

# A History of American Golf in 60 Courses

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CRUDEN BAY BOOKS

**“My ideal in life is to read a lot, write a little, play plenty  
of golf and have nothing to worry about.”  
-Lord Arthur James Balfour**



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# Introduction

If only those sand bunkers and water hazards could talk about the things they've seen. Well, here they get their chance.

There are 18,000 golf courses, more or less in some form or other, in the United States. This is where the story of the game is written. It is on these courses that one finds not just the great champions, the great tournaments, the great architects, and the great innovations of the game but the stories of senior golf...women's golf...televised golf... African American golf...retirement golf...miniature golf... collegiate golf...vacation golf...public golf...corporate golf... golf in the movies...nine-hole golf...Olympics golf..., yes, all of American golf.

It is a sprawling tale indeed. Many of the courses contained herein are instantly recognizable, others more obscure. But all hold a critical thread to the ultimate tapestry that is the history of golf in America.

# Niagara-on-the-Lake

## Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

1875

Golf came to Canada well before the United States. In November of 1873 an eightsome armed with primitive clubs and gutties imported from Scotland founded the Royal Montreal Golf Club. The enthusiastic linksters played across nine holes on a course carved in a chunk of Frederick Law Olmsted's Mont Royal Park known as Fletcher's Field.

The designer of Central Park and the "Father of American Landscape Architecture" would no doubt have been pleased with

the pastime. Although Olmsted never built golf courses himself his design principles would influence golf architects a century later. At the time of his death in 1903 his firm had many master plans with golf courses in the planning stages. Olmsted's sons would design golf courses.

In 1874 the Royal Quebec Golf Club formed in Boischarrel along the banks of the Montmorency River. Both those original courses are gone today and the clubs have each relocated more than once.



Golf was played in many of Frederick Law Olmsted's parks like Franklin Park in Boston.



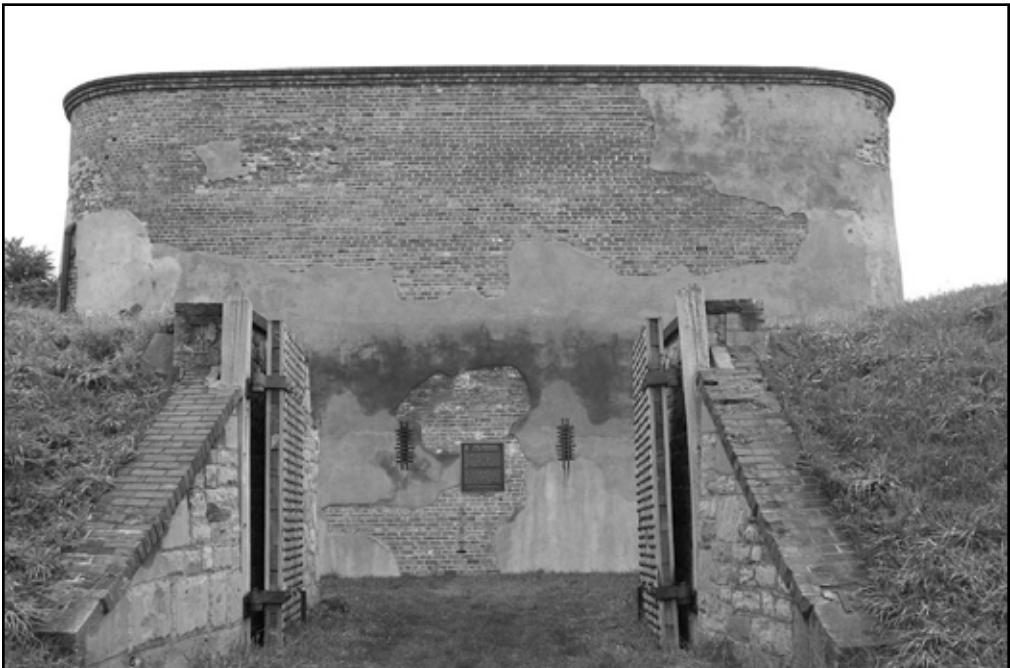
That leaves the honor of “North America’s oldest golf course” to a pristine nine holes on the shore where the Niagara River spills into Lake Ontario.

It was 1875 when John Geale Dickson laid out his course across from his home on John Street which he called Mississauga Links. Dickson hailed from an old land-owning family in Galt, Ontario, near today’s Cambridge. His uncle had emigrated to Upper Canada to manage the family interests and retired to Niagara in 1836. Subsequently, many of the handsome Victorian homes in Niagara were under title to the Dickson family. When the Niagara Golf Club officially organized in 1881 John’s twin brother Robert was designated the first Captain.

The Club was well regarded

locally as a Toronto newspaper opined, “This golf course in Niagara is perhaps unsurpassed, and bids fair to become the St. Andrews of Canada. Its central position, ease of access by rail or steamer, and large area, combine to make it one of the best that could be selected for matches between other clubs and neutral ground.”

The first hole, Straightaway, races out along the Niagara River towards a green tucked into the bosom of the ruins of Fort Mississauga, star-shaped earthworks that are a souvenir of the War of 1812. The first lighthouse constructed on the Great Lakes was located here in 1804 (the United States would not erect its first inland lighthouses until 1818) but the beacon was



History buffs exploring Fort Mississauga must give right of way to the golfers.

dismantled to make way for the brick fort in 1814, not until after the Treaty of Ghent ended the conflict and established boundaries between Canada and United States.

The British kept Fort Mississauga in active duty until 1855. The Canadian Army trained troops here for awhile and the masonry blockhouse remains standing as a National Historic Site. The public can reach the fort via a walking path - but golfers have the right of way.

Niagara-On-The-Lake Golf Club has never hosted a major golfing competition but it does have the distinction of being the site for the first international tournament in North America. That was from September 5-7, 1895. The winner was Charles Blair Macdonald who stopped on his way to Newport Golf Club to compete in the first United States Amateur Championship. He might not have made the Niagara International at all if the Amateur had not been

postponed due to a conflict with the America's Cup yacht races. Such a busy life for Gilded Age sportsmen. Macdonald also won perhaps the first ever Long Drive Championship when he spanked a shot 179 yards, one foot and six inches in a competition on the first hole.

Today the Niagara-On-The-Lake Golf Club is open for public play. While some holes of the 140-year old course have been lengthened to create a regulation 3,104-yard par 36 course, the routing and much of the fairways remain in their original state. The green on #8, Cinch, has never been altered in its lifetime. In fact, Niagara-On-The-Lake gives little quarter to modernity. Designed in the age of pony carts the parking lot holds scarcely a dozen cars. There is a drop-off for your golf clubs but then you need to drive into town and scrounge an available parking space - so arrive early for your tee time.



Niagara-On-The-Lake Golf Club has never been a place to drive up with your sticks. Here players arrive via Lake Ontario.

# Oakhurst

## White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia

### 1884

The United States is home to almost half of the world's 35,000 golf courses and this nine-holer in the folds of the Allegheny Mountains is considered the oldest. The little town of White Sulphur Springs gained a reputation through the 19th century as the "Queen of the Watering Places" where wealthy Virginia planters came in the summer to escape the humidity of the coastal plains. It was word of these healing waters that attracted

the attention of a 24-year old Harvard-educated lawyer from Massachusetts named Russell Wortley Montague in 1876.

Montague bought property two miles northeast of White Sulphur Springs where Dry Creek had cut a narrow valley on its journey to the Green Brier River. Here he erected a simple Colonial Revival-style, two-story farmhouse for summer use with his wife Harriet. The story goes that in 1884 a transplanted Scot named George

Grant wanted to prepare for the visit of his cousin, an owner of a tea plantation in Sri Lanka named Lionel Torrin, by laying out an informal golf course in a pasture on the Montague farm.

Russell Montague had spent time traveling in England and Scotland and had even played some golf, reputedly at St. Andrews. Torrin was reportedly a golfer of some repute and the three men tackled the



If the sign says it, it must be true...

project with the aid of two more neighbors, Scotsmen Alexander and Roderick McIntosh McLeod. The five men roughed out a rudimentary course across 35 acres in the creek valley which began near the main house and played across a gravel road which naturally became known as "The Road Hole." Heavy cast iron sleeves were driven into the native pasture grass as cups.

George Donaldson, a native of Scotland who ran a local lumber yard, joined the original five golfers and the membership of the club was set. The early enthusiasts played a regular game and competed for the Oakhurst Links Challenge Medal, emblazoned with the motto "Far and Sure" on one side. It is considered the earliest match play in America. Within a few years all but Montague and Donaldson had moved back to the British Isles and the course received less and less play. By 1912 Oakhurst returned to pastureland.

Russell Montague died in his 93rd year in 1945 and his children inherited the property. Lewis Keller purchased the farm in 1959



George Franklin Grant put an end to golfers building little sand piles to launch golf balls off the teeing ground.

and learned of its history as a golf course. A golfer and friend of Sam Snead, Keller could make out the ghosts of tees and green sites where his horses grazed. In 1994 he hooked up with golf architect Bob Cupp who became enchanted with the prospect of reviving the 110-year old course.

Cupp used old magazine articles to decipher the general route of play and ordered soil tests for clues about bunkers and greens. Much was guesswork but none of Cupp's restoration - all done

by hand and shovel - could be said to have altered the historical accuracy of the course.

In 1995 Keller re-opened the course to the public. Oakhurst Links played to a par of 37 across 2,235 yards. Players were required to rent and use replica hickory clubs and hit only gutta-percha balls similar to ones Montague and his friend played with a century before. Tee balls were struck from mounds formed with a pinch of wet sand - just as they were before the wooden golf tee arrived in 1899 courtesy of George Franklin Grant. Grant was a Boston dentist and the first African-American professor

at Harvard who as a golfer was looking for a way to eliminate the "annoyance and sometimes discomfort attendant upon the formation of a sand tee." The result was U.S. patent No. 638,920 for the "peg tee."

After a half-century as steward of Oakhurst, Lewis Keller sold the golf course, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, to the neighboring Greenbrier resort. The prohibition against modern equipment remains in effect and players - often sporting period attire - still tour Oakhurst Links as if playing America's oldest golf course.



Hickory shafts are often the weapon of choice on the Oakhurst Golf Links.

# Foxburg

## Foxburg, Pennsylvania

### 1887

Foxburg Country Club traces its roots all the way back to George Fox in northern England in the 1600s. We know him as the founder of the Society of Friends, better known as the Quakers. When America's Number One Quaker, William Penn, sailed to America in 1682 to claim lands owed to him from a debt between King Charles II and his father, members of the Fox family quickly followed. In 1796 Samuel Mickle Fox purchased land warrants from the Penn family totaling

6,600 acres along the Allegheny River in the western wilderness of Pennsylvania.

Fast forward another century to Joseph Mickle Fox, Samuel's great grandson. A scion of Philadelphia aristocracy, Joseph Fox was a member of the Merion Cricket Club which embarked to Great Britain to participate in a series of international matches in 1884. "The Gentlemen of Philadelphia" acquitted themselves well, including a match at fabled Raeburn Place in Scotland where the Americans lost by only five wickets to the powerful Scots.

Afterwards, Fox visited St. Andrews where Tom Morris gave him an introduction to this different type of field game. Morris began at his native St. Andrews as an apprentice to Allan Robertson, considered golf's first professional. According to legend the two were never bested in matches across Scotland. Robertson did a bustling trade in "featherie" golf balls and had a falling out with Morris when his protege embraced the new golf balls constructed from the sap of tropical gutta percha trees.



Many roots of American golf trace back to St. Andrews in Scotland and Old Tom Morris.

Morris left for Prestwick where he presided over the first Open Championship, which he would win four times, in 1860. He returned to St. Andrews in 1865 and stayed until 1904. Old Tom sent Joseph Fox back to America with a supply of balls and clubs from his shop near the 18th green of the Old Course.

Upon returning to Pennsylvania Fox began using his new toys on the family's RiverStone Estate. When others wanted to play he sent away for more clubs and balls. The group formed the Foxburg Country Club in 1887, using a course laid out on an escarpment above the Clarion and Allegheny rivers. At first there were just five holes, with flower pots used for cups. By 1888 there were a full nine holes and that course, with some remodeling, has been played ever since.

The Foxburg clubhouse is a handsome Adirondack-styled building constructed in 1912 as a private residence by the prestigious architectural firm of Goldwyn Starrett and Charles Edmund Van Vleck, the nation's pre-eminent designers of upscale department stores. The club picked it up for \$5,000 in 1942. The second floor is stuffed with mementoes from golf's early days and operates as the American Golf Hall of Fame Museum. Highlights include a set of "clubs" used by Australian trick shot artist Joe Kirkwood and one club each



The first great golf trick shot artist - Joe Kirkwood - honed his skills in the Australian Outback. He was a unanimous choice for the American Golf Hall of Fame.

from six generations of McEwans (1770-1799-1830-1855-1890-1930).

Spreading out in the valley below the clubhouse the Foxburg course plays to 2,580 yards as it winds through ancient Pennsylvania hardwood forests. The small greens are testament to their 19th century beginnings as America's oldest continually operating golf course open to the public.



Foxburg Country Club has been welcoming golfers for over 125 years.

# Shinnecock Hills

Southampton, New York

1891

Among the leading pioneering American golf clubs the history of Shinnecock Hills on Long Island is more murky than most. There are questions regarding who should get credit for bringing golf to Southampton - the sister of the proprietor of the Shinnecock Inn who encountered the game on a trip to Scotland or a group of New York City businessmen who discovered the game on a vacation to the south of France. Or perhaps a bit of both.

There is confusion as to who actually built the first course - the leading candidates were both

Scots named Willie - and in the 19th century it was generally assumed that any Scotsman in America named Willie was a golf expert. As best as can be gleaned from contemporary accounts, William D. Davis was recruited from the Royal Montreal Golf Club in 1891 to lay out a golf course and teach curious New Yorkers how to play.

Davis actually built two courses - a nine-holer for men and a shorter, supposedly easier track for women. Whatever the true story, there seems little doubt that the club was the first to



Shinnecock Hills, as depicted by impressionist artist William Merritt Chase in the 1890s, was just waiting for a golf course to be laid upon the landscape.





Shinnecock's Beatrix Hoyt was one of America's first great golfers - of either gender.

embrace women's membership. Of the 44 founding members, 12 were women. It is no surprise that Shinnecock members dominated the first women's national championships. Lucy Barnes won the inaugural United States Women's Amateur in 1895 by turning back a field of thirteen with a course record 132 at the Meadow Brook Club down the road in Hempstead.

The following year 16-year old Beatrix Hoyt, the granddaughter

of Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase, won the first of three straight Amateur championships. The *New York Sun* gushed that Hoyt's game was, "superior in quality to any of our men."

There is also no dispute that the club takes its name from the Shinnecock Indian Nation whose ancestral lands included all of modern-day Rhode Island, most of Connecticut and a large swath of Massachusetts, in addition to eastern Long Island. The tribe hardly viewed the name as a tribute - the Shinnecock peoples have always disputed legal ownership of the land and claim the golf course was constructed on a tribal burial ground.

Meanwhile man-around town Stanford White, the go-to architect of the rich and famous in America's Gilded Age, set to work on the clubhouse in 1892. There had never been a building constructed solely for a golf club and White set the standard for every clubhouse that would follow. He sited his sprawling gray-shingle creation on the highest point on the property overlooking the golf course. He balanced its comfortable, inviting role as a "house" with the propriety of its members by

supporting the overhanging roofs of the verandas with imposing white Doric columns.

Davis soon departed, leaving the new Shinnecock members to fend for themselves. In 1893 Willie Dunn, from a prominent Scottish family, arrived at Shinnecock to take charge of golf operations. Dunn expanded the course to 12 holes, keeping some of the original holes in his new routing. Meanwhile, Shinnecock Hills incorporated in 1894, becoming the first American club to do so.

Scottish pro James Foulis won the second United States Open on the course in 1896 and the USGA came back in 1900 for the Women's Amateur. Hoyt lost in the semi-finals and abruptly quit golf forever without explanation.



Bon vivant Stanford White designed the landmark Shinnecock Hills clubhouse.

And that was it for national tournaments as Shinnecock Hills for over 75 years. The course was known only to golf aficionados and architecture buffs.

Shinnecock took its first steps back into the golfing sunlight by



The Shinnecock Hills clubhouse became the prototype for American golf clubs everywhere.

hosting the Walker Cup in 1977. The United States Golf Association then awarded the 1986 United States Open to Shinnecock Hills, promising that golf fans would discover America's truest golf links and one of the country's finest courses.

What golf fans saw when the Shinnecock gates swung open was a completely new course from that which had hosted the Open 90 years before. In 1927, New York State Route 27 sliced right through the club property and the club's insurance rates soared due to the increased traffic crossings of the golfers. The portion of the course south of the road was abandoned and additional property purchased on the north side.

The project for the new course was turned over to Philadelphia architect William Flynn. Flynn found the new land superior to that sacrificed and he took care to retain the rugged, natural look and undulations of Shinnecock as the new holes flowed seamlessly from one to another. The overhauled Shinnecock Hills opened in 1931 and was essentially the same course that greeted the world's best golfers in 1986.

The results were even better than hoped for. Shinnecock Hills gave little quarter to the competitors as Raymond Floyd won with a 279 total, one under par. The course was instantly acclaimed as one of the elite tests of championship



**Willie Dunn was the most successful of the Scottish pros who came to America in the 1890s and started building golf courses.**

golf in America and the U.S. Open has returned every decade since - 1995 (Corey Pavin winning), 2004 (Retief Goosen winning) and 2018.

Furthermore, America fell in love with links golf. Treeless courses built nowhere near the ocean (sandy turf being the prerequisite for a links course) billed themselves as "links courses." Classic courses that had been built on treeless land embarked on programs to remove thousands of trees that had been planted by greens committees over the decades. And be like Shinnecock.

# Downers Grove

## Downers Grove, Illinois

### 1892

Chicago of the 1860s was no place for a young boy of privilege to get a proper education. So Charles Blair Macdonald, whose family owned large swaths of upstate New York, was sent away from the muddy streets and roaming swine to the University of St. Andrews in Scotland when he was 16 years old in 1871. Even then, St. Andrews was the cradle of golf. But Macdonald was not impressed by the game he had never heard of. As he wrote in his memoir, *Scotland's Gift: How America Discovered Golf*, "It seemed to me a form of tiddle-

de-winks, stupid and silly."

But grandfather Macdonald was a member of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews and impertinent Charles was nonetheless sent to the resident pro, Tom Morris, for lessons. One of the young Chicagoan's frequent playing partners was Morris' son who was the Tiger Woods of his day. "Young" Tom Morris won his first Open Championship at the age of 17 in 1868 and would win three more times before dying of "a broken heart" before his 25th birthday after his wife died in childbirth. Properly indoctrinated



Waiting for an early game of golf at Downers Grove.



The imperial Charles Blair Macdonald cast a large shadow across early American golf.

by Old Tom and Young Tom, Macdonald returned to America in 1874 totally besotted by the game of golf.

Back in Chicago there was little time for frivolous pursuits, however. The city was recovering from the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 and the country was limping back to life after the Panic of 1873. Macdonald's career in finance

gave him little time to escape from his office in the Board of Trade. Even if he could, there were no golf courses in the United States. As Macdonald lamented, "It was surely the Dark Ages for me."

It would be the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago that would lift the shroud. To amp up the town's "worldliness" Macdonald was recruited to stake out seven golf holes across the baronial lawns of the Charles Benjamin Farwell estate. Farwell was one of the bankers most responsible for the rise of Chicago and only recently back from a stint in Washington as a United States senator. It was not much of a golf course, but it stirred Macdonald's long-subdued passions for the sport.

Macdonald then solicited \$10 apiece from associates and raised a few hundred dollars to buy some farmland in the village of Belmont to build a proper golf links. Macdonald designed his course to suit his own game, which made sense since he was the only golfer he knew in Chicago. Since he battled a nasty left-to-right slice

the course was routed clockwise with out-of-bounds to the left on seven holes. Macdonald was pleased enough with his efforts that he added an additional nine holes the following spring to create the first 18-hole golf course in America. On July 18, 1893 the Chicago Golf Club was chartered.

By this time Macdonald had forged a clear vision for what he wanted a golf experience to be. He no longer just desired a place to play golf - it must be a facility to rival the links in Great Britain. He engineered the financing for 200 acres of farmland in Wheaton - a 30-mile train ride from the downtown Chicago Loop - and built the first 18-hole golf course in America designed as such. He was knee-deep in every aspect of its construction, recruited the membership and erected a stately house overlooking the new Chicago Golf Club for himself.

Macdonald's original course was soon a distant memory - or, if the aristocratic founder had his way, completely forgotten. The pioneering track did not disappear and reverted back to the original nine holes. Herbert J. Tweedie organized the Belmont Golf Club on the site and Macdonald made sure there was no confusion concerning the two clubs. As he wrote in his autobiography, "None of the members of the Chicago Golf Club were members of the Belmont Golf Club, and the clubs are not the slightest degree

identical."

Despite the disavowment of its pedigree by its founder, the Belmont Golf Club trundled on until 1968 when it was purchased by the Downers Grove Park District. Play continues 125 years after its opening and features of the original course can still be seen on holes 2, 4, 7, 8 & 9.

Today Downers Grove Golf Club operates as a true municipal course open to all who want to play. The Chicago Golf Club thrives as well and is considered one of the handful of most exclusive country clubs in the world. Just as Charles Blair Macdonald would have wanted it.



English golf architect Herbert James Tweedie built some of the first golf courses in the Midwest and helped C.B. Macdonald establish golf in the Chicago area. His last job was a reworking of the course in Downer's Grove before his untimely death at the age of 41.

# Newport

## Newport, Rhode Island

### 1893

From its origins in America golf was the ultimate "rich man's game," since the men introducing the sport were wealthy enough to have traveled to Scotland to discover it. It was only a matter of time before golf made its way to the ultimate bastion of the Gilded Age in the 1890s - Newport, Rhode Island.

Proper introductions were made by Theodore Havemeyer, who learned the game while vacationing in Pau, a mountain resort in southwestern France where the first golf course on the Continent had been constructed. Havemeyer's money came from sugar. In 1802 brothers William and Frederick Havemeyer, veterans of a London cane sugar refinery, sailed to New York where they found "good deep water, plenty of labor, and space to build." By the end of the 19th century the "Sugar Kings" controlled 80% of the sugar refined in America, "white gold" produced in great Romanesque Revival brick factories on the Brooklyn waterfront.

Until he started chasing bogies Theodore's main diversion was



Theodore Havemeyer brought golf to America's Queen of Summer Resorts.

breeding sheep, hogs and cows on his 600-acre spread in New Jersey. Summers were reserved for Newport and the family estate on Bellevue Avenue. In 1890 Havemeyer and a few friends began renting 44.4 acres of pastureland on Brenton Point overlooking the Atlantic Ocean for golfing purposes. A rough nine holes was laid out that



Whitney Warren was unknown when he designed Newport's celebrated clubhouse; he would one day work on New York City's Grand Central Terminal.

crisscrossed the stonewalls on Elizabeth Gammell's centuries-old farm.

After three years the men decided it was time for a right and proper golf course. They recruited Willie Davis, who hailed from Royal Liverpool on the west coast of England, for the job. Davis emigrated to Canada in 1881 at the age of 18 to become the first golf professional on this side of the Atlantic Ocean at the Royal Montreal Golf Club. He designed the golf course on the Ile de Montreal and a decade later laid out the first 12 holes of Shinnecock Golf Club.

Davis was given 140 acres of Mary King's place to work with. It was called Rocky Farm, with reason. Newport was hard by the sea but the soil was composed of clay and not sand, as a true links demanded. Nonetheless, the Newport Golf Club on a promontory above the Atlantic Ocean was officially incorporated on March 1, 1893. With the course

completed Davis busied himself with clubmaking and lessons for Newport's elite.

And this being Newport, one of the first orders of business was erecting a suitably impressive clubhouse - as well as getting a polo field and trotting track up and running. That demanded a design competition and submissions poured in from the most famous architects of the day. The winner was a 30-year old unknown who belonged to no prestigious firm and had just returned from a nine-year sojourn abroad. But Whitney Warren was one of Newport's own and knew his way around a Bellevue Avenue mansion. His elegant French Chateausque scheme, executed in an embracing Y-shaped design, carried the day. The price tag was \$47,139 - and another \$7,872 for a caddie house and stables and \$6,608 for furnishings. The *New York Times* quickly rendered its judgement, "It stood supreme for magnificence among golf clubs,



not only in America, but in the world.”

Founder and club president Havemeyer soon put word out that Newport would be hosting the first-ever American national golf championship on September 10th and 11th, 1894, consisting of 36 holes of stroke play across two days. The event attracted 20 competitors, eleven of whom packed up their clubs and went home after a first day of depressingly high scores.

Chicago Country Club founder Charles Blair Macdonald considered himself America’s best player and he fully expected to be the country’s first champion. But after an untimely encounter with a stone wall on number eight scuttled his chances Macdonald blustered that the Newport event could hardly be considered a “championship” since it was not contested at match play and, incidentally, stone walls have no place on golf courses. A month later the St. Andrew’s Club staged another national championship, this time at match play. Macdonald lost that one, too. He again spat that this could not be a “national championship” since it was sponsored by a single golf club.

Well, OK then. On December 22, 1894 representatives of five clubs met at the Calumet Club



**Horace Rawlins, a Newport assistant pro, was the surprise winner of the first United States Open Championship.**

in New York City to create the United States Golf Association: the Chicago Golf Club, The Country Club, Shinnecock Hills, St. Andrew’s Golf Club and Newport Golf Club. The genial Havemeyer was selected to be the first president. The new body’s mandate was to establish uniform rules for the game in America, administer those rules and organize national championships.

That year’s tournaments would be reprised in 1895 as the United States Amateur with a match play format and the United States Open, held a day later for professionals and amateurs, at stroke play. Newport Golf Club, the course of the president, was chosen to hold both events in the fall. To insure the new USGA was

a success Havemeyer picked up the expenses of all contestants coming to Newport.

It did not take long for the new USGA to lock horns with golfers. When Richard Peters showed up for his match at the U.S. Amateur against Reverend Dr. Rainsford he brandished a billiard cue to handle his greenswork. Tournament officials made no ruling but Peters holstered the cue after the first hole when Rainsford requested he not use it again.

Macdonald indeed triumphed in the U.S. Amateur, dispatching tennis player and future Olympian Charles Sands of St. Andrew's 12 and 10 in the 36-hole final. Horace Rawlins was an unlikely winner of the first U.S. Open.

The events were a success and, of course, have been held ever since - but not again at Newport

Golf Club for another century. In 1897 Davis laid out another nine holes to bring the course to a regulation eighteen but the low-lying ground proved mostly unsuitable for golf. Later that year Havemeyer died unexpectedly at the age of 57 from stomach troubles in his New York City home and the club lost direction.

Shortly thereafter a down-trodden membership voted itself out of existence and merged assets with the Newport Country Club. Additional land was purchased and in 1923 A.W. Tillinghast interwove seven new holes into Davis' historic original nine holes. The U.S. Amateur returned for its centennial in 1995. Tiger Woods won the second of three consecutive national titles - and the trophy that bears Theodore Havemeyer's name.



President and Mrs. Kennedy enjoy a round at Newport with Washington Post editor Ben Bradlee and his wife Jean.

# The Country Club

## Brookline, Massachusetts

### 1893

When deciphering the early history of American golf it is necessary to parse the definitions of words such as "continuous" and "oldest" and "original." So Saint Andrew's Golf Club in Hastings-on-Hudson gets the nod as "America's oldest golf club" since golf has been played continuously by its members since the winter of 1888 when 47-year old Scotsman John Reid and his pals first began banging gutta-percha balls around three holes laid out in a pasture. The favorite part of the course for the fellows was a gnarled old apple tree that served as the "19th hole" for partaking in rounds of fine Scotch

whiskey. On November 14, 1888 in a meeting in the Reid home the "Apple Tree Gang" formally started a golf club, borrowing the name from the home of golf and adding an apostrophe.

By that time The Country Club had already been around for six years in Brookline, Massachusetts, outside of Boston. But there was no golf being played in Brookline. So it hangs on to the tag of "oldest country club in America." It was truly a "club in the country," organized for outdoor pursuits such as horseback riding in the summer and ice skating in the winter. When the idea took hold to play golf it was 1893 and

three members were recruited to lay out six holes. The horse people were none too thrilled with the new development, especially the part of the course that meandered across the trotting track.

But the golfing members had been captivated by their game. They brought



Harry Vardon, Francis Ouimet and Ted Ray  
at the 1913 U.S. Open in Brookline.



Local hero Francis Ouimet hits away in front of an attentive gallery.

over one of the first foreign golf professionals to the United States, Willie Campbell, to head their nascent program. Campbell had finished in the top ten in eight consecutive appearances in the Open Championship in the 1880s and was the most accomplished player in America. He quickly set about expanding the course to nine holes as the equestrians fumed.

The opposition from the headstrong horse crowd about the future of The Country Club was vociferous enough that Campbell departed in 1896 for the Myopia Hunt Club in nearby South Hamilton. Nonetheless, the course was expanded to 18 holes by 1899 and lengthened in 1902.

All of the changes were executed by club members.

It was these 18 holes that became the first famous golf course in America. The occasion was the 1913 United States Open. By this time The Country Club had hosted the United States Women's Amateur (won by New Jersey ace and two-time champion Genevieve Hecker in 1902) and the United States Amateur (won by William C. Fownes, Jr., the son of the founder of Oakmont Country Club, in 1910). But this was the first time the Brookline course had been tabbed to hold the U.S. Open in the almost two decades since the founding of the USGA in 1895. Of the five founding members, The Country

Club was the fourth to host the national championship; St. Andrew's would never do so.

At the time, the golf world was still very much ruled by British golfers. The first native-born American to win the U.S. Open had been Johnny McDermott, a Philadelphia golfer who dropped out of high school to play professional golf, only two years before in 1911.

In the weeks approaching the U.S. Open Boston was swooning over two British stars planning to compete. Harry Vardon, the greatest golfer in the world with five British Open Championships to his credit and another to still come, was making only his second appearance in the U.S. Open. The first had been back in 1900 at the Chicago Golf Club and Vardon had won that tournament by two strokes. Ted Ray, known for pounding prodigious drives off the teeing ground, was the defending British Open Champion and had never competed in the United States.

The two stars were on a two-month long promotional junket across North America financed by Lord Alfred Harmsworth,

the Rupert Murdoch of his day. Vardon and Ray played exhibition matches against the continent's top players and the championship in Brookline was anticipated to be their crowning denouement.

The first two rounds were held on Thursday, September 18. Vardon played indifferently in the morning and finished with a two-over par 75. Ray was even more baffled by the unfamiliar course and posted a 79. But he roared back in the afternoon to shoot a course record 70. Vardon too played sub-par golf and had a two-stroke lead after the first day of play.

Conditions were harsher for the two rounds scheduled for Friday



Ted Ray came up short in the 1913 U.S. Open but returned in 1920 to win the title at Inverness Golf Club.



The overlapping grip used by Harry Vardon became the standard for players ever since - the Vardon Grip.

and at the end of the morning play the two British stars found themselves tied for the lead with an unknown 20-year old American amateur, Francis Ouimet. Ouimet grew up in a working class immigrant household across the street from The Country Club. Young Francis learned his golf by sneaking barefooted onto the 17th hole and later in rounds at Franklin Park, using balls and clubs scavenged from the caddy yard.

Ouimet had captured the Massachusetts Amateur championship earlier in the year but had no plans to enter the U.S. Open. Only a personal request from USGA president Robert Watson, hoping a local amateur might juice the gate, enticed him to play in the national event. His opening tee shot seemed to bear Ouimet's reservations out - the topped

ball scarcely rolled 40 yards. But he fashioned a pair of 74s to go with his opening 77 to join the British greats at the top of the leaderboard.

The trio would remain tied at the end of 72 holes after shooting identical 79s in the final round. But the symmetry was not that clean. Vardon and Ray finished first and were in the gallery as Ouimet finished in the darkening afternoon. He converted a critical birdie on the familiar 17th hole and scrambled for a par on the 410-yard home hole to earn his way into an 18-hole playoff the next day.

Saturday dawned with a steady drizzle that would not let up all day. The golf was more of the same with all three players reaching the turn in 38 strokes. Ouimet forged an early advantage on the inward nine and again knocked in

a birdie putt on the 17th hole to push him to the house in 72, five strokes better than Vardon, who claimed the \$300 top prize for professionals by one over Ray.

America had its first golf hero. Francis Ouimet was carried off the 18th green by some of the estimated 10,000 spectators in attendance. His achievement was splashed on front pages of newspapers around the country. A photograph of Ouimet and his 10-year old caddy, Eddie Lowery,

became the first famous photo in golf. A statue of the photograph was cast and dedicated on the site, although it has since been moved to the Robert T. Lynch Municipal Golf Course next door. The account of Ouimet's triumph would be told in books and a Walt Disney Movie, *The Greatest Game Ever Played*, released in 2005.

Ouimet had joined Woodland Golf Club in Newton as a junior member in 1910, ponying up \$25 borrowed from his mother to



Champion Ouimet is lifted to the shoulders of the gallery above his 10-year old caddy Eddie Lowery to celebrate his win in the 1913 U.S. Open playoff.

cover the dues so he could have a club affiliation to qualify for tournament play. He was a Woodland member until his death in 1967, representing the club as he won two United States Amateur championships, six Massachusetts Amateur titles and a Massachusetts Open. He would only play in five more U.S. Opens, with a tie for third in 1925 being his best future effort.

In 1951 Ouimet became the first American named a captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland. Two years after that he was made an honorary member for life of The Country Club, joining pioneering tennis great Hazel Wightman as the only such honoree. It was never a tribute that Ouimet had considered his due. During the club's golden anniversary celebration in 1932 he said, "To me, the property around here is hallowed. The grass grows greener, the trees bloom better, there is even warmth in the rocks you see around here. And I don't know, gentlemen, but somehow or another the sun seems to shine brighter on The Country Club than on any other place I have seen."

Since Ouimet's landmark victory in 1913 the spotlight has returned to The Country Club time and again. But first, Massachusetts-born William Flynn was recruited in 1927 to expand the golf facilities to three nine-hole loops.

The existing front nine emerged intact as Clyde; Flynn infused the back nine with new holes and given the name Squirrel; and the all-new third nine was called Primrose.

The course television viewers are familiar with is called the Composite Course, an amalgamation of the three nines. The Country Club has hosted a half dozen United States Amateur championships and U.S. Opens in 1963 and 1988. Most notoriously the club was the staging ground for the "Battle of Brookline" as the 1999 Ryder Cup came to be known.

As The Country Club had been the site for the rupturing of the balance of golf power between Great Britain and the United States in 1913, the raucous crowd behavior as the Americans came back to beat the Europeans on the final day of Singles play marked another seismic shift in golf from the English viewpoint. Long-time commentator Alistair Cooke heralded the exuberant celebrations as the arrival of the golf hooligan in "a date that will live in infamy."

That is quite a bit of history for a golf course that was cobbled together by members at a place where the finest pedigrees belonged to the horses. Even today the handsome Greek Revival horse stables stand proudly beside the main clubhouse. Who do these golfers think they are?



# Myopia Hunt

## South Hamilton, Massachusetts

### 1894

Frederick O. Prince, an active member of the Whig Party and future mayor of Boston, had four athletic sons who played baseball for Harvard University in the 1870s. All four also couldn't see a pitch coming without glasses. When they formed a barnstorming baseball team manager W. Delano Sanborn dubbed the team the "Myopia Nine," in honor of the players who

used spectacles to correct their nearsightedness. In 1875 when the Princes started a sporting club for baseball, tennis, water sports and equestrian activities they took the name and it became the Myopia Hunt Club. No doubt the foxes of Massachusetts were relieved by the handicap of their pursuers.

In 1894 R.M. "Bud" Appleton suggested that golf be under-



The Harvard nine that gave Myopia Hunt Club its name - sans eyeglasses.



Herbert Corey Leeds spent more than three decades shaping the Myopia Hunt course.

taken at Myopia. Appleton was also the Master of the Hounds at the club which helped appease the horsemen who were not nearly so enthusiastic. He knew golf from holes he had designed on the family farm started by Thomas Appleton in 1638, today the oldest continually operating farm in America. Appleton and fellow members Squire Merrill

and A.P. Gardner laid out a crude nine holes that was ready for play on June 1, 1894. Response was so enthusiastic that Myopia staged a tournament on June 18. The winner was 39-year old Herbert Leeds, a Boston sportsman who had also once played baseball for Harvard. Leeds went around the course in 58 and 54.

The new champion was hooked on golf and began lobbying the membership to make upgrades to the course. They agreed and handed him the job. A great golf autocrat was born.

Herbert Corey Leeds would spend the last thirty-plus years of his life molding and experimenting with the Myopia layout to create one of the most talked about courses in early American golf. His initial efforts were so well-received that Myopia Hunt Club hosted the U.S. Open in 1898. And again in 1901, 1905 and 1908.

When British stars Harry Vardon and J.H. Taylor toured the course in 1900 Taylor set a course record of 78. Vardon did not have quite such a jolly day. He would write later in his autobiography, *My Golfing Life*, "While most American courses suffered from a lack of bunkers, Myopia was unfortunately rather spoiled by an excess of them." There were more than 200 of the pesky sand pits - members joked that Leeds carried white pebbles in his pocket and whenever he saw a player hit a

good approach shot to a green he would drop a few stones on the spot and a bunker would soon appear there.

But it was not Leeds' bunkers for which Myopia was famous, it was his creative "chocolate drops." Like much of the New England countryside the property was crisscrossed by stone walls. Rather than incur the expense of carting the stones off the premises Leeds instead gathered the stones in piles and planted wild grasses on top. The result made Myopia Hunt Club one of the stoutest challenges in American golf. The three highest winning scores in U.S. Open history - 331, 328 and 322 - were all posted on Herbert Leeds' course.

Leeds died in 1930 and with the onset of the Great Depression and then World War II, the Myopia Hunt Club floundered. By the 1970s fewer than two dozen rounds a day were being played - the golf season ended on Labor Day. When new professional Bill Safrin showed up for work from Philadelphia he found a bare golf shop with no merchandise. One of the members assured him it was of no concern since "nobody makes the trek up to the pro shop anyway."



Harry Vardon flashes the form that won six Open Championships and the 1900 U.S. Open at Chicago Golf Club.

Safrin spent over thirty years rebuilding the golf culture at Myopia Hunt, re-establishing the course as a jewel of classic golf architecture. The USGA has not returned since 1908 but has been courting the membership to host a tournament without success for decades. Most recently the 2020 Women's U.S. Open was rejected. Until the powers-that-be at Myopia relent this slice of 19th century golf that was the first American course to be compared to its famed long-toothed British counterparts, will not be enjoyed by the 21st century public.

# Country Club of Rochester

## Rochester, New York

### 1894

Few courses can match the glistening roster of major championships held at Oak Hill in Rochester, New York - three U.S. Opens, three PGA Championships, two U.S. Amateurs and a Ryder Cup. As a test of championship golf Oak Hill has no peer. But it doesn't have Walter Hagen.

Walter Charles Hagen was born on December 21, 1892 in a two-story farmhouse overlooking Allens Creek. His father was a millwright who picked up extra money blacksmithing for the New York Central Railroad whose tracks ran right by the house. His mother took care of Walter and his four sisters.

Three years later members of the

Genesee Valley Club bought land on Brighton Road to build a golf course. The social club had been started by Hobart Ford Atkinson, who was born on one of Colonel Nathaniel Rochester's original lots in the village of Rochesterville in 1825. When the town's leaders met in Atkinson's bank sixty years later they agreed there were four things that were mandatory in a club: 1) a reading room with the most current periodicals; 2) a library; 3) a restaurant with simple food, properly prepared and convenient; and 4) a supply of wines, liquors and cigars.

By 1895 golf was added to the list and the Hagens could watch the progress of the course from their yard. The family was not a



The Country Club of Rochester as it looked in Walter Hagen's day.

part of the Genesee Valley Club but Walter developed an interest in the game anyway. When he was five years old he could be seen playing golf in the family's cow pasture, although much of his day was spent convincing his bovine grounds crew to munch grass in one area to create a putting green.

By the age of seven Hagen was at the Country Club of Rochester shagging golf balls for members. After he joined the caddy ranks his athleticism attracted the attention of the club professional Andy Christie who provided young Walter instruction. He progressed so quickly that the members had no objection to allowing Hagen to use the course for practice rounds.

Hagen's lot at the club improved steadily. He was made caddie master and then assistant professional. In 1912 he hoped to enter the U.S. Open that was held at the nearby Country Club of Buffalo but Christie would not allow him the time off. Hagen's restlessness to begin a career in professional golf was exacerbated when Johnny McDermott, who was only one year older than him and whose life mirrored his own, won his second consecutive U.S. Open in Buffalo.

