

ck at Penobscot Valley

Bulldozer tracks hint at the depth of restoration underway at the Penobscot Valley Country Club in Orono.



PENOBSCOT VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB

'Ross does such things as tipping the slope of the green toward a fairway bunker so that the optimum approach shot must come from a previous shot that risks the sand.'

side." Ross, he said, would sketch one big bunker and stick a berm of earth down the middle, making two. Just by changing and rotating the angle of the berm, he created different looks in his bunkers.

Thus far, Gillies said members are thrilled with what they see. "The five bunkers on the 10th fairway tell the tale," he said. "They look like they have been there 70 years. That's a tribute to Ron Forse and the contractor. We're thrilled with the product."

During construction, priority is being given to the avoidance of any disruption of play, Gillies added, saying, "Come springtime, they will have brand new facilities. If you want Donald Ross's intent,

this is what you need to do."

Explaining the forward tees, Gillies said: "We have an active ladies and senior membership. We are putting in eight forward tees in this first phase. The course is a par 74, and the ladies' tees play 5,796 yards, believed the second-longest in Maine. We want the par down to 72 or 73. We have pushed the par 5 18th hole up to a par 4 and may do the same with the 13th, although that will be a very long par 4. We think everyone will be happy with the work."

The clubhouse will be finished and open by June 1, 2001. It is being situated on the same site but being repositioned. 