the last two years also are a reflection of director of golf Dennis Palmer's sense of humor.

As you arrive at the sixth tee on the Rancho Nine, you are greeted with a sign that reads "Beware, you are entering the Tubac Triangle."

It's fair warning because the "Tubac Triangle" is three stout tests of golf, starting off with a dogleg-left par-4 of over 400 yards, followed by a 223-yard (250 off the back tee) par-3. Then, when arriving at the final hole of the "Tubac Triangle," you are greeted by another sign – "You're approaching train wreck."

The eighth hole on the Rancho Nine can cause a few "train

wrecks." It's a par-5 measuring some 550 yards, a definite three-shot hole. The approach shot is over water.

Tucson golf course architect Ken Kavanaugh designed eight of the nine new holes. Tubac's original front nine, now called the Otero Nine, remains the same, although No. 9 has been shortened some 100 yards to a short par-4. The challenge is to avoid a huge lake that runs down most of the left side and in front of the green.

The Rancho Nine starts with the former 12th hole, a short par-4 with a somewhat scary tee shot across the Santa Cruz River. The Rancho Nine continues through the original holes 13 through 16, and then heads to the "Tubac Triangle." The Rancho Nine finishes at the original 18th hole that calls for another

tee shot across the Santa Cruz. The Anza Nine opens with five new holes, the best of which is the par-5 fifth hole. It offers a split fairway bisected by a maze of bunkers and a narrow green that resembles No. 12 at Augusta National. And like that famed par-3 at Augusta, it's guarded by a water hazard.

The Anza nine then moves to the course's original 10th through 12th holes and winds up with the new short par-3 with an island green.

Oh yes, if you haven't had enough of Palmer's sense of humor, listen to this: "We have some cattle on the course. Our local rule is that, if a ball lands on a cow pie, one can pick, lick and place it no closer to the hole."