McDermott grew up in Philadelphia. He caddied at Aronimink Golf Club and learned to play banging balls in the apple orchard next to the exclusive



**Walter Hagen was a golfing unknown when he showed up to play in the 1913 U.S. Open.**

course. He won the Philadelphia Open - a big tournament - in 1910 when he was 18 years old. Later in the summer he lost the U.S. Open in a three-way playoff. In 1911 McDermott was in another playoff for the U.S. Open title at the Chicago Golf Club and this time he won, despite sending his first two tee shots of the playoff out of bounds. John McDermott was the youngest player ever to raise the U.S. Open trophy.

Hagen was given time off to enter the Canadian Open a few weeks later and he sailed across Lake Ontario to Toronto to finish 11th in his first professional tournament at Rosedale Golf Club. The next year, 1913, saw

big changes at the Country Club of Rochester. Donald Ross was brought in to expand the course to a full 18 holes and Andy Christie moved on to a club job in Vermont. Hagen was elevated to club professional but he still needed to summon all his charms to wrangle four days off from the Green Committee to play in the U.S. Open.

Hagen headed to The County Club in Brookline to compete not just against McDermott but the great English pros, Harry Vardon and Ted Ray. The Brits were in a particularly pugnacious mood after the brash Philadelphian had destroyed Ray by 14 strokes and Vardon by 13 in a tournament at Shawnee a few weeks earlier.



Johnny McDermott, the first native-born U.S. Open champion sits with his trophy from 1912.

The unknown club pro from Rochester playing in his second professional tournament haunted the leaderboard until a poor back nine on the final round left Hagen three strokes out of the famous playoff won by Francis Ouimet. McDermott was one stroke further back. Just as his golf was getting underway, however, he faced a vexing career decision.

Hagen was good enough at baseball to begin playing semi-pro ball with the Rochester Ramblers at the age of 15, earning \$1.50 a game. With an ambidextrous Hagen on the mound the Ramblers won three consecutive city championships. Baseball was the true national pastime in 1914 and an offer to try out with the Philadelphia Phillies was hard to pass up.

When Ernest Willard, publisher of the *Rochester Democrat & Chronicle* learned of the offer he counseled Hagen to forget about baseball and offered to pay his way to the U.S. Open in Chicago. Hagen took the golf trip but never lost his love of baseball, almost purchasing the Rochester Red Wings in 1927 before the club was taken over by Branch Rickey and the St. Louis Cardinals.

Hagen opened the tournament at Midlothian Country Club with a 68 - the lowest score ever shot in U.S. Open competition; Ouimet almost matched him with a 69. Hagen led all four rounds but his championship was not assured

until hometown favorite Chick Evans' birdie bid on the 18th hole died on the lip. Ouimet finished tied for fifth, McDermott tied for ninth.

With a 21-year old U.S. Open champion and a 22-year old two-time champion American professional golf seemed primed for a big future. But it was not to be, at least for John McDermott. Later in 1914 he experienced a mental breakdown in a golf shop in Atlantic City. He was committed to the Pennsylvania State Hospital for the Insane with paranoid schizophrenia and spent the better part of his last 55 years in institutional care. He continued to play golf on the hospital's six-hole golf course but the outside golf world mostly forgot about the first American-born U.S. Open champion.

Walter Hagen was left to invent professional golf himself. He stayed on as pro at the Country Club of Rochester until 1918 before moving on to Oakland Hills in Michigan. He represented the club as he won the U.S. Open and at the banquet in his honor he resigned to become the first incarnation of a "touring professional." Hagen had very strong ideas for what that meant - it would be first class all the way in an era when club pros were considered more like servants. He carried himself not only as if he belonged to a private club but as if he owned it. He was addressed



Walter Hagen won the first of five PGA Championships - and the Wanamaker Trophy - in 1921.

as Sir Walter or The Haig.

Hagen traveled the world playing exhibitions for which he could be paid as much as \$1,000. He would do seven, eight, or nine a week on a tour. Walter Hagen would become the first athlete to earn one million dollars and, as his friends would say, the first to spend two million. "I never wanted to be a millionaire," he said. "I just wanted to live like one."

Hagen also cashed professional tournament checks. He won five PGA Championships and five Western Opens among an estimated 75 tournament wins. He also won two United States Opens and four British Opens but there was something unsatisfying about those titles - Bobby Jones was never in the field for any of them.

In the 1920s amateur golf was

not a feeder into professional golf. The two traveled in their own universes and the amateur circle, thanks to Jones, enjoyed the greater prestige. In 1926, partly to assuage his ego and partly to score a big payday, Hagen, then 33, engineered a 72-hole challenge match against 23-year old Jones in Sarasota, Florida.



Hagen in a familiar position - the rough.

Today such a contest would be an over-hyped pay-television sensation. The widely beloved amateur champion from a patrician background against the flamboyant hard-living professional. The golf courses selected were one favored by Jones, a Donald Ross-designed course now known as Sara Bay Country Club, and Hagen's choice, the Pasadena Golf Club.

Jones, who was spending most of his time preparing for the Georgia bar exam, got off to a slow start during the first day of

play at "his" course. At the end of the day Hagen was 8-up and it was reported that, "Walter Hagen had gone around in 69 strokes and Bobby in 69 cigarettes." After a week's rest the players returned to the match and Jones did not fare much better before being closed out 12 and 11.

Hagen received a reported \$7,800 from the gate receipts. He donated a large chunk to the St. Petersburg Hospital and bought Jones a \$1,000 pair of platinum-and-diamond cuff links. For his part an exasperated Jones summed up the experience: "I would rather play a man who is straight down the fairway with his drive, on the green with his second, and down in two putts for his par. I can play a man like that at his own game, which is par golf. If one of us can get close to the pin with his approach, or hole a good putt, all right. He has earned something that I can understand. But when a man misses his drive, and then misses his second shot, and then wins the hole with a birdie...it gets my goat!"

In 1927 Hagen captained the first American Ryder Cup team in matches between American professionals and their British counterparts. He had helped arrange a similar informal match in 1921 at Gleneagles in Scotland and had participated in another unofficial get-together before the 1926 Open Championship where he and partner Jim Barnes were



thumped 9 and 8 by a team of Abe Mitchell and George Duncan in foursomes competition.

At tea after the 1926 matches players from both sides, including Hagen, hashed out the format for an official international team competition. Samuel Ryder, who had made his money selling seeds in "penny packets" and had never played golf before the age of 50, agreed to pony up the money for a gold chalis that would be the winners' to hold until the next match. There would be no prize money. Ryder suggested that the likeness on the cup be that of Mitchell, who he had retained as his private swing guru. All agreed. Mitchell and Hagen would captain their respective teams.

Mitchell unfortunately contracted a bout of appendicitis and did not sail to America for the first matches at Worcester Country Club in Massachusetts. Ted Ray, a past British Open and U.S. Open champion, took his place; at age 50 the oldest player in the competition. The American team had been thrashed in those unofficial competitions in Great Britain but on American soil with a larger pool of pros to choose from Hagen's team won easily, 9 1/2 to 2 1/2.

Hagen would captain the first six American Ryder Cup teams. The home side won each of the first five matches until the Americans won at Southport and Ainsdale Golf Club in Southport, England

in 1937. Hagen, then 44 years old, served as the first-ever non-playing captain in that event. He finished with a 7-1-1 match play record in Ryder Cup competition, including a foursomes match in 1929 when he and Denny Shute won every hole against Duncan and Arthur Havers.

After a lifetime of globetrotting Hagen at last bought what he considered his first home on a knoll overlooking the water in Traverse City, Michigan in 1956. He was also happy to surrender the limelight and disappeared from the golfing scene.

When the PGA held a testimonial tribute in Traverse City as Hagen was suffering from throat cancer Arnold Palmer said, "The biggest



Abe Mitchell provided the model for the golfer on the Ryder Cup.



# Van Cortlandt Park

## Bronx, New York

### 1895

As the shades lowered on the 19th century there were almost 1,000 golf courses in America, a scant dozen years from the first players trying their skill with featheries and hickory-shafted clubs. Almost all of those courses had one thing in common - play was limited to private members.

The first public golf course in the United States appeared in the Bronx, New York in 1895, although its founders did not set out to open the game to the masses. A group of Manhattan golf enthusiasts calling themselves the Mosholu Golf Club was fruitlessly searching for a tract of private land inside New York City that would be large enough to handle a first-class club with nine full holes of golf. Failing in their quest, the Mosholu men turned to James A. Roosevelt, 70-year old uncle of Teddy Roosevelt and a member of the Board of Parks Commissioners, for help.

Roosevelt saw the recreational value of such a scheme but could not put a municipal asset in private control. A compromise gave the Mosholu golfers a chunk of the more than 1,000 acres of ancestral land the Van Cortlandt family had

sold to the city for parkland in 1888. In return the Mosholu Golf Club, led by T. McClure Peters, would build the golf course and lay out the requisite hazards and greens. New York City would pick up the tab (\$624.80) but there was one catch - Mosholu would retain exclusive use of the course for only two afternoons a week. The rest of the time the Van Cortlandt Park golf course would be open to the general public.

Opening day was July 6, 1895. Golfers found an unusual layout for the 2,561 yard course. None of the first eight holes stretched beyond 200 yards but the ninth was a 700-yard monster that required golfers to play across two stone walls and two serpentine streams. Long holes are still a trademark of Van Cortlandt - the modern configuration boasts two of the longest par fives in the metropolitan New York region, the 625-yard second and the 605-yard 12th. Van Cortlandt was a success from the beginning, not the least because it was free to play. The only charge was if a golfer wanted to hire a caddy. The course quickly became overcrowded which led



Willie Campbell was one of the first Scottish professionals to come and establish golf in America. He created a model for public golf at Franklin Park in

to poor playing conditions and outbreaks of unruly behavior. New York papers screeched about the golfing degradations at Van Cortlandt.

In December of 1895 a delegation from Boston arrived to investigate this experiment in municipal golf in New York City. The Bostonians converted a slice of Frederick Law Olmsted's Franklin Park, named for native son Ben, into their own public golf course. Unlike Van Cortlandt Boston put its municipal golfing fates in the hands of a professional golfer, Willie Campbell. He

had been one of a fabled quartet of "boy wonders" growing up in his native Scotland in the 1880s, notching seven straight Top-10 finishes in the British Open. At Franklin Park, the 34-year old Campbell was paid three dollars per day which came out of tickets sold for 12.5 cents to play the course.

Soon Franklin Park was handling over 40,000 loops per year on its nine-hole layout. The *New York Times* took notice and pegged the troubles at Van Cortlandt to the lack of leadership while praising the Boston public golf model, "Boston has had an excellent one (public

golf course) for one or two years in Franklin Park, and its excellence is due largely to the fact that Willie Campbell has charge of the links."

The New York City Parks Department responded by hiring Thomas Bendalow to manage operations and set aside 65 acres to turn Van Cortlandt into the nation's first 18-hole public course. Bendalow took up golf at the age of five in Aberdeen, Scotland in 1868. He played a proficient game but began his working life as a typesetter for an Aberdeen newspaper. When he

sailed to New York City in 1892 it was to join the composition team on the *New York Herald*.

Bendalow soon became aware of the growing American fascination with golf and the ease of anyone who sounded remotely Scottish to get a job in the game. He hooked up with the country's leading sporting goods company, A.G. Spalding & Brothers, to promote the development of new golf courses around New York and New Jersey to stimulate the sale of equipment. Bendalow would walk a potential piece of ground driving stakes into the turf where tees and hazards and greens should be constructed. It was a practice used by Old Tom Morris and his ilk back in Scotland as they felt the direction of the winds and the feel of the land.

Bendalow thrived in his role at Van Cortlandt and he quickly established order at the facility, which included a reservation system. The golfing census for 1899 was 2,000 golfers. In 1901 the city opened the Pell Golf Course at Pelham Bay Park



Tom Bendalow had a hand in so many early American courses he was called the "Johnny Appleseed of American Golf."

which helped relieve some of the congestion in the Bronx. New York City now owns and operates a dozen courses. In 1902 a new golf house was built at Van Cortlandt and it remains in service, including original wooden lockers, today. The locker room even took a star turn in Oliver Stone's *Wall Street* in 1987.

Bendalow's impressive turnaround of Van Cortlandt inspired



Another busy day at the first public golfing grounds in the United States.

Spalding to hire him back, transplanting him to its Chicago headquarters as head of their golf division. In that capacity he traveled to countless small towns in the United States and Canada helping communities establish public golf courses. Known as the "Johnny Appleseed of American Golf," Bendalow is credited with designing 500, 600, 700 or 800 courses, depending on who is doing the counting. These courses were often simple layouts with small, flat greens to better serve the limited construction and maintenance coffers of population-challenged municipalities. In the 1920s Bendalow would sign on as the chief designer of American Park Builders and with bigger budgets would design such acclaimed tracks as Medinah Country Club.

Meanwhile "Vannie," as the locals called it, settled into the

mainstream of New York City life. It was not unusual to see Babe Ruth or Willie Mays or Sidney Poitier out on the golf course. Moe Howard, Shemp Howard and Larry Fine - better known as the Three Stooges - called Van Cortlandt their home course. In season 6 of television sensation *Seinfeld* Cosmo Kramer tees it up at Van Cortlandt.

Bendalow's design was disrupted by Robert Moses in the 1940s who routed the Major Deegan Expressway through the park. Architect William Follet Mitchell rearranged fairways and built four new holes to replace a couple of lost ones. During the term of Rudy Giuliani more than four million dollars of improvements spruced up 20 tee boxes, 13 bunkers, and revitalized the fairways. And through it all the 1 Train from Manhattan still stops right by the 18th green.



Early public golf play in America at Van Cortlandt.

# Garden City

## Garden City, New York

### 1897

Walter Travis was the first superstar of American golf. Or perhaps more pointedly, the Leonardo Da Vinci of American golf. He won three of the first four U.S. Amateurs in the 20th century. He was the first American to win the British Amateur. He was a pioneering golf journalist. He was a teacher whose instruction was lauded by Francis Ouimet and Bobby Jones. He was an architect



Walter Travis always played with a cigar and a flask - he tried to give up smoking and drinking once but his game suffered and that was the end of that.

who built the best greens in the world according to Ben Crenshaw. He was a golf equipment innovator. And Garden City was his home course.

Walter J. Travis did not touch a golf club until he was 34 years old and eleven years removed from his native land of Australia. His employer McLean Brothers and Rigg had sent him to New York City to open a sales office for the firm's hardware and construction wares. Travis found a wife, became a naturalized American citizen and settled into the New York society whirl. For recreation he hunted and rode bicycles.

It was with no small amount of disdain that Travis discovered golf in 1896 when his friends in the Niantic Social Club near his home in Flushing announced they were going to form a golf club. Travis had no interest but if his companionable hunting and fishing trips were going to be replaced by afternoons on the links, so be it.

Remembering that fateful first encounter with club and ball, Travis later wrote, "I first knelt at the shrine of the Goddess of



The form of America's first golf hero.

Golf." Within a month of playing his first shots Travis was awarded his first trophy for winning the handicap competition at Oakland Golf Club. As he would add in his memoir, "I shall never cease to regret the many prior years which were wasted."

Travis certainly acted quickly to fill his years remaining. He read everything available on golfing technique and adapted it to his self-taught swing that began with a baseball grip and included fat, black Ricoro Corona cigars and a jigger or two of Old Crow whiskey on the course. Most importantly he recognized the paramount importance of the short game. After close defeats in both the 1898 and 1899 U.S. Amateur

competitions "The Old Man," as he quickly came to be known, was widely acclaimed as the most deadly putter of the age.

Walter Travis broke through to the top of national tables in 1900 by capturing the U.S. Amateur at his home club in Garden City. The course was laid out in 1897 by Devereaux Emmet as a diversion for guests of the Garden City Hotel that had been started by pioneering department store magnate A.T. Stewart in 1873. Emmet was the

quintessential American Gilded Age golfing character, marrying Stewart's niece in 1889 and spending most summers touring Europe and checking in on the great courses of the British Isles.

The Island Golf Links, as the first nine holes were known, was Emmet's first foray into golf design and there would be some 150 more over the next four decades. Richard Howland Hunt, a graduate of the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris where his father Richard Morris Hunt had been the first American attendee, drew up the plans for the Victorian-style clubhouse. Emmet tacked on another nine holes and Garden City Golf Club was incorporated



on May 17, 1899; Walter Travis was a founding member.

Travis would have been right at home in the equipment-mad 21st century. He experimented with drivers from 42 inches long to 52 inches long and installed smaller diameter cups on the practice green at Garden City to hone his putting skills. In 1901 he became the first golfer to win a major championship with the Haskell wound-rubber golf ball in defending his U.S. Amateur title at Atlantic City Country Club, sending the new ball into widespread use.

In 1902, A.F. Knight, the finest player at the Mohawk Golf Club in Schenectady, New York, built himself a putter with a flat head and a shaft inserted in the center. He substituted aluminum for wood about the same time golfing gadfly Devereux Emmet was visiting Mohawk. Emmet returned to Garden City with a prototype and two days later Travis sent Knight an order by telegram. Travis pronounced the "Schenectady Putter" the best he had ever used, proving it by slaying Britain's finest golfers in their 1904 Amateur. His greenswork was so precise that the Royal & Ancient banned all center-shafted, mallet-head putters in 1910. When the USGA failed to do the same it was the first time the two ruling bodies of golf had parted ways.

As a golf writer Travis produced an instructional book shortly after



**The Schenectady Putter caused the first rift between the two ruling bodies of golf - the Royal and Ancient and the United States Golf Association.**

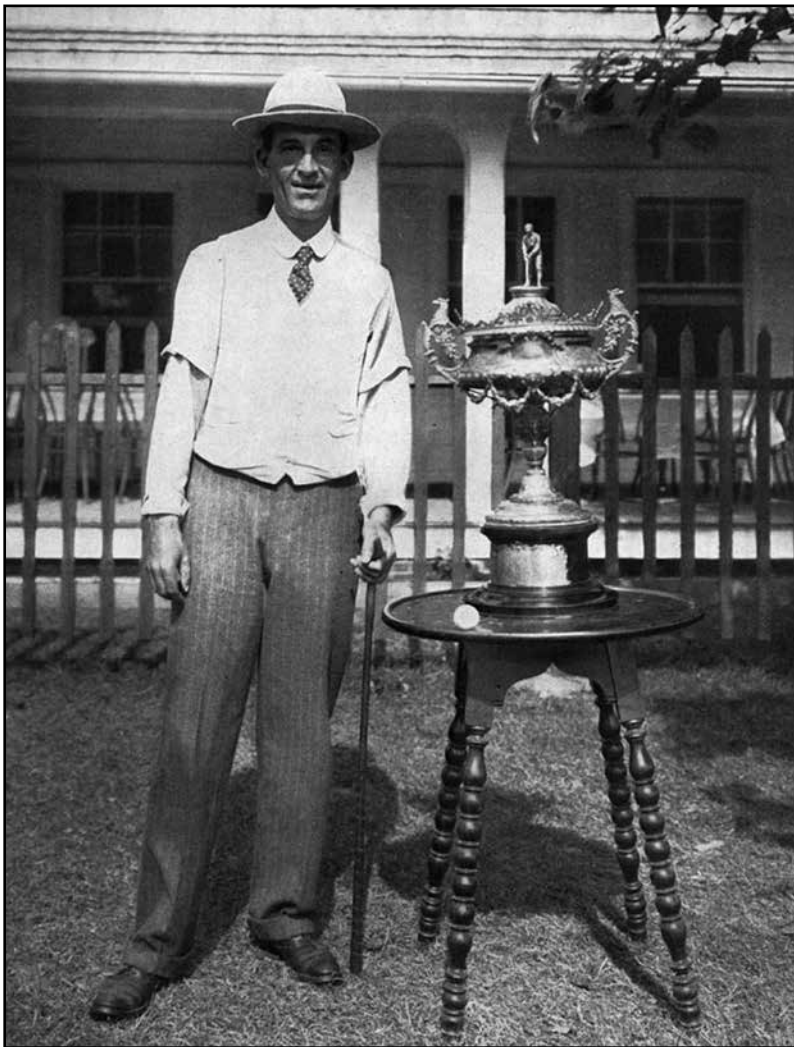
winning his first U.S. Amateur - less than four years after he picked up his first club. In 1908 he founded one of the earliest and most influential golf magazines, *The American Golfer*, and remained as editor until 1920. His insights on the game and swing theory were widely respected; Bobby Jones acknowledged that a quick putting lesson from Travis to bring his feet closer together and employ a reverse overlap grip helped transform him into a champion-caliber putter.

Travis of course had strong beliefs about golf course design and he used Garden City as his laboratory during a decade-long stint as Green Committee Chairman. He retained Emmet's admired routing but filled in the cross bunkers, contoured the greens and added 50 new sand traps. He was especially

enamored with deep pot bunkers and after he became ensnarled in a six-foot deep pit he installed by the 18th green which cost him the 1908 U.S. Amateur it became known forever more as the "Travis's Coffin" - where he dug his own grave.

Garden City was an early favorite of the USGA, hosting four U.S. Amateurs and a U.S. Open in its first fifteen years of existence.

The course was the second in the United States to host the Walker Cup. But since Walter Travis has died only the United States Amateur in 1936 has been staged in Garden City. While stepping off the national stage the course has continued to host its Spring Invitational, one of the leading amateur events in the country. Since 1940 it has been the Travis Invitational.



Sitting next to the 1901 U.S. Amateur trophy is an early rubber-cored ball Walter Travis used to win the championship.

# Ekwanok

## Manchester, Vermont

### 1900

The most critical element in a championship golf course has always been good turf. And as the game was sending down roots in American soil the best turf was considered to be on Long Island in New York and in the Vermont hills. Golfers were testing this excellent turf as early as 1881 in the town of Dorset in the Vermont Valley, banging balls into old tomato cans.

In 1886 fifteen men, mostly from nearby Troy, New York, began the Dorset Field Club and played across still-active pastureland, as attested by the longest of the nine holes at 325 yards, Bull Barn. Cows and goats were expected to take care of course maintenance.

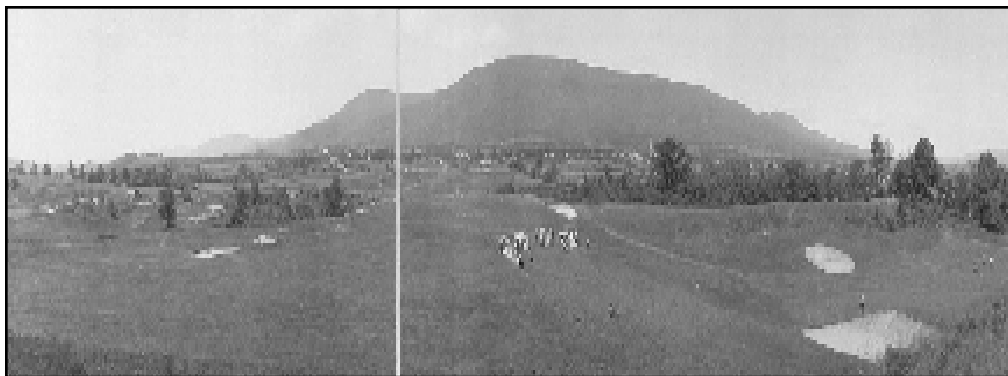
Willie Dunn, an emigrant of Musselburgh, Scotland, was one of the architects who was in most demand in the 1890s. Dunn could not drive stakes into the ground fast enough to keep up with the clients so he cabled for his nephew John Duncan Dunn to catch the next packet over to America and help him out. While working with his uncle Dunn made the acquaintance of Walter Travis who had only just begun



Walter Travis tried his hand at golf architecture for the first time at Ekwanok.

playing golf but was on his way to becoming the best American player in the game.

In 1899 James L. Taylor of Brooklyn bought 200 acres of farmland near Manchester, Vermont and hired his New York friends Travis and Dunn to transform the land into golfing ground. Dunn had the architectural experience but Travis had the doggedness that would make him a great player.



Ekwanok was the first 18-hole course that could stand comparisons to classic British links.

In an era when architects rarely returned to the scene of the crime Travis made frequent trips to the construction site, fussing over the placement of bunkers and testing shot values. Dunn and Travis gave special attention to green sites, tilting putting surfaces and installing contours that stood in stark contrast to the flat, featureless greens that were the American norm.

When Ekwanok Golf Club opened in 1900 it joined the Myopia Hunt Club as a course that

stood to be compared with the British seaside links. And Travis continued to lavish attention on the course, visiting often over the years to make refinements. The course hosted the United States Amateur in 1914 and Francis Ouimet, the hero of the 1913 U.S. Open, won the championship.

After the U.S. Amateur the membership at Ekwanok stepped away from hosting national spectacles. A special 25th anniversary tournament was held for Ouimet in 1939 and 700



The Ekwanok clubhouse is framed by the Taconic Mountains.

spectators and a national press turned out but otherwise nothing. What can be seen, however, is Hildene, the glorious home of Robert Todd Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's son, that is open for tours down the street - he was the Ekwanok president from 1904 until 1926.

In 1905 Horace L. Hotchkiss organized a one-day, 36-hole stroke play event for his friends at Apawamis Golf Club in Rye, New York. All had to be at least 55 years old - it was the world's first "seniors" tournament. The United States Senior Golf Association mushroomed and the event has been held annually ever since.

In 1962 a second USSGA tournament was added to the



Horace Hotchkiss was the "grandfather" of senior golf.

schedule at Ekwanok with 41 players. The Ekwanok Invitational spawned additional senior events for the august organization.



Francis Ouimet followed up his historic U.S. Open in 1913 with a win in the U.S. Amateur at Ekwanok in 1914.

# Glen Echo

## St. Louis, Missouri

### 1901

Raise your putter if you know who George Lyon is. Mr. Lyon is the last Olympic gold medal winner in golf, contested in the 1904 games. The venue was the Glen Echo Golf Club. Lyon, a 46-year old Canadian, finished ninth in a 74-man field to qualify for the 32-man match play competition with a two-round total of 169. He upset medalist Stuart Stickney in the Round of 16 and won three

more matches against higher-ranked players to capture the gold.

Lyon is actually the only gold medal winner. Golf was an Olympic event in 1900 in the Paris Games but the competition was so haphazard that winners Charles Sands and Margaret Abbott just received flatware. Abbott in fact, whose mother Mary was also in the nine-hole event (the only time a mother and daughter competed in the same Olympic event), thought she was just playing in a regular tournament and went to her grave never knowing she was the first American woman to win an Olympic "medal."

Only one man played in both Olympic events. His name was Albert Bond Lambert. Albert's father, Jordan Wheat Lambert, had licensed Listerine, now a famous antiseptic mouthwash but in its original incarnation a floor cleaner, in 1881 when he was a local pharmacist. Albert took over the Lambert Pharmacal Company in 1896 when he was just 20 years old but apparently had enough time to indulge his interest in golf.

Lambert sailed to France in



St. Louis was host city for the first Olympiad held in the United States and golf was part of the competition.



James Foulis arrived at Glen Echo after winning the second United States Open in 1896.

1900, planning to mix business and pleasure. Along with his sample case of Listerine he also packed his golf clubs. In the "Golf Exhibition at the World's Fair" Lambert, a rare early left-handed golfer, fired rounds of 94 and 95 at the Compiègne Club that was laid out in the middle of a horse racing track. His total of 189 was good enough to finish 8th in the individual competition and claim top honors in his handicap division.

Back in St. Louis, Lambert's father-in-law, Colonel George McGrew, had been infected by the golf bug after visiting St. Andrews, Scotland and playing

rounds with Old Tom Morris. McGrew purchased 167 acres of rolling farmland northwest of the city and hired James Foulis of the Chicago Golf Club to design his new Mound City Club course. Foulis was a native of St. Andrews and his father had been the foreman in Old Tom's golf shop. Foulis finished third in the first United States Open and won the second tournament at Shinnecock Hills in 1896.

Mound City, quickly renamed Glen Echo, was the first golf course west of the Mississippi River to be designed as a true 18-hole layout. While Jim Foulis was hired for the job, his brother



Representing Canada, George Lyon won the 1904 Olympic gold medal across the Glen Echo fairways.

Robert, also a refugee from Old Tom Morris's golfing empire, did much of the heavy lifting in the routing of the course.

Glen Echo was ready for play on May 25, 1901 and McGrew was already hatching plans for a grand world championship with Lambert on board. At the same time the International Olympic Committee

was moving the upcoming 1904 Games from Chicago down the Mississippi River to coincide with the St. Louis World's Fair. McGrew quickly scuttled his International Golf event and in short order Glen Echo was an Olympic venue.

Lyon was the unexpected champion and on his march to the gold medal set a new Glen Echo course record with a 77. Lambert made it to the quarterfinals of match play before being eliminated. The Olympics were hardly an international celebration of golf in 1904 - 77 golfers entered and 74 were from the United States. The other three were from Canada. The team competition featured ten-man regional teams from around the country; as a member of the runner-up Trans-Mississippi Golf Association squad Lambert earned a silver medal.

Golf was scheduled to be an event in the 1908 London Olympics but after a conflict with the Royal & Ancient it never happened and golf disappeared from the Olympics until Rio de Janeiro in 2016. Albert Lambert would be heard from again, though. He led a consortium of businessmen who backed Charles Lindbergh's solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean in 1927, hence the name of his bi-plane, *The Spirit of St. Louis*. Lambert's name graces the St. Louis international airport - he earned the city's first pilot's license and donated an airfield



to encourage early aviation.

Glen Echo would continue to pop up on the nation's golf radar as well. The course hosted many important state and regional tournaments, including the 1940 Trans-Mississippi Ladies Championship when two future Hall-of-Famers, Betty Jameson and Patty Berg, battled across the historic fairways. Jameson won.

Ten years on, Jameson, became the first woman to break 300 in a 72-hole U.S. Women's Open. Berg and eleven co-founders went on to launch the LPGA: the Ladies Professional Golf Association. Berg, Jameson, Sally Sessions, Helen Dettweiler, and Helen Hicks signed the original charter. Berg was elected the first president and Jameson donated a cup to be named in honor of Glenna Collett Vare to be given to the player with the lowest scoring average each year.

The LPGA, with a schedule of more than 20 events, showed up in 1954 and another Hall-of-Famer, Betsy Rawls, won with the help of a course record 67 against a par of 76. All-time great Mickey Wright took one of her 82 career victories from Glen Echo in 1964



Albert Lambert not only bankrolled Glen Echo but also provided the backing for Charles Lindbergh's history-making solo flight over the Atlantic Ocean in 1927.

and Shirley Englehorn won the St. Louis Invitational with an even par 216 in 1970, the first of four tournaments she would win in a month culminating in the LPGA Championship.

Glen Echo even got involved in kickstarting another Olympic movement, hosting the first National Senior Olympics in 1987. Architect Pete Dye was in the field and was not shy with his evaluation of the course: "I wouldn't change a thing, even if I wanted to. They wouldn't let me build a course like this today. It's a classic."

# Oakmont

## Oakmont, Pennsylvania

### 1903

“There’s only one course in the country where you could step out right now – right now – and play the U.S. Open, and that’s Oakmont,” Lee Trevino once said. The golf world certainly agrees - more national championships have been staged at Oakmont than any other venue; the 2016 U.S. Open marks the ninth time the USGA has brought its marquee event to the Western Pennsylvania links. Oakmont was the first golf course designated a National Historic Landmark. Somewhere Henry Fownes is smiling.

Henry Clay Fownes was born on

September 12, 1856 to Charles Fownes and Sarah Anne Clark, who had emigrated to Pittsburgh from England in the early 1840s. The Fownes were iron people and Henry was thrust into the family business at the age of 15 when his father died unexpectedly. In 1881 Henry and his brother William purchased the Carrie Furnace in Rankin on the banks of the Monongahela River which would become the foundation of the Fownes Bros. fortune. Their businesses included Standard Seamless Tube, Midland Steel, Reliance Coke and Shamrock Oil and Gas, in Texas.

Henry Fownes was on a career trajectory that promised to land him among Andrew Carengie, Henry Frick, Andrew Mellon and the other powerful titans of Pittsburgh industry. But his world changed in an instant on an afternoon in 1898 when he was attempting to repair a bicycle tire with a welding torch, a task he had no doubt



The Carrie Furnace churned out steel and profits to fund Oakmont.

performed hundreds of times. This day, however, he neglected to use his welder's mask and his eyes were damaged by a flare-up. When Fownes checked in with his doctor about dark spots in his vision he was informed that he was, in fact, suffering from arteriosclerosis and had only a couple of years left to live.

Fownes divested his interests in the Carrie Furnace to Carnegie and United States Steel and began traveling the country as he shifted his final gears downward into relaxation mode. He began playing golf, quickly becoming one of the better players in the Pittsburgh area and qualified for the national amateur championship in 1901. Meanwhile, he received a new prognosis from his doctors - the eye damage was not the result of lethally hardening arteries, it was merely macular damage from the intense flash of the torch. It was too late to fetch back the Carrie Furnace, which *The Iron and Machinery World* magazine estimated should have brought \$1,000,000 more than it did, but not too late to devote his remaining years to golf.

Fownes put together an investor group called the Oakmont Land Co. in May of 1903 and in July he had settled on 191 acres of the White Oak Level farm which had the advantage of being fairly level and treeless. Fownes feverishly shifted into overdrive. He hired

150 men from the local steel mills and sent them out with 25 teams of horses to shape the land. He paced the property tirelessly, sketching out holes. Twelve were completed before the winter freeze and the remainder of the course was ready for play by the summer of 1904.

Other similarly rich men were constructing playgrounds for their society friends, but Fownes had something altogether different in mind for Oakmont. There



Henry Fownes anticipated the coming of the rubber-cored golf ball by making Oakmont longer than typical courses.

were no frills, no gala social events. Just golf. And Henry Fownes wanted Oakmont to be *the* supreme test of golf, ushering in the "penal school" of American golf architecture, where "a shot poorly played should be a shot irrevocably lost."

Early Oakmont golfers played a course with a par of 80, including eight par fives and the 560-yard tenth that carried a par six. At 6,400 yards the course was 20 percent



Gene Sarazen set scoring records at Oakmont in the 1922 PGA Championship.

longer than most courses of the day. But Fownes was not looking to terrorize golfers with length, he was creating the first golf course for the new Haskell ball. Golfers in the 1500s batted around balls of wood until someone discovered a more forgiving spheroid could be fashioned from boiled goose feathers stuffed into a cowhide. "Featheries" ruled the game until Reverend Adam Peterson produced a golf ball using rubber sap from tropical Gutta Percha trees in the mid-1800s.

On April 11, 1889 Massachusetts-born Coburn Haskell and his partner Bertram G. Work, an

employee of Akron-based B.F. Goodrich Company, received a patent for a revolutionary golf ball that consisted of rubber threads wound around a solid rubber core. They found that this ball reliably flew 20 yards further than the gutties then in use. Haskell established the Haskell Golf Ball Company in 1901 which brought thousands of new players to the game. The basic golf ball construction devised by Haskell and Work would not be improved upon until 1972 when Spalding introduced the first two-piece golf ball, the Executive. The Haskell ball was what Henry Fownes was

looking at when he was tramping across Oakmont, laying out long golf holes.

Henry Fownes, despite coming to golf late in life, went on to qualify for four more U.S. Amateur Championships. His son William, who trained as an engineer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was an even better golfer who qualified for 19 U.S. Amateurs and won America's most coveted title in 1910 at The Country Club. He would captain the first United States Walker Cup team in 1922 and served as the president of the United States Golf Association for two years in the 1920s. William Fownes was appointed to the club's board of Governors in 1907 and it was the son - undoubtedly with the father's counsel and final approval - who was most responsible for turning Oakmont into the course that induced, as Tommy Armour said in 1927, "muscle-tightening terror."

It was Fownes the Younger, working in concert with his greenskeepers John McGlynn and then Emil Loeffler, who created the standard for firm and fast golf in the United States. The greens were raised and slanted, contoured and slickened to an extent never experienced. "I put a dime down to mark my ball and it slid away," Sam Snead once said.

And then there were the famous Oakmont bunkers. Henry Fownes had designed the original course



Tommy Armour, the Silver Scot, won the U.S. Open at Oakmont in 1927 with the highest score in the rubber-core ball era.

with about 100. That number would surpass 300 over the years. As technology improved William Fownes would make sure obsolete bunkers were replaced with adequate hazards. Bunkers were brought up to the edges of fairways and greens to challenge better golfers. All were filled with thick, coarse Allegheny River sand that required phenomenal strength to extricate a wayward shot. The most famous set of sand bunkers at Oakmont are between the 3rd and 4th fairways, laid out in advancing rows like church pews. Over the years many a congregant took the Lord's name in vain as he advanced feebly from one sand pit to the next. For a while William employed special



Golf engineers tried many experiments to measure green speed before settling on the simple Stimpmeter, inspired by watching ply at Oakmont.

rakes that created furrows in the sand intended to remove any element of fate in an Oakmont bunker. Every golfer received the identical lie - bad.

Oakmont and its furrowed bunkers received its first test from the world's finest golfers in the 1919 U.S. Amateur. Oakmont member S. Davidson "Dave" Herron beat 17-year old Bobby Jones 5 & 4 in the finals in one of the few times the golfing immortal would hear his misses openly cheered in the gallery. But the big winner was the golf course, where few of the competitors approached the par of 73. For one of the first times the efforts of the greenskeepers were recognized as the USGA wrote Loeffler a

letter stating, "Never in the history of golf in this country has the championship been played on a course in such fine shape."

Henry and William Fownes were not quite so jolly after Oakmont hosted the PGA Championship in 1922. A self-taught 20-year old local pro named Gene Sarazen had recently won the U.. Open and now led a par-busting barrage in the middle of a month's long drought. Oakmont's hard fairways caused the course to play

short and Sarazen's record-setting front nine 32 in his semi-final match was only one example of the low scoring on his way to the title. It would not be the last time Oakmont would prove vulnerable under the right conditions as Johnny Miller proved with his epochal 8-under par 63 to win the 1973 U.S. Open.

Oakmont was back to its fearsome self in time for the 1927 U.S. Open as the winning score of 301, 13 over par, was the highest in modern Open history. Tommy Armour finally won the championship by shooting a 76 in a playoff to defeat Harry Cooper's 79. The U.S. Open would return to Oakmont in 1935

where a club professional from Pittsburgh named Sam Parks, Jr. became the most obscure winner in the modern age. Attending the event was Edward Stimpson, a captain of the Harvard golf team and Massachusetts state amateur champion.

After watching in amazement as a Sarazen putt rolled off a green and into a bunker Stimpson returned home and invented a device to measure the speed of greens. It consisted of a block of wood three feet long and a concave ramp notched to hold a golf ball. When the ball was released on a flat surface the length of the roll provided a numerical reading that equated to green "speed."

Stimpson sent 25 prototypes to the USGA which ignored the device for four decades.

It was the 1970s before the powers that be began concerning themselves with the uniform speed of greens. Stimpson's design was resurrected, given a few tweaks and reborn as "The Stimpmeter." To decide on a preferred green speed for its championships the USGA spent two years traveling to courses and testing various greens. The average was 6.5 and only two were measured as fast as 8.0. When they showed up at Oakmont the reading was 11.5. If the course runs dries the Oakmont greens can read 14 or 15. For the United States Open



Golf's two most popular mid-century stars, Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus, battled head-to-head for a major championship for the first time at Oakmont in 1962, igniting a rivalry that would divide golf fans for a generation.

the club has to *slow down* its greens to accommodate the best players in the world. And that is only for the twelve flatter greens - six of Oakmont's putting surfaces are not flat enough to register a Stimpmeter reading. The ball, like Sarazen's 1935 putt, just keeps rolling and rolling.

The 1935 U.S. Open would be the last Henry Fownes would see at Oakmont; he died several months later. William Fownes took over for his father but his tenure was not a happy one. America was changing and an old-styled British-flavored golf club held little appeal to many members. William resisted the membership votes to add the requisite swimming pool and family amenities of a modern country club until he could fight no longer. He resigned in 1946,

four years before his death.

Jack Nicklaus won his first professional major at Oakmont in 1962 in an eighteen-hole playoff with local hero Arnold Palmer, accomplishing what his idol Jones had not been able to do 43 years earlier in the face of hometown favoritism. But the golf course was becoming unrecognizable. With the departure of the Fownes family an aggressive tree-planting campaign had gotten underway at Oakmont. No longer could one sit on the clubhouse porch, as Grantland Rice wrote in 1939, and "enjoy the view of seventeen of Oakmont's eighteen flags."

The USGA kept returning but in the mid-1990s, with Oakmont approaching its centennial, the greens committee did an about face and decided to pull every last tree - more than 5,000 - out of play. The course was returned to its beginnings as a British-style links with the winds whipping across the barren landscape. Henry Fownes' original avenues are still in play, save for the eighth green that had to be relocated about ten yards when America's first super-highway, the Pennsylvania Turnpike, unceremoniously sliced through the course in the 1940s. Yes, somewhere Henry Fownes is smiling.



Johnny Miller, here standing with his 1966 BYU golf team, shot the lowest round in U.S. Open history with a 63 to win in 1973.



# Pinehurst #2

## Pinehurst, North Carolina

### 1908

#### *A Toast to North Carolina*

*Here's to the land of the long leaf pine,  
The summer land where the sun doth shine,  
Where the weak grow strong  
and the strong grow great,  
Here's the "Down Home," the Old North State*

At one time the southeastern United States was covered in more than 90 million acres of Longleaf pine, about the size of Montana. The straight-growing majestic trees made fine lumber and even better turpentine and pitch which was used to waterproof ships. By the end of the 19th century, after two centuries of enthusiastic harvesting, fewer than four percent of those forests remained.

And so it was possible for James Tufts to buy up 5,000 acres of logged-over wasteland in the North Carolina Sandhills in 1895 from Luis Page for \$5,000. When he decided he needed more, the price for the next 800 acres "soared" to \$1.25 an acre. The Tufts plan was to build a "health

resort for people of modest means" in the style of a New England village. The locals called Tufts a fool but if this was folly at least he could afford it.

James Walker Tufts was the son of a Massachusetts blacksmith, born on February 11, 1835. At the age of 16 he was sent to apprentice with the Samuel Kidder Company, America's leading maker of yeast.

An inveterate tinkerer, he spent much of his time experimenting



James Tufts began the Pinehurst Resort in 1895 with the Holly Inn.

with medicinal cures and flavoring extracts. Americans were just getting their first taste of carbonated water and sodas with exotic flavors like celery and crabapple and pistachio were all the rage.

After six years Tufts struck out on his own with a drug store in Somerville, Massachusetts. He soon built one of the nation's earliest retail chains by adding stores around Boston. In 1863 Tufts invented the Arctic Soda Fountain to dispense his flavored seltzer water. Crafted from splendid Italian marble with silver plating and elaborate spigots, these ornate machines with classical sculptures were tabletop works of art.

Tufts provided soda water at the 1876 Centennial Exposition

in Philadelphia to the ten million fair-goers as they rode the world's first monorail and listened to Alexander Graham Bell's telephone for the first time. His grand thirty-three foot tall marble fountain dispensing refreshments jumpstarted the Tufts business and in 1891 when several leading seltzer suppliers consolidated to form the American Soda Fountain Company he was made the first president.

About that time Tufts heard about the Pine Barrens of North Carolina for the first time. He opened the Holly Inn six months after breaking ground and signed in twenty guests for the New Year's Eve bash in 1896. In the first year he added a general store, 20 cottages and a dairy farm.

Tufts hired Frederick Law



Early golf courses were quiltworks of geometric figures.  
The No. 1 course opened in 1897 with large rectangular sand greens.

Olmsted to create his village with the help of 200,000 plants, including 47,000 from France. It was "Tuftstown" to start out but was soon going by its iconic name - Pinehurst. Tufts selected the name not as a legacy to the North Carolina Longleaf pines but from a list of rejected names for Martha's Vineyard.

Outdoor recreation was front and center for the new Pinehurst health resort. Guests could ride horses, hunt, play polo, bicycle, shoot archery and play bowls on the green. There were two tennis courts. But golf was not considered. James Tufts got his first whiff of golf in 1897 when an employee reported that some guests were banging balls around the pasture and scaring the cows. More as a way to protect his milk supply than appease guests with a place to play this game of "pasture pool," Tufts asked D. LeRoy Culver, a New York City public health official, to lay out a primitive nine holes. Culver's main qualification for the job was that he once visited St. Andrews.

The golfing became so popular the crowded course soon was taking three hours to complete. So in 1899 Tufts retained John Dunn Tucker from a family of Scottish professionals who got their start at Musselburgh Links, the world's oldest course, to be the first professional at Pinehurst. Tucker added nine more holes for what would become known



**Before becoming golf's first great architect, Donald Ross was a golfer to be reckoned with.**

as Pinehurst No. 1. The course was esteemed enough that the world's greatest golfer, Harry Vardon, chose to play it on his first tour of America in 1900.

Tucker left after that first season and Tufts came to an oral agreement with another Scotsman he met at Oakley Country Club in Watertown, Massachusetts to become the resort professional. Donald Ross began his working life as a carpenter's apprentice in Dornoch in the north of Scotland. Scots value a well-crafted brassie over a finely turned piece of furniture so young Donald was sent to St. Andrews to learn the

art of clubmaking under Old Tom Morris. There he met a Harvard professor named Robert Wilson who urged the personable Ross to come to work at Oakley in 1899. When he stepped off the train in Pinehurst in December of 1900 Ross was 26 years old. His hiring was one of the final acts for James Tufts who died in 1902.

Ross was hired to oversee golf operations, not as a greenskeeper or to design golf courses. In 1901 the first nine holes of Pinehurst No. 2 were constructed but they only totaled 1,275 yards and Ross may not have been involved in their construction at all. His initial focus was on golf and in April Ross and Pinehurst staged their first annual golf tournament, the North and South Amateur Championship with George C. Dutton of Boston topping the table of 16 entrants. A North and South championship for women began in 1903 and the pair remain among America's oldest tournaments.

Ross was still very much involved with his own game as well. He finished fifth in the U.S. Open at Baltustrol in 1903 and won the first of two Massachusetts Opens in 1905. He won three of the first seven North and South Opens held at Pinehurst for professionals beginning in 1902. His brother Alec won the other four.

But he was also spending more and more time with his mules and drag pans shaping the golfing grounds of the resort. He



**Pinehurst invented the golf practice area in America; today an estimated 10 million balls a year are hit on Maniac Hill.**

completed 18 holes for Pinehurst No. 2 and after finishing up No. 3 in 1910 Donald Ross was officially in the golf course design business. He would plot out an estimated 400 courses from his base at Pinehurst, including No. 4 in 1919. Ross became known for his use of grass-faced bunkers and elevated crown greens but he was more likely to tailor his designs to the property than impose a rigid golfing philosophy on the terrain. If there was one trademark to a Ross course it was playability with an emphasis on chipping.

A happy accident happened to Ross in 1913 as he was re-routing No. 1. He wound up with an open 14 acres which he converted into a practice area, considered the first driving range in America. Up until that time lessons were always of the "playing" variety with professionals administering tips on the course. So many golfers took to this concept of pounding balls that the Pinehurst practice area became known as "Maniac

Hill." After 1914 Ross never again designed a course without a dedicated practice facility.

Donald Ross remained at Pinehurst for 48 years, during which time he tested his design theories on Pinehurst No. 2, which came to be considered his masterpiece - although never completed in his mind. The course sported sand greens until 1935 when Ross planted Bermuda grass overseeded with rye. The next year Pinehurst hosted its first major championship with Denny Shute capturing the PGA Championship by downing Jimmy Thomson 3 & 2 in the 36-hole final. Shute, who would join the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2008, was so shy on tour that he was called "The Human Icicle" and often sent his wife Hettie to accept his trophies at awards ceremonies. But he grabbed the Wanamaker Trophy himself in front of the Pinehurst clubhouse.

Another pro golfer who was more than happy with first prize money at Pinehurst was Ben Hogan. Hogan was a regular on the PGA Tour in the 1930s but winless for seven years as he battled a maddening hook. He had managed six runner-up finishes in the previous 14 months but even the supremely confident Hogan was beginning to see his future in a Fort Worth pro shop and not the professional golf tour when he rolled into Pinehurst on bald tires

with \$30 in his pocket for the 1940 North and South Open, grateful for the free meals and lodging in the Carolina Hotel Richard Tufts provided entrants.

In the opening round Hogan holed out for birdie from a bunker on the eleventh hole to ignite a course-record tying 66. A second round 67 engorged his lead to seven strokes and he cruised home for his first tour victory with a 277 total. Afterwards he told reporters, "I won one just in time. I had finished second and third



Donald Ross just missed the beginning of Pinehurst but stayed for 48 years.

so many times I was beginning to think I was an also-ran. I needed that win. They've kidded me about practicing so much. I'd go out there before a round and practice, and when I was through I'd practice some more. Well, they can kid me all they want because it finally paid off. I know it's what finally got me in the groove to win."

Indeed he had. Hogan won at Greensboro the following week



Payne Stewart's win in the 1999 U.S. Open marked the return of Pinehurst #2 to big-time professional golf. Tragically, Stewart died in a private plane crash several months later.

and then in Asheville at the Land of the Sky Open. After that came four U.S. Opens, two Masters, two PGA Championships and one British Open and one of the greatest careers of all time.

In 1970, after 75 years of ruling its fiefdom, the Tufts family sold the village and the golf complex to Malcolm McLean, inventor of the container ship, and his Diamondhead Inc. corporation for \$9.2 million. Diamondhead had big plans for Pinehurst. They put on a 144-hole professional event, started the Golf Hall of Fame and added another course, Pinehurst No. 6. But their main business was real estate development and carving up the village grounds for condos and vacation homes.

Corporate ownership did not prove kind to Pinehurst. Fairways and greens at the golf courses deteriorated as did Diamondhead's balance sheet. By the 1980s a soft real estate market and bad investments had forced the company into bankruptcy. ClubCorp of America stepped in during 1984 to snatch up the golf course, the hotels, the clubhouse, the gun club and the riding stables for \$14 million. Pinehurst's second corporate overlord was in the resort business, however, and founder Robert Dedman, Sr. treated the historic golf mecca like his crown jewel.

Dedman also laid the groundwork for Pinehurst No. 2 to host its first United States

Open in 1999. It proved to be a tournament for the ages with Payne Stewart winning a duel with Phil Mickelson with a 10-foot par putt on the 72nd hole while Mickelson kept a private plane on the tarmac waiting as his wife Amy was expecting the couple's first child.

The event was so successful that the USGA brought the Open back in 2005 with Michael Campbell of New Zealand winning in even par 280. And American golf's ruling body had even bigger plans for

Pinehurst No. 2 - hosting both the U.S. Open & U.S. Women's Open Championships in successive weeks in 2014, an honor no course had ever received before. To prepare for that historic twin bill the design firm of Bill Coore & Ben Crenshaw was retained to restore the course to the scruffier, more natural look that Donald Ross had perpetuated for nearly half a century. Ross would probably grumble that the place still isn't finished.



The famous Pinehurst Putter Boy began life as a sundial from sculptress Lucy Richards in 1912.

# East Lake

## Atlanta, Georgia

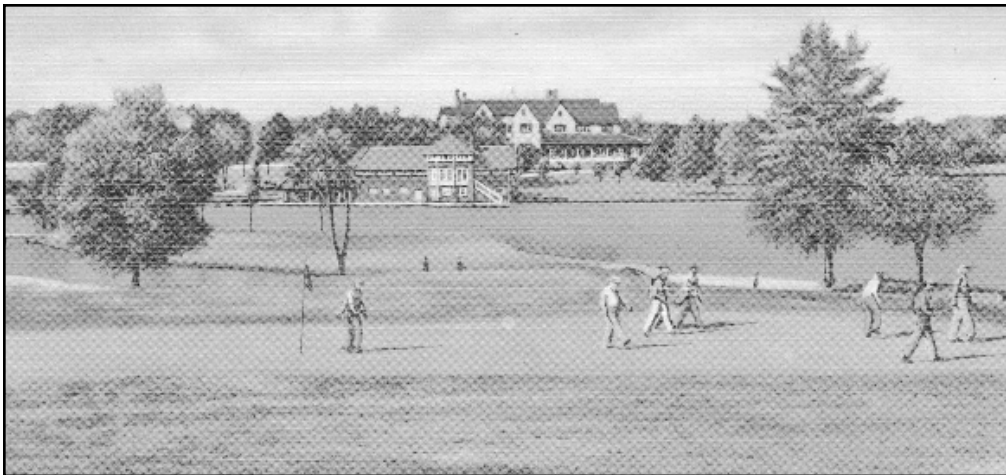
### 1908

Burton Smith, an attorney and brother of *Atlanta Journal* publisher and future governor and U.S. Senator Hoke Smith, spearheaded the formation of the Atlanta Athletic Club (AAC) in 1898 to foster sports participation in the self-proclaimed capital of the "New South." Members gathered in a clubhouse in the shadow of the Equitable Building, the city's first skyscraper, planned and executed by high-rise pioneers Daniel Burnham and John Wellborn Root.

The club soon boasted more than 700 sports-hungry members. Georgia Tech football coach John

Heisman, who would one day have a trophy named for him, ran the athletic program. One of his duties was to start golf and property was acquired in 1904 around East Lake, about seven miles from downtown Atlanta. Tom Bendalow was retained to lay out the new golf course.

The grand opening at East Lake took place on July 4, 1908 and in attendance was six-year old Robert Tyre Jones, named for his paternal grandfather and called "Rob" by his family. His father, Robert Purmedus Jones, had been a promising local athlete before settling into a career as counsel



The Atlanta Athletic Club helped pioneer golf in Georgia at its East Lake course.





Bobby Jones was playing in the U.S. Amateur out of East Lake at the age of 14.

for a nascent soft drink syrup manufacturer named The Coca-Cola Company. Little Rob was an only child, his brother William killed at the age of three months by a gastrointestinal disorder. He suffered from the same affliction and had just started eating solid food a year earlier; his doctor thought golf would be a beneficial activity for the lad.

Before his sixth year was out Bobby Jones would indeed win his first junior tournament at East Lake. But he was not even the most talented young golfer at the club. In 1909, 7-year old Rob was beaten by 12-year old Alexa Stirling. The trophy, however, was given by scorer Frank Meador to young Rob. "After all," he concluded, "We couldn't have a girl beating us."

Alexa lived in a cottage opposite the 10th tee and played

frequently with Jones until her father, an eye specialist, put a stop to it because of Rob's frequent profanity-laced outbursts on the golf course. Both Alexa and Rob learned the game from Stewart Maiden. As Jones would write, "The best luck that I ever had in golf was when Stewart Maiden came from Carnoustie to be pro at the East Lake Club. Stewart had the finest and soundest style I have ever seen. Naturally I did not know this at the time, but I grew up swinging like him."

In 1913 East Lake members recruited Donald Ross to re-work Bendalow's quirky layout which included one nine that finished across the lake from the clubhouse. Ross' new routing featured two nines balanced on either side of the lake. Jones broke 80 for the first time at the age of 11 on the new course and

two years later he won the club championship.

1916 was a breakthrough year for the young East Lake golfers. Jones qualified for the U.S. Amateur for the first time and the 14-year old made it to the quarterfinals at Merion Golf Club. And Alexa Stirling won the U.S. Women's Amateur three days before her 19th birthday at Belmont Springs Country Club in Massachusetts, prevailing 2 & 1 over Mildred Caverly in the finals. After World War I Stirling won her second and third consecutive titles.

During the war Jones and Stirling were part of the "Dixie Kids" who toured North America raising more than \$150,000 for the Red Cross. Jones continued to display volcanic tirades and would recall that, "I should have known that Alexa, not I, was the

main attraction, I behaved very badly when my game went apart. I think the low point in this regard came in a match at Brae Burn in Boston. I heaved numerous clubs, and once threw the ball away. I read pity in Alexa's soft brown eyes and finally settled down, but not before I had made a complete fool of myself."

From that time forward Bobby Jones became the model of the gentleman golfer but as he would ruefully admit, "To the finish of my golfing days, I encountered golfing emotions which could not be endured with the club still in my hands." The tour was also transformational for Alexa Stirling who met her future husband, Dr. W. G. Fraser, in Ottawa where she lived out her life until 1977. She added two national Canadian championships to her golfing résumé as an honorary member



East Lake teenagers Bobby Jones and Alexa Stirling toured the United States and Canada raising money for the Red Cross during the Great War. Here they play Montclair Golf Club in Montclair, New Jersey.

of the Royal Ottawa Golf Club.

Jones continued as a member of East Lake as he embarked on the greatest amateur career golf has ever known. After he retired he served as club president for awhile, as his father had also done. On August 15, 1948 Bobby Jones played a round at East Lake Golf Club with his friend Charlie Yates which would turn out to be his last. Stricken by syringomyelia, a neurological spinal disease, he was no longer able to complete a golf swing with the pain in his back. He underwent his first spinal surgery shortly afterwards.

The public got its first glimpse at the East Lake No. 1 course when the U.S. Women's Amateur became the first USGA event ever held in Atlanta. Beverly Hanson, a bassoon player from North Dakota who would win the inaugural LPGA Championship five years later, won the final 6 & 4. In 1963, with Arnold Palmer serving as the last-ever playing captain, the United States thumped Great Britain 23 to 9 in the Ryder Cup at East Lake.

By this time however the pioneering Atlanta club was facing tumultuous times. The city had grown out to the one-time suburban location and the surrounding neighborhood was considered one Atlanta's roughest. The AAC purchased land north of the city and put the East Lake property up for sale in 1968. Bobby Jones, who always

considered himself a member of the AAC and not the course, followed the club out to Duluth. He would die at the age of 69 three years later.

A group of 25 starry-eyed AAC members ponied up \$1.8 million to buy the old course and rechristen it East Lake Country Club. It was not easy. A black tarp was draped over a chain-link fence to hide the course. One day a gun materialized through a gash in the tarp by the third tee and a voice from the other side demanded money. Wallets were slid through the opening. The club was forced to advertise for members as revenue dried up.

In 1993 a savior appeared in the person of Tom Cousins, an Atlanta businessman. He purchased East Lake and poured money into the course and life into the neighborhood. Architect Rees Jones, known as the "Open Doctor" for his renovation work on historic championship courses, was brought in to give muscle to Donald Ross' 80-year-old design. Since 2004, East Lake has been the permanent home for the season-ending Tour Championship.

Bobby Jones' "defection" has been forgiven as well. The entire East Lake clubhouse, a Tudor confection designed by award-winning architect Philip T. Shutze in 1926, lives as a shrine to Atlanta's favorite golfing native son.

# The National

## Southampton, New York

### 1909

Charles Blair Macdonald coined the term “golf architect” and this is where he proved what it meant. After the “Father of American Golf Architecture” established a beachhead for the game in Chicago with the first course built west of the Allegheny Mountains (see *Downers Grove Golf Course*) he came east to New York City in 1900 to become a partner in one of the future foundation firms of the brokerage giant Smith Barney. From the moment he arrived in the Big Apple Macdonald was determined to build the country’s best course somewhere in the New York metropolitan area.

To prepare for his masterpiece MacDonald traveled to Great Britain to grill the world’s top players on what they thought the best golf holes were. He visited classic links courses and made notes and drawings. When he took possession of 250 acres along the shores of Peconic Bay at the eastern tip of Long Island, Macdonald was ready to get started. A great golf links meant sandy, nearly treeless turf, and his new property near Southampton did not disappoint on that score.

Macdonald set about replicating the great holes of the British Isles onto his existing topography. He added his own flair, making some, such as the 197-yard one-shotter at number four arguably



The famed British golf writer Bernard Darwin was among the first to sing the praises of the National Golf Links.

a better hole than its inspiration, the Redan hole at the North Berwick West Links. There were versions of the Road Hole from St. Andrews and the Alps of Prestwick Golf Links, the home of the Open

Championship. Macdonald also sprinkled in some of his own creations. Whereas American golf courses of the day were often just laid out with little thought by so-called greenskeepers and mysterious characters with Scottish names, Macdonald gave thought for the first time to shot values and how holes fit together with one another.

Macdonald also knew the importance of green sites and created the best set of greens American golf had yet seen, large and rolling putting surfaces that yielded several acceptable pin placements to complement the hole design. Work began on the National Golf Links in 1907 and play was opened in 1909. Macdonald never stopped fussing with details of the course over the last three decades of his life but he got sufficiently close to satisfaction to declare, "The National has now fulfilled its mission, having caused the reconstruction of all the best known golf courses existing in the first decade of this century in the United States, and, further, has caused the study of golf architecture resulting in the building of numerous meritorious courses of great interest throughout the country."

No less an authority than the pre-eminent British golf writer,



**Bobby Jones, here with Calvin Coolidge in 1921, helped the United States team to victory in the first Walker Cup.**

Bernard Darwin, concurred. "If there is one feature of the course that strikes one more than another," Darwin wrote, "It is the constant strain to which the player is subjected to; he is perpetually on the rack." Golf architects have checked in on the National Golf Links for instruction and inspiration ever since.

The National was tabbed to host the first ever international golf match between a team representing the Royal & Ancient Club from Great Britain and a team from the United States Golf Association. George Herbert Walker, an investment banker and maternal grandfather to one American President and great-grandfather to another, donated

the winner's cup and his name to the event. A powerful eight-man assemblage led by Bobby Jones and Francis Ouimet, who both won their singles and doubles matches, led the U.S. to an 8-4 victory in the very first Walker Cup in 1922. The National Golf Links would host the event again in 2013 (another American victory) but other than that outsiders rarely are afforded a look inside the fabled club gates.

For many visitors the most striking architectural feature of the National Golf Links is the 50-

foot high windmill that peeks above the treeless dunesland from various points on the course. A member suggested it might be a nice touch for Macdonald to construct a windmill reminiscent of those New York's Dutch founders had used on Long Island. The club founder thought that was a splendid idea and camouflaged the course water tower with a handsome shingled windmill - and then sent the bill for its construction to the member who had dared think his club needed improvement.



George Herbert Walker presents the Walker Cup to Chick Evans;  
Francis Ouimet is at his left.

# Interlachen

## Minneapolis, Minnesota

### 1911

From the time six members of the Bryn Mawr golf club north of Minneapolis learned their nine holes were destined to become front yards and housing foundations they set their sights on a golf course that could host national tournaments. The first step was new property and they found 146 rolling acres southwest of the city and close to the streetcar line. On the property was one of Minnesota's 11,842 lakes - Mirror Lake - and so when the club was incorporated on December 31, 1909 it was called Interlachen, a German word roughly translating to "between lakes."

To build its championship course Interlachen turned to William Watson, a Scottish pro who arrived in the United States in 1898 when he was almost 40. Watson quickly became one of the pioneering golf architects in the Upper Midwest, even having a hand in the Bryn Mawr operation in 1899. Watson gave the new layout a touch of St. Andrews with a massive double green 175 feet long and more than 100 feet wide to serve the ninth and 18th holes.

Architect Cecil Bayless Chap-

man toured midwestern golf clubs for ideas and delivered a handsome Tudor Revival clubhouse sited atop the highest hilltop for miles around that was ready for the grand opening on July 29, 1911. Two years later Interlachen was hosting the Minnesota State Amateur Championship and in 1914 the Western Open, one of early professional golf's majors, was teeing it up in Edina.

Jim Barnes, who would win the first two PGA Championships, dominated the Interlachen field to win the first of three Western Opens. Second money went to Willie Kidd who would begin a stay of 37 years as Interlachen's professional in 1920 and would be followed by his son, Bill, who had the job for 36 more.

Despite their early success Interlachen members recruited Donald Ross to makeover the golf course in 1919 and his efforts helped push the club onto the national stage with the 1930 U.S. Open. Bobby Jones arrived having already won the British Amateur and the British Open championships. In the sweltering



Jim Barnes was the most successful American pro of the World War I era.

Minnesota heat the Georgian amateur got off to an indifferent start against the professionals as he came to the ninth hole, a par five that crosses a large pond, in the second round.

A mishit shot from the fairway landed well short of the water and seemed certain to disappear into the pond but the ball skidded across the surface to the opposite bank where Jones got up and down for birdie. He backed up his good fortune on the "Lily Pad Hole" with a dominating 68 in the third round to score a two-stroke win and leave Interlachen three-quarters of the way to his immortal Grand Slam. Reporters from 226 newspapers around the world had made their way to Edina to cover the event.

Glenna Collett was often called

the "female Bobby Jones." In 1924 the long-hitting Collett won 59 out of 60 matches, losing only in the semifinal of the U.S. Women's Amateur on the first playoff hole when opponent Mary Browne's ball ricocheted off hers and into the hole. She won five other U.S. Amateurs between 1922 and 1930 and tossed in a French Amateur and a couple of Canadian Amateurs as well.

In 1931 Collett married Edwin Vare, had two children and traded her niblicks for knitting needles. But in 1935 she was at Interlachen seeking a record sixth amateur title. Standing in her way was 17-year old member Patty Berg. Just two years earlier young Patty had shot 122 attempting to qualify for the Minneapolis City Championship. The next year she



won the city title and now she had reached the finals against the finest female player the United States had ever produced.

More than six thousand partisan spectators turned out for the match but the steady Vare was never in trouble before closing out the precocious Berg 3 & 2 on the 34th hole. Berg would get that Amateur championship three years later at Westmoreland Country Club in Wilmette, Illinois. She became the first woman to ink an endorsement deal with Wilson Sporting Goods and would become the first president of the LPGA, winning a record 15 majors. When the first Vare Trophy for lowest scoring average on the LPGA Tour was handed out in 1952, Berg was the recipient. Patty Berg and Glenna Collett Vare would be reunited in the World Golf Hall of Fame.

Interlachen was scheduled to host the U.S. Open again in 1942 but World War II intervened. The next time the USGA came calling the club was told the course was now too short for modern professionals. Robert Trent Jones was hired to bulk up the holes but after examining his suggestions the members decided to stick with their traditional Donald Ross set-up. Jones' Hazeltine would garner future U.S. Open sojourns to Minnesota.



Glenna Collett (right) with 10-time West Virginia champion Fritzi Stifel.

Interlachen was not off the USGA radar however. The U.S. Senior Amateur showed up in 1986 and the course entertained the Walker Cup in 1993. In 2008 Interlachen was awarded the U.S. Women's Open when Inbee Park became the youngest champion ever at age 19.



From left to right Opal Hill, Marion Bennett, Glenna Collett, Bernice Wall and Fritzie Stifel gather aboard the S.S. Berengaria as part of the team sailing to England for the first international women's team match in the history of golf.

# Shawnee-on-the-Delaware

## Shawnee on Delaware, Pennsylvania

### 1911

In 2015 A.W. Tillinghast became only the sixth architect inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame. Shawnee was the first course he designed. The year was 1907 and Tillinghast was 33 years old. There was little evidence that he bore the stamp of greatness.

Albert Warren Tillinghast was born into a Philadelphia family of privilege where his father helmed a rubber company. He never bothered to graduate from any of the many schools he attended. As a young man in America's Gilded



Golf was just one of many passions that a young Albert Warren Tillinghast explored.

Age Tillie was a fixture at society parties and indulged his many passions in the arts and sports.

Tillinghast played a good enough game of golf to reach the Round of 32 in a couple of limited field United States Amateur championships in the early 1900s. And he seemed to know everyone in the expanding world of golf. The commission for Shawnee came from one of those friends, industrialist Charles Campbell Worthington.

Worthington was a Brooklyn native, the son of Henry Worthington who made a fortune perfecting the delivery of steam heat to New York City. Charles took over the family pump business at the age of 26 after his father died in 1880. He made scores of technical improvements to pumps and compressors as the business spread worldwide.

The 1880s found Worthington in Great Britain working on the problem of supplying water to British troops across hundreds of miles of North African desert. His solution earned him an honorary knighthood by the crown. Worthington returned to America

with something more valuable than a KBE suffix to add to his name - an education in golf from the links of Scotland and England.

In 1887 Worthington was a part of the celebrated "Apple Tree Gang" that formed St. Andrew's Golf Club. Later he laid out six holes to play on his estate at Irvington-on-Hudson. Meanwhile, he sold his business interests in 1900 and retired at the age of 49 to live the life of a gentleman farmer and sportsman.

Worthington began acquiring land in the Delaware Water Gap, including two large islands in the Delaware River, Shawnee and Depue. He started farming on Shawnee and imported whitetail deer from Virginia into the surrounding mountains to replace herds that had been hunted to extinction in New Jersey.

Worthington's business retirement did not last long, however. He became fascinated with the new horseless carriages and was soon in the automobile business with his Worthington Meteor steam car. And he decided to develop Shawnee Island into a resort. Worthington erected the Buckwood Inn and summoned Tillie to design an 18-hole golf course.

It quickly became apparent that the inexperienced Tillinghast had finally found his calling in life. He totally immersed himself in the project, as he would golf architecture for the next three



Charles Worthington was one of the "Apple Tree Gang" that is considered the oldest golf club in America.

decades. He also became a prolific golf writer and photographer, editing *Golf Illustrated* magazine. Tillinghast was one of golf's first "list-makers," issuing a ranking of America's top 12 golfers each year.

Shawnee would soon become an incubator of "firsts" in the golfing world. Worthington was concerned with presenting a top-rate resort for his guests and business associates and that meant a properly groomed golf course. At first he imported a genuine Scottish shepherd with his flock and dogs to do the job. That was not to his liking so Worthington devised a gang mower with three moving wheels that could be pulled by a horse -



First winner of the Shawnee Open  
Fred McLeod was the first honorary  
starter at the Masters tournament in 1963.

shod in leather boots to protect the fairways.

In 1919, Worthington invented a motorized tractor to pull the contraption and founded the Worthington Mower Company. His lawn-cutters quickly became the standard in course maintenance. The machines were so useful in World War II maintaining military airfields in that they were awarded Army-Navy "E" and "Star" awards for their contribution to the war effort.

In a golfing age when amateurs ruled the game,

Worthington was a proponent of professional golf. In 1912 he started the Shawnee Open, one of the America's earliest professional-only tournaments. Scottish-born Fred McLeod, who won the United States Open in 1908 and would become an honorary starter at the Masters from 1963 until his death at the age of 94 in 1976, was the first winner. Events like the Shawnee Open helped spur the creation of the PGA of America which formed in 1916 with one-time Shawnee greenskeeper Robert White as its first president.

The Shawnee Open was an annual stop on the PGA Tour until 1937; Walter Hagen won his first official Tour event at Shawnee in 1916 after reaching the island by horse-drawn boat. In 1938 Tillinghast's course hosted the PGA Championship, then contested at match play. Sam Snead, representing Shawnee as a touring pro, reached the

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The Worthington touring car led to the riding gang mower that revolutionized golf course maintenance.

36-hole final as a big favorite against Paul Runyan. But the short-hitting Runyan, called "Little Poison," sprinted to a five-up lead after the morning round and closed out Snead 8 and 7 for the largest margin ever in the finals.

There would be other big tournaments at Shawnee - in 1967 a University of Colorado defensive back named Hale Irwin would win the NCAA Division I championship - only not on the PGA circuit.

After 1938 the Shawnee Open would continue under the banner of the Philadelphia Section of the PGA of America. In 1943, a year before his death at the age of 90, Charles Worthington sold Shawnee to band leader Fred Waring, ushering in a new era at the resort.

"Waring's Pennsylvanians" were among the best-selling bands of the Roaring Twenties and Fred went on to become a radio personality known as "the Man Who taught America How to Sing." He also financially backed the world's first electric mixing machine which invaded American kitchens as the ubiquitous Waring Blender.

Fred Waring turned Shawnee into a playground for his celebrity



His frustrations at Shawnee led Jackie Gleason on a path to becoming one of golf's great ambassadors.

friends. Bob Hope, Lucille Ball, Perry Como and many others were regulars at the resort in the Delaware River. Jackie Gleason played his first round of golf at Shawnee and shot 143, a score somewhat inflated by his insistence at trying to play out of a water hazard. Gleason was instantly hooked by the sport, however, and plunged into a regimen of instruction and practice that saw him post a 75 within 18 months. The Great One remained one of golf's biggest celebrities, founding the Jackie Gleason Inverrary Classic on the PGA Tour in 1972 that continues as the Honda Classic.

But Shawnee's most celebrated "golf first" took place during a Fred Waring shindig. Pennsylvania native Arnold Palmer had long



Shawnee entered a new era when bandleader Fred Waring took over.



Arnold Palmer was reading an uncertain future before coming to Shawnee in 1954.

wanted to attend one of Waring’s golf bashes but could never afford to take time off from his job selling paint for Bill Wehnes in Cleveland. The chance came in 1954 but it took winning the United States Amateur Championship the week before at Detroit Country Club to earn the 25-year old Palmer an extra week off from work.

During the tournament Fred Waring’s college-aged daughter Dixie and her friend Winifred Walzer served as unofficial tournament “hostesses.” After a practice round Palmer bumped into the girls and casually invited Walzer to come out and watch him play the next day. The 19-year old from nearby Coopersburg was indeed on the Shawnee links the following day, ostensibly to follow her “Uncle Fred.” Palmer spotted her on the 11th hole and the pair were inseparable the rest of the week. By Friday Palmer had won the tournament and proposed marriage. He and Winnie, the girl he first saw at Shawnee, would reign as golf’s First Couple for 45 years until her death in 1999.

Shawnee remains a golfing haven open to the public, despite periodic flooding of the island in the Delaware River. An additional nine holes have been added to A.W. Tillinghast’s original 18, which includes one-shot holes across the river. In 2011 the resort celebrated its centennial and there was plenty to remember.

# Merion - East

## Ardmore, Pennsylvania

### 1912

When most early American golf clubs wanted a course they tapped their best players to do design honors. The result was a proliferation of bland layouts dominated by square greens and narrow rectangular cross-bunkers in the fairways. It was different when the Merion Cricket Club on suburban Philadelphia's Main Line called on Hugh Irvine Wilson, a 31-year old insurance executive, to build a course on 127 acres of newly purchased land in 1910.

Merion's existing course had been well-regarded, hosting the United States Women's Amateur in 1904 and 1909. But

the new long-flying Haskell ball rendered the original layout obsolete. Wilson knew nothing of golf beyond his ability to play it. He would later confess that he would never have attempted such a project had he possessed even the tiniest inkling of what was involved. Wilson began by consulting with Charles Blair Macdonald, self-professed holder of all the golfing knowledge in America. His correspondence with government agronomists Dr. Charles V. Piper and Dr. Russell A. Oakley, recommended by Macdonald, would run to over 2,000 letters and culminate with



The Merion Cricket Club before the members discovered golf.

the establishment of the USGA Green Section in 1920 with the scientists as co-chairmen.

Wilson's overarching goal was to create a course that was testing to the expert but ultimately playable by the duffer. Check and check. Experts raved, calling it the country's finest inland course after Merion opened in September 1912. The club was swamped with new members and Wilson was soon back at work on a second course on rolling woodlands about one mile away. The West course, considered a sporty, more scenic but less demanding layout, was officially opened in May

1914. The Merion Cricket Club now had a championship-caliber course and a beloved "member's course."

Unlike other novice creators Hugh Wilson did not travel to Great Britain to inspect and emulate the great seaside courses before routing Merion East. It was his contention that the course should be observed for a couple of years to determine where hazards and bunkers be placed. When it opened, Merion East had fewer bunkers than most nine-hole courses. Wilson made the obligatory trip abroad in the spring of 1912 after the East course had been seeded. Family lore maintains that he had booked return passage on the *Titanic* but his investigations delayed him.

The time for sand traps arrived in the summer of 1915 as Merion East prepared for the following year's U.S. Amateur. In went 50 strategically spotted bunkers and all new tees. New greens were rebuilt on several holes. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* came out to look around in the spring of 1916 and reported, "Nearly every hole on the course has been



At Merion Chick Evans became the first player to win the United States Open and the United States Amateur championships in the same year.

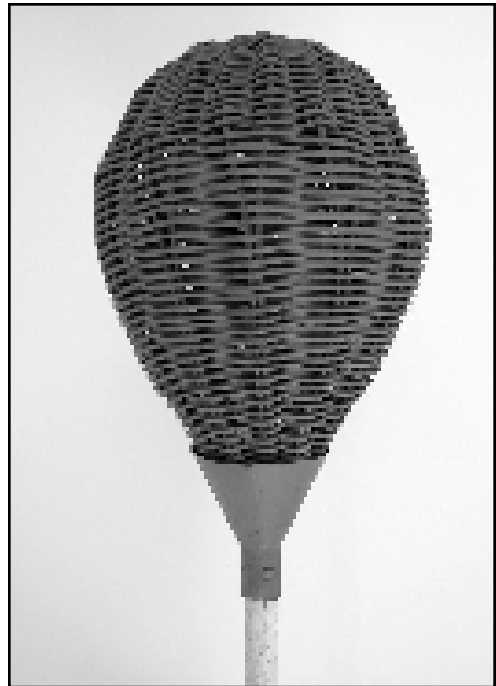


stiffened so that in another month or two it will resemble a really excellent championship course."

Twenty-six year old Charles "Chick" Evans of Chicago won the championship to become the first holder of both the U.S. Open and Amateur titles in the same year. Evans, who never used more than seven clubs, was hired by the Brunswick Recording Company to make records with golf tips but when he discovered that the money might jeopardize his amateur status he created the Evans Scholars Foundation for caddies that has sent more than 10,000 bag toters to college with over \$300 million in contributions - the largest scholarship organization in sports.

But the bigger story at Merion Cricket Club that week was the introduction of the only player who would ever duplicate Evans' feat of being the year's Amateur and Open champion, a 14-year old schoolboy named Bobby Jones who was making his first golfing appearance outside of the South. Used to the slower Bermuda greens in his native Atlanta, Jones quickly learned the lessons of "billiard greens" when he tapped a putt into a creek during a practice round on the West Course. Jones was also possessed of what the newspapers generously termed a "fiery spirit."

In his opening match with former U.S. Amateur champion



**Greenskeeper and future architect William Flynn created the iconic Merion wicker basket.**

Eben Byers the two linksters sent so many clubs airborne that players behind them commented it looked like "a juggling act on stage." On the 12th hole Byers heaved a club over a hedge and commanded his caddie to leave it. Jones prevailed 3 and 1 and attributed the win only to the circumstance that Byers had run out of clubs first. Jones lost in the quarterfinals but was destined to return to Merion.

Hugh Wilson went on to design a handful of other courses for friends in the Philadelphia area, including the city's first municipal track at Cobbs Creek for players of "slender purses" and helping finish George Crump's final



The perfect form and balance of Bobby Jones were never more evident than when he came to play at Merion.

four holes at Pine Valley. But otherwise he did not parlay his triumphs at Merion into more notoriety. Such was not the case with Wilson's collaborator, course superintendent William Flynn.

Flynn was born in Milton, Massachusetts in 1890 and grew up playing golf against the likes of Francis Ouimet. When hired by Wilson to spearhead construction of Merion East his Curriculum Vitae consisted of a single course laid out in Heartwellville, Vermont. Flynn would stick around Merion for more than a quarter-century

while spreading what came to be called the "Philadelphia School" of course design with an emphasis on natural topographical construction. Flynn's highest profile project was an update at Shinnecock Hills on Long Island and his best original designs among dozens include the Lancaster Country Club in Pennsylvania Dutch Country and Cherry Hills in Denver.

Flynn is also the man responsible for creating the signature Merion wicker baskets, red going out and orange coming in, that are used on the greens instead of cloth flags. Although seen in Scotland as early as

the 1850s there is no consensus on how the one-of-a-kind hard, ovate-shaped baskets came to be used at Merion. They showed up sometime between the opening of the East Course in 1912, when they were not in use, and 1915 when Flynn took out a federal patent on the wicker baskets. The baskets, which afford the golfer no idea about tricks being played by the wind, fit in perfectly with Wilson's goal to present the player with a problem to be solved on every hole. Merion also has no

yardage markers on its courses.

While much esteemed, Merion East had some noticeable flaws when it opened. Not the least was the playing across Ardmore Avenue, then a sleepy country road, on four holes. The chance to set things right came in preparation for the 1924 U.S. Amateur. Land was purchased on the south side of now busy Ardmore Avenue, property Wilson had been eyeing when he laid out the original course but could not use. The new additions were universally applauded and Jones put the stamp of greatness on the course by drubbing George Von Elm 9 and 8 to win his first U.S

Amateur championship after six tries. Hugh Wilson's East Course was finally complete and he would succumb to liver failure less than six months later, dying prematurely at the age of 45.

Bobby Jones was not through with his Merion experience. Six years later the U.S. Amateur was back and the young lawyer was seeking to win what his friend and biographer O.B. Keeler termed the "impregnable quadrilateral" - winning the Open and Amateur championships of both the United States and Great Britain in a single year. The national amateur title at Merion in September was the last and Jones advanced to the final,



Bobby Jones retired from championship golf after winning the 1930 U.S. Amateur at Merion and was embraced by adoring crowds.

settling his nerves each evening with a libation and hot bath. An estimated throng of 18,000 - by far the largest gallery American golf had seen to that time - turned out to see Jones duel Eugene Homans. Jones won 8 and 7 and was led to the clubhouse from the 11th green through his admirers by a platoon of four dozen marines to complete what the *New York Times* gushed was "the most triumphant journey that any man traveled in sport."

Jones retired from golf after completing his Grand Slam at Merion. He was 28 years old and had finished first or second in nine of his final ten major tournament appearances. Of the 13 major titles Jones collected since his first, the United States Open at Inwood Country Club in 1923, five were United States Amateur championships. And he never saw the 12th tee a second time in any of his 36-hole wins.

The short 378-yard 11th hole was again the scene of high drama when Merion East hosted its first United States Open in 1934. Gene Sarazen was leading by three strokes before hooking his tee ball into Cobbs Creek and leading to a triple bogey seven; the Squire lost the tournament by a single stroke to Olin Dutra.

The drama at Merion was ratcheted up even higher in 1950 when the U.S. Open marked the return to major championship competition for Ben Hogan whose

Cadillac coupe crashed head-on with a Greyhound bus trying to pass a truck on a two-lane Texas highway on February 2, 1949. Only his reaction to throw himself across his wife Valerie's body in the passenger seat spared his life as the steering column was driven straight through the cushion of the driver's seat.

El Paso doctors weren't sure the golf star would survive his injuries which included a mangled left collarbone, a double fracture of his pelvis, a crushed ankle, and an assortment of lacerations and bruises. Golf was out of the question and learning how to walk again was the goal. But sixteen months later Hogan was back in action. He had played a few events leading up to the U.S. Open but none required 36 holes on the final day. Hogan, who played his first U.S. Open at Merion in 1934 at the age of 21, haunted the leaderboard for the first three rounds but never had the lead. He trailed Lloyd Mangrum, the 1946 U.S. Open champion, by two strokes going into the final round but Mangrum bogied six of his first seven holes in the Saturday afternoon finale and Hogan took a two-stroke advantage into the final nine holes.

Coming down the stretch Hogan faltered in gathering heat and needed a par on the long 458-yard 18th to join Mangrum and George Fazio, who had made two late birdies, in the clubhouse at

287, seven over par. After a drive to the center of the fairway Hogan delivered one of golf's most famous shots, striping a 1-iron to the center of the green and two-putting to gain the playoff. Refreshed the next day, Hogan was the only one of the trio to break par as he claimed the third of his record-tying four national Opens.

Photographer Hy Peskin had followed Ben Hogan for the entire final round of the 1950 U.S. Open and on the 18th hole he took his only photo of the day. It became the most famous golf photograph of all time, showing Hogan holding his follow-through as the ball flew down the gallery-lined fairway.

It was playoff time again when the U.S. Open arrived in Merion in 1971 in a match-up between golfing royalty in the form of Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino, a one-time Texas driving range pro. The Merry Mex broke the tension on the first tee by pulling a rubber snake out of his bag and tossing it to Nicklaus, who asked to see the toy serpent that had been used to demonstrate how deep the rough was earlier in the week. Trevino beat Nicklaus 68 to 71 in the playoff and went on to add the Canadian Open and British Open Championship trophies in the next month to become the first player to win all three national titles in the same year.

The USGA has returned to

Haverford and the Merion Cricket Club more times than any other venue for its national championships, earning the club a designation as a National Historic Landmark. But after the 1981 U.S. Open won by Lou Graham the East Course, which checked in at 6,544 yards, was considered too short to hold another Open. The USGA finally relented and returned in 2013, stretching the course to within a whisker of 7,000 yards. Worries about an assault from modern professionals proved unfounded as no one broke par, Englishman Justin Rose winning by two with a 281 total.

The century-old Merion East had stood the test of time but creator Hugh Wilson would not necessarily have been pleased. To bolster its defenses the USGA grew penal rough, narrowed fairways and shaved greens. Wilson never understood the constant quest for "billiard table" greens and always counseled clubs to let the grass grow and encourage playability by members. As for lengthening his course Wilson was always a proponent of a standardized golf ball, if not adopted by the sport than at least by individual clubs. After all, a golf ball traveling a uniform distance would be lot simpler solution than the time and expense of continually replacing bunkers and tees.

# Toronto

## Mississauga, Ontario

### 1912

The hand of nature more than the hand of man is often given the thickest cut of credit for developing the classic seaside British links. And so it was not until a Cambridge-educated barrister named Harry Shapland Colt cast aside a law career that England got a golf course designer who had not been a golf professional.

Colt laid out the Rye Course on the southeast coast of England in 1894 to begin his transformation

into golf. He was nominated as a Founding Member of the Royal & Ancient Rules of Golf Committee in 1897 and his connections there helped him win out over 400 plus applicants when the job of Secretary at the new Sunningdale Golf Club came open in 1901.

Colt burnished his reputation at Sunningdale with the changes he initiated on the course. He became a widely acknowledged master of creating inland courses with his ability to sculpt seaside-naturalness into the heathlands landforms. H.S. Colt was the first architect to plot out tree-planting schemes for golf courses and was a pioneer in integrating golf into residential communities.

Colt and his design partners John Morrison, Charles Hugh Alison, and, for a short time, Alister MacKenzie would be responsible for over 300 golf courses around the globe, becoming the first international golf architecture firm. Colt was 41 years old when he made his first journey to North America in 1911 to design the Toronto Golf Club.

In tow, Colt brought along his design philosophy which



The first professional British golf architect, Harry Colt, introduced the concept of natural-looking bunkers

would guide so many architects in the years to come, including Canada's master designer, Stanley Thompson: "It may be well to bear in mind that golf is primarily a pastime and not a penance, and that the player should have the chance of extracting from the game the maximum amount of pleasure with the minimum amount of discomfort, as punishment for his evil ways. He will not obtain this pleasure unless you provide plenty of difficulties, but surely there is no need for vindictiveness."

James Lamond Smith, a transplant from Aberdeenshire, Scotland and large property owner on the Glen Stewart Ravine, introduced golf to Toronto in 1876. The Toronto Golf Club was the third to form in North America, after the Royal Montreal Golf Club in 1873, and the Royal Quebec Golf Club in 1875. The

members first amused themselves in vacant pastures north of the city but were eventually able to cobble together an 18-hole course that was good enough to host the fourth Canadian Amateur Championship in 1898; George Lyon, who would be Olympic gold medalist in 1904, won his first of a record eight national titles.

In 1909 new land was acquired on the banks of the Etobicoke River in Mississauga on the opposite side of town. When Colt arrived he found a favorable golfing ground imbued with bumps and rolls and a plentiful working budget. Before he left he seeded the course with grass imported from Finland. He came back two years later after the course had opened to fine tune his design and Canada had its first championship golf course, the landmark to which all subsequent courses would be compared.



The original clubhouse at Toronto Golf Club was a deserted mansion known around town as the "haunted house."

# The Greenbriar - Old White

## White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia

### 1914

This is a place where Davy Crockett signed the guest book. Joseph Kennedy honeymooned here and his son was one of 26 American Presidents to visit. It is one of the rare places in America where public golfers can challenge the design genius of Charles Blair Macdonald. And yet the most famous bunker on the property isn't out on the golf course, it is beneath the West Virginia Wing of the hotel, an emergency hideout large enough to house every member of Congress in the event of a nuclear attack. This is The Greenbrier.

The first guests tied their horses in White Sulphur Springs to "take" the restorative waters in 1778 when the valley in the Allegheny



The Colonnade Cottage at the Greenbrier is worthy of a President.

Mountains was still part of Virginia and when Virginia still being a part of England was disputed. By the 1830s the resort consisted of a collection of cottages including the President's Cottage that had been constructed in 1835 as a private summer residence of Stephen Henderson, a Scotsman who emigrated to Louisiana to raise sugar cane on the grand antebellum Destrehan Plantation. Henderson died in 1838 and Greenbrier's finest guest cottage was spruced up for Martin Van Buren's arrival.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Railway arrived in 1873 and purchased the resort in 1910. The first order of business was to build an opulent hotel with a four-story high Neoclassical portico and the second was to get golf going in the mountain retreat. For the latter job the resort turned to Alexander H. Findlay. The son of a British Army officer, Alex was born below deck in a British sailing ship in 1865. Once on land, he received his first three hickory-shafted golf clubs and a supply of gutta percha balls when he was eight years old. Findlay grew up





With a homemade grip William Howard Taft hits from a sand tee - one of 26 U.S. Presidents to visit The Greenbrier.



The Greenbrier nestled in the Allegheny Mountains was a favorite haunt of industrialists like Charles Schwab.

at the Royal Montrose Golf Club, where the Medal course is the fourth oldest in the world.

Young Alex left Scotland for America in 1886 but unlike so many of his countrymen he was coming not to be an evangelist for golf but to be a cowboy. He soon found himself far from the golfing universe in the Sandhills of Nebraska, working on family friend Edward Millar's Great Plains spread. Findlay claimed Teddy Roosevelt and Buffalo Bill Cody as friends. One day in April of 1887 Findlay began whacking gutties across the dunelands as an amusement and he was soon asked to lay out six holes for play on Millar's Merchiston Ranch.

After that Findlay's involvement

in the early rush to golf in America disappears. He resurfaces in 1896 in the employ of Henry Flagler. Flagler, a failed salt miner, went into the oil refining business with John D. Rockefeller in 1867 and together they built the biggest business empire in the world. Although Rockefeller's is the name most associated with Standard Oil, he always gave the credit to its success to Flagler.

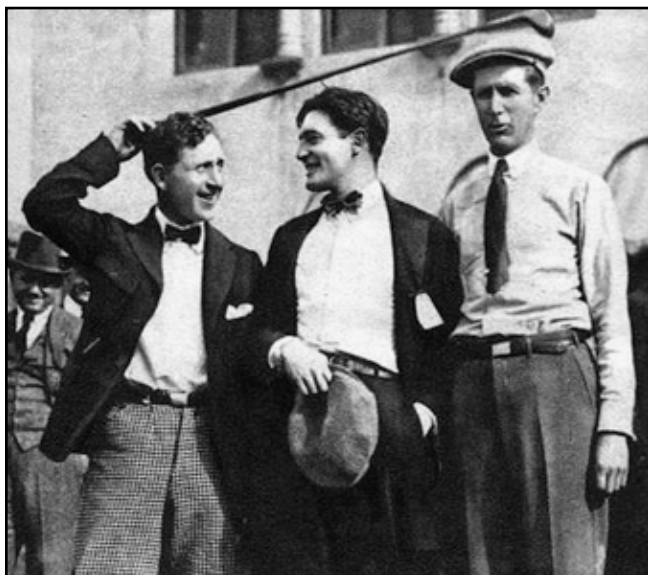
On a wedding trip to Florida with his second wife in 1881 the Flaglers visited St. Augustine where they were charmed with the town's Old World Spanish flavor. In short order Flagler gave up day-to-day operations at Standard Oil and set about developing St. Augustine as "the

Newport of the South." His vision would soon extend down the peninsula, however, bringing his railroad all the way to Key West by 1912. What Flagler started in St. Augustine with a 540-room hotel would grow into a personal bet of \$50 million on the future of Florida.

Some of that money went to Findlay to construct Florida's first golf course at the Palm Beach Golf Club. And then St. Augustine Golf Club and St. Augustine Country Club and Ormond Links Golf Club and Miami Golf Links. By the time the Chesapeake & Ohio came calling to lay out its initial nine holes known as the Lakeside Course in 1910, Findlay was responsible for over 100

golf courses from Basking Ridge Country Club in New Jersey to San Antonio County Club in Texas.

With the hotel and golf course completed the resort took the name The Greenbrier for the first time. In 1913 Macdonald was called to add a full 18-hole course in the flat valley stretching out before the Old White Hotel that had stood on the grounds since 1858. Sharp-eyed visitors could spot the chasm of Willie Dunn's original greens in Biarritz, France at the one-shot third, the fortified diagonal green of the 15th hole at North Berwick on #8, the hillocks that hide the fairway on #13 like the #17 Alps at Prestwick and the severely pitching green on #15 that is an ode to the famous Eden, the eleventh hole at St. Andrews.



Jock Hutchinson, here clowning with actor Richard Dix and star golfer Jim Barnes, won the first professional tournament at The Greenbrier. Hutchinson won the first Senior PGA Championship in 1937 and was an original honorary starter at the Masters.

The new Old White Course at Greenbrier gave the golfing public a chance to experience Macdonald's work for the first time. President Woodrow Wilson was on hand to play in the Old White in 1914, one of the more than 1,200 rounds he logged in the White House - the most-ever Presidential rounds. The one-time head of Princeton University played mostly for his health, however, and rarely broke 100.

In 1921 the PGA tour



This ageless swing of Sam Snead won 185 titles across the world - and produced a 59 on his home course at The Greenbrier.

began stopping in White Sulphur Springs. Jock Hutchinson, who that year became the first American citizen, albeit naturalized from his native Scotland, to win the British Open Championship took top honors in the White Sulphur Springs Open. The next year the flamboyant Walter Hagen won the title - the same year he became the first American-born player to win the British Open. Later in 1922 Glenna Collett won the first of her record six U.S. Women's Amateur titles over the Old White Course.

Samuel Jackson Snead was born in Ashwood, Virginia in 1912, thirty-five miles as the crow flies across the Allegheny Mountains from The Greenbrier. Considered the game's greatest natural athlete, Snead won his first tournament as a professional in 1936 at The Greenbrier in the West Virginia Closed Pro championship. He opened with a 61 on the Greenbrier Course that Macdonald protege Seth Raynor designed in 1924 and closed with a 70 on the Old White to win the two-day event by 16

strokes. It would not be the last time Slamming Sammy would lay waste to Mountain State golfers. He would win the West Virginia Open 17 times, including by eight strokes for the final time when he was 61 years old. He was also the oldest player to ever make the cut in a U.S. Open that year.

The Greenbrier did duty during World War II as a rehabilitation hospital, treating 24,148 patients. In the 1950s the United States government would return with a more covert mission. A massive Emergency Relocation Center was constructed under the hotel with everything the United Congress would need to operate the government should the United States suffer a nuclear attack. The bunker stood ready unknown to the public until the Cold War ended and the *Washington Post* exposed its existence in 1992. The bunker was decommissioned and opened for tours.

After World War II Sam Snead came back to be head professional at The Greenbrier and remained affiliated with the resort until his death in 1992. For many years the annual Spring Festival was the centerpiece event at the resort. None was ever more eventful than 1959 when Snead went around The Greenbrier course in a 59 during The Greenbrier Open, a feat that *Sports Illustrated* would anoint as "the greatest competitive round of golf in the history of the game."

As Snead piled up 185 tournament wins worldwide he also scored 42 holes-in-one, using every club in his bag save the putter. One of the aces, all witnessed and attested, came swinging a 3-iron with only his left hand. The last ace came in 1995 when the 83-year old wonder knocked it in the hole on the 18th of the Old White Course for the fifth time.

In the 1970s the courses at The Greenbrier began to receive facelifts. Architect Jack Nicklaus remade Raynor's Greenbrier Course in his own image in 1977 and two years later the reworked course hosted the Ryder Cup. In 1994 it hosted the Solheim Cup - only the Greenbrier and Muirfield Village have staged both international matches of the men's and women's pro tours. In 1999 Robert Cupp finished a complete makeover of Findlay's original nine holes that were expanded to 18 in 1962 by Dick Wilson, now called the Meadows.

The Old White's turn came in 2000. It was too late for the hotel which was razed in 1922 but for the historic course Richmond architect Lester George was not looking to makeover Macdonald's layout but to restore it. With the work completed, the PGA returned in 2010 with the Greenbrier Classic. Australian Stuart Appleby fired a final-round 59, matching Snead's historic total, to win the inaugural event. You can't make this stuff up.

# Scioto

## Columbus, Ohio

### 1916

Scioto is one of a select quartet of courses that has hosted the five greatest American men's golf competitions: U.S. Open (1926), the Ryder Cup (1931), the PGA Championship (1950), the U.S. Amateur Championship (1968) and the U.S. Senior Open Championship (1986, 2016). And somehow Jack Nicklaus, who grew up here, managed to miss them all. Too young, too old, too professional.

Samuel Prescott Bush, the father of a U.S. Senator, the grandfather of a President and the great-grandfather of another President, was among the patriarchy of Scioto Country Club in Upper Arlington, Ohio in 1916. Bush was a Master Mechanic from the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey when he came to Columbus in the 1880s to work with the railroads. In 1901 he began running the Buckeye Steel Castings Company for the Rockefeller family.

The founders of the new club, named for the Wyandot Indian word for "deer," brought in Donald Ross to design the first eighteen-hole golf course in

Ohio. The layout quickly earned the reputation as a shotmaker's course which was validated in 1926 when Bobby Jones won the second of his four U.S. Open titles at Scioto.

In the gallery was 11-year old Charlie Nicklaus, from a family of boilermakers in Columbus. Young Charlie was helping out around Meb's Pharmacy and Fred Mebs got him the tickets. Later



Samuel Prescott Bush helped create Scioto Country Club in 1914.



**In just its 10th year Scioto leaped into the ranks of the country's great courses when Bobby Jones won his second U.S. Open in 1926 with a five-over par 293..**

Meb's sold his clerk his set of golf clubs. Nicklaus was appreciative and played in the 70s but he was more interested in emulating Doc Meb's as a pharmacist.

He went to hometown Ohio State University, earned a pharmacy degree, married and worked for Johnson & Johnson. In January 1940 Helen Nicklaus gave birth to a son the couple named Jack William. Charlie Nicklaus finally bought his dream pharmacy in 1942 and by 1948 was doing well enough to join Scioto, a few blocks from the Nicklaus house. Two years later he introduced his son to golf who famously shot 51 in his first round.

The year before Jack Nicklaus started playing golf Scioto got

a new professional, 39-year old Jack Grout, an Oklahoman who had played the Tour for awhile but had settled into a career as a club pro after World War II. Charlie enrolled his son in one of Grout's two-hour group junior golf classes and Jack Nicklaus never had another teacher his entire career. Grout would join the Hall of Fame for club professionals as would two other Scioto pros, George Sargent and Walker Inman.

Grout took his star pupil inside the clubhouse later that summer when Scioto hosted the PGA Championship. Nicklaus got Sam Snead's autograph and had a memorable encounter with 1946 U.S. Open winner Lloyd Mangrum: "He had a scotch sitting

on the table, cards in one hand and a cigarette hanging out of his mouth and he said, 'What do you want, kid?'" recounted the 18-time major winner." I remember it like it was yesterday."

The Nicklaus trophy case began filling almost immediately: the Scioto Club Juvenile Trophy at 11, the first of five straight Ohio State Junior Championships at 12, a U.S. Amateur appearance at 15, an Ohio State Open win at 16, a first U.S. Open tournament and a first national championship in the U.S. National Jaycees Championship at 17, the first of two U.S. Amateur titles at 19. At this time Scioto Country Club had given Nicklaus an honorary membership and after he married Barbara Bash the next year the reception was held in the club. Nicklaus pictured his life as a pharmacist like his dad and a gentleman amateur golfer like his idol Jones. His life turned out a wee bit different.

Scioto and Nicklaus had a falling out in the 1960s and it came from a misunderstanding over the course. Nicklaus recommended architect Dick Wilson to execute a re-design of the course but after Wilson did not do what he expected, Nicklaus, always known for his candor on all matters golf,



**Once Jack Nicklaus started taking lessons from Jack Grout he never had another golf teacher.**

criticized the track as no longer the one he had grown up on. Then he built his dream club across town at Muirfield Village.

When another re-design was ordered in the 2000s, Nicklaus, by now one of the game's leading architects, was not even consulted. The club opted instead for esteemed local designer Michael Hurdzan. Nicklaus, however, let it known through channels that he was willing to help out for free and the two parties were reunited. For the club's centennial in 2016, with Scioto hosting the U.S. Senior Open Jack Nicklaus served as honorary chairman. Once again, he had missed playing in a big Scioto tournament.



# Oakland Hills - South Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 1918

Only the warm weather states of Florida, California and Texas have more golf courses than Michigan. Many of those started before Oakland Hills but none has garnered the same notoriety since. That is what happens when a parade of Hall of Famers lay the groundwork for your golf course. Dan Jenkins chose Oakland Hills as the course for fictional Bobby Joe Grooves to notch his only major win in the novel, *Slim and None*.



Glenna Collett was undefeated for four years in match play which included a U.S. Amateur title at Oakland Hills.

The first luminary to grace Oakland Hills was Donald Ross who when he saw the old Spicer, Miller and German farms for the first time in 1917 told club co-founder Joe Mack, "The Lord intended this for a golf course." That's setting yourself up to fail. Ross would later write, "I rarely find a piece of property so well-suited for a golf course."

Mack ran a printing house that catered to the nascent automobile industry. His partner Norval Hawkins was an accountant who became Henry Ford's first general sales manager. Together they pried 46 fellow members out of the Detroit Athletic Club to form the Oakland Hills Country Club. Ross had the first of two planned courses ready for play in the summer of 1918. Walter Hagen was hired as the first professional for \$300 a month, an open schedule and the profits from the golf shop. So before the grass was fully grown in that was two Hall of Famers at the club.

Representing Oakland Hills, Hagen won the U.S. Open at Brae Burn Country Club in Massachusetts in 1919 by winning



a playoff with Mike Brady. Hagen used the opportunity to resign and recommended Brady be hired in his stead. In 1922, when Oakland Hills staged the Western Open Brady became the first host pro to win the event. Also that year C. Howard Crane, a nationally known theater architect and club member, designed the commanding 17-bay clubhouse that was the second largest wooden building in Michigan.

Ross completed work on the second course in 1924 and they were now known as North and South. Just six years after it opened the South was hosting the U.S. Open and Bobby Jones was failing to repeat as champion, losing to Cyril Walker by three strokes after playing the par-four 10th hole in 6-5-6-6. In 1929 Glenna Collett won her fourth of six U.S. Amateur titles on the South Course as she was in the midst of a championship run even more impressive than anything Jones had done - 16 consecutive tournament victories in a four-year span.

With another U.S. Open on the horizon in 1937 Oakland Hills sought A.W. Tillinghast's wisdom on possible improvements for the South Course. The future Hall-of-Fame architect shot back, "This course needs nothing to prepare it for the Open. What it needs is to be left alone."

Robert Trent Jones showed no such restraint when invited to



When the U.S. Open trophy leaves Oakland Hills it is has surely been earned.

prepare the course for the 1951 U.S. Open. In those days the host club set up the course, not the USGA, and since Ralph Guldahl's winning score in 1937 had been sixteen strokes better than in 1924 Jones was given marching orders to create the toughest course the players had ever tried to play. He took to the assignment with glee. In came the fairways, up went the rough. Seventy new bunkers were added to the number Ross and Tillinghast had found sufficient.

No one broke par on the first



Two-time Masters champion Ralph Guldahl set the all-time scoring record with a 281 to win the U.S. Open at Oakland Hills in 1937. Club officials were not about to allow that to ever happen again.

day and the scoring average was 78.4. After three rounds no player had yet broken par and only Dave Douglas, a stylish pro from Delaware, matched the scorecard of 70. So when Ben Hogan shot 149 for the first two rounds he did not go to bed Friday night despairing of his chances. A 71 in the morning round pulled Hogan to within two strokes of leader Bobby Locke and he uncoiled a peerless 67 in the afternoon to win by two blows. Afterwards he said, "I'm glad I brought this course - this monster - to its knees."

Both the South Course and Robert Trent Jones emerged from the 1951 Open as the torch-bearers for unforgiving penal golf. Jimmy Demaret slipped the barb into Jones for golfers everywhere when he told him, "Saw a course you'd really like the other day, Trent. You stand on the first tee and take a penalty drop."



Robert Trent Jones designed over 500 courses - "The sun never sets on a Robert Trent Jones golf course." None was ever harder than the test of golf he gave at Oakland Hills.

# Pebble Beach

## Pebble Beach, California

### 1919

Grateful golfers have America's first transcontinental railroad to thank for the Pebble Beach Golf Links built 50 years later. The so-called Big Four of the Central Pacific Railroad - C.P. Huntington, Leland Stanford, Mark Hopkins, and Charles Crocker - not only received box cars full of profits for building the railroad from the Pacific Ocean to Promontory Point, Utah to meet the Union Pacific coming out of Nebraska but they received land grants as well. So much land the men formed the Pacific Improvement Company to manage the bounty.

In 1880 the company added land on Monterey Peninsula to their portfolio for about \$5 an acre. They constructed the Hotel Del Monte and in 1897 built the Del Monte golf course with polo enthusiast Charles Maud situating sand greens amidst cypress-studded hills; it has operated longer than any golf course west of the Mississippi River.

In 1915 Pacific Improvement decided to get rid of its property on the peninsula. They hired Samuel F.B. Morse, the grandnephew of the inventor

of the telegraph, to get the best price from developers. Morse was not a golfer, a horrible player in fact, but even he realized the first time he saw Pebble Beach that houses did not belong here.

After all, Morse reasoned, a world class golf course would move those home lots that much



Samuel Morse orchestrated the conversion of Monterey Peninsula into Pebble Beach.



Samuel Morse's plan to sell his bosses on Pebble Beach Golf Links counted on an unpaid ovine grounds crew.

faster. To sell his scheme to his bosses, Morse had two trump cards to appeal to their wallets - he would use sheep to maintain the course at no cost and recruit an amateur golfer to design the course for free.

The man Morse had in mind was Jack Neville, who already worked for the company as a real estate salesman and happened to be a five-time California State Amateur champion. Neville was handy with a mashie but he knew nothing of course design so he recruited fellow state amateur champion Douglas Grant to help - Grant had been to Scotland so he surely could build a golf course.

Neville may not have been paid but to hear him tell it he didn't do much work either. As he related to the *San Francisco Chronicle* a half century later, "It was all there in plain sight. Very little clearing was necessary. The big thing, naturally, was to get as many holes as possible along the

bay. It took a little imagination, but not much. Years before it was built, I could see this place as a golf links. Nature had intended it to be nothing else. All we did was cut away a few trees, install a few sprinklers, and sow a little seed."

Neville walked the property and developed the figure-eight routing that is used today to make maximum use of the vaunted coastline. Pebble Beach is often cited for the relatively mundane inland holes but that reveals Neville's genius design. By providing a breather from the thrilling clifftop golf on each nine, the course works away and back to the sea and strikes the perfect balance for the player.

With Pebble Beach open for play in 1919, Morse indeed found the ideal buyer for the property - himself. Not a rich man, he had to form the Del Monte Properties Company to swing the deal but he was able to rule over Pebble Beach until his death a half-



The original 7th hole at Pebble Beach, one of the game's great par-threes.

century later in 1969.

Neville's design still required some tweaking, most noticeably on the 18th hole, which began life as a 379-yard par four. First the tee was relocated to the side of the 17th green on a rocky perch in the Pacific Ocean. Then British golf architect William Herbert Fowler lengthened the hole to 535 yards and American golf had its most famous finishing hole.

Pebble Beach was now ready for its coming out party. To lure the USGA past St. Louis for the first time Morse enlisted Roger Lapham, a flamboyant shipowner and crack golfer who would go on to become mayor of San Francisco. He was also an influential member of the USGA executive committee. Pebble Beach got the 1929 U.S. Amateur.

A team including 1904 and 1905 U.S. Amateur champion H. Chandler Egan and British architect Alister MacKenzie, who was working on nearby Cypress Point, plotted to make the unknown course championship-

ready. And it would need all its defenses because Bobby Jones was planning to make his first trip West to compete.

Jones had won the past two U.S. Amateurs and four of the last five and was playing some of his finest golf in 1929. At the U.S. Open earlier in the year at Winged Foot Al Espinosa had tied him after 72 holes of regulation play but Jones squeaked by in the 36-hole playoff by 23 strokes. The golfing legend arrived early in California and toured the Golden State setting course records, including at Pebble Beach where he shot a 67 in a tune-up.

Playing with course designer Neville, Jones was the co-medalist with Eugene Homans in the 36-hole qualifier. Neville failed to qualify with an 82 and 86 on the course he designed. In the first round Jones drew 19-year old Nebraska Amateur champion Johnny Goodman who had traveled to the Monterey Peninsula in a cattle car.

Goodman stunned the large

gallery by winning the first three holes. Jones came back to tie on the 12th hole but Goodman was not bowed and re-took the lead on 14. He parred out to complete the greatest upset in Amateur history; Jones had never lost an opening round match. Goodman would lose in the afternoon to Lawson Little Jr. but in 1933 he captured the U.S. Open at North Shore Country Club in Glenview, Illinois and so it is Johnny Goodman and not Bobby Jones who is remembered as the last amateur to win the United States Open.

For his part, Jones was not sure what to do with his unexpected free time at the tournament. He refereed a match the next day but his presence was too much of a distraction so he withdrew from the premises. He spent a few days at the course MacKenzie had designed - Cypress Point - and that experience would lead to the collaboration that a few years later would produce the only course in the American pantheon to rival Pebble Beach - Augusta National.

In 1947 Pebble Beach became a fixture on the PGA Tour when Bing Crosby brought his "Clambake" golf tournament up from Southern California. Crosby, who played near-scratch golf and had competed in both the United States Amateur and the British Amateur, had started the pro-am format in 1937 when he discovered how little money

professional golfers were making. He staged the tournament at Rancho Santa Fe near San Diego, just up the road from his Del Mar Racetrack. Bing put up the entire first purse and wrote a check over to winner Sam Snead for \$500.

In 1958, the Bing Crosby Pro-Am was televised for the first time and it quickly became the highest rated regular PGA event of the year. Viewers tuned in to see one, the golf courses; two, the celebrities; and three, the worst weather the pros would play in all year. "Crosby weather" invariably included wind and rain and snow was not out of the question, either. In 1960 Johnny Weissmuller, who rose to fame as the world's greatest swimmer before being the first screen Tarzan, quipped, "I have never been so wet in my life."

Each telecast would open with Crosby crooning "Straight Down the Middle," a ditty penned by Sammy Kahn with music by James Van Heusen from a Hope-Crosby movie short called *Honor Caddie* in 1949. The Saturday broadcast would be devoted to the amateurs and Sundays would be left to the pros. Crosby hosted the show until he died of a heart attack walking off the 18th green of the La Moraleja Golf Course in Spain in 1977.

In 1972 the U.S. Open came to Pebble Beach for the first time and Jack Nicklaus, who won the U.S. Amateur here in 1961,

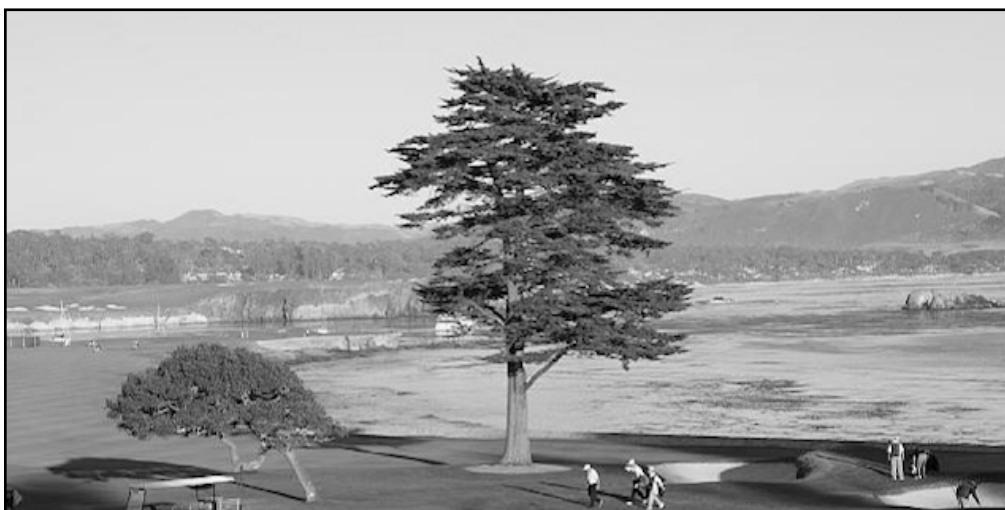
wrapped up a memorable win with a 1-iron into the par-3 17th that hit the flagstick and dropped five inches from the cup. Ten years later Nicklaus was witness to more drama on the same hole when Tom Watson holed a chip shot from deep rough for birdie to win the title. In addition to indelible Pebble Beach lore Nicklaus would also fill in the final piece of the puzzle of the course he always called "his favorite in the world."

The original course routing featured an odd detour away from the coastline after the fourth hole for the 156-yard fifth hole that some wags termed the "world's only dogleg par 3." It seems that back when Samuel Morse was in a hurry to liquidate the Pacific Improvement Company land he sold five acres on Stillwater Cove to William T. Beatty, a road builder from Chicago.

When he did a 180 on his development plans Morse was

able to buy all the lots back but Beatty's who hired renowned architect Julia Morgan to build a house there. Morse desperately wanted to retrieve the wayward five acres to complete his masterpiece but when the property finally came up for sale in the 1940s the one-two punch of the Great Depression and World War II had emptied the petty cash drawer. A California rancher named Matt Jenkins ponied up the \$40,000 asking price.

For years the world's best golfers detoured around the Jenkins property. The historic house burned in 1956 but nothing changed. Finally when Mimi Jenkins died in 1995 at the age of 82 the family sold the Stillwater Cove plot to Pebble Beach for \$8.25 million. Nicklaus was summoned to build a new fifth hole atop the seawall and Pebble Beach Golf Links was finally complete.



The most famous finishing hole in golf took a few tries to get right.

# Pine Valley

## Pine Valley, New Jersey

### 1921

The two most famous residents of the New Jersey Pine Barrens, a swath of one million acres of scrub pines and sand, go about their lives in near total secrecy. One is the Jersey Devil, a legendary winged creature with the head of a horse supported by a four-foot serpentine body. According to lore, the Devil appeared in the 1700s when an indigent woman named Mrs. Leeds was struggling to feed her 12 children in the darkest recesses of the Pine Barrens.

Finding herself once again pregnant she is said to have exclaimed: "I want no more children! Let it be a devil." The devil-child was born horribly deformed, crawled from the womb, up the chimney and into the woods where it was rumored to survive by feeding on small children and livestock. When a person saw the Devil it was an omen of disaster, particularly shipwrecks, to come. Sightings were common through the next two centuries and often breathlessly reported in the local newspapers. Once some local Pineys, as Pinelands residents are

known, tried to claim a \$10,000 reward for capturing the Devil by obtaining a kangaroo, painting stripes across its back and gluing large wings on the animal. But so far no documented Jersey Devils have been captured.

The other is Pine Valley Golf Club, which is seen by locals only slightly more often than the Jersey Devil. The club is notoriously private and releases no information. It maintains a national membership believed to be around 1000. Membership is by invitation, although the pathway to the first tee is unknown. Great wealth, however, will not buy one's way into Pine Valley. If not for a nasty habit of being ranked as America's best golf course by *Golf Digest*, as it was for 22 of the first 24 years of numbered rankings, it is likely the golfing world would know nothing of Pine Valley.

Pine Valley Golf Club is actually its own New Jersey borough, created in 1929. Only a Pine Valley member can own one of the 22 homes on the 620 or so acres of the club. There is a mayor and borough commissioners,



a clerk, solicitor, tax assessor, tax collector and school district even though lessons learned on the golf course do not qualify as a school. Pine Valley even has a police force which takes turn accessing the squad car parked behind the gatehouse. The only road leading into the "town" is unmarked.

Pine Valley is located hard by the weathered Reading Railroad tracks that once shuttled tourists between Philadelphia and Atlantic City. Next door is Clementon Lake Amusement Park where generations of thrill-seekers rode the beloved Jack Rabbit roller coaster unaware that America's best golf course was just on the other side of the trees. But Pine Valley is not totally invisible to the public.

The club hosted the Walker Cup matches between amateur teams from the United States and the British Isles in 1936 and 1985 and footage of the course can viewed on YouTube from a match aired for *Shell's Wonderful World of Golf* between Byron Nelson and Gene Littler in 1962. And one day every year, usually a Sunday in late September, Pine Valley invites everyone inside to view the final day of the Crump Cup, one of amateur golf's most prestigious events. Golf fans can not access the modest clubhouse but are free to roam across some of the most revered ground in golf. The tournament and the course are a



**George Crump spent his fortune on Pine Valley but never saw his vision realized in full form.**

legacy to the man whose vision created Pine Valley - George A. Crump.

Crump's grandfather sailed from Cheltenham, England in 1838 to work as an editor for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. The next generation became contractors and architects, and eventually hoteliers, owning expansive guest houses in Philadelphia and at the Jersey Shore. When he came of age as the curtain fell on the 19th century George Crump carried a calling card that identified him as being in the "Hotel Business."

The family business left plenty of time for diversion and Crump was an avid hunter. He also held memberships at four golf clubs around Philadelphia and

another in Atlantic City. Crump was a member of a group of avid Philadelphia golfers who called themselves the "ballsomes" and rode the train down to the ocean to play golf in the winter. During a round at Atlantic City Country Club in 1903 it was supposedly a Crump shot that landed close to the pin that led his foursome to coin the term "birdie."

Crump and his Philadelphia friends were good golfers but were continually bested in matches with their compatriots from New York and Boston. Among themselves they concluded their shortcoming was due to a lack of quality courses. Crump resolved to set out and

build a world class golf course. His efforts were buoyed by the sale of the family's largest hotel in 1910, the Colonnade at 15th and Chestnut streets in downtown Philadelphia.

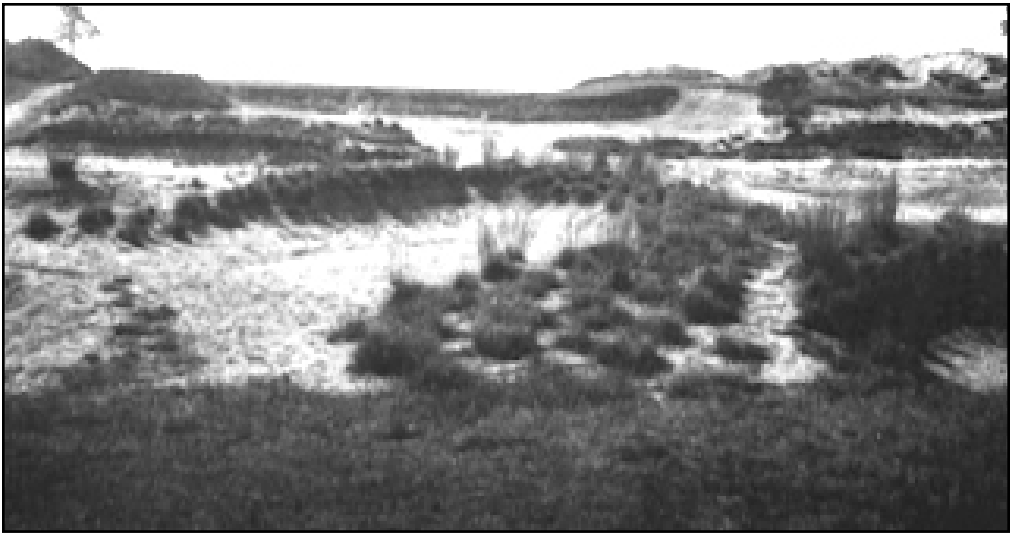
By this time Crump's young wife had died and he threw all his passions into his golf project. He traveled to Great Britain and Europe to study classic golf courses and returned to look for his dream piece of golfing ground. He supposedly saw it from the window of a train about 20 miles southeast of Philadelphia. Or he remembered it from past hunting trips. Or both. At any rate, Crump wound up buying 184 acres of Sumner Ireland's scrub pines in September 1912 for \$50 an acre.

Crump pitched a tent and began spending his day wandering the property, dreaming of golf holes. The next spring he set about draining the swampland and brought in massive steam-powered winches to pull tree stumps out of the ground. They stopped counting at 22,000.

As work progressed, many of Crump's friends from the golf world stopped by to look over Pine Valley. On a tour of America Harry S. Colt, England's premier golf architect of the day, contributed a routing plan of the holes. Walter Travis, Charles Blair Macdonald, Donald Ross and A. W. Tillinghast all pronounced Pine Valley to be among the finest courses in the world even before



Baseball legend Connie Mack was one who signed on as a charter Pine Valley member.



Pine Valley - here is the second hole - looked like no other golf course in America when it opened for play in 1921.

if was finished.

Crump sent out a letter to prospective Pine Valley members and 141 responded affirmatively. One was Connie Mack, who was then in his 13th year of a 50-year run as owner and manager of the Philadelphia Athletics baseball club. In November of 1913 Crump and friends played the first golf at Pine Valley over five completed holes. A year later eleven holes were ready, although Crump had expected the entire course to be completed.

Work would slow even further in the years to come as Crump and his agronomists struggled to get grass to grow on the ancient sand dunes. By 1917 only 14 holes were completed. Crump had personally sunk \$250,000 into Pine Valley which was now being referred to in some circles as "Crump's Folly."

In January of 1918 at the age of 46 George Arthur Crump put a gun to his head and pulled the trigger. He left no note. Holes 12-15 were still unfinished at Pine Valley. After recovering from the initial shock the Philadelphia golf community pulled together to finish Pine Valley and realize George Crump's dream. The turf issues were solved, architect Hugh Wilson of Merion fame oversaw the construction of the final four holes and a Crump brother-in-law wrestled the project's finances under control to "carry out the founder's wishes."

George Crump's main wish had been to create the sternest test of golf in America and that has been the result since the first full round was played in 1921. As the sign that greeted those early golfers to Pine Valley reads: ABANDON HOPE ALL YE WHO ENTER HERE.

# Latrobe

## Latrobe, Pennsylvania

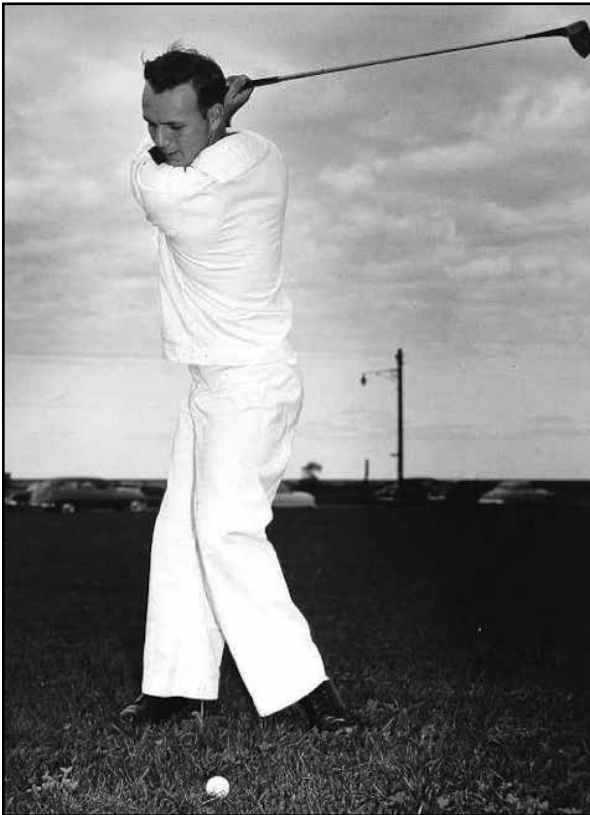
### 1921

Latrobe is an old Pennsylvania Railroad town, platted by a Pennsy civil engineer who named it for his old college classmate - a fellow engineer for the rival Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. They made steel and ceramics and mattresses in town. There was also a large

brewery that would start to make Rolling Rock once the nation shed its Prohibition nonsense. By 1920 there was enough going on in Latrobe to form a nine-hole country club.

On the crew to build the Latrobe Country Club nine was a strong 16-year old named Milford Jerome "Deacon" Palmer. In 1926 he was hired as the course greenskeeper and when the Depression came the club could not afford both a professional and a superintendent so in 1933 they gave Deke both jobs. By that time Palmer was married with a family and to keep his energetic three-year old son Arnold busy he handed him a sawed-off woman's mashie and a golf ball and told him to "hit it hard, boy."

Young Arnold wasn't allowed to play the Latrobe course that Dad ran except in early mornings or late evenings when members weren't around. He started toting bags at the age of 11 and squeezed in



After leaving Latrobe Arnold Palmer signed on with the Coast Guard but he did not spend all his time on the water.



Arnold Palmer's Latrobe tractor became so famous as a Pennzoil prop that it was turned into a toy - but plenty of non-toddlers bought a piece of Arnie's past as well.

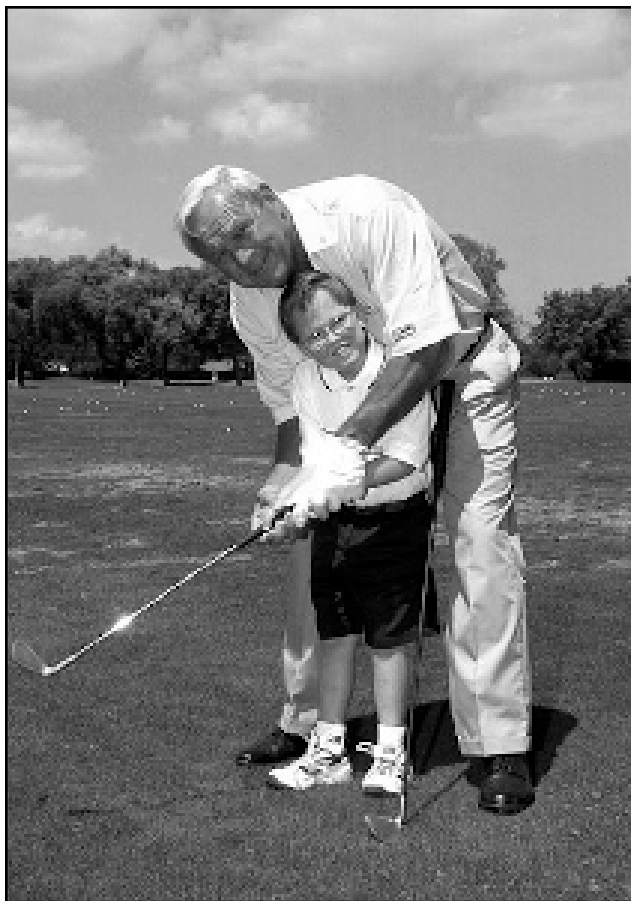
enough golf to win five straight club caddy championships, five West Penn Amateur titles and the Pennsylvania State High School Championship twice before packing his bags for Wake Forest University.

He started to win tournaments at the national level but after a stint in the Coast Guard Palmer took a job with W.C. Wehnes Company in Cleveland, selling paint. Golf professionals were still often not permitted in their own clubhouse as Palmer saw with his father at Latrobe and he was not in a hurry to pursue that life. But after unexpectedly winning

the 1954 U.S. Amateur at the Detroit Country Club he took the professional plunge.

His first win as a pro came at the Canadian Open in 1955 and four wins in 1957 insured he was not going to be a club pro anytime soon. Masters championships in 1958 and 1960 made him a star and when he drove the first green in the final round of the U.S. Open at Cherry Hills to kickstart a 65 and a come-from-behind two-stroke win Arnold Palmer's position as the most popular player in golf was secured.

In the 1960s Latrobe Country Club purchased additional land



Passing golf through the generations is the Latrobe way.

and Deke and Arnold Palmer set out to build a full eighteen holes; it was one of the first of over 300 courses the King would design. Construction began in 1963 and in 1971 Arnold bought the place. If members thought that the biggest name in golf might transform their club they did not know their hometown hero.

Palmer infused Latrobe with some genuine Pennsylvania tradition by adding covered bridges - the state has more

than any other - across creeks that could be used for storm shelters. As a Pennzoil pitchman Palmer starred with an old tractor on which his father taught him to drive - the tractor remains on site in a warehouse and is often trotted out for display at outings.

Deacon Palmer died following 27 holes of golf at Bay Hill, Arnold's Orlando, Florida club, in 1976. His son directed that a red pine being removed at Latrobe was carved into a life size figure of his father as a memorial.

Arnold Palmer's long list of tributes include the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor bestowed by the United States

Congress. He was the second American golfer to be so recognized, after Byron Nelson.

Latrobe has always been a private club but after Palmer and Marriott hotels built a SpringHill Suites hotel up Arnold Palmer Drive a ways guests were permitted to book a tee time. At last members of "Arnie's Army" could offer a salute on the leader's own course.

# Shady Rest

## Scotch Plains, New Jersey

### 1921

There were a few African-American owned and operated golf courses in the United States before Shady Rest but the black investors who comprised the Progressive Realty Company created the first-ever full-fledged African-American country club when they purchased the old Westfield Golf Club in 1921. Westfield was created in 1900 on the 18th century farm that



John Shippen was the first African-American golfer to tee it up in the United States Open.

Ephraim Tucker built with the help of \$680 paid for his service in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. The clapboard Tucker farmhouse, after decades as a tavern, was converted into a clubhouse.

Shady Rest members enjoyed all the amenities of country club life with horseback riding, tennis, fine dining, ballroom dancing and, of course, golf. Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughn from nearby Newark all performed at Shady Rest during the Roaring Twenties. In 1957 Althea Gibson, the first African-American to win a Grand Slam tennis title, played an exhibition before 800 fans at Shady Rest one month after winning Wimbledon and a few weeks before capturing the U.S. Open. In the early 1960s she would become the first black player to compete on the LPGA Tour.

In 1931 John Matthew Shippen, Jr. came to Scotch Plains to serve as greenskeeper and club professional at Shady Rest. He was born in Washington D.C. in 1879 to an African-American Presbyterian minister and a Shin-

necock Indian mother. When John was nine years old his father was sent back to serve on his mother's reservation on eastern Long Island. Shinnecock Hills Golf Club opened a few years later and Shippen found work in the caddy yard. He also learned the game from pro Willie Dunn.

Shippen and a Shinnecock Indian friend named Oscar Bunn entered the second United States Open at Shinnecock Hills in 1896. Many of the Scottish and English players in the field threatened to withdraw if the two unknown players of color competed but Theodore Havemeyer, first president of the United States Golf Association, would hear nothing of it.

Playing with reigning U.S. Amateur champion Charles Blair Macdonald, the 17-year old Shippen got around in 78 strokes to share the opening round lead at his home course. He faded to

a tie for fifth place after recording a disastrous 11 on the par-four 13th hole to finish with a 159 total for the 36-hole event. When John Shippen collected a \$10 prize he was not only the first African-American to play in the Open but the first American-born professional.

Shippen became a teacher and club repairman at Shinnecock Hills. During the summer of 1897 he gave lessons to financier J.P. Morgan who progressed enough to belt long drives which satisfied him enough to quit the game. Shippen played in four additional U.S. Opens, finishing as high as fifth in 1902 at Garden City Golf Club. He taught at Spring Lake Golf Club in New Jersey, Maidstone Golf Club in New York and Aronimink Golf Club in Pennsylvania.

After arriving at Shady Rest Shippen stayed for the next three decades. In 1938 Scotch Plains

Township acquired Shady Rest after the Great Depression scuttled the Progressive Realty Company. In 1964 Shippen retired and the same year the township took over operations and opened the course to the public as Scotch Hills Country Club. The 2,247 yard course, playing to a par of 33 is still open to the public.



An early postcard of the Shady Rest dining room.



# Baltustrol

## Springfield, New Jersey

### 1922

For Louis Keller it was all about money. But before that it was about rubbing shoulders with the rich and famous.

Keller was born into a well-to-do Manhattan family in 1857, the son of a lawyer who was the first United States Commissioner of Patents. But not as well-to-do as young Louis would have liked. Worse, the family home on Madison Avenue was close enough to the city's luxurious mansions that he could press his nose against the outside window panes. As a young man he was disinclined to

work for a living and attempted to live the life of a gentleman farmer on a family farm in New Jersey. When that didn't work he drifted into gunsmithing and other jobs without success.

If he could not be a member of New York's elite Keller figured the next best thing would be to live vicariously through the lives of wealthy socialites by writing about them in a newspaper. His gossip rag provided him a living but it led to a more profitable idea - the *Social Register*. Keller printed up lists of members of New York



The Baltustrol caddy yard, circa 1914.



Amateur Jerome Travers won the 1915 U.S. Open at Baltustrol and never entered the tournament again.

Society - selected only by him - and then sold subscriptions to the lists, one in summer and one in winter, to those on the lists. Keller was soon publishing his *Social Register* in cities across America.

Meanwhile, there was that family farm in Springfield, New Jersey sitting idle. How could he turn it into a money-maker? In the 1890s he noticed that many of his *Social Register* clients were playing golf. So he found an Englishman named George Hunter who had heard of the game to build him a nine-hole golf course in 1895. The little course was well-received but Hunter never undertook such work again.

Keller had no intentions of playing the game himself. His plan was to hit up *Social Register* subscribers for memberships at \$10 per year. Keller did not even plan on belonging to the

club - he was going to lease the course and an old barn that had been renovated into a clubhouse back to the members. His role, in addition to landlord, would be as Secretary, or general manager. Final decisions about the goings-on of this golf club would rest with the Board of Directors, not him.

For a name, Keller chose "Baltustrol" which sounds as if it escaped from a verdant Scottish glen but is nothing of the sort. Baltus Roll was a thrifty woodchopper who once made his living on the mountain that contained Keller's farm. Rumors percolated that the backwoods Midas kept a treasure in his house and one night a pair of highwaymen decided to find out for themselves. They dragged Roll from his house but he apparently never revealed the hiding place of any gold as the life was choked

out of him. After that grisly incident things around Springfield began being named for Baltus Roll.

Keller knew that one of the best ways to build his membership was with big tournaments and so he made sure Baltustrol Golf Club was in the second wave of 14 clubs that joined the original five USGA members. Baltustrol was a founding member of the influential Metropolitan Golf Association around New York City and the New Jersey State Golf Association. The course was buffed up to 18 holes in 1898 and between 1901 and 1904 hosted a U.S. Women's Amateur, a U.S. Open and a U.S. Amateur.

In 1903 Keller brought on George Low, a 29-year old professional from the cradle of golf in Carnoustie, Scotland, at Baltustrol. In addition to his job in the shop Low was given free hand to massage the golf course as he saw fit. He also had time to launch a bustling trade in club-making, maintaining a golf shop in New York City until the 1930s. Baltustrol was host to the 1915 U.S. Open and the course again won good words in the wake of amateur Jerome Travers' triumph.

Keller's business-like approach to golf club management paid off handsomely. The membership rolls swelled to more than 700, including 600 golfing members. Baltustrol was considered the largest club in America and after the 1915 Open Keller began

scouting around for an architect to build a second course beside the Old Course. He talked with A.W. Tillinghast and Tillie said, yes, he could do that but he had a better, if more audacious, idea - plow up the existing course and build two new courses of equal quality. Not a championship course and a gentler test for members.

In 1918 the club approved plans for Tillinghast's "Dual Courses." Two full-length championship courses built together? Golf construction on such a scale had never been attempted before. And it would take four years for the project to be completed. Unfortunately Keller fell ill and died of an intestinal disorder in February 1922, four months before the courses, named Upper and Lower, were officially open. In a last act of service to Baltustrol Keller directed in his will that all debts he held for the club be released.

Both the Upper and Lower courses at Baltustrol have hosted numerous major championships. There have been many great champions, including Jack Nicklaus, who won two U.S. Opens on the Lower Course, and Phil Mickelson. But no one ever battled Baltustrol like Mickey Wright.

Mary Kathryn Wright was born in San Diego in 1935 and discovered golf at the age of nine. Two years later she broke 100 for the first time and her picture appeared in the local



No golfer ever brought a more-admired swing to a golf course than Mickey Wright.

paper with the prescient caption, "The Next Babe (Didrickson Zaharias)?" She won the Southern California Girls' Junior title at the age of 14 and started working with Los Angeles teaching pro Harry Pressler, molding the swing Ben Hogan would call "the best he had ever seen."

After spending a year at Stanford University to please her father, Wright departed for the women's professional tour, then only five years old. In 1958 she won her first U.S. Women's Open and would win at least one major title in each of the next six years. Wright was often vexed by a balky putter and the U.S. Open at Baltustrol's Lower Course in 1961 was one of those times, leading to a second round 80.

In those days "Open Saturday" called for players to finish with 36 holes and at the Lower Course, which included holes from the men's tees, that meant a lot of long iron and fairway wood approach shots into the greens. In the morning round Wright made five birdies to shoot a 69 and turn a four-stroke deficit into a two-stroke lead. After lunch she hit sixteen greens in regulation, two-putted every hole, and posted a 72 for a six-stroke win. *The New York Times* minced no words about the performance, "Miss Wright's 72, 80, 69, 72 was five over par for the championship course. Her 69 was one of the best scores in the history of the tourney, considering the length of the course, and one of the best ever credited to a woman golfer in the United States."

Wright was just hitting her stride. From 1961 until 1964 she won 44 times, the most of any professional golfer in a four-year span. She wrapped up the run with her fourth U.S. Open win in front of her home fans at the San Diego Country Club. Five years later, foot problems forced her out of the game at the age of 34. At Golf House, the headquarters and museum maintained by the United States Golf Association in Far Hills, New Jersey, not far from Baltustrol, there are special rooms dedicated to four players - Bobby Jones, Ben Hogan, Arnold Palmer and Mickey Wright.

# Cherry Hills

## Cherry Hills Village, Colorado

### 1922

Golf eras are fractured like a perfectly cleaved diamond. Bobby Jones never competed against Ben Hogan. Jack Nicklaus never competed against Tiger Woods. But on one Saturday in 1960 in the Front Range of the Colorado Rockies the eras of golf collided with three legends - one certified, one in his own time and one future - all having a chance to win the sport's biggest prize.

Cherry Hills was an unlikely setting for such a drama. If a U.S. Open club could be called "plucky," it would have been Cherry Hills. Denver Country Club was the reigning club in the Mile High City, founded in 1887 with a golf course in Overland Park in 1894. The DCC was the first club west of the Mississippi River to be admitted to the United States Golf Association.

Cherry Hills was started in 1922 by a bunch of wealthy DCC members. They hired architect William Flynn after meeting him at a DCC luncheon. Flynn injected the Cherry Hills property with imaginative short holes and devious interrupted fairways. He made meticulous drawings of

each hole on graph paper which were framed and hung in the club card room.

Flynn was one of the first golf architects to immerse himself in turf grasses and became an authority on greenskeeping and course maintenance. He was also a pioneer in designing holes from different sets of tees, although he frowned on any use of the term "ladies tees" for the short set - they were "forward tees." Flynn took his knack for adaptable course design to extremes when he built a reversible nine-hole course for John Rockefeller, Jr. that could be played forward and backward.

Cherry Hills struggled through the Depression but what is golfing heaven for if not to encourage a club to exceed its grasp? The club went after a U.S. Open but was stonewalled by the USGA which demanded a \$10,000 guarantee to hold its championship in the Rockies for the first time. Protesting that there had never been a guarantee before Will Nicholson, the Cherry Hills bargainer, stammered, "Ten thousand dollars. Hell, we don't



Cherry Hills was the first course west of the Mississippi River to host major national championships. Vic Ghezzi won the 1941 PGA title in 38 holes over Byron Nelson when it was still contested at match play. Stroke play would not start until 1958.

have enough in our treasury to buy a case of ketchup.”

The club had only made it into its second decade because members backed a mortgage with personal assets. But Nicholson knocked on enough doors in Denver to raise the ransom and the U.S. Open arrived in 1938. Ralph Guldahl, a self-taught Texan who had quit golf a few years earlier to sell cars, defended his 1937 title to become one of only six players to win back-to-back titles. Guldahl would make the World Golf Hall of Fame but was always known more for combing his hair on the course, a ploy he said steadied his nerves.

Cherry Hills pocketed \$23,000 in much needed gate receipts. But the most enduring headlines to emerge from the 1938 U.S. Open

came courtesy of Ray Ainsley, a club pro from Ojai, California. Ainsley's approach into the tricky 397-yard 16th tumbled into the brook bordering the green. Ainsley later claimed he thought he had to play the ball as it lay, there not being much water back in his native Topatopa Mountains and all. So he slashed at the ball bobbing in the current. And again. And again, as a crowd formed to watch, excitedly pointing out the ball as it reappeared after each swing in the energetic waters.

Official scorer Red Anderson convulsed in laughter and lost track of the swings. Playing partner Bud McKinney couldn't keep count as well. Eventually Ainsley was credited with a 19 but the actual score could have been as high as 23. Either way it

set a record for the highest score on a single hole in a U.S. Open. A little girl in the joyous gallery turned to her mother and said, "Mummy, it must be dead now because the man has quit hitting it." As they say, some stories are too good to check.

The next U.S. Open at Cherry Hills the story would be so good they wrote books about it. In 1960 Arnold Palmer flew into Denver as the hottest player in golf having already won the Masters and four other tournaments that year. Palmer struggled on the Flynn layout and was unable to break par in any of the first three rounds. After 54 holes he trailed leader Mike Souchak by seven shots; worse, he trailed another dozen players as well.

Palmer began his final round by driving the 346-yard first green to set up a two-putt birdie. He holed a 90-foot chip on the second hole and had six birdies by the time he stood on the eighth tee. He reached the clubhouse in 65, the lowest final score ever shot in a U.S. Open. Back out on the course 48-year old four-time U.S. Open champion Ben Hogan was paired with 20-year old amateur Jack Nicklaus.

After an eagle on the 540-yard 5th and a birdie at the 438-yard 9th Nicklaus surged into the lead as he made the turn. Three-putt bogies at 13 and 14 derailed his chances, leaving him to finish second - the first of 19 runner-

up finishes in a major the Golden Bear would endure.

Hogan was tied for the lead on the 17th tee, a 544-yard par five. After two expertly placed shots the Hawk watched glumly as his approach shot caught a ridge on the green and spun back down into the water and made bogey. He drowned another ball on the 18th trying a risky line to get the tying birdie. Arnold Palmer had made the greatest comeback in U.S. Open history which would be his only win in the national championship. He left Cherry Hills truly the King of golf. But it was left for Ben Hogan to put a bow on the 1960 U.S. Open. "I just played with a kid who if he had a brain in his head should have won this thing by 10 shots," he said.

Nicklaus and Palmer would return to Cherry Hills many times. In 1993 Nicklaus got his win by nipping fellow Ohio State Buckeye Tom Weiskopf by a stroke to win the U.S. Senior Open with an ominous thunderstorm spitting over the mountains. Palmer was invited back in an official capacity with his design partner Ed Seay to add some snarl to Flynn's course in preparation for the 1978 U.S. Open. One of the things Palmer did was to build a new tee on the first hole to stretch it to 404 yards. There would not be another plaque placed on the brick wall around the tee box next to his anytime soon.

# Winged Foot

## Mamaroneck, New York

### 1923

It is not unusual to hear members at event venues with more than one course deflect praise for the tournament track and say something like, "You should really play our other course. It's better." That is almost never true unless the speaker is a Winged Foot member. While the West Course tends to get the bulk of major championship

play those tournaments can be switched to the East Course and you would not hear a peep from the competitors or purists. The courses are that interchangeable.

Winged Foot was built as the playground for members of the New York Athletic Club who told A.W. Tillinghast to "give us a man-sized course." He gave them two, although it was not choice

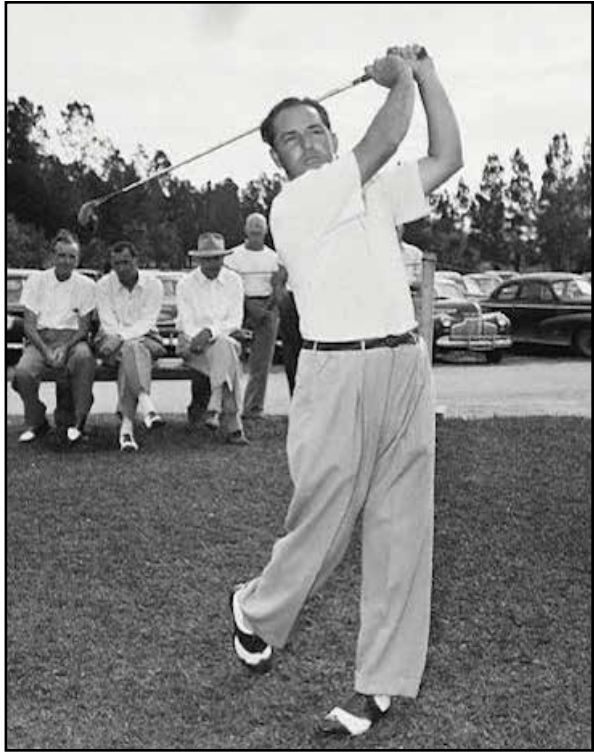


Al Espinosa watched Bobby Jones make a wickedly difficult putt on the 72nd hole to tie him for the 1929 U.S. Open - and then lost by 23 strokes in the playoff. Espinosa did win the first four Mexican Opens after the tournament started in 1944.



land. Tillinghast recruited a platoon of 220 local farmers to blast away 7,200 tons of rock and remove 7,800 trees. The West is longer and gets tabbed for men's championships. The East has more water and doglegs that can be challenged and, to hear many tell it, trickier greens. It hosts major women's and senior championships. Each carries a USGA slope of 141.

A meteorological intervention just before the 1929 U.S. Open changed the course of golf history or it may be the East Course that gets all the rapturous publicity and not the West. The East Course was designed by Tillinghast to be longer and was scheduled to host Winged Foot's first major. But it got beat up during a severe storm and the event was switched to the West Course. Players quickly learned not to get above the pin on the Winged Foot greens that tend to slope from back to front but Bobby Jones was still stranded 12 feet above the hole on the 72nd hole needing a make a par putt to tie Al Espinosa in the clubhouse. He coaxed the left-to-right breaker into the cup and won a 36-hole playoff the next day by 23 strokes. Generations of golfers since have tried to duplicate that

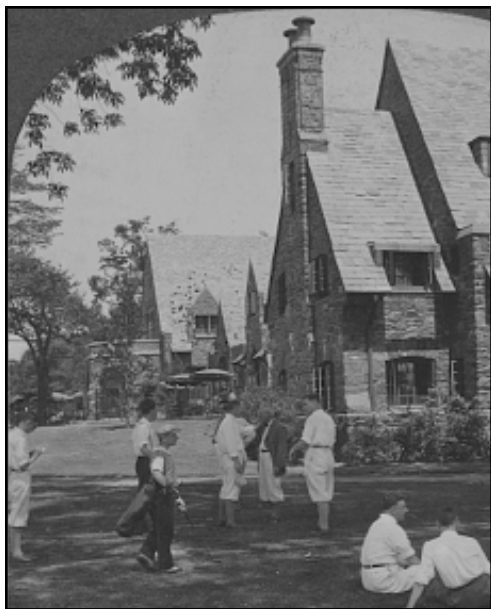


Claude Harmon was one of several golfers to win a major championship from the Winged Foot pro shop.

putt with little success.

Winged Foot is the ultimate player's club both in the pro shop and in the locker room. Head professionals Craig Wood and Claude Harmon each won a Masters while taking time off from the Winged Foot golf shop. Wood also added a U.S. Open title. Assistant pros Jackie Burke Jr. and Dave Marr would graduate into major winners. On Tour and later in the television tower Marr would always remind people that, "Winged Foot (West) has the eighteen best finishing holes in golf."

Winged Foot member Tommy



Preparing for the ultimate test of golf in a round at Winged Foot.

Armour returned three major championship trophies to the Tudor-styled fieldstone clubhouse between 1927 and 1931. Not that any of these players would ever be guaranteed a walkover in a match at Winged Foot where 40 or 50 members carry a handicap index under 2 at any given time.

One of those members who did need strokes on the first tee was David Bernard Mulligan. Born in Pembroke, Ontario in 1871 as the youngest of seven children, the precocious Mulligan passed the Canadian bar at the age of 17 but favored the hospitality business instead. Over the next 40 years he managed the Waldorf Astoria and owned the Windsor Hotel in Montreal. Mulligan played his golf at the Country Club of Montreal and usually provided

transportation for his foursome in an eye-catching Maxwell-Briscoe roadster. There was a bone-rattling roadway on the Queen Victoria Jubilee Bridge just at the club entrance and with his hands numb from gripping the steering wheel his buddies often offered Mulligan the liberty of a "correction shot" on the first tee.

In 1937 Mulligan came to the United States to take over the Biltmore Hotel next to Grand Central Terminal and became a member at Winged Foot. One day he hit one long and wide off the first tee and instinctively reached into his pocket to hit another. He explained to his puzzled playing partners his Canadian custom. When they asked him what he called the shot, in a flash, he said, "A Mulligan."

And so the quintessential player's club, host to seven men and women's U.S. Opens, is also home to the handicapper's helper.



No wonder the mulligan was invented at Winged Foot.

# Congressional - Blue

## Bethesda, Maryland

### 1924

You have to pity Congressmen. Most of their time is spent begging for money. All of those days wasted traveling around to meet Wall Street bankers, captains of industry and deep-pocketed special interest groups. Wouldn't it be much more efficient if all the lawmakers and influence peddlers had one place where they could gather and socialize out of the glare of the public eye? Say a private country club for instance? And just so there will be no doubt who the pleasure palace retreat is for we'll name it Congressional.

How will that fly?

In 1921 it got off the ground awfully fast. The pilots were a pair of Republican representatives from Indiana named Oscar - Bland and Luhring. The Grand Old Party controlled both the House of Representatives and the Senate and Republican Warren Harding was just settling into the White House. Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover was gangbusters for the idea and signed on as the first club president.

But Congressional was a bipartisan effort from the get-go. Former Democratic President



Representative Oscar Bland had the idea to start a golf club where politicians and donors could get chummy.

Woodrow Wilson was handed an honorary membership and so was William Howard Taft, who had taken another job after his Presidency as chief justice of the Supreme Court so all three branches of the federal government were represented. To make sure these government folk could always get a game with the people they represented Bland and Luring sold \$1,000 life memberships to the Carnegies, Hearsts, Harrimans, Chryslers,



Representatives Herbert Taylor of New Jersey, Albert Vestal of Indiana, and William Coyle of Pennsylvania head out for a round on the Blue Course.

and Rockefellers of the world.

Devereux Emmet was recruited to transform a rolling patch of 406 acres in Bethesda, Maryland into a golf course. Lt. Colonel Clarence O. Sherrill of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was on hand to make sure everything went smoothly with the construction crew. More tax payer money went to the Marine Band that entertained at the grand opening on May 23, 1924 for a select group of 7,000 well-wishers. Lest anyone worry that the Washington crowd would not be socially lubricated during Prohibition the invitations included a BYOB.

Sometimes in Washington you get so gung-ho over an idea you forget you have to pay for it. That was the case with Congressional

which operated with no real budget. Almost immediately there were financial woes and in 1940 the club's assets went up for public auction. Congressional was spared a future as a suburban housing development by, wait for it...the federal government. During World War II William "Wild Bill" Donovan commandeered the club to train spies for his clandestine Office of Strategic Services. Learning how to infiltrate the 140,000 square foot Spanish Revival clubhouse - America's largest - led surreptitiously to the creation of the CIA.

With the \$307,000 rent payment and restoration fee from Uncle Sam banked Congressional emerged from World War II as a member's club with an emphasis



Play went on at Congressional as America's largest clubhouse was being readied.

on championship golf and not ethics-challenged political deals. Robert Trent Jones arrived in 1957 to build nine new holes and makeover nine of Emmet's original holes to create the Blue Course. Twenty years later George and Tom Fazio would do the same with the other nine to form the Gold Course.

The Blue Course hosted the 1959 United States Women's Amateur won by 24-year old Curtis Cupper Barbara McIntire. Five years later Jones' brawny course would be the longest ever - at 7,053 yards - U.S. Open test. Tommy Jacobs, who had been the youngest player to compete in the Masters when he was 17 years old in 1952, nonetheless tied the Open scoring record with a 64 in the second round to storm

to a three-stroke advantage over first round leader Arnold Palmer.

To start the final 36 holes on Saturday Ken Venturi fired a 30 on the front nine to pull within two strokes of Jacobs after the third round. It was a rare burst of form from Venturi whose career had ebbed to a low point after three near-misses at the Masters in recent years and a car accident in 1961. Venturi won only \$3,848 the previous year and had not even been invited to the Masters a few months earlier.

The heat in Washington that had shut down the nation's capital in the summers before air conditioning was roasting the Blue Course with temperatures over 100 degrees. Venturi was affected to the point of danger and club member Dr. John



Attorney General Homer Cummings flips a coin for honors on Congressional's first tee. Bobby Jones probably had honors for the next 17 holes in this 1938 match.

Everett accompanied him on the afternoon round, providing wet towels and salt tablets. A marshal walked along with an umbrella to shield Venturi, who would lose eight pounds on the day, from the sun. When Venturi holed his final putt to secure a four-stroke win with an even par 70 his playing partner, 21-year old Raymond Floyd, plucked the ball out of the hole for him.

In the U.S. Open in 1965 at Bellerive Country Club Venturi missed the cut by 11 strokes in his title defense. He had surgery on both hands and won his last Tour event on his childhood course at Harding Park in 1966 and headed off for the broadcast booth

to become one of golf's most popular television announcers. Congressional has continued hosting U.S. Opens as well with popular champions Ernie Els winning in 1997 and Rory McIlroy setting scoring records in 2011. But one thing would not continue after Congressional in 1964 - no longer would the U.S. Open be a test of both skill AND stamina. After that there would be no more 36-hole final day Saturdays.

And about the visionaries who put the wheels for Congressional Country Club in motion, Oscar Bland and Oscar Luhring? The voters threw them both out of office in their re-election bids in 1922.

# Harding Park

## San Francisco, California

### 1925

In 1924 Scottish architect Willie Watson showed up at Lake Merced in the City by the Bay to build some some golf courses. He started with courses on the south side of the lake for the Olympic Club. Then he drew up plans for a course on the north side that was named for Warren Gamaliel Harding, the 29th President of the United States who had died in office of a cerebral hemorrhage two years before while in San Francisco on a speaking tour.

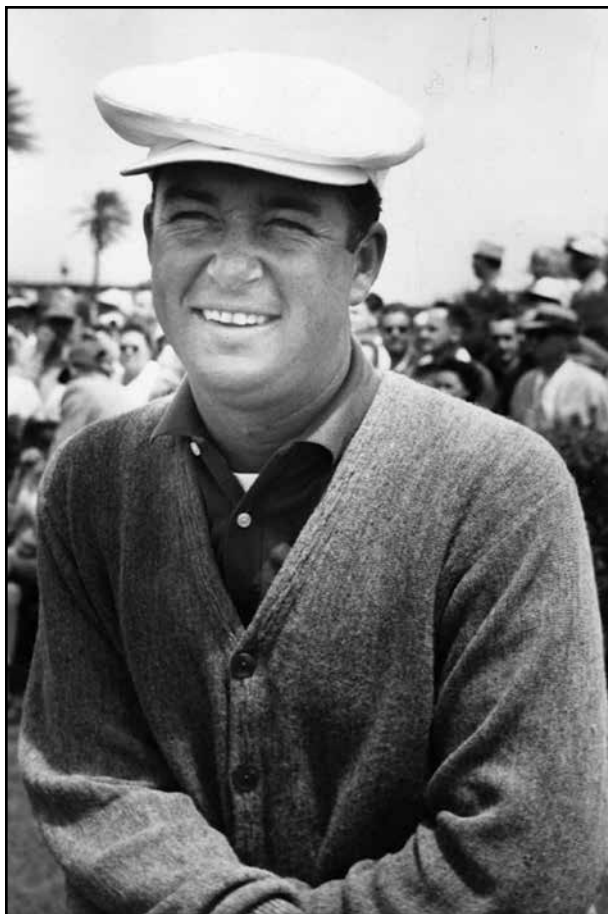
Olympic is a notoriously private group that flashes into the news every decade or so when it hosts a major championship, particularly the U.S. Open in 1955 when an unheralded club pro from Iowa named Jack Fleck beat Ben Hogan by three strokes in a playoff and in 1966 when Arnold Palmer squandered a seven-stroke lead on the final nine holes of the U.S. Open and lost a playoff to Billy Casper. But Harding Park, a public course frequented by a seemingly endless string of outstanding golfers, was almost always making headlines.

Watson and his contractor Sam Whiting, who would sign on as

superintendent at Olympic for 30 years, routed the course through avenues of soaring Monterey Cypress trees, tucking the first nine holes inside the circling home nine. For novice players they included a nine-hole Fleming Course that played to a par 30. Their design fee was \$300. From the time Harding Park opened it was hailed as the finest municipal golf complex in the land.



Not many showered Warren G. Harding's scandal-ridden administration with honors but San Francisco named its municipal links for the 29th President after he died in the city during a speaking tour.



Ken Venturi won three San Francisco City Championships at Harding Park.

There was something about the public track that bred future golf commentators - Venturi and Harding Park regulars Johnny Miller and Bob Rosburg all went into television broadcasting

The San Francisco City Championship was a fixture at Harding Park and often produced golf as fine as any in the country. In 1956 two-time champion Ken Venturi, who played his first rounds at Harding, met defending San Francisco and United States Amateur champion Harvie Ward in the finals. An estimated 10,000 fans turned out to see Venturi win his

third city title 5 and 4.

More often Venturi and Ward were on the same side. That year the young amateurs were paired against a team of seasoned pros at Pebble Beach named Ben Hogan and Byron Nelson. It was promoted as "The Greatest Match Ever Played" and the organizer knew a little about great golf matches - it was Eddie Lowery who had caddied for Francis Ouimet as a ten-year old in the 1913 U.S. Open. He had grown up into an influential San Francisco car dealer. Hogan and Nelson, with 14 majors between them, prevailed 1-up and only three holes were halved with pars.

Future professional major winners George Archer and Juli Inkster would also capture the San Francisco City Championship. Major winners Bob Rosburg and Johnny Miller did not but

they played plenty of rounds at Harding, where Miller claimed he learned how to putt. All the pros showed up at Harding Park in 1944 for the Victory Open and in the 1960s the Lucky International Open sponsored by the Lucky Lager Brewing Company was a Tour fixture. If great courses beget great champions, consider



that six major winners won the eight PGA events at Harding Park: Gary Player, Gene Littler, Jackie Burke, Jr., Archer, Venturi (his last of 14 PGA wins) and Billy Casper.

Worsening conditions at Harding Park forced the PGA to leave and the shabby facilities were not much better for the locals. One San Francisco City Championship was held with 17 temporary greens, white circles painted into bare weed-choked fairways. For Sandy Tatum, one-time USGA president and veteran of 40 City Opens, the deterioration was too much to bear.

Tatum began a serpentine and oft-times torturous crusade to bring the PGA Tour back to the storied public track. A fifteen-month renovation ended in 2005 with the WGC-American Express Championship. Tiger Woods outlasted John Daly in a playoff, further burnishing the club's reputation. In 2009 Harding Park became the first public course to host the Presidents Cup, with the USA downing the International Team 19 1/2 to 14 1/2 behind Woods' 5-0 mark in



Sandy Tatum, left, played in over 40 San Francisco City Opens. Here he displays his trophy from winning the 1942 NCAA Men's title. Tatum became president of the United States Golf Association and championed the rebirth of Harding Park.

the competition. On the horizon in 2020 is the PGA Championship.

When Daly was told about the rich history at Harding Park and how the course had reached its nadir in 1998 when it was used to park cars for the neighboring U.S. Open at the Olympic Club Long John replied, "What they should have done was play the Open here and park the cars at Olympic."

# Tam O'Shanter

Niles, Illinois

1925

If you walk up and down the practice range at any PGA Tour stop today and ask pros what tournament they most want to win you will hear "U.S. Open" or "Masters" or maybe "the Open Championship." Jump into the wayback machine to the 1940s and 1950s, however, and ask the same question and you would just as likely hear "George S. May's All-American."

In an era when touring pros carpooled between tournaments, doubled up at cheap roadside motels and rarely played for first-place checks of more than \$1,000 George S. May - the "S" stood for "Storr" but in golf circles it was considered "Sugar" - staged golf

tournaments where the winner's share was larger than any other event's entire purse.

May was an Illinois farmboy who took his degree from the Illinois State Teacher's College and hit the revival tent circuit selling Bibles in the days before World War I. In the 1920s he transformed himself into an "efficiency expert," what is better known as a management consultant these days. His first client was the forerunner of the Sunbeam Corporation which had just released its first household appliance called the Princess Electric Iron. May thrived pitching his advice to small and medium businesses and in 1929 added offices in New York and San



George May's Prairie-style clubhouse rose on the ashes of the original in the 1930s.

Francisco to supplement his bulky Chicago client list.

May's consultancy business weathered the Great Depression and when the clubhouse of his course, Tam O'Shanter Country Club, burned in April 1936 he stepped in and bought 84% of the stock from the bankrupt owners. A minority owner in the New York Yankees would one day say of the managing partner of the Bronx Bombers, "There is nothing in life quite so limited as being a limited partner of George Steinbrenner." That is how the 80 other members who held the remainder of Tam O'Shanter, designed by Charles Dudley Wagstaff in 1925, would soon feel in May's wake.

Many private clubs around the country folded during the economic hard times of the 1930s and May was going to make sure that Tam O'Shanter was going to be run like a business not subject to the whims of the members' bank balances. He poured \$500,000 into rebuilding a sprawling Prairie-Style concrete-and-glass clubhouse with thirteen Prohibition-era bars sprinkled across its three tiers. In case prospective members could not locate Tam O'Shanter they could find it with a 100-foot high water tank shaped like a white golf ball perched on a crimson red tee.

On the golf course May set greenkeeper Ray Didler to work raising tees, reworking greens and taming the north branch of

the Chicago River that crossed seven holes and had a nasty habit of flooding in the spring. For the convenience of members he installed telephones on every tee. By 1941 May was ready to begin staging national golf tournaments.

George S. May invented the modern golf tournament at Tam O'Shanter, treating golf as a spectator viewing experience for the first time. He built the first grandstands on a golf course. May put up golf's first leaderboards, keeping results fresh with scores called in by a platoon of workers armed with short-wave radio devices. He sold hot dogs and beer and set up outdoor pavilions; fans were also free to go in the clubhouse and try their luck at Tam O'Shanter's slot machines if they so wished.

May printed tournament programs with player information and also wanted players to wear identifying numbers on the course. When some players like Ben Hogan balked, May added bonus money to the checks of those who complied. Eventually a solution was worked out so that the caddies wore the numbers, not the players.

May visited the U.S. Open in 1940 and was appalled at the \$3.30 ticket price. He charged just one dollar and over 20,000 fans a day would come through the Tam O'Shanter gates. Of course, he was able to make up the revenue with sales of programs,



George S. May was golf's greatest showman from his home base at Tam O'Shanter.

refreshments and a cut of the gambling receipts as the game was spread to the masses.

And there were those life-changing purses. Byron Nelson, whose swing was so pure the USGA mimicked it to create its equipment testing machine dubbed "Iron Byron," was one golfer with his eyes always on the prize. Nelson maintained he would play pro golf only until he had enough money to buy a ranch back in Texas. He won four of the first five Tam O'Shanter Opens and so much prize money the players called the event the "Byron Nelson Benefit." After winning a record 18 tournaments in 1945 Nelson had enough money for that ranch and left competitive golf the next year at the age of 34.

A George S. May tournament looked different from other events between the gallery ropes as well. If he was going to stage an All-American Open that would include all Americans and he would often have as many as 20 Black golfers in his fields. And he put on professional tournaments for women with large purses

before there was an LPGA.

In 1953 May was out of the office when a call came from the fledgling American Broadcasting Company (ABC) that had just gone on the air that year and was considering televising the world's richest golf tournament. The Tam O'Shanter World Championship was offering a \$25,000 first prize when Ben Hogan was pocketing \$9,500 total for winning the U.S. Open, the British Open and the Masters that year. And that did not include the contract with May for a series of 25 one-day exhibitions at \$1,000 a pop.

The network offered to put the Tam O'Shanter tournament on the national airwaves if May paid \$32,000. An assistant in the office, Chet Posson, took the call. ABC needed an answer with the tournament only ten days away. Without authorization, Posson agreed. When May found out, he exploded - he would have paid a million dollars for the exposure.

For the world's first nationally televised golf tournament a single camera was rigged atop the wooden grandstand behind

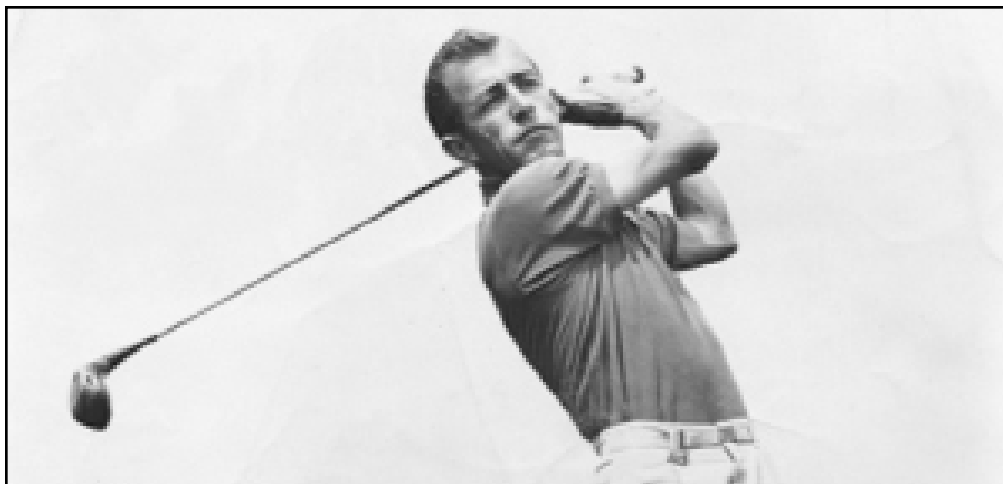
the eighteenth green. ABC slotted one hour for the live telecast. Lew Worsham, whose previous claim to fame had been denying Sam Snead a never-to-be-won U.S. Open in a playoff at St. Louis Country Club in 1947, came to the 18th hole needing a birdie three to get into a playoff with Chandler Harper for the biggest first prize in the history of golf. With ten minutes left in the broadcast, the executives at ABC could not have asked for better sports drama.

Standing on the tee, Worsham had bad memories of a back nine 42 on the final day at Tam O'Shanter that cost him golf's biggest payday the year before. Worsham drove the ball well and selected a MacGregor double service wedge to cover the remaining 104 yards. The ball soared above the Chicago River, slipped past two trees and landed on the front of the green about forty feet short of the pin. Jimmy Demaret, who was doing commentary on the radio, picks up the story: "The ball's running toward the hole. Oh, I'll be damned. It went in." Oops.



After Lew Worsham holed out for an eagle two on the 72nd hole at Tam O'Shanter to win the first televised golf tournament uninitiated viewers could be excused for expecting all tournaments to end that way.

And just like that, ABC signed off from Niles, Illinois with the most dramatic finishing shot in professional golf history having been witnessed on an estimated 646,000 television sets. The next year the U.S. Open was on television and the Masters started broadcasting in 1956. Golf on television has been a staple ever since but only once - when Isao Aoki dunked a 128-yard wedge on the final hole of the 1983



Bob Toski pocketed so much money winning the Tam O'Shanter World Championship that he was able to give up the grind of touring golf and segue into becoming the game's first brand-name teaching instructor.

Hawaiian Open- have television viewers watched a PGA Tour event end with an eagle from the fairway.

May seized his moment after the triumph of the 1953 Tam O'Shanter World Championship by immediately declaring on the 18th green that the next year's event would have double the purse - \$50,000 and 50 exhibitions. Twenty-eight year old Bob Toski won that tournament and after his exhibition contract was fulfilled he left the Tour to spend time with his family and become one of the game's most visible teachers, appearing in some of golf's earliest instruction videos.

It would be television that would bring Tour players the kind of money they once only expected from George May. And those expanded purses would erode

tolerance for the Tam O'Shanter tournaments that *Life* magazine once termed "an 18-ring circus" and the *Saturday Evening Post* called "a cross between a county fair a good airplane crash." For all of May's positive contributions to tournament golf, others were not as well-received. There were the clowns he hired to work the galleries during the tournament, the golfer he paid to wear a costume and compete as the "Masked Marvel" and the picnics that spectators were encouraged to spread out along the fairways.

In 1958, feeling unappreciated, May stopped putting on golf tournaments after holding 34 events and offering \$2 million in prize money in 17 years. At Tam O'Shanter he erected a spite sign stating that everyone was welcome, except PGA pros. But George May was not through

sending tremors throughout the golf world. For the 1960 golf season at Tam O'Shanter May replaced caddies with golf cars. Reaction from the hidebound world of golf was swift.

Joseph Dey, the imperious Executive Director of the USGA said, "Tam O'Shanter must have its reasons, but this can't be done at all clubs. First, some courses are too hilly. Second, there are 6,000 golf courses. Half of them are public where most players can't afford carts. Third, the rules of golf recognize the caddie as a human being and permit a player to consult with him."

Bill Adkins, a Palm Desert, California golf pro, kept his progressive stripes well hidden when he said, "I don't like it. Golf is a game, not a commercial operation." For two decades George May had been trying to

prove that golf was a business and those inside the sport were still not paying attention. But May would only have to suffer such fools for two more years. He died in 1962 from a heart attack at the age of 71.

Tam O'Shanter died along with him - almost. The course was sold in 1966 and the property developed. But the Niles Park District saved enough to open a 2,250-yard nine-hole course in 1970 that included parts of the original first hole and the old 16th remains intact as the third hole. The historic 18th hole is no more although the park encourages golfers to "walk the very spot where Lew Worsham holed out a wedge from 104 yards to win the 1953 World Championship of Golf over Chandler Harper, by one shot!"



Nothing has ever changed the way golf is played more radically than the introduction of motorized golf cars by George Storr May at Tam O'Shanter.

# Yale

## New Haven, Connecticut

### 1926

In the first half of the 20th century most of the best American golfers played their way out of caddie yards. Lately junior golf programs and colleges have been the primary breeding grounds of top players. In 1961 an underclassman from Ohio State named Jack Nicklaus became the first winner of the NCAA Championship who would later win a professional major championship. Ben Crenshaw won three consecutive NCAA titles at the University of Texas in the early 1970s and Phil Mickelson matched his record as an Arizona State Sun Devil. The only year Mickelson did not capture the championship was as a junior and he could console himself with having been the second college student to ever win a PGA Tour event when he birdied the 72nd hole to win the Northern Telecom Open in Tucson. Scott Verplank had been the first when the Oklahoma State Cowboy bested the play-for-money crowd at the 1985 Western Open.

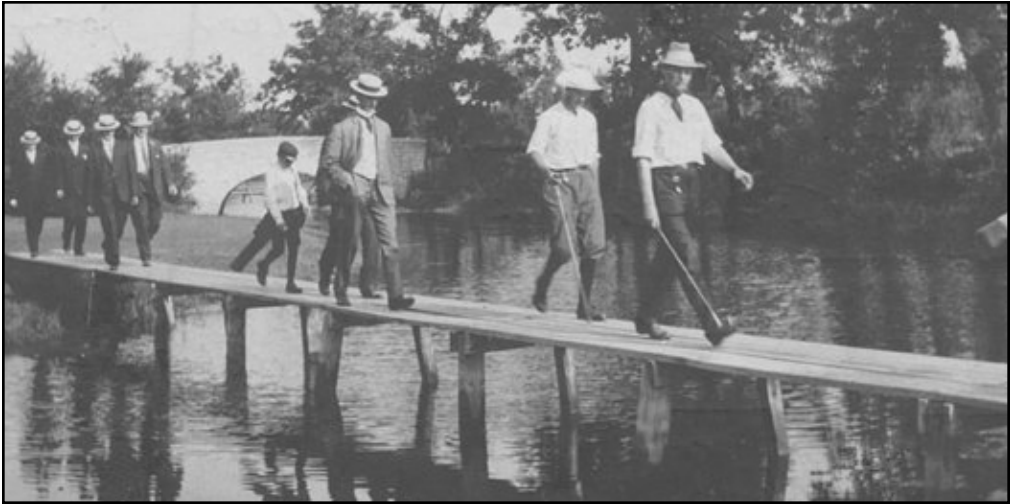
The first American collegiate golf course was laid out on the Princeton University campus in

1895; now named the Springdale Golf Club it is still in use. In March of 1897 representatives from Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Pennsylvania and Columbia met to form the Intercollegiate Golf Association, although "all colleges of America" were invited to send six-man teams to compete for the championship cups. The group accepted an offer from the Ardsley Casino Golf Association on the Hudson River to stage its first tournament two months later.

Players arrived at a private railroad depot to take on the course of Jay Gould, J.P Morgan and William Rockefeller that was called the "finest and longest in the world" by Willie Dunn when he finished it two years prior. Louis P. Bayard, Princeton '98, battled the Ardsley links for 91 strokes to take home the individual cup. In 1904 Chandler Egan, just months removed from Harvard University, became the first college graduate to win the U.S. Amateur.

The Yale team won the first championship. The Yale Golf Club had been organized in 1896 with the encouragement of freshman





**Chandler Egan (the second golfer across the bridge) became the first college graduate national champion when he captured the United States Amateur.**

John Reid, Jr. whose father led the "Apple Tree Gang" of St. Andrew's. Yale continued to dominate early collegiate golf, winning 13 team championships and nine individual titles - including one by Reid in 1898 - before World War I intervened.

The Yalies honed their game on local New Haven courses but players and alumni were constantly agitating for a university-only facility. The opportunity came in 1926. Sarah Rey Tompkins, whose husband Ray had captained Yale national champion football teams in 1882 and 1883, donated a 720-acre estate known as Marvelwood to the university in the name of her late husband. The former home of John M. Griest, who had made New Haven the world's foremost manufacturer of sewing machine attachments, was turned over to Charles Blair Macdonald.

The sage of early American

golf passed the project onto Seth Raynor. Raynor was like no other architect working in American golf in the first decades of the 20th century. He was not Scottish and there is no indication he ever traveled to Britain or even toured noted courses in the United States. He played golf but did not love the sport. Raynor came at golf architecture from a civil engineering background, only leaving the profession to shape Macdonald's masterpiece at the National Golf Links at the age of 34 in 1908.

After about 1915 Macdonald stopped actively designing golf courses and left the architectural details to Raynor, only occasionally dropping in an opinion in an advisory role, as he did at Yale. As was his wont, Raynor moved more earth than any other golf course builder and there was plenty of earth to move on the sprawling



With the most money to build a golf course up to that time Seth Raynor created America's finest collegiate golf course on the Yale University campus.

Griest Estate that was infested with rocks. The construction tab rose to \$400,000 - the most expensive course built to that time.

Raynor's genius was in converting those massive piles of moved dirt into eye-pleasing natural configurations. His architectural sensibilities reflected his



Raynor's signature par-three 9th hole at Yale.

boss who trafficked in creating the classic holes of Europe. At Yale the standard-bearer is the par-three 9th hole which has been praised as the "best inland par three in America." It features a carry over Griest Pond from an elevated perch into a green sixty five yards deep with a five-foot swale across its mid-section, emblematic of the Biarritz hole at Pau, France.

The Course at Yale is considered the best campus golf course in America and Raynor's finest achievement among some 100 golf courses, many of which like Fishers Island and the Camargo Club, are highly regarded. Unfortunately it was also the pinnacle of his career. He died months later at the age of 51, leaving many projects on the drawing table, including the preliminary routing for Cypress Point Golf Club on the Monterey Peninsula.

The Yalies continued to have success on the golf course, winning four more team titles in the 1930s. After the NCAA formed in 1939 Yale won one more time in 1943 to bring its record-holding title of collegiate team championships to 21. Oddly, while the Golf Course at Yale holds many collegiate tournaments it has never hosted the NCAA Division I Men's Golf Championships.

# Oak Hill - East

## Pittsford, New York

### 1926

In 1921 the University of Rochester came knocking on the door with a wild offer. We know you like your little club here, they said, but we really, really want your site on the banks of the Genessee River. Give it to us and we'll give you 355 acres of farm land we've got over in Pittsford. And then they opened a few briefcases filled with George Eastman's Kodak money.

The Oak Hill members had started their club with nine holes back in 1901 and added nine more holes on their 85 acres

in 1910. The club was thriving, everyone was happy. Why would they just give all that up?

It took three years to hash out the details of the land swap. Oak Hill got four times as much land and the university tossed in \$360,000 to ease the relocation pains - enough money to build two golf courses and a Tudor-style clubhouse that would be the envy of any English baronial estate. And they could keep playing on the old course until the new club was ready. The University of Rochester got a new River



The Tudor-style Oak Hill clubhouse by local architect Arthur Headley is a showstopper.

Campus that helped morph the institution from a small liberal arts college to an influential research pioneer.

Donald Ross got the job of designing the courses and truth be told the club did not trade for prime golfing ground. The turf was pretty well worn out after a century of farming. Ross had no qualms about the barren land - it was what he was used to from his youth growing up on Scottish seaside links. He threaded two courses through the property that was pinched in the middle and built small, elevated greens while providing for multiple possibilities of attack.

When the members saw Ross' work they appreciated his thoughtful design but the place looked, well, lacking in joy. What it needed was one or two or 75,000 trees - Dr. John Williams, a pioneer in the use of insulin in charge of the project - stopped counting seedlings after awhile. So Oak Hill grew up as a hybrid of sorts; there were Donald Ross's esteemed green complexes but his intended approach angles were narrowed to whatever the new forest permitted.

But it worked. After the USGA came for the first time in 1949 with the U.S. Amateur, executive director Joe Dey asked club officials, "Where have you been for 20 years?" After that rarely would more than five go by without a big event at Oak Hill.

When the U.S. Open arrived in 1956 Cary Middlecoff won the last of his three major championships. He followed his father and two uncles into dentistry and was commissioned into the U.S. Army in World War II as a dentist. He filled 12,093 teeth during his 18-month hitch but found enough time to practice that he became the first amateur to win the North and South Open in Pinehurst.

After leaving the service Middlecoff joined his father's practice but in 1947 he turned professional at the age of 26. For the next ten years his nameplate stayed on the office door as he won 40 PGA tournaments. The good doctor never filled another tooth.

Lee Trevino was another military man who joined the tour late, at age 27. But when he came to Oak Hill for the U.S. Open in 1968 that was about all he had in common with Dr. Cary Middlecoff. Trevino never knew his father and was raised in Dallas by his mother and grandfather in a house with no electricity or running water. He was picking Texas cotton at the age of five and learned golf in caddie yards. At a par-three course he hustled bets playing with a taped-up Dr. Pepper bottle.

Whereas Cary Middlecoff had already claimed three dozen titles before teeing it up at Oak Hill, Trevino was in his second year on the Tour with no wins. He would also be playing a different course.

Robert Trent Jones, a Rochester native who claimed he learned to love golf architecture watching Ross create Oak Hill, was brought in to toughen the course. He had his sons measuring drives at the 1956 Open so he could best plan the course's new defenses.

Although he had won Rookie of the Year in 1967, after he shot 69 in the opening round on the East Course Trevino sat in a golf cart enjoying a post-round beer and no one came by to say anything to him. The same happened the next day after a 68.

But after two more 69s to become the first player to post four rounds in the 60s in the U.S. Open, everyone knew Lee Trevino's name. Finishing second was another player whose first-ever PGA Tour win was a U.S. Open - Jack Nicklaus. The Golden Bear would finish second to Trevino in four of the Merry Mex's six major wins.

Nicklaus would extract a measure of revenge at Oak Hill in 1980. In a year when Trevino won the Vardon Trophy for low stroke average Nicklaus ravaged the East Course in six-under par to win the PGA Championship by a then-record seven strokes. Nicklaus was the only player in the championship to finish under par. No surprise. Only ten players have ever finished 72 holes at Oak Hill's East Course under par in five major stroke play events.

Nicklaus was also playing a



The golf world was introduced to a different kind of superstar at Oak Hill in 1968 - a Marine veteran who learned his golf on a driving range named Lee Trevino.

different course in 1980 than he had seen in 1968, besides the oaks growing for another dozen years. George and Tom Fazio came to Rochester in 1979 with more than a little touch-up on the agenda. They replaced four of the original Ross holes which raised more than a few hackles. Oak Hill East looks different than Donald Ross left it but the course is no less revered.

Dr. Williams' trees and Ross's landforms come together to form a unique memorial along the 13th hole - the Hill of Fame. Beginning in 1956 Williams began the tradition of honoring "persons of character" in the game of golf by affixing plaques to trees on the hill. To date 42 men and women have been so honored.

# Riviera

## Pacific Palisades, California

### 1927

Hollywood stars are used to doors swinging open for them wherever they go. That was certainly not the case at the Los Angeles Country Club that had started in 1897 amidst oil wells and dusty cattle pastures. The LACC treated movie people like box office poison after the studios started to make films on the old Wilcox ranch at Hollywood and Vine in 1910.

With the Q scores of both Hollywood and golf on the rise in the 1920s the celebrity elite needed a place to play. Some followed Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford to Riviera, which was started in 1925 by the Los Angeles Athletic Club. Others, like Spencer Tracy, Humphrey Bogart, and Clark Gable landed at Bel-Air. As for the LACC, the members never did cotton to movie folk. Bing Crosby bought a house on the course but was still rejected for membership. Cowboy hero Randolph Scott became a member only after he quit acting and got in the oil business.

George C. Thomas Jr. designed both Bel-Air and Riviera - and

the North Course at Los Angeles Country Club, which the USGA often laments as the best course in America never to hold the U.S. Open. Thomas was the son of a wealthy Philadelphia banker who possessed a marked affinity for creating beauty, as befits a man who hybridized 40 roses in his lifetime and authored several books on the breeding and care of cultivars. He also raised English setter dogs and won Best of Breed at the Westminster Kennel Club in 1901 and 1903. And Thomas knew his way around a golf course, playing to a two handicap at times, with scores often dipping into the 60s.

Thomas dabbled with golf course design with a nine-holer in Marion, Massachusetts in 1904 and then laid out his first 18 holes on the family estate in suburban Philadelphia that would become Whitemarsh Country Club. His first outside commission came in 1910 in Spring Lake, New Jersey where Thomas learned the beauty of bunkering from George Duncan, restorer of several important holes at Royal Dornoch in Scotland. Thomas took no fee

for the work, his last on the East Coast.

During World War I Thomas served as a captain in the United States Army, reportedly having outfitted his unit in 1917 with his own money. On the Army application he listed his profession as "Executor-Trustee-Author." The 43-year old was also an expert aviator who survived three major crashes at the European front.

Thomas moved to California after the war; his interest in golf course design revived. At Riviera, he was dealt the worst golfing ground in his Southern California experience. He balked at taking the job after seeing the barren Santa Monica canyon and only agreed if Billy Bell was made Construction Supervisor. The duo were able to make magic in the arroyos and Alister MacKenzie was moved to remark upon visiting Riviera that Thomas' design was "as nearly perfect as any I have seen." The earth shaping came at a steep price - at \$243,827.63 Riviera was one of the most expensive courses in the world.

One of the most unique touches Thomas gave Riviera was a bunker in the middle of the green at the par-three 6th, tilting the putting surface to still afford players on the wrong side an



Early action on the Riviera's famous 6th green.

opportunity to two-putt. Thomas reasoned that if the bunker was more annoyance than challenge it could always be filled in. The bunker is still there and in a twelve-year stretch of keeping records during the Los Angeles Open from 2003 until 2014 the pros recorded 19 four-putts and one five-putt on the hole.

Thomas hit the inaugural tee shot at Riviera on June 24, 1927 and then, having designed all of 12 courses, authored the recognized masterpiece *Golf Architecture in America: Its Strategy and Construction* and drifted back to horticulture before dying in 1933.

In an effort to stave off mudslides in 1934 kikuyu grass, a hardy, drought-resistant turf native to East Africa, was planted on the hillsides. The verdant grass became synonymous with Riviera as it was planted in the fairways (where it gives golfers plump,



Shortly after discovering golf Babe Didrickson became one of the greatest players ever - including against the men on the PGA Tour.

spongy lies), the rough (where it can be tamed by only the strongest of wrists) and the green collars (where loss of control of the club at impact is a very real possibility).

The Los Angeles Open started in 1926 and Riviera quickly joined the rotation of host courses; since 1973 the event has been held almost exclusively at Riviera. The L.A. Open was a true "open" - anyone who qualified could tee it up in the tournament. That meant African-American Bill Spiller in 1945 when it was the only regular tour stop not to exclude minorities. Spiller, who missed the cut, hardly made news that year at Riviera since Babe Didrickson Zaharias was also in the field.

Mildred Didrickson grew up

in Beaumont, Texas excelling at every sport she tried. She captured the national imagination in the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics as a 21-year old winning gold medals in the 80-meter hurdles, the javelin throw and the high jump. Sportswriter Grantland Rice suggested that she take up golf and three years later she was playing in the Los Angeles Open, when all you needed to do to play was fill out an application form.

Didrickson missed the cut at the Griffith Park course shooting 84-81 but she was likely distracted by her playing partner, a professional wrestler named George Zaharias - the "Crying Greek from Cripple Creek." The couple married before the year was out.

Zaharias stuck with golf and began winning women's professional tournaments - she would win 48 and ten considered "majors" in her career - while setting her sights on a return to the Los Angeles Open. She missed qualifying in 1944 but shot 76-76 the next year at Baldwin Hills, another George Thomas course, to make the field for the big tournament. And she had played from the men's tees.

Unlike 1935, Babe's appearance was not treated as a sideshow. She was paired with Ed Furgol, a future U.S. Open winner from Utica, New York who played with a permanently bent left elbow that was the souvenir of a childhood playground accident,



and Ivan Sicks. Zaharias opened with a 76 and made the 36-hole cut but missed the 54-hole cut that was in effect at that time and failed to cash a PGA check. Babe Didrickson Zaharias would be the last woman to play on the men's PGA Tour until Annika Sorenstam teed it up in the Colonial Invitational in 2003, where she also missed the cut.

In 1948 Riviera became the first course west of the Rocky Mountains to host a U.S. Open. Ben Hogan won by three with a record total of 278 for his third win at Riviera in 18 months. In 1950, less than a year after a near-fatal car accident Hogan tied Sam Snead over 72 holes before succumbing in an 18-hole playoff.

The next year Hogan's comeback was dramatized on film by Hollywood in *Follow The Sun* with

Glenn Ford in the lead role. Snead and Cary Middlecoff and Jimmy Demaret appear in the movie. Hogan did not but he worked with Ford, an enthusiastic golfer, before shooting began and he was on set at Riviera calling for retakes when the actor's form did not meet his standards.

Riviera has taken several other star turns for nearby Hollywood. Katherine Hepburn, who was a member who preferred playing from the white tees, filmed *Pat and Mike* with Spencer Tracy in 1950 and *The Caddy* produced the memorable foursome of Dean Martin, Jerry Lewis, Bing Crosby and Bob Hope. This time Hogan made a cameo in the comedy, along with Snead, Byron Nelson and Julius Boros. In Los Angeles golf Riviera has always had star power.



The inspiring approach into Riviera's home hole, the uphill 18th.

# Medinah - #3

Medinah, Illinois

1928

If there was a Clubhouse Hall of Fame Medinah would be a first balloter - no question. Horse racing has Churchill Downs' white spires, golf has Medinah's Byzantine-flavored green domes.

The Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, known better as the Shriners, organized in New York City in 1872 as a fraternal social club. The members had a fascination for the mystical lands of the Middle East, hence the exotic name. Chicagoans especially took to the Shriners and by the early 20th century set out to build the greatest Shrine temple

in America, with a banquet hall capable of seating 2,300 hungry Shriners.

To design the building that would consume half of a downtown Wabash Avenue block the Medinah Shriners picked two of their members, Harris Huehl and Richard Gustave Schmid. Schmid had trained under Henry Hobson Richardson, the greatest architect of the 19th century, but after visiting Istanbul to study Islamic architecture he traded Richardson's Romanesque arches for Moorish onion domes.

In the 1920s the Medinah Shriners decided they needed a



It is easy to forget you came to play golf when you arrive at the Moorish-styled Medinah clubhouse.

country retreat. And it would have to be big. They purchased 640 acres in suburban Chicago but it scarcely seemed enough with everything that was planned - two 18-holes golf courses, a 9-hole course for the ladies, a gun club, a baseball field, a swimming pool that would be the second largest body of water in Chicago after Lake Michigan, tennis courts, polo field, ski jump and toboggan slide. And an 11,000-seat sports arena and amphitheater. By comparison, newly opened Wrigley Field had a seating capacity of 15,000.

The focal point for all this athletic hustle and bustle would be a clubhouse designed by Schmid. Schmid brought along his Moorish sensibilities and went to work on his \$870,000 budget. He constructed two towers, a campanile and a lighthouse to frame the 60,000 square-foot structure. The centerpiece is a 60-foot high rotunda. Schmid did, however, channel mentor Richardson with his inclusion of bold entry arches and arched windows in groups of three.

The Moorish themes do not end at the porte-cochere. Gustav Brand, a long-time leader of Marshall Fields' design team, decorated the interior with Egyptian-themed murals and capped off the elegant confection with a trompe l'oeil ceiling in the ballroom. Everything on the grounds was placed behind a Moorish-styled gatehouse.

Tom Bendalow was assigned the task of building the golf courses for the 1,500 members. He had the first one ready by 1925 and the last one, Course No. 3 intended for women's play, opened in 1928. It was ultimately this relief course that Medinah would choose to showcase. A.W. Tillinghast re-worked No. 3 during the Great Depression and the golf world stopped by regularly - three Western Opens (1939, 1962, 1966), three U.S. Opens, (1949, 1975, 1990) one U.S. Senior Open, (1988) and one PGA Championship, (1999) - before the end of the century. Byron Nelson won here and so too did Gary Player, Hale Irwin and Tiger Woods.

Woods won his first PGA Championship after holding off exuberant Spanish 19-year old Sergio Garcia who introduced himself to the American television audience by closing his eyes and slashing a 6-iron from the base of a red oak on the right side of the 16th fairway and onto the green. The tree, one of some 4,161 (each one was counted) on the course, got sick and was removed a decade later after thousands of recreational golfers tried to recreate the shot in the intervening years.

Rees Jones was called in during 2002 to bulk up No. 3 to a beefy 7,561 yards for the 2006 PGA Championship - the longest course ever played in a



**“Lighthorse” Harry Cooper, born in England and reared in Texas, won more PGA tournaments without a major title than any golfer in history - 29, including the first three professional events staged at Medinah.**

major championship. The PGA of America would find almost 100 more yards for the 2012 Ryder Cup which the European team took home by winning eight singles matches on Sunday. Reveling in one of the greatest comebacks in Cup history the European press quickly enshrined the moment as the “Miracle at Medinah.”

While Bendalow’s work on No. 3 has been stretched and twisted

to a point where he would likely no longer recognize it, the club took a different tack on Course No. 2 and ordered a faithful restoration. Despite their one-of-a-kind clubhouses and grandiose setting the Shriners are a blue collar fraternal organization and Medinah was not a rich man’s club. Its solvency depended on numbers and when dues dipped during the Depression and World War II the club was forced to shut down No. 2 and members took over the groundskeeping. Membership was opened to non-Shriners. New members and tournament revenues kept the gates from slamming shut.

After No. 2 reopened none of the millions of dollars poured into No. 3 was ever siphoned its way. Tom Doak did a renovation of No. 1 but by

the time \$3.6 million was freed up for No. 2 in 2015 Medinah realized it had an untouched Tom Bendalow gem and that money will go into a freshening and not a makeover. No. 2 will be one of the few among Bendalow’s more than 600 designs to make it into the 21st century in its original configuration. A one-of-a-kind original, just like the Medinah clubhouse.

# Cypress Point

## Pebble Beach, California

### 1928

Alister MacKenzie put down a golf ball and asked Marion Hollins to hit it across an angry finger of the Pacific Ocean. Hollins, who had won the Women's Amateur in 1921, hit the ball 219 yards and that is where MacKenzie sited his green for one of the most photographed par threes in the world, the 16th at Cypress Point Golf Club.

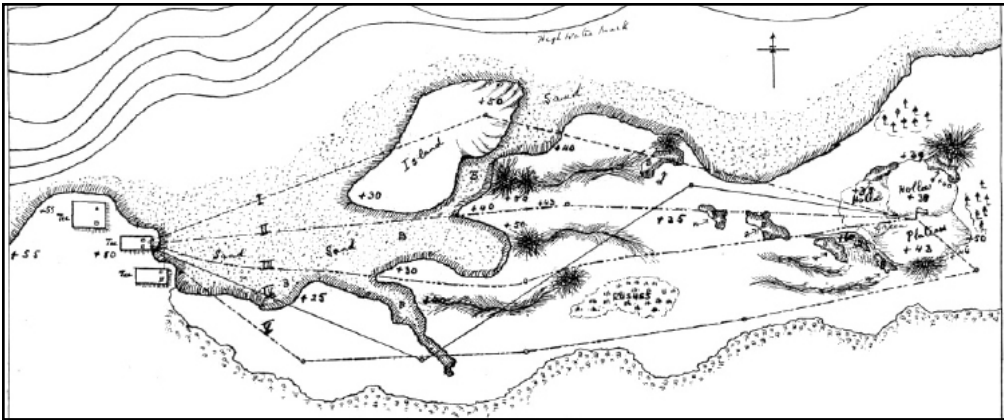
The multi-talented Hollins was the person responsible for MacKenzie being there in the first place. She was a master equestrian who boasted a men's handicap in polo, the only woman to hold one. She traveled in fast business circles and was given the task of developing Cypress Point for Samuel B. Morse and his Pebble Beach Company. Seth Raynor had been her first choice for the job but he died unexpectedly of pneumonia with drawings on the table.

Hollins then turned to 56-year old Alister MacKenzie. MacKenzie had been trained as a

surgeon and worked for the British army during the Boer War in South Africa. In 1907 he helped found the Alwoodley Golf Club and designed the golfing grounds by adapting camouflage techniques he had seen the Boers use to make "artificial cover indistinguishable from nature." MacKenzie became more involved in golf architecture and in 1914 won a hole design contest sponsored by *Country Life* magazine and adjudicated by the British golf writer Bernard Darwin. MacKenzie's par four hole allowed for five alternate routes



Marion Hollins, a former U.S. Women's Amateur Champion, drove Cypress Point into golfing royalty.



This winning drawing of a golf hole helped launch Dr. Alister MacKenzie's design to the green and was created by Charles Blair Macdonald as the finishing hole for his Lido Golf Club course on Long Island.

A budding golf design career was interrupted by World War I. This time he served the British Army as a camoufler rather than a field surgeon. Afterwards MacKenzie traded surgery for golf course design and in 1920 wrote a slender book called *Golf*

*Architecture* which contained his "13 General Principles of Architecture." He had not even designed 13 courses at the time.

In 1926 MacKenzie, partly in flight from a sour marriage, embarked on an overseas odyssey that would produce Royal Melbourne in Australia, Crystal Downs in Michigan and Cypress Point. On Monterey Peninsula MacKenzie teamed with Robert



Alister MacKenzie found his design philosophies for golf holes as a surgeon in the Boer War.

Hunter whose accomplishments were almost as diverse as those of Marion Hollins. He wrote several influential books on socialism, was a reformer for the poor, taught Economics and English at the University of California at Berkeley and played amateur golf at the national level. Hunter stayed on site to see to the implementation of the golf course.

Before MacKenzie left Monterey Hollins hired him for a multi-million dollar project of her own for the Pasatiempo Golf Club in Santa Cruz. Pasatiempo would become a bucket list public golf course destination. The course name comes from the Spanish for "passing of time" and that suited MacKenzie perfectly. He built a house on the 6th hole, a place where he "could play golf in his pajamas." In fact, the good doctor found a "golfing epiphany" in his ball striking that enabled him to go from an ordinary golfer to shooting "in the 70s after 60" as he wrote in his book *The Spirit of St. Andrews*.

Although among the most private of clubs the public was used to a glimpse of Cypress Point every year as the course formed a troika with Pebble Beach Golf Links and first Monterey Peninsula Country Club and then Spyglass Hill for the Bing Crosby National Pro-Am Golf Championship. Of course the 16th hole was the star and seldom failed to live up to its billing.



**The multi-talented Robert Hunter was better known for his socialist politics but could also do a little golf architecture if need be.**

Porky Oliver, a gallery favorite from the caddie yards of Wilmington, Delaware renowned for his good humor and happy-go-lucky attitude, smiled through a 16 in 1954. Five years later Hans Merrell, an Ohio club pro, topped that with a 19 - and none were penalty strokes. In 1985 Brett Upper prepared to play a recovery shot from the beach when a caddie stopped him to wait for one of his amateur partners. Before he could re-address the ball and play the shot a wave came in and carried the Titleist out to sea. Once the event became televised viewers would be reminded each year that the 16th at Cypress Point had only



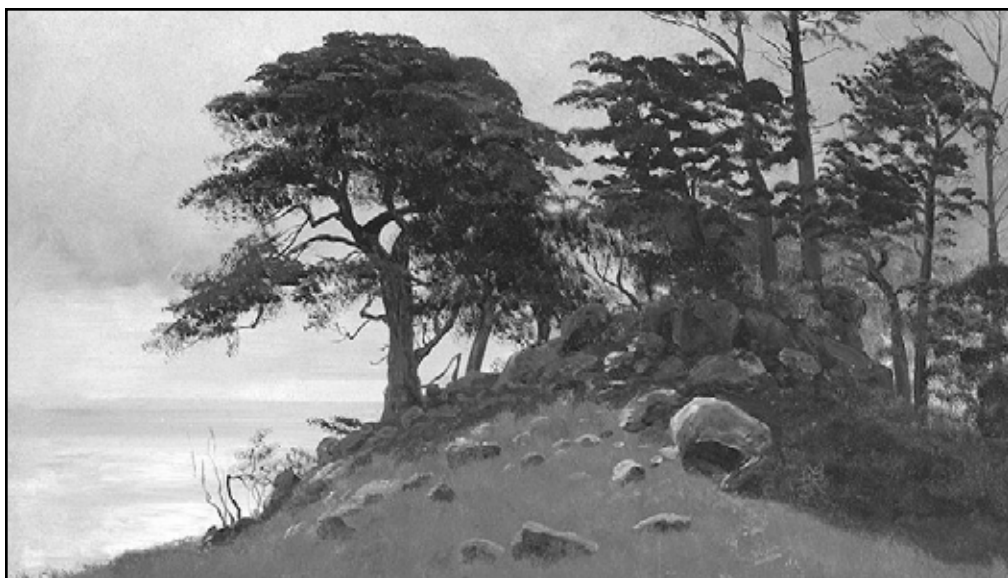


Alister MacKenzie first envisioned golf's most spectacular par-three as a par four. Pros often played the 16th with a lay-up and a chip anyway.

been aced six times - and one of those was by tournament host Bing Crosby.

In 1991 the PGA Tour enacted an anti-discrimination policy for clubs hosting tournaments. Cypress Point had women members but no African-Americans and none

on its seven-year waiting list. With a tiny membership of less than 250 it was not going to be integrated any time soon and the club ended its association with the PGA Tour after nearly half a century. The doors to the Sistine Chapel of Golf were closed.



Before artists with wedges showed up, Cypress Point attracted artists with brushes. This was the view of leading 19th century landscape artist Alfred Bierstadt.



# Banff Springs

## Banff, Alberta

### 1929

Go to many Canadian national parks and Americans will soon see something unfamiliar at such parks back in the States - golf. Canadian moose and elk and bear wander the fairways right along with the golfers.

Canada, which had only formally split from England in 1867, came early to the national park game. In 1883 a Canadian Pacific Railway construction crew stumbled across a cave containing hot springs at the foot of Sulphur Mountain, known today as the Cave and Basin. Almost immediately the area was protected as a federal reserve. In 1887 "Rocky Mountains Park" was increased to 418 square miles to become Canada's first national park and the world's third.

From the beginning Canada, with a much smaller population than the United States, created its national parks with an eye for tourism. And so by 1888 a luxury railway hotel designed by Shingle Style specialist Bruce Price was receiving guests. It was called Banff after a shire in Scotland that was the birthplace of two Canadian Pacific Railway officials.

Canadian national parks were places to ski, play tennis - and play golf. Resort pro William Thompson designed the first nine holes for play at Banff in 1911. But he proved to be a better instructor than golf hole planner. The railway quickly realized that his efforts were not worthy of the place they were calling the "Castle in the Rockies." So they tracked down the biggest name in golf architecture, Donald Ross, to do the location at the base of the jagged 9,672-foot Mount Rundle proud.

In 1922 Parks Canada summoned Thompson to Jasper Forest Park north of Banff to scout out a location for a nine-hole course. The project's funding ran dry and the Canadian National Railway took over the building of a first class railroad destination resort. New 51-year old railroad president Henry Worth Thornton, an Indiana native, immediately decided the remote outpost required a golf course and he recruited Stanley Thompson - no relation to William - for the job.

Thompson hailed from Ontario and learned his golf as a caddy at



The setting for the Canadian Pacific Railway's "Castle in the Rockies."

the Toronto Golf Club. He was one of five golfing brothers whose exploits on the links earned them recognition as "The Amazing Thompsons." Frank and Bill were national amateur champions and Nicol and Matthew were long-time club pros. And Stanley was thought to be the best player of the lot.

In 1915 Thompson left for World War I to serve as a 22-year old Field artilleryman. He survived the war and prepared for a career in golf design by playing and studying the golf courses of the British Isles. In the early 1920s Thompson was being discussed among the leading golf architects in Canada but his work at Jasper Park ended the conversation. Alister MacKenzie

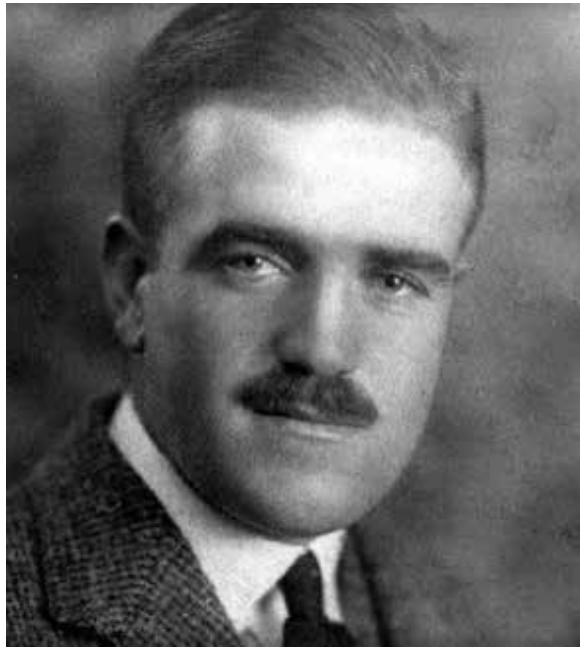
wrote, "In Jasper Park Lodge Golf Course, Canada has taken the lead in golf course architecture and has produced 18 holes that within the whole scope of my experience and knowledge are not surpassed."

Thompson was soon in Banff, reworking the Ross course. Ross may have been without peer routing a golf course but no one could take advantage of the natural beauty of the land better than Thompson. And in the Bow River Valley Thompson was working was a canvas unmatched on the continent. He liked to start by picking the most dramatic sites for his one-shot holes. At Banff that meant the Devil's Cauldron, the fourth hole, where the tee shot rises from an elevated

granite shelf and flies - hopefully - across a glacier-fed blue-green pond into the profile of Mount Rundle before dropping onto an exquisitely-bunkered green.

Thompson kept only one of Ross' green sites - the second. He imported trainload after trainload of rich Alberta plains topsoil to rework the course with horse teams and scores of workers. Banff soon promised to be the most expensive golf course ever devised. When Thompson had finished racing through his allotted budget Canadian Pacific Railway head William Van Horne boarded his private coach and rode out to Banff, anxious to see the new creation. He discovered a handful of golf holes barely half-built. Thompson, experienced in sweet talking his money men after his trials in Jasper, walked Van Horne out to the Devil's Cauldron and by the time the men returned to the hotel he had his money. Banff Springs is considered to be the first course ever to cost \$1,000,000 to build.

That money was not meant to make Banff Springs a fear-inducing dragon in the manner of a Pine Valley. When Thompson visited the celebrated New Jersey course he expressed his admiration but made it clear he would not be emulating its penal



Stanley Thompson worked with golf's first million-dollar budget at Banff. He co-founded the American Society of Golf Course Architects in 1948 with Donald Ross and Robert Trent Jones.

heart. To the contrary, Thompson once wrote, "The most successful course is one that will test the skill of the most advanced player, without discouraging the 'duffer,' while adding to the enjoyment of both. This is not an easy task, but is by no means an insoluble one. The absence of the cross bunkers has largely made it possible. One should always keep in mind that more than 85% of the golfers play 90 or over. These are the men that support the clubs and therefore the course should not be built for the men who play in the 70 class."

Thompson often sited bunkers where they would not be in play but which added to the aesthetic



Stanley Thompson laid out the Banff Springs golf course along the glacier-fed Bow River.

appeal of a golf hole while focusing the player's eye on the goal. He would sometimes place traps close to the tee for, as he liked to point out, the poor player enjoys watching his ball fly across the sand as much as the scratch player.

The Stanley Thompson Society has found 178 golf courses that Thompson either constructed or remodeled before his death of an aneurysm in 1953, including 26 in the United States. His design canon includes courses in Waterton Lakes National Park, Elk Island National Park, Fundy National Park, Prince Edward Island National Park and Cape Breton National Park where his

Highland Links is regarded as a must-play "mountains and ocean" course.

The railway added nine more holes at Banff Spring in 1988. Where golf courses were once considered one of best uses to preserve natural open space, that thinking has changed. As the Canadian National Parks Policy on golf courses now states: "Due to the amount of land they require and the need for intense manipulation of natural regimes, no new golf courses will be constructed in National Parks and, subject to environmental assessment requirements, expansions to existing golf courses will not be considered."

# Firestone - South

## Akron, Ohio

### 1929

There had been other golf courses corporations built for their employees before Harvey Firestone hit away in 1929 to christen his new gift to his rubber tire workers. The DuPont Company, which had started making black gunpowder on the banks of the Brandywine River in Wilmington, Delaware in 1802, built an employee clubhouse and trapshooting range in 1910. "The Big Noise" gave way to golf in 1920 with the construction of nine holes with sand greens. The DuPont Country Club would expand into four courses and boast more than 10,000 members.

John Henry Patterson, founder of the National Cash Register Company, directed the construction of nine corporate holes in Dayton, Ohio in 1914. George F. Johnson, the head of the Endicott-Johnson Shoe Company and considered one of the most benevolent corporate overlords in the annals of American business, created the En-

Joie Golf Club in the Susquehanna River valley in Endicott, New York in 1927. Johnson's workers could play the course for a quarter.

En-Joie would go on to host the B.C. Open on the PGA Tour for 35 years, the DuPont Country Club would entertain the LPGA Championship for many years and in 1969 Raymond Floyd would win a PGA Championship at the NCR Country Club on its South Course designed by Dick Wilson. By the 1960s there were an estimated 100 companies that supported country clubs for their employees. But none of these



The Neoclassical pale-rose stone clubhouse of the DuPont Country Club cost the company nearly \$3 million to build for its employees.



Harvey Firestone did not believe golf was a game only for people like him - rich.

corporate clubs would ever be as famous as Firestone, golf's most ubiquitous television star.

In 1915 Harvey Firestone acquired 1,000 acres of rolling farmland south of his bustling Firestone Tire and Rubber Company plant in Akron, Ohio. He hired landscape architect Alling DeForest, a student of Frederick Law Olmsted who specialized in arty estates for many of Firestone's industrialist friends, to design a worker's paradise. When the golf course was added in 1929 William Herbert "Bert" Way, a transplant from Devon, England, executed the plans. Way finished as runner-up in the 1899 U.S. Open at Baltimore Country Club and apprenticed with Willie Dunn at Shinnecock Hills before migrating to Ohio in 1901 to build the Euclid Golf Club on John Rockefeller land. Way found more than enough commissions

in Ohio to keep him busy for the next three decades.

Firestone scoffed at the idea that golf was just a game for the rich and believed it was an invigorating exercise everyone should enjoy. He pegged the Firestone Country Club membership fee at \$35 a year per family and paid for the rest out of company coffers. The course could only hold 600 playing members and when the first tee filled up it was the executives, not the "clock workers," who were told to pack their golf bag and find a private club. A second course, the North Course, would not come along until 1969 to help relieve the crush.

Professional golf came to Firestone in 1954 with the Rubber City Open. Tommy Bolt torched the first field by five strokes to claim the \$2,400 top prize with a total of 265, 23 under par. Afterward Bolt, who had earned the nickname "Terrible Tommy" with his penchant for tossing clubs, claimed that he would be "Tame Tommy" from then on. But after 1959 Firestone was looking for more menace from Way's course.

They got it from Robert Trent Jones. The World Golf Hall of Fame architect bulked up the course to more than 7,000 yards and shaved two strokes off of the par. He peppered the fairways and greens with 50 new bunkers and added subtle contours to the



The Firestone clubhouse in the 1950s.

newly heroic layout. The first test for the new Firestone jewel came in the 1960 PGA Championship where television would find a new star.

It was not Jay Hebert who won the tournament with an over-par score of 281. It was the 16th hole, a 625-yard brute that curled around a pond at the end. "The Monster" had never been reached in two shots and Arnold Palmer was determined to become the first to do so.

Palmer was never playing better than in 1960. He won the Masters and invented "The Charge" at Cherry Hills to win the U.S. Open with a final round 65. He crossed the pond for the British Open for the first time and finished second to Kel Nagle at St. Andrews,

rejuvenating the world's oldest golf tournament to Americans. Palmer was the heavy favorite to win the PGA.

He opened with a 67 and was quickly leading the tournament. But that changed in the third round when he came to the 16th tee and disdained the lay-up. His fairway wood approach dunked into the pond. When he finally picked his ball out of the hole it was after eight disastrous strokes. The King never would win a PGA Championship.

Jack Nicklaus had his run-ins with "The Monster" as well. In the 1975 PGA Championship he hooked his tee ball into a stream on the left, knocked his recovery with a 6-iron behind a tree in the right rough and was forced



Private Tommy Bolt watches Lieutenant Bobby Locke go after a drive in a Services Golf Tournament in Rome. In the post-World War II years Bolt would win a U.S. Open (and the first Rubber City Open) and Locke would capture four Open championships.

to lay open a nine-iron to fly the ball over the pond to the green. He drained a 25-footer for par on his way to making up five strokes on leader Bruce Crampton and winning the tournament.

Television loved to bring viewers the struggles of the professionals on a course that Lee Trevino said, "wore out his four-wood." There were the major tournaments at Firestone South, the regular Tour stop for the American Golf Classic and the World Series of Golf. In 1974 alone there were three nationally televised professional events beamed from Firestone. In recent years the South Course has been the host site for a World Golf Championship event, the

WGC-Bridgestone Invitational.

It certainly has not hurt Firestone's television ratings that golf's legends have made the South Course their personal playground. Jack Nicklaus won five times at Firestone and Tiger Woods, who holds the course record at 259, has won the WDC-Bridgestone a remarkable eight times. Only Sam Snead ever won the same PGA event eight times, the Greensboro Open and that was at two different courses. Oh, unless you count Woods himself who has reached the winner's circle at Bay Hill eight times and won eight tournaments at Torrey Pines, including his last major, the U.S. Open in 2008.



# Tall Maples

## Sea Breeze, New York

### 1930

Like its big brother, miniature golf in America grew from elitist roots. When the scaled-down version of the game first appeared on manors in the English countryside around the turn of the 20th century it was known as "garden golf" or "lawn golf." In America, the father of "Lilliputian golf" was James Wells Barber.

Barber was an Englishman with golf in his blood but no time to play as he built a steamship line with his brother Herbert that provided the only freight service between New York City and France for thirty years. Eventually Barber began spending time in

Pinehurst building one estate and then another. On his second property in 1917 Barber teamed up with another golf nut and amateur landscape architect from Montclair Golf Club in New Jersey named Edward H. Whiswell to makeover his garden with a small eighteen-hole course.

Everything was laid out on compacted sand, with tiny greens that were elevated to promote drainage. All of the holes were designed to theoretically be made in one shot and ranged from twelve feet to seventy-one feet. Four of the longer holes were intended to be played with a niblick chip shot. Some holes



Most miniature golf courses do not boast a clubhouse like Thistle Dhu once did.

featured artificial obstructions like concrete mounds and others boasted natural obstacles, like the opening hole with a small oak tree sixteen feet from the tee in direct stymie of the hole. As Whiswell later wrote, "It is necessary to put a slight cut on the ball as to give it perfect distance. Then, you may get your one."

The story whispered through the Carolina pines is that when the work was finished Barber stood back satisfied and said "This'll do" in his British accent and the course was dubbed Thistle Dhu. Rules were drawn up and guests invited for tournaments. All were universally charmed. The finest American woman's player of the day, Glenna Collett, said it was "a lovely course." Thistle Dhu was always private but in 2012 the Pinehurst Resort opened an enormous putting course for its guests and resurrected the name Thistle Dhu.

Thistle Dhu and similar efforts in the 1920s were courses of sand or grass. That would change thanks to Thomas McCulloch Fairbairn, an Englishman who was stranded without golf on his Mexican cotton plantation. To fashion something resembling grass Fairbairn took crushed cotton seed hulls, mixed in some oil to bind the mash together and dyed it green. He patented his artificial grass but was not sure exactly how to profit from his invention.

John Ledbetter and Drake



A familiar sign in 1930,  
not so much in 1931.

Delanoy knew. They had built a miniature golf course on the roof of a New York skyscraper in 1926 using Fairbairn's product they called "GrassIt." Ledbetter and Delanoy quickly installed courses on 150 rooftops across the city. Garnet Carter knew as well and he bought Fairbairn's cotton seed patent.

Carter was a lifetime traveling salesman with the soul of a promoter. He left the road in 1928 to settle on Lookout Mountain in Chattanooga, Tennessee to build a resort and golf course. Carter's wife was way into fantasy and she ordered garden statues of gnomes and fairy-tale characters to be sprinkled around the resort, which was called the Fairyland Club. Some of those elves and princesses wound up on the fairways of a small miniature golf course on the property called Tom Thumb Golf.

Tom Thumb Golf was so popular



An early Tom Thumb Golf course.

that the grass greens could not stand up to the foot traffic. GrassIt was the ideal remedy. Carter obtained a patent for a miniature golf course design with hollow logs as hazards to the grass carpet patent and sold "Tom Thumb Golf" kits for \$2,000, including shipping. America was about to be swept up in miniature golf mania.

By 1930 there were an estimated 25,000 miniature golf courses across the United States, set up in office buildings and vacant lots and college campuses. The Auditorium Country Club in downtown Wilmington, Delaware was typical. On a former basketball court the spacious felt fairways stretched four feet across with plenty of sporty tests including traps, rough and water hazards. The highlight of the loop was a 50-foot drive across a long wooden bridge. The indoor

ceilings were painted an azure blue to enhance the illusion of real golf. A mini-clubhouse on the stage overlooked the course.

In October of 1930 Carter held the first National Tom Thumb Open on Lookout Mountain. Two hundred players had fought their way through qualifying tournaments in 48 states (the first Open golf competition of any sort to have representatives from every state in the Union) to play for a top prize of \$2,000.

By 1931 the craze was over. The Depression had something to do with it but mostly Americans had just moved on to the next fad. Almost all of the miniature golf courses were dismantled. One that wasn't was Tall Maples Miniature Golf, a couple of long lag putts away from Lake Ontario in Sea Breeze, New York, north of Rochester. Robert Ocorr, a local newspaperman, designed

Tall Maples using cobblestones from the fabled Erie Canal. The concession was owned by Paul Moore who brought the first ride, a Figure 8 Coaster, to Sea Breeze in 1903.

In 2002, considered the last windmill standing, Tall Maples was included on the National Register of Historic Places as the oldest miniature golf course in America. By that time the game had branched out in dramatic fashion. In Europe, miniature golf took hold in the last half of the 20th century as a competitive sport, where devotees regularly lobby for it to be included in the Olympics. In the United States, miniature golf followed Americans out to the suburbs and to the beaches. By the 1980s, popular holiday spots such as Myrtle Beach with 50 courses, regularly saw exotic creations with million-dollar construction budgets.

Don Clayton was one American who did not fall in love with

mechanized windmills. Taking a health break from his insurance business in the 1950s, he went to a miniature golf course in his hometown in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Clayton was so disillusioned by the outing that he started building his own miniature golf experience. Three weeks later the first Putt-Putt course was open for business.

Instead of dinosaurs Clayton's courses had geometric blocks for obstacles. Instead of par threes, all Putt-Putt holes were par-twos with a chance for an ace on every tee. He franchised the concept and offered 126 copyrighted holes to build a course. To emphasize that his layouts were not children's playthings Clayton started the Professional Putters Association in 1959 that would give away \$8 million in purses before the century was out. Syndicated television coverage of tournaments represented the second longest-running sports programming on television behind only ABC's *Wide World of Sports*.

In 2012, Tall Maples, now called Whispering Pines in an arboreal shake-up, like so many classic golf courses received a makeover. Bob Horwath, a miniature golf architect with a quarter century of experience, was hired for the job. Whispering Pines now has a nautical theme.



Miniature golf courses look at home in beach resorts.

# Augusta National

## Augusta, Georgia

### 1932

No North American golf course has been studied and dissected and written about more than Augusta National. And yet no one knows how its two creators, Bobby Jones and Alister MacKenzie, met. Or for that matter, why Jones decided to turn to MacKenzie to help build his dream golf course.

Golf's greatest mystery is not on the order of Amelia Earhart or Jimmy Hoffa. Both men wrote books about their lives in golf and MacKenzie says the historic encounter first came in the 1927 British Open at St. Andrews when he was in the gallery to watch Jones lap the field by six strokes - just six years after he picked up his ball in frustration and walked off the course from the 10th hole in the third round of the Open. MacKenzie would have been more than a casual observer - he was a consultant for the Royal and Ancient Golf Club and spent a year scouting St. Andrews for championship pin locations.

Later in 1927 MacKenzie sent Jones a signed copy of his book *Golf Architecture* but there is nothing to suggest he was more than a fanboy. No record of a

meeting nor discussions about golf between the two exists. Jones retained the book, however, and it is among the personal items on display at his boyhood club in East Lake.

The next chance for Jones and MacKenzie to cross mashies was in 1929. The United States Amateur was being contested on the West Coast for the first time and Jones arranged a number of exhibitions ahead of time around the event at Pebble Beach. One was set up for the day after the tournament at Marion Hollins' new course at Pasatiempo, designed by MacKenzie. Jones and Hollins were slated to play against Cyril Tolley and Glenna Collett, the reigning British Amateur champion and U.S. Women's Amateur champion.

It was fully expected that Bobby Jones would be announced on the Pasatiempo tee as the new U.S. Men's Amateur champion as well. Instead, Jones was bounced from the tournament in the first round by Johnny Goodman. With a few extra days to kill, Jones headed for neighboring Cypress Point where he had warmed up

for his aborted U.S. Amateur run and found the design of the course "almost perfect." This unscheduled time at Cypress Point is where most students of Jones and MacKenzie agree that Augusta National was conceived. Jones, incidentally, also lost his match with Hollins against Tolley and Collett.

The two men were clearly simpatico with their golf philosophies but one overriding principle stood out above all others - a golf course should be challenging to the best players while still engaging the handicapper. Or as Jones put it, "We believe that no good golf hole exists that does not afford a proper and convenient solution to the average golfer and the short player, as well as to the more powerful and accurate expert."

But before those theories on golf could be laid on the land there was the matter of money. After winning the "Grand Slam" in 1930 Jones quit amateur golf and turned pro - not on the course but in the movies. He signed with Warner Brothers studios in 1931 to produce a series of 18 one-reel instructional films called *How I Play Golf*.

Jones works his way through the bag giving lessons to the likes of James Cagney, Loretta Young, Douglas Fairbanks and W.C. Fields. The shorts were some of the first Hollywood "talkies" and Jones' easy Southern charm



One of the first things Bobby Jones did after retiring was make movies to teach America how to swing like this.

meshes seamlessly with the movie actors who are eager to hear the pearls of links wisdom drip from the great golfer. The movies were not only fun and informative but highly sophisticated in capturing the key elements of the golf swing. Veteran Hollywood director George E. Marshall helmed the series, using low level camera angles and slow-motion photography that pre-date 3D movies and instructional how-to videos by decades.

The reports of Jones' slice of the profits from *How I Play Golf* ranged from \$250,000 to \$600,000 - in other words, nobody knew. But whatever he earned he plowed a chunk of it into Augusta National, starting



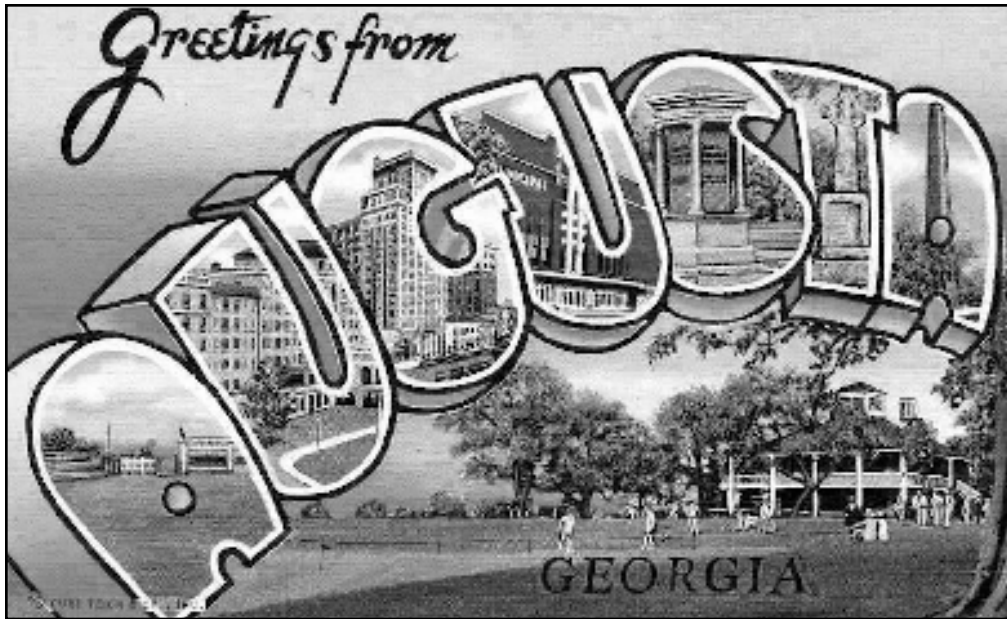
The Berckman home became the Augusta National clubhouse.

with the purchase of Berckmans Nursery, also known as Fruitland, for \$70,000. Louis Mathieu Edouard Berckmans, a trained physician like Dr. MacKenzie, left Belgium with his son, Prosper Jules Alphonse Berckmans, in the 1850s to start the first commercial-sized horticultural nursery in the Southeast.

The land the Berckmans found a few brassies from downtown Augusta had been an indigo plantation but Prosper was mostly interested in peaches. He bred so many high quality varieties that he was recognized as the "Father of Peach Culture." The entire state of Georgia became known as the Peach State although the Northwest China native was not designated as the official state fruit until 1995.

The Fruitland Nursery shut down after Prosper died in 1910 and when Jones and his partners first looked over the 365-acre property many of the evergreens and shrubs the Berckmans had introduced were still growing on the grounds. That included 30 varieties of azaleas Prosper had propagated for use in home gardens and rows of 61 magnolia trees that were planted before the Civil War. At the end of that lane of magnolias was the Berckmans' home, Fruitland Manor, which would become the Augusta National clubhouse.

Two of Prosper Berckmans' sons helped out with the landscaping of the golf course which MacKenzie and Jones designed to take advantage of the rolling terrain. It was the contours that would



Times were so lean at Augusta National during the Great Depression that today's ultra-private club often appeared on tourist postcards.

provide the challenge rather than sand and water. When the holes were finished each was named for a different plant which could be identified from its fairway.

It was a rousing beginning but the Great Depression was quickly hardening into the worst economic times in American history. Even with the stature of Bobby Jones the club was not able to attract the membership it was anticipating - and needing. During construction Augusta National was in dire financial straits. A sympathetic MacKenzie slashed his normal \$10,000 fee to \$5,000 but still he was not paid.

Augusta National was not the only club stiffing MacKenzie and he was suffering as well. He penned a regular stream of letters

to Clifford Roberts, an investment banker and co-founder of Augusta National with Jones, pleading for his money. "I have been reduced to playing golf with four clubs and a Woolworth ball," he wrote impishly at one point.

Matters grew more serious for both Augusta National and Dr. MacKenzie. By 1932 Roberts was issuing promissory notes to pay bills. A pair of those \$1,000 notes was sent to MacKenzie, whose wife was facing a medical crisis. He replied, "Can you possibly let me have, at any rate, five hundred dollars to keep us out of the poor house?" The course architect, probably because he could not afford the train ride from his house on the 6th fairway at Pasatiempo, did not





Alister MacKenzie's original design for Augusta National featured only 22 bunkers.

attend the opening of Augusta National on December 7, 1932.

Roberts meanwhile was tap dancing to keep the nascent club from foreclosure. The only revenue to meet the weekly payroll was guest fees - and anyone with cash was welcomed to play a round. He would later admit that if he and Jones had known that the Depression would become so bad and last the entire decade they would surely have abandoned the building of the club.

Finally it was decided to hold a golf tournament in 1934 to raise some money. It would be called the Augusta National Invitational for the world's top professionals and close associates of Jones who still had some cash. As the big draw, Bobby Jones himself would come out of retirement

to play. Horton Smith, a lanky Missourian and five-time Ryder Cupper, won the first tournament. Alister MacKenzie was not on hand for that event, either. He had died three weeks earlier, never having seen the finished Augusta National golf course.

Jones was not competitive in his own tournament and that would likely have dulled the interest in the event going forward save for one shot struck in the 1935 tournament by Eugene Saraceni. Saraceni had been born to an immigrant carpenter in Harrison, New York in 1902. He was besotted by golf at an early age after dropping out of school in the sixth grade to caddy at the Apawamis Club. He changed his name to Gene Sarazen because he thought it sounded like a golfer's name.

He had the flair to match the name. Sarazen won the U.S. Open when he was only 20 years old at Skokie Country Club by becoming the first player ever to break 70 in the final round. He won the PGA Championship at Oakmont that year as well and the following year at Pelham Country Club in New York he dealt Walter Hagen his only defeat in a PGA Championship match-play final. In 1932 Sarazen won the national opens of both the United States and Great Britain, brandishing a new sand wedge he had invented.

In the second Augusta National Invitational Sarazen, dubbed the Squire since he always played in knickers, was teamed with Hagen on the final day. Late on the back nine the Haig was well back and mostly concerned with making a dinner date and Sarazen was an unappealing three strokes back of the leader in the clubhouse, Craig Wood.

Jones had wandered out to the course to watch his tournament wind down and caught up with his two great rivals of the 1920s on the par-five 15th hole. Sarazen had driven well, down the right side with 235 yards left to the hole. He chose to challenge the pond in front of the green with a spoon (a modern day 4-wood). The shot arched over the water, landed on the green, bounced twice and rolled into the hole for a double-eagle two. Sarazen had tied Wood with a single blow. He

parred out the rest of the way and won the 36-hole playoff the next day 144 to 149.

Sarazen's rare albatross was hailed as "the shot heard 'round the world." Along with Jones' cachet the tournament at Augusta National motored to the top of PGA Tour stops. By 1939 it was being called the Masters and when it was elevated into the quartet of modern majors along with the U.S. Open, the Open Championship and the PGA Championship Sarazen became the first winner - retrospectively - of the "career Gand Slam."

One of the elements of the Masters that distinguished it from other tournaments was its being an "invitational" with a select field chosen by Jones and Roberts. The result of the short fields is that the list of winners reads like a virtual golf history book. Until 1961 all of those Hall of Fame names were Americans. That year Gary Player became the first international player to win the Masters.

There could be no more fitting representative of the world game than Player. He parred the first three holes he ever played at the age of 14 in 1949, the year fellow South African Bobby Locke was winning the first of four British Open championships. As he would throughout his career young Gary ignored the rest of that first scorecard filled with eights and nines and built positively on those early pars.

In 1955 as an assistant professional from Johannesburg Country Club Player captured the Egyptian Match Play Championship, the first of what would be 165 victories around the globe. Player would fly over 15 million miles chasing those titles in becoming the World's Most Traveled Athlete®, a nickname he would proudly trademark. In the days before non-stop flights the trip between Johannesburg and Augusta would take 50 hours.

In 1957 Harry Player, who worked two miles underground as a captain in the South Africa golf mines, wrote a letter to Roberts requesting an invitation for his son to play in the Masters. Pressing his case, the elder Player added that he would "pass the hat" at home to come up with the travel money. Roberts wrote back,

"Pass the hat."

Player made the cut as one of eleven international players in the field. A year later he won his first PGA Tour event in the Kentucky Derby Open at Seneca Golf Course in Louisville. In a rain-plagued Masters in 1961 Player held off defending champion Arnold Palmer by a stroke to win the Masters. Palmer slipped the green jacket on Player who returned the favor when Arnie won in 1962. Player would go on to appear in a record 52 Masters, winning three.

During that time the Masters would become the most watched golf event on television. It was helped by being the first big tournament after a winter without golf but it is also the only men's major that comes back to the same course year after year.



Action on the 13th hole, Azalea. finishing up play at Amen Corner in the Masters.

Viewers tune in knowing the strategy required on each of the holes on the back nine from the tricky winds on the little 155-yard 12th over Rae's Creek to the approach mastered by Sarazen on the 15th. Millions of golfers who have never been to Augusta know the early stretch of the back nine known as Amen Corner, as immortalized by Herbert Warren Wind in a 1958 *Sports Illustrated* article.

But mostly the popularity of the Masters traces back to the golf course. There was a fortuitous switching of the nines after the first tournament in 1934 and Augusta National has more architects'

fingerprints on it than any course in the world but the essential genius of Jones and MacKenzie remains. The course is designed to yield birdies with aggressive play.

That was never more apparent than in 1986 when 46-year old Jack Nicklaus, with his son Jackie on the bag, stormed through the back nine in 30 strokes to win a record sixth Masters and 18th professional major. Bobby Jones had been around to present a second green jacket to Nicklaus back in 1965, telling him, "you, Sir, play a game with which I am not familiar."



A true Masters Foursome: Byron Nelson, Dwight Eisenhower, Ben Hogan, Clifford Roberts.

# Southern Hills

## Tulsa, Oklahoma

### 1936

No one ever expected old Tulse Town, as the Creek Indians called it, to ever amount to much. Until June 25, 1901 when oil gushed at Red Fork across the Arkansas River. In 1905 an even bigger strike was made at Glenn pool. By 1910 Tulsa was on its way to being the "Oil Capital of the World." In 1930, Tulsa had more buildings of ten or more stories than any city its size in the world. Most were raised in the flamboyant Art Deco style and in the 1950s *Time* magazine anointed Tulsa the title

of "America's Most Beautiful City."

If Tulsa had little promise as a city it had even less potential as a golf mecca. The Tulsa Country Club had an early 1916 A.W. Tillinghast layout but in the 1930s oilmen Bill Warren and Cecil Canary heard a rumor the club was going public. Alarmed, they rushed together a plan for a family retreat that would include swimming pools, horse stables, tennis, skeet shooting and golf and took it to the biggest power broker in town, Waite Phillips.



Millions of fill-ups along Route 66 provided the seed money for Southern Hills.



Architect Perry Maxwell, a friend of Southern Hills founder Waite Phillips, lived in a tent on the property while overseeing construction. He also found time during the project to overhaul the 10th hole at Augusta National.

The Phillips family were Oklahoma legends. Frank and his younger brother Lee brought in 81 consecutive producing wells without any fancy geological reports to form the foundation of the Phillips Petroleum Company. Waite, in the next generation, sold his family interests at the age of 31 and converted the money into a string of ranches and banks and land acquisitions. But starting a country club in the middle of the Great Depression was not his idea of a good investment.

Phillips did agree to give 360

acres of South Tulsa land if 150 pledges of \$1,000 each to join the country club were found within two weeks. The hustling Canary and Warren got the required signatures and Southern Hills was underway. As it turned out, that rumor about Tulsa CC had been unfounded.

Phillips did more than pony up the land for the club. He also gave the group his personal friend and former banker, Perry Maxwell who was now in the business of golf architecture. Maxwell's fee was negotiated to be whatever remained from the original \$100,000 construction budget. Maxwell used only one tractor and took full advantage of government-paid Works Progress Administration

relief workers but he did not intend to move much land in the first place. He also pitched a tent and lived on the property.

Southern Hills opened in 1936 and Maxwell's work has been acclaimed ever since. At least two major events have taken place at Southern Hills every decade since the 1950s. Even Robert Trent Jones, who rarely saw a golf course he couldn't take apart and build tougher, made only minor changes when consulted for a redesign.

# Bethpage - Black

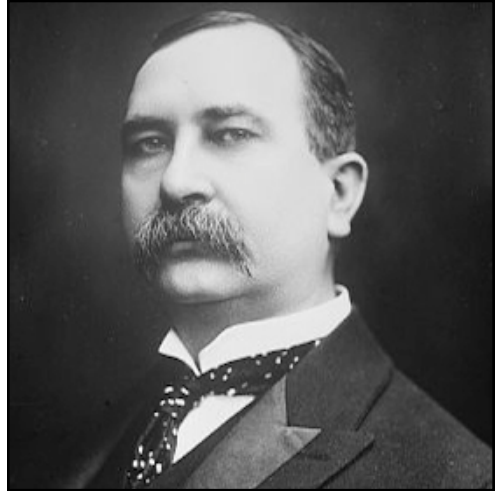
## Farmingdale, New York

### 1936

Golf has many shrines but none like Bethpage. Since the facility opened as a Long Island state park in 1935 there have been more than 15 million rounds played here, many starting the night before in the parking lot with the front seats reclined, waiting for the line for starting times to form in the pre-dawn hours.

Bethpage was the creation of Robert Moses who built a base of power from the innocuous-sounding position of "Park Commissioner" that resulted in 13 bridges, 416 miles of parkways, 658 playgrounds and 150,000 housing units that altered the face of New York City. There were 288 new tennis courts, 673 new baseball diamonds and dozens of new golf courses. When Robert Caro sat down to write Moses' story in *The Power Broker* it filled 1,296 pages and resulted in what David Halberstam called "surely the greatest book ever written about a city."

It is no surprise that Robert Moses had big plans for Bethpage when 1,386 acres of the Yoakum estate - the largest piece of privately owned property



Benjamin Yoakum built the estate that would become Bethpage State Park with Texas railroad money.

in Nassau County - came into government hands in the 1930s. There was a golf course already on the property, the private Lenox Hills County Club, that leased land from Yoakum. Moses sent the members packing but kept the Deveraux Emmet-designed golf course. He also planned to build three more, along with a polo field, bridle paths, ball fields, playgrounds, picnic areas and on and on.

This tendency for big thinking would have pleased the late Benjamin Yoakum who was a



Many of Robert Moses' ambitious building projects were controversial - not so much Bethpage State Park.

Texan who stitched a railroad system from Chicago to Mexico that controlled over 17,000 miles of track. There are towns named for Yoakum in Texas but the new state park would be called "Bethpage" as this slice of Long Island had been known since Thomas Powell named it after a biblical passage in 1695.

Moses hired A.W. Tillinghast to design and supervise the construction of the golf courses. All the work would be federally funded thanks to Franklin Roosevelt's ambitious New Deal programs and 1,800 men found employment building Bethpage State Park. The Red and Blue courses were opened for play on August 10, 1935 and Emmet's

golf handiwork was newly christened the Green Course.

Robert Moses left his fingerprints behind on Bethpage as well, supervising and outfitting the expansive Colonial clubhouse that was to serve the golfing metropolis. A Dutch-tiled fireplace was installed at each end of the main dining room and Chinese Chippendale chairs and brass lighting fixtures intended to resemble pagodas were crafted by relief workers. Moses also

directed that the club's "Caddy Boy" profile logo be cut into the exterior shutters. Today that logo is rendered in red, green, blue, black and yellow to represent Bethpage's five courses, the Yellow coming online in 1958.

Bethpage Black was ready for play in 1936 with an astounding length of 6,783 yards that anticipated the complete takeover of the game by steel shafts. Steel shafts had begun appearing in the 1920s but by 1938 they would become so dominant that the rule limiting golfers to 14 clubs was adopted since golfers no longer had to worry about the nuisance of wooden shafts snapping in the middle of a round.



"The Black" quickly established a reputation as one of the country's hardest golf courses. After an exhibition with Byron Nelson in 1940, Sam Snead called it "an unfair test of golf." And he won with a 68. New York State famously hung a sign on the iron railing at the first tee that read: "WARNING. The Black Course Is An Extremely Difficult Course Which We Recommend Only For Highly Skilled Golfers." To make the task even more daunting the first tee sits on a ledge directly below the practice green and the clubhouse so spectators can gather to watch that opening salvo and judge whether the advice on the sign is well-heeded.

The legend of the Black Course grew but as a municipally owned facility the maintenance did not always keep pace with the course's stature in the golf world. Public course players, however, were always convinced that hidden under the scruffy exterior was a golf course every bit the test that Tillinghast's Baltustrol and Winged Foot courses were to professionals. The reckoning came in 2002.

In 1997 the USGA issued a landmark announcement that the U.S. Open would be played at Bethpage Black in 2002, the first time America's greatest tournament would be contested at a true public course. Yes, the golfing public could play at Pinehurst and Pebble Beach after



Architect Devereux Emmet's Lenox Hills course lived on as Bethpage Green.

parting with many hundreds of dollars but at Bethpage everyone at the time could line up and pay \$35 to play "The Black."

Rees Jones came and worked over the course, armed with a \$2.7 million budget - the most the USGA had ever been spent to ready a course for the championship. As Jones worked, anticipation for "The People's Open" was more feverish than golf had ever experienced.

Many worried that the world's best players would feast on Bethpage Black and deflate the chests of public course golfers everywhere. After all, most of "The Black's" greens are relatively flat, unlike most of America's most



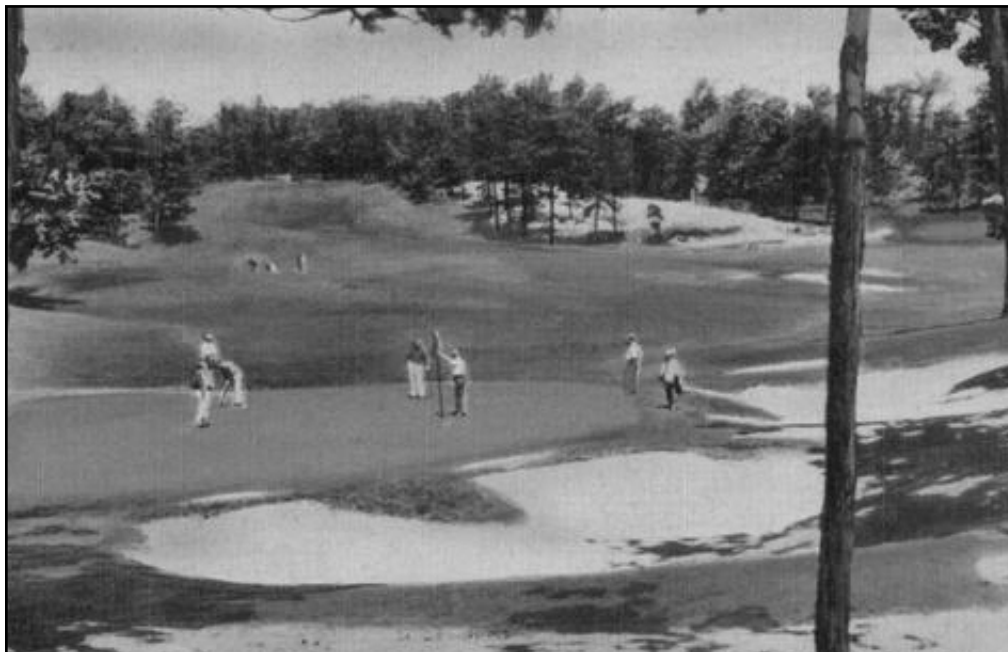
You have been sufficiently warned.

storied courses. After negotiating the minefields he had planted to reach the greens, Tillinghast reasoned that any further torture administered by overly treacherous greens would be tantamount to sadism.

Bethpage's boosters need not

access, including a return to Bethpage in seven years in 2009. It was the fastest return to an Open venue since 1912. What had started as "The People's Open" has evolved into the "The People's Century."

have worried. Tiger Woods was the only player in the field to break par for four days, winning with a three-under par total of 277. Course reviews were rapturous and the excitement generated by the Long Island tournament changed the course of U.S. Open history. After Bethpage, six of the following 12 Opens were contested on courses with public



With five courses Bethpage is the largest municipal golfing facility in America.

# Colonial

## Fort Worth, Texas

### 1936

Soon after newcomers hit their first golf balls an obsession is often waiting just around the bend. For some it is equipment. For some it is lessons. For John Marvin Leonard it was grass.

Leonard was 32 years old when he played his first golf. Before that Leonard had spent his time laying the foundation for one of the Southwest's most beloved retail empires. On December 14, 1918 he and his brother Green Thomas Leonard opened

a small store in the shadow of the 194-foot pink granite Tarrant County Courthouse tower in downtown Fort Worth. Leonard Brothers specialized in salvaged merchandise and groceries but by 1926 the business had expanded enough to justify the slogan, "More merchandise for less money."

And Marvin Leonard had time to take up golf. He could break 80 when the putts were falling but that didn't happen all that often



In the bleak days of the 1930s John Leonard's word was worth more than cash money around Fort Worth.



Byron Nelson began tangling with Ben Hogan in Fort Worth caddy yards.

and Leonard believed a lot of that had to do with the greens. The greens in Fort Worth at the time - and all of the South - were of native Bermuda grass which tended to be bumpy and grainy. The Bentgrass that produced the best putting greens back East was considered too wimpy to put up a fight against the Texas summer sun. Leonard believed the difference was so stark that it was worth a try to develop Bentgrass greens. He pestered the Greens Committee of his River Crest Country Club so relentlessly that the exasperated president

suggested he go start his own club.

The Great Depression was certainly not kind to Leonard Brothers but after President Franklin Roosevelt closed all the nation's banks upon entering office in 1933 Marvin had continued to cash checks with "Leonard's Script" that could be used with confidence around town. He was soon selling 7,000 loaves of bread a day and other necessities. That customer loyalty bought Marvin Leonard Colonial Country Club.

Leonard contacted John Bredemus, the Lone Star State's first resident golf course architect, and Perry Maxwell of Oklahoma and asked each to submit five plans for 157 acres of pecan groves he had acquired along the Trinity River. This being the Depression there weren't a whole lot of commissions coming through the door so both complied. Leonard looked over the work and asked them for five more. Then he picked the holes he liked best and built his golf course - seeded with Bentgrass greens.

He then went looking for members and issued personal invitations to Fort Worth's golfing community to come try his wondrous new greens. They wouldn't even need to pay a membership fee, just a \$50 security deposit. He had 100 takers for the opening of the course

in January 1936. Two of Colonial's early supporters were brothers Royal and Ben Hogan. Royal was a fine golfer who would win four City of Fort Worth Championships and some day four Colonial club championships. Royal ran the Hogan Office Supply company that was the Staples of its day in Texas.

His younger brother Ben was 23 years old and trying his luck on the professional golf tour, so far without much success as he battled a wicked hook. Ben had gotten his start in the game caddying at Glen Garden Country Club. In 1927 Hogan hooked up in a battle of Glen Garden henchmen for the club's annual Caddie Championship with another 15-year old named Byron Nelson. Byron won an 18-hole playoff on the final hole and earned a junior membership; Ben moved over to River Crest where he sometimes looped for Leonard. Over the years Hogan would meet Nelson in a championship match three times but never beat him.

Leonard immediately began lobbying the United States Golf Association to come to Fort Worth - he had those greens after all. Leonard dangled a \$25,000 guarantee and soon the U.S. Open was being held in the South



**Craig Wood lost all four major championships in extra holes but he won the 1941 U.S. Open at Colonial.**

for the first time. Thirty-nine year old Craig Wood, who was the first player to lose all four major championships in playoffs, won that 1941 prize to also become the first player to win the Masters and the U.S. Open in the same year. The following year Leonard sold Colonial to the members for his \$300,000 investment, figuring that would be the best way to insure the club's long-term existence.

The USGA did impose one stipulation before taking Leonard's money. The 4th and 5th holes were too weak for championship play and would need to be stiffened. Leonard

cast the offending holes aside completely, bought up an adjoining nursery and had Maxwell reconfigure the course into what became known as the "Horrible Horseshoe," culminating in a 472-yard journey along the Trinity River for the 6th hole that became one of the most feared par-fours in America.

The pros began arriving at Colonial in 1946 and have been returning every year since; the Colonial National Invitational is the longest running event on the PGA Tour contested on the same site. Hogan won the first Invitational and the second and three more. That fifth win in a 1959 playoff with fellow Texan Fred Hawkins was the last of his 63 Tour titles. The place is called "Hogan's Alley" as is Riviera Country Club, where he also won five times.

An inveterate golf road-builder, Hogan even built an alleyway at Carnoustie in Scotland when he made his only Open appearance in 1953. "The Hawk" won in part by eschewing the safe route on the treacherous sixth hole and threading his ball down the left side between out of bounds stakes and a phalanx of treacherous bunkers. It took awhile but in 2003 that passageway became yet another Hogan's Alley.

Colonial is yoked to golf history not just by the great champions that have roamed its fairways. The course is the one most associated with Dan Jenkins, one of four

golf writers in the World Golf Hall of Fame. British scribe Bernard Darwin - yes, grandson of that Darwin - wrote eloquently about golf courses and was the first "beat writer" for the sport in a 46-year career at *The London Times*; Herb Graffis founded the Golf Writers Association of America and a slew of golf magazines; and Herbert Warren Wind was golf's poet laureate for *The New Yorker* and *Sports Illustrated*. Jenkins specialized in professional golf - dissecting the game and golfers with withering one-liners that were as revelatory as they were hilarious.

Jenkins grew up playing golf in Fort Worth at a municipal track called Worth Hills that opened in 1923. He wrote about those days in a piece for *Sports Illustrated* on August 16, 1965 called "The Glory Game at Goat Hills" that became a landmark for a generation of sports writers. The piece was a eulogy to the course that was sacrificed for Texas Christian University frat houses and dorms. The Glen Garden Club of Hogan and Nelson's youth held out much longer, not becoming the home of a whiskey distillery until 2014.

Jenkins met Hogan at Colonial when he was starting out at the *Fort Worth Press* as a student at TCU, where he was the school's best golfer. Jenkins was good enough that Hogan offered to work with him for three days a week for three months. Jenkins

was honored but begged off. "All I want to be is a good sportswriter," he explained to the best golfer on the planet.

And he did that for more than six decades, attending over 220 major tournaments in the process. In between he authored the best book ever written about college football (*Saturday's America*), the best novel ever about professional football (*Semi-Tough*), the best novel ever about golf (*Dead Solid Perfect*) and the best book ever about the professional tour (*The Dogged Victims of Inexorable Fate*). The Colonial Country Club displays Jenkins' World Golf Hall of Fame blazer in a glass case.

And out on the veranda overlooking the 18th fairway at

Colonial is a seven-foot bronze statue of Ben Hogan. But just as Hogan did not begin playing golf there he did not wind up his golfing days there either. By 1955 Leonard was looking to build another golf course and he had even more exacting ideas about what he wanted. He hired Robert Trent Jones and a posse of earth-movers to create Shady Oaks Country Club seven miles from downtown Fort Worth. Hogan became a charter member in 1958 and settled into a routine of lunch overlooking the 18th green and an afternoon quietly spent hitting balls with a five-iron on a secluded spot on the property, far from the traffic over at "Hogan's Alley."



In America they used to hold parades for golf champions - like this one for Ben Hogan.

# Prairie Dunes

## Hutchinson, Kansas

### 1937

For many years Prairie Dunes was considered to be the best nine-hole course in America, back in the days when playing nine-hole rounds was not considered to be the equivalent of turning in your SAT without bothering to do the math part. Perry Maxwell had written a full test but the Carey family opted not to build the entire course, this being the middle of the Great Depression and Hutchinson, Kansas being in the middle of proverbial nowhere.

Patriarch Samuel Carey brought

his family to Hutchinson in 1878. His son, Emerson, drifted off the farm to go into coal mining and then ice manufacturing. In 1900 he set up the Carey Salt Company that propelled Hutchinson into its position as "Salt City." Carey and his four sons were enthusiastic golfers and during a Scottish golf trip in the 1920s they couldn't help but notice how much the British linksland looked like their windswept dunesland north of the Arkansas River back in Kansas.

In 1935 the Careys turned over



The Prairie Dunes story began in the mines of one of the world's largest deposits of rock salt near Hutchinson, Kansas.



480 acres of those “prairie dunes” to Perry Maxwell, a 55-year old architect who had just finished helping Bobby Jones and Alister MacKenzie build out Augusta National. Maxwell spent the first half of his working life as a banker before creating Oklahoma’s first nine holes on a one-time dairy farm he owned in Ardmore. The experience convinced Maxwell that his future happiness lay not in account balances but in golf course design.

After constructing enough courses in the Sooner State to insure his future enshrinement in the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame, Maxwell began crafting a national reputation. In addition to Augusta, Maxwell showed up to work on such revered courses as Merion, Pine Valley and Crystal

Downs in Michigan. His trademark became sumptuously undulating greens that were dubbed “Maxwell’s Rolls” - playfully invoking the names of two luxury automobiles, the Maxwell and the Rolls-Royce.

Maxwell carved the first holes out of the dunes with horses and mules pulling Fresno Scrapers designed for construction work in sandy soil. The only hum of an electric engine came from the Model A Fords that bumped along the sand trails to bring workers out from town. Labor came from the Works Progress Administration and Maxwell kept costs down with a sparing use of bunkers and planting no trees. Opening day for the 3,165-yard, par 35 course was September 13, 1937.



Horse teams were still being used to shape golf courses into the 1930s - seldom to as stunning effect as Perry Maxwell achieved at Prairie Dunes.



**Tom Watson, the greatest golfer in Kansas history and an honorary member of Prairie Dunes, just missed winning the 2006 U.S. Senior Open in Hutchinson.**

The Careys intended to finish Prairie Dunes but finances intervened one year, an early freeze another and by 1950, when the family sold the course for \$95,000, the other nine holes just never got built. Meanwhile, Southern Hills that Maxwell had designed down in Tulsa around the same time had begun staging national championships, bringing his work into the spotlight. You like Southern Hills those in the know said, you should see his nine-hole course up in Kansas.

Maxwell died in 1952 and when the new owners decided to make Prairie Dunes a full eighteen holes they brought in Perry's son, Press, who had worked with

his father on the original nine before becoming a sought-after architect as well. The younger Maxwell interwove nine holes into the routing in 1957, although it is not known if they were his father's originals or not. The next year the Trans-Mississippi Amateur, a venerated member of the national amateur circuit since 1901, stopped in Hutchinson. A promising 18-year old named Jack Nicklaus won the tournament.

The USGA couldn't start holding tournaments at Prairie Dunes fast enough. Three U.S. Women's Amateurs, a U.S. Women's Open, a U.S. Senior Amateur and a U.S. Senior Open, among others. The golf powers-that-be will need to find another course to host the "National Nine-Hole Open," however.

That U.S. Senior Open featured a homecoming for Kansas City native Tom Watson, winner of 39 PGA titles and eight major championships. The 56-year old Watson fired a third-round 66 to take the lead into Sunday but there was to be no fairy tale finish in the Sunflower State. Defending champion Allen Doyle fashioned a two-under par 68 to nip Watson by two strokes and become the oldest Senior Open champion ever at 58 years and 13 days.

# Langston

## Washington, DC

### 1939

In 1939 “separate but equal” was the law of the land, set down in the Supreme Court ruling in *Plessy v. Ferguson* in 1896. That year there were 5,209 golf courses in the United States and fewer than 20 of them were open to black golfers. In the nation’s capital “equal” meant that Black golfers could tee it up only on a sawed-off nine holes with sand greens that extended west of the Lincoln Memorial.

Nonetheless, a spirited African-American golfing community had grown up in Washington D.C. in the 1920s and 1930s. There was an all-black golfing group of men that called themselves the “Royal Golf Club” who traveled

“far and near” to play the game. When many of their wives tired of spending weekends alone they formed the first all-female black golfing group in America, the “Wake-Robin Golf Club, Inc.”

For years these organizations peppered the local and federal governments with letters and petitions to open golf courses on public lands to Blacks. Finally in 1938 they found a receptive ear in Harold Ickes, the longest serving Secretary of the Interior in United States history. Ickes, who began his political life as a Republican, was a life-long political reformer in Chicago before being recruited into Franklin Roosevelt’s cabinet.

Ickes had been president of the



Langston was the first course built for African-American golfers.



Helen Webb Harris founded the Wake-Robin Golf Club and took the lead in desegregating D.C. golf courses.

Chicago branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and his first act in the federal government was to get rid of segregated rest rooms and dining facilities in his department.



Ted Rhodes was a superstar of the black professional circuit of the 1950s.

Then he ended segregation in the national parks. When he heard about the plight of Black golfers in the city he was immediately receptive and directed the building of a nine-hole course on the site of an abandoned National Park Service waste dump. The first golf course constructed specifically for African-American golfers was named after John Mercer Langston, an abolitionist and educator who was the first Black man elected to the United States Congress from Virginia.

Langston was expanded into an 18-hole course in 1955 and two years later hosted its first Capital City Open on the United Golfers Association (UGA) tour. The UGA started at Maplewood Country Club in Stow, Massachusetts in 1926 and staged the Negro National Open for fifty years. Howard Wheeler, a cross-handed player from Atlanta who played out of Philadelphia's Cobbs Creek Golf Club, won six Negro National Opens as did Charlie Sifford, including five in a row in the 1950s. Sifford would make regular appearances at Langston even after being the first African-American to win a PGA event in 1967 at Hartford, winning the

Capital City Open into the late 1970s. Ted Rhodes, considered the first professional African-American golfer and tutor of Joe Louis, counted five National Opens among his 150 or so wins on the loosely organized black professional circuit.

Lee Elder came to Washington from Dallas in the early 1960s to give lessons at Langston and met his wife, Rose, on the course. Elder was in a stretch of winning 18 of 22 tournaments on the UGA Tour and left Langston after the PGA of America removed its "Caucasian-only" clause in its bylaws in 1961. But Lee and Rose Elder always pursued the

concession from the National Park Service to run Langston even as he was becoming the first black golfer to play in the Masters in 1975. The Elders finally took over in 1978 but the course closed due to financial difficulties in 1981.

In the decades since, the Park Service has dodged plans to convert Langston into a parking lot or a bridge or a highway as the course was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The facility remains at the vanguard of progressive golf policy, hosting one of the initial First Tee programs from the World Golf Organization to foster leadership through youth golf in 2002.



Lee Elder, the first Black golfer at the Masters, had personal ties to Langston.

# Clearview

## East Canton, Ohio

### 1948

They call it "America's Course." It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Yet its creator, Bill Powell, once said about building Clearview Golf Club, "I wouldn't do it again. It took a toll on my family, that's all. It isn't worth it. I could have done anything to take care of my family. I chose this, and I stuck with it, that was all. I'm not a quitter."

William James Powell hailed from Greenville, Alabama where his grandparents had been slaves. The family moved to Minerva, Ohio in 1919 when young Bill was three years old to work in a pottery plant. Powell began working as a caddie at age nine at the town's Edgewater Golf Club.

In World War II, Powell rose to the rank of Technical Sergeant in the U.S. 8th Air Force Truck Battalion. Returning to Ohio he was nonetheless not welcome at many public courses. So Bill Powell set out to build his own golf course.

With a second mortgage on his house, Powell bought 78 acres of a dairy farm in East Canton and began clearing pastures and seeding the fairways by hand.

At night he worked as a security guard for a ball bearing factory.

Clearview Golf Club opened its first nine holes in 1948 - and players of all races were welcome. Nine more holes were completed in 1978. By that time his daughter Renee had become the second Black LPGA Tour member, joining in 1967 when she was 21 years old. She would play in over 250 tournaments, winning the Kelly Springfield Open in Brisbane, Australia in 1973 before returning to be head professional at the family course. In 2015 Renee Powell became one of the first seven women granted membership into the Royal and Ancient Golf Club in St. Andrews.

Bill Powell worked his Clear-view course into his 90th year, running the tractor and trimming the grass. He died in 2009, still considered the only African-American to build, own and operate a golf course. Months earlier he had received the PGA Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor the organization bestows. Each August his legacy is remembered at the William Powell Celebrity Golf Tournament.

# Dunes

## Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

### 1949

There was a golf boom going on in mid-20th century America and it seemed like Robert Trent Jones, the most prolific builder of golf courses in his era, was trying to defuse it. Where most golfers normally hit drives Jones pinched the fairways with grabby bunkers. His favorite hazard was a lake from which there was no recovery. He constructed enormous greens that bred soul-sapping three-putts. His oft-stated design philosophy was to create golf holes that yielded "a difficult par but easy bogey."

No one stewed on a Trent Jones golf course more than the game's best players. Touring pros believed tournament directors and the golfing public wanted to see low scores; Jones begged to differ. When the United States Open was played on one of his layouts at Hazeltine National in Minnesota, Dave Hill, who had just shot 69, sneered, "All this place lacks is eighty acres of corn and a few cows."

Jones was born in Ince-in-Makerfield, England in 1906 but he did not stick around long enough to soak up British golf lore. After

his parents moved to upstate New York he began working on golf courses and signed on as the golf professional at Sodus Bay Heights Golf Club. He attended Cornell University which did not have a golf architecture program so he was allowed to brew his own curriculum with courses in agronomy, horticulture, hydraulics, surveying, and economics. There was no degree but Jones did design nine holes on the Ithaca campus.

He did not burst onto the golf scene at a propitious time. Jones hooked up with Stanley Thompson to build courses in Canada but when the Great Depression struck he got by working on WPA projects. And then World War II halted all golf commissions.

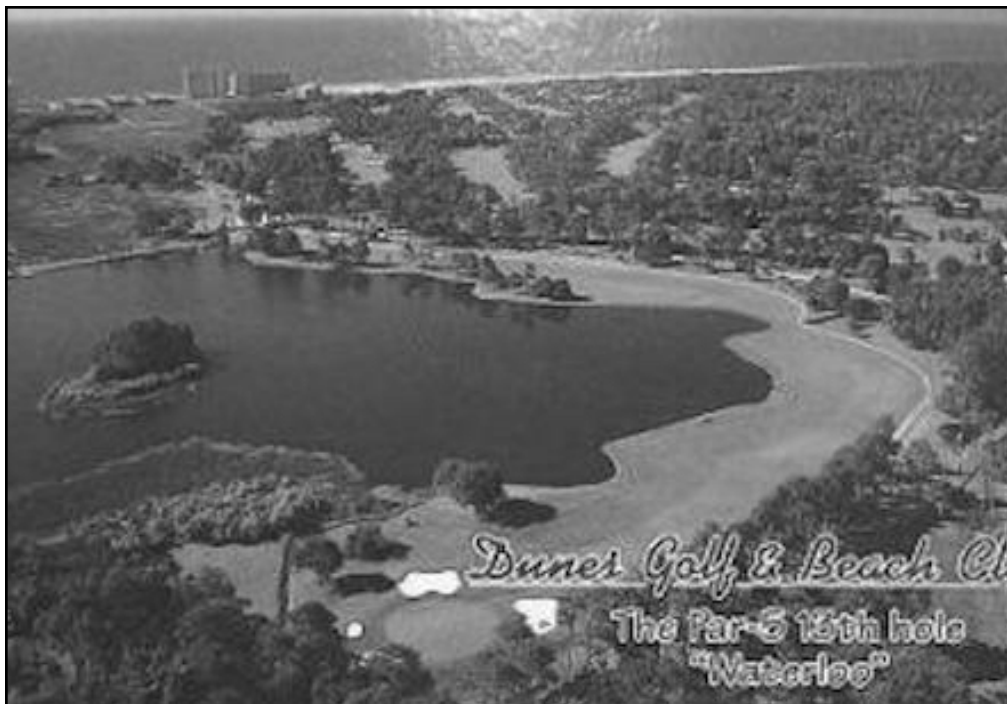
His big break came in 1948 when Bobby Jones (no relation) hired him to help build a golf course in Atlanta. Since he was in the great golfer's hometown and there was only one "Robert Jones" the architect started answering to Trent Jones. At Peachtree Golf Club Trent Jones was able to instigate his heroic vision for the modern golf course

for the first time. Massive runway-style tees provided flexibility to accommodate both the expert and the handicapper. The large "greens within a green" gave the option of four distinct pin placements for tournament play. And Peachtree was long - over 7,400 yards - since Jones was looking into a future of longer-flying golf balls, improved maintenance and golfers who trained for their sport.

The work at Peachtree brought him the job at the Dunes Club that same year. Myrtle Beach was not on the golf map in 1948. It was not really on any map. There was the 10,000-acre Brookgreen Gardens that Archer Huntington, step-son of Transcontinental Railroadman

Collis P. Huntington, carved out of an old rice plantation as the country's first public sculpture garden. And there was Myrtle Beach Farms that was created by the heirs of Franklin G. Burroughs who owned most of coastal South Carolina as part of his turpentine empire built in the 1800s. The real estate company formed in 1912 and took its name from the dominant species of tree that grew in the marshlands.

And there was one golf course. Ocean Forest Club (now Pine Lakes Country Club) epitomized Southern charm when it opened in 1927. Members enjoyed relaxing in the clubhouse that harkened back to antebellum days with its parade of two-story



The 13th, nicknamed Waterloo, at the Dunes Club became the symbol of the entire Grand Strand.





The Ford family playing the Trent Jones "course" at Camp David.

white columns. The golf course was designed by Robert White, a native of St. Andrews who came to America at the age of 20 in 1894 to be an agronomist. He drifted into golf and designed many courses around the Mid-Atlantic region, especially Pennsylvania. While serving as pro at the Shawnee Country Club White was elected the first president of the Professional Golfers' Association of America in 1916.

The idea for a second course in Myrtle Beach came from William A. Kimbel who owned the *Myrtle Beach News*. He used the paper to call for an effort to attract vacationers with recreational facilities. The town's civic base responded. The property was

supplied by Myrtle Beach Farms and Jones found it to be, "a lovely piece of land studded with live oaks."

Jones threaded holes through the Spanish Moss-draped oaks and along the edges of a marshy spigot into the Atlantic Ocean known as the Singleton Wash. One hole stood out among all others - a 590-yard dogleg right that bends so severely around Lake Singleton that Dan Jenkins once observed, "The only way to reach the green is to charter a boat."

Tagged "Waterloo," the 13th hole at the Dunes Club was the ancestor of what today is known as a "signature hole." In an era when few golfers knew the

names of golf architects Robert Trent Jones, an inveterate self-promoter, made sure that his courses carried his "signature." There would be 420 of them in 28 countries. He designed a putting green at the White House and a hole at Camp David with three separate tees. Seventy-nine national championships had been played at a Jones courses at the time of his death in 2000 at the age of 93. He boasted, correctly, "that the sun never sets on a Robert Trent Jones Course." None of the more than 7,000 holes Jones designed was ever more famous than the 13th at the Dunes Club.

With the Dunes Club Myrtle Beach now had a sensational new golf destination, but no golfers. So in 1954 the club's first pro, Jimmy D'Angelo, decided to throw a springtime bash for sunshine-starved Northern golf writers who were leaving winter behind to cover the Masters. After the first Dunes golf party the Golf Writers Association of America made Myrtle Beach an annual tradition - all the while filing articles raving about the Dunes Club. Publisher Henry Luce dispatched 67 of his writers and editors to Pine Lakes to brainstorm a weekly sports magazine and the ink-stained wretches returned in 1954 with *Sports Illustrated*.

The Dunes Golf and Beach Club hosted the U.S. Women's Open in 1962 and the golf world

discovered what the golf writers had been scribbling about. The winning score was thirteen over par - the highest in the history of the tournament. The cut line was at +22 and 23-year old Murle Lindstrom, who was planning to give up professional golf coming into the tournament after five winless years, made up five strokes in the final round to win with a 301 total. She wound up playing another 22 years.

But Myrtle Beach was still far from the "Golf Capital of the World." The beach resort rolled up the boardwalks come Labor Day. In the 1960s there were only seven golf courses and they pooled \$43,000 to start Myrtle Beach Golf Holiday to pitch attractive and affordable "shoulder-season" golf directly at the golfers in Washington and Philadelphia and New York who could reach the greens of the Grand Strand in a single day's drive.

The Myrtle Beach golf package with greens fees, carts, room and buffet breakfast became a staple of the golfing world. By the end of the century there were more than 100 golf courses and "Myrtle Beach" encompassed a 60-mile stretch between Georgetown in the south and Southport, North Carolina to the north. Over four million rounds of golf were being played on the Grand Strand. That is a heap of easy bogies.

# Torrey Pines

## La Jolla, California

### 1957

John Torrey never saw the tree that was named for him. Not that many others had either. The pine tree with clusters of foot-long needles is one of the rarest trees in North America. It grows only in sparse groves on an island off Southern California and along cliffs on a sliver of the mainland. Torrey was a 19th century New York City biologist whose mission was to catalog all the flora of the United States. Most of his western specimens came from explorations, such as the one Charles Parry was on in 1850

when he happened upon the relic from a prehistoric mountain range mostly submerged by the Pacific Ocean.

Today there are only some 100 native Torrey pines growing in the wild. There are probably more places named for the tree around La Jolla than the individual trees themselves, including a 36-hole municipal golf complex operated by San Diego Parks and Recreation. Before it was a golfer's paradise, however, the Torrey Pines mesa signed on as an anti-aircraft artillery training center.



La Jolla is the only place on mainland America where the Torrey Pine grows.



Two of golf's finest mid-century players, Billy Casper and Gene Littler, grew up playing against each other in San Diego.

Camp Callan grew into a base of 15,000 people during World War II but when the war ended it disappeared fast. Many of the servicemen liked San Diego just fine and decided to stay in the area causing a building supply shortage. The wood of some 300 buildings was sold to the city for \$200,000 which turned around and sold the lumber for twice that total.

In 1951 a brouhaha between the California Sports Car Club and the Del Mar racetrack canceled a planned event at

the last minute leaving organizers scrambling for a race course. Someone suggested the abandoned macadam at Camp Callan and for five years Torrey Pines became a favorite stop for gearheads frequented by top drivers like Carroll Shelby, Phil Hill and Dan Gurney. The races attracted thousands of spectators to the 2.7-mile course but the San Diego City Council preferred a future of golf balls bang-ing off rare trees to souped-up Porsches.

The city hired William F. Bell to build two new golf courses atop the old military base. Bell's father, William P. "Billy" Bell, had been a fixture on the Southern California golf scene from 1911 until his death in 1953 and was a founding member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. His son picked up his father's busy practice.

Bell laid down the original holes across 100 acres but there have been many fingers on Torrey Pines since, especially since the PGA Tour arrived in 1968 with the San Diego Open. Billy Casper, a former winner and hometown hero spent a chunk of the 1970s rebuilding greens and bunkers one at a time to keep the public course open for play. In 1999

Rees Jones was not so delicate as he overhauled the entire property.

Eldrick Woods had already won five Junior World Golf Championships, including three in a row when he came to Torrey Pines in 1991 where his father Earl used to bring him to watch the pros play. He was still being called "Eldrick 'Tiger' Woods" by the local papers. The sophomore from Western High School fired a final round 69 to become the first 15-year old to win the 15-17 division of the event that had started in 1968. Afterwards when asked by a reporter how many tournaments he had won, Woods replied, "I quit counting after 11-and-under. I had 110 trophies, I threw them all in the garbage."

But they started counting the wins at Torrey Pines. His first win as a pro came at the 1999 Buick Invitational, his eighth career Tour title. Then he won again in 2003 and four more times in a row beginning in 2005 to up his career wins at Torrey Pines to seven when the South Course hosted the U.S. Open in 2008. In the months between the Buick Invitational and the Open Woods had arthroscopic surgery on his left knee and was limping noticeably as a second round 68 put him in contention. A 70 on Saturday put him in the lead - a position from which he had won each of his previous 13 major titles.

On Sunday he double-bogeyed



**Tiger Woods has been winning at Torrey Pines since he was a teenager.**

the first hole for the third time in four days and spent the afternoon jockeying with the dogged Rocco Mediate for the lead. Both players would up tied at 283 and went at it again in an 18-hole playoff the following day. Woods birdied the 18th hole to force sudden death and won it when Mediate bogeyed the par-four 7th hole, the 19th of the match. Two days later it was revealed that Woods had, in fact, played the whole way with a double stress fracture in his left tibia - he had beaten the best players in the world in America's hardest tournament on one good leg.

In 2013 Woods won at Torrey Pines for the eighth time and his 75th on the PGA Tour. He had just about built a Hall-of-Fame career on a single golf course.

# Grande Oaks

Davie, Florida

1959

Over the years Hollywood has churned out 50 or 60 films that in some way could be termed "golf movies." But one towers above all others - *Caddyshack*.

*Caddyshack* sprang from the minds of Harold Ramis, Doug Kenney and Brian Doyle-Murray who were wielding power at Orion Pictures after the bucketloads of money earned by their campus classic, *Animal House*. To write the script for "Animal House on a golf course" the trio pulled from past experiences with golf growing

up, mostly Doyle-Murray's time as a caddy in the Chicago suburbs at Indian Hill Country Club.

Indian Hill was considered for location shooting when production started in the fall of 1979 but the Chicago weather was considered too unpredictable at that time of year. Southern California had perfect weather but the National Lampoon alumni wanted a little more distance from the studio bosses. And so *Caddyshack* landed in Florida at a public course called Rolling Hills



It was the oaks at Rolling Hills that made it Bushwood Country Club.



Golf has always been a popular sport in the movies. For his first talkie in 1930 W.C. Fields reprised a favorite routine in "The Golf Specialist."

whose main qualification for the job was an abundance of oak trees rather than palm trees so it could pass as the fictional midwestern country club, Bushwood.

Rolling Hills was the handiwork of William F. Mitchell who began his golf career tending to Donald Ross-designed greens at Lake Sunapee Golf Club in New Hampshire. After a stint as a Navy flier in World War II Mitchell jumped into the middle of the post-war golf boom with a design and construction firm. Mitchell was especially busy in the New York area and picked up many Florida commissions as well, following his clients to the Sunshine State; Rolling Hills in Fort Lauderdale was a 1959 project. He is often credited with coining the term "executive

course" for those shorter layouts favored when time is at a premium.

As originally envisioned, *Caddyshack* was a coming-of-age tale of a young henchman learning life at a private country club. But as the shoot unfurled it soon became apparent that the improvised footage on the Rolling Hills course by Rodney Dangerfield, Ted Knight, Chevy Chase and Bill Murray, who spent only six days on the shoot with no provided dialogue, had to be at the center of the movie. *Caddyshack* morphed into a "haves" versus "have-nots" class morality play.

Scenes were shot in the sprawling rustic clubhouse and around the actual caddyshack. Little was done to the golf course besides building a hill on the 18th hole that was blown up in the - is a



Future Bushwood members enjoy a round at Rolling Hills back in the 1960s.

spoiler alert for *Caddyshack* possibly warranted? - film's climactic ending. The owners of Rolling Hills were adamant that no actual explosives be ignited on the property so producer Jon Peters arranged a special lunch for the club staff on the scheduled day of shooting so they were unaware of the pyrotechnics blowing up back on their home hole.

It is difficult to find a golf fan whose favorite movie is not *Caddyshack*. One who wasn't was apparently Wayne Huizenga who borrowed \$5,000 from his father to buy a garbage truck and built North America's largest recycling business, Waste Management. Among the playthings Huizenga bought with his profits were Blockbuster (how many *Caddyshack* rentals?) and the Miami Dolphins.

In 1999 Huizenga bought Rolling Hills and converted it

into a private club called Grande Oaks. Down came the clubhouse and the landmark caddyshack. Raymond Floyd was brought in to do a full redesign of the golf holes. The groves of old growth oaks remained but all mentions of *Caddyshack* were scrubbed away.

The Huizenga era did not last long, however, and the course is now owned by Nova Southeastern University. The *Caddyshack* connections have been resurrected and the course triumphantly announces its place in cinematic history as the "Home of Caddyshack" on its website. Golf balls with the trouble-making Gopher from the film are on sale in the pro shop.

As for the cast, Ted Knight and Rodney Dangerfield, the main antagonists, were not golfers. Chevy Chase could break 100 on a good day and Michael O'Keefe, who spent a couple summers looping as a caddy at Winged Foot as a teenager, became a reliable bogey golfer. Bill Murray, whose golfing expertise in the movie was limited to decapitating flowerheads, plays to a single digit handicap. Over the years he emerged as the last torchbearer for celebrity hijinks in the increasingly corporatized national pro-am at Pebble Beach that was once the playground of Bing Crosby and his Hollywood friends.



# Sun City - North

## Sun City, Arizona

### 1960

Leave my family and community and go retire in the middle of the desert? With a bunch of other old people? Who would do such a fool thing?

Those were the questions the operators of the Marinette Retirement Community were asking themselves as they prepared for a weekend open house in the world's first planned retirement community on January 1, 1960. There had been a blizzard of national advertising

and billboards to introduce the revolutionary concept but there were nagging doubts. Would anyone actually show up? Marinette took its name from a local ghost town and employees were wondering if they had just planned another one. Of course if this thing was a flop developer Del Webb could afford to take the hit.

Delbert Eugene Webb had not had too many swings and misses in his sixty years. He was born and raised on a Fresno, California fruit farm before dropping out of high school to work as a carpenter's apprentice. When he was 28 years old Webb contracted typhoid fever and moved to Phoenix, Arizona to recover. At the time the capital city boasted fewer than 40,000 residents.

Webb went into the construction business and prospered enough to participate in the purchase of the New York Yankees in 1945. Mobster Bugsy Siegel picked Webb's firm to build his landmark Flamingo Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas in 1946 and Webb later became an owner of casinos himself. Siegel had planned to



Mobster Bugsy Siegel was among the first to dream of building golf courses in the American Southwest desert.

create the first Las Vegas golf course behind the Flamingo but a flurry of bullets fired into his girlfriend Virginia Hill's home, interrupted those dreams.

Back in Arizona, Webb was a leader in building housing communities and shopping centers. And golf was central to Del Webb's life; it was said to be his only hobby. His playing partners included Arizona senator Barry Goldwater, fellow casino magnate Howard Hughes, Bob Hope and Bing Crosby, who also owned a piece of a baseball team, the Pittsburgh Pirates. Webb was once quoted as saying, "Without golf it would have been difficult for me to have gotten where I am now."

It was no surprise then that Webb planned to make golf the

centerpiece of the Marinette Retirement Community. He hired a local golf professional-turned architect named Milt Coggins to lay out his first course and made sure the first nine holes would be ready when the first buyers moved in.

And there would be buyers. By the end of the opening three-day weekend the Webb company estimated that 100,000 visitors had kicked the tires on the five model homes on display. Contracts were signed for 237 homes and the inventory of 400 planned first-year houses was gone before February. A nationwide contest was held to "Name This Active Retirement Community" and Webb liked "Sun City" the best. Four entrants had submitted that name and the



The Black Knight was one of the pros to "test" Del Webb's new retirement golf course at Sun City.

Brittons from Eugene, Oregon won the drawing to receive the Meadowgrove Model 1A-R, a two-bedroom concrete bungalow valued at \$8,500. If anyone doubted the importance of golf to Sun City, the first model home was at 10801 Oakmont Drive.

The golf course was completed by August 1960 and Webb quickly began staging exhibitions to promote Sun City, including a series of four televised matches for professionals he called "All-Star Golf." The player-friendly course, stuffed with dogleg holes, had more teeth than one would expect from a layout for retirees and Jerry Barber expressed surprise at the number of bunkers when he arrived for his match with Gary Player. But not too much bite - Australian Peter Thomson, a four-time British Open champion with another to come, fired a course record 60 on his first trip around the Sun City course to beat Doug Sanders.

Barber could have been in Sun City pricing property. In 1961 he became the oldest winner of a major when he won the PGA Championship in Olympia Fields at the age of 45. Julius Boros surpassed that record at Pecan Valley Golf Club in San Antonio seven years later by taking the PGA Championship at the age of 48. In 1994 Barber set a record that likely will stand a while - he played in the Buick Invitational at the age of 77 years, 10 months

and 9 days. He failed to make the cut as the oldest player ever to play in a PGA event but at +4, 148 he beat eight other Tour golfers.

Most of the early play came from non-residents but by 1963 the club was reporting that "at least 25 percent of the community's residents spend a portion of their active retirement" on golf. Sun City would soon sport five full-length courses (the original is the North Course) and three executive-length courses. Sun City, and retirement in the United States, became synonymous with golf.

Even pro golfers move to retirement golf communities. Such was the case with Nancy Lopez who was three years old when the first golf balls were hit in Sun City. She was born in California but was soon adopted by her uncle and grew up in Roswell, New Mexico. Domingo Lopez was a low-handicap golfer and encouraged Nancy to play while he tended to his auto body shop. At the age of eight she taught herself by keenly watching the adults at her local municipal course. When she was nine years old she just barely won a 27-hole Pee-Wee Junior tournament in nearby Alamogordo by 110 shots.

By age 11 Lopez could beat her father and the next year she won the New Mexico Women's Amateur. At the age of 18 she finished tied for second at the U.S. Women's Open at Atlantic



Living the Sun City dream.

City Country Club behind Sandra Palmer. Three years later when she debuted on the LPGA Tour Lopez evoked another golfing Palmer - Arnold - as she won nine tournaments, including a record five in a row to bring unprecedented excitement to the women's game. In 1978 Lopez won Rookie of the Year, Player of the Year and Vare Trophy honors and remains the only woman golfer to hit that trifecta.

In 1997 at the age of 40 Lopez won her 48th and final LPGA title. She became the first woman at the U.S. Women's Open ever to shoot four rounds in the 60s but lost to Englishwoman Alison Nicholas at Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club in Oregon. As her golfing career wound down Lopez became affiliated with the Villages northwest of Orlando, Florida, considered the largest gated community in the world with 100,000 residents over the

age of 55.

Harold Gary Morse developed the Villages for his father in the 1990s using Sun City as his model. Morse's conclusion was that retirees were not so much concerned with location as lifestyle. And at the core was golf. His unique selling proposition was "Free Golf For Life" for any Villages resident. That meant unfettered access to 33 nine-hole executive courses scattered throughout the community.

There were also a dozen championship courses that could be played for a nominal fee, including one designed by Arnold Palmer and another by Villages resident Nancy Lopez. The Lopez Legacy course was the Hall of Fame golfer's first design effort and each of the three nines was named after one of her daughters. As she said, "The people that were here really kind of grew up with me."

# Doral - Blue

## Miami, Florida

### 1962

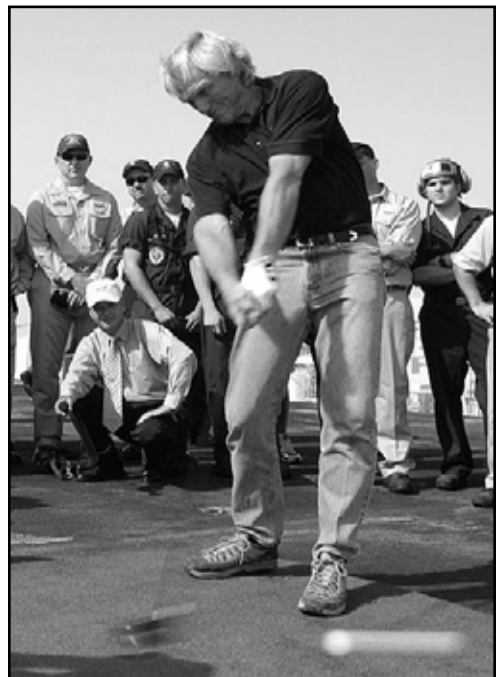
Start with Doris and Albert. Toss them in a blender and you get one of the legendary names in American golf.

The ingredients for the Doral Golf Resort began forming in 1922 when Albert Kaskel left Poland for New York City where the 21-year old wound up in real estate. He eventually developed over 17,000 apartment units around the Big Apple with Doral Construction that wedded the first syllables of Albert and his wife's names. Doral was used for the couple's 68-acre estate in Stamford, Connecticut and again when 2,400 acres of swampland hard by the Miami International Airport were purchased in 1959 for \$49,000.

Kaskel turned the building of the future resort's golf courses over to Dick Wilson, who rivaled Robert Trent Jones as the country's top post-World War II architect. Whereas Jones specialized in building championship courses fast, Wilson agonized over the details of his design, producing a far more select output. Wilson, two years older, also believed that a golf course should look more

menacing than it played, unlike his contemporary Jones who never met a birdie he liked.

Louis Sibbett Wilson grew up in Philadelphia the son of a contractor and when he was eight years old spent days carrying water to construction crews at Merion. After quarterbacking the Vermont Catamounts in college he went to work for William Flynn and Howard Toomey but did not



The pros have seldom been scared by the Blue Monster - Greg Norman won with a score of 23 under par in 1993.

emerge as a designer in his own right until he was in his forties after a stint in World War II building airfield camouflage. He picked up notable commissions around the country but saved his best work for Florida where he injected personality into the flatlands with curving landforms and raised greens. Wilson completed Bay Hill Club in Orlando in 1961 and the esteemed Pine Tree Golf Club in Delray Beach in 1962.

To Wilson the game was all about working the ball right or left, as the course demanded. He incorporated many doglegs into his designs to reward players who could execute such shots and the Blue Course at Doral is no exception. Kaskel's resort immediately earned a spot on the PGA Tour and Doral is now the third oldest course the pros play every year; only Augusta National and Colonial are older stops.

In the very first Doral Open in 1962 Billy Casper navigated cold harsh winds for four days to win in five-under par. The high scores earned the course the moniker the "Blue Monster," which it has worn ever since. But true to Dick Wilson's vision, the course has more bark than bite for the pros. Aside from the inaugural event the tournament champion has toured the Blue Course higher than nine-under par only twice in a half-century.

But the finest testament to Dick Wilson's genius at Doral is the diversity of Doral Open champions. All-time greats Tiger Woods and Jack Nicklaus have been repeat champions. Longballers like Greg Norman, Ernie Els and Tom Weiskopf have won here. But so too have short hitters like Mike Hill and Lee Trevino. And ball strikers like Tom Kite, Jim Furyk and Nick Faldo.



The Blue Monster at Doral is equal parts water and grass - although for many golfers it often seems like much more of the former than latter.

# Mission Hills

## Rancho Mirage, California

### 1967

Augusta National has hosted more major championships than any other North American golf course. The course that has hosted the second most is at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, California.

Dinah Shore was an unlikely candidate to be the woman responsible for bringing glamour and national television audiences to the LPGA Tour. She was an athlete in college with the Vanderbilt Commodores but her sports were swimming and fencing. She did not play golf until she was 52 years old after building a career as a top-charting vocalist in the Big Band Era of the 1940s and a television star in the 1950s.

In 1972 Shore, just four years after playing her first rounds, became the first Hollywood celebrity to attach her name to a woman's golf event, joining the likes of Dean Martin, Danny Thomas, Sammy Davis Jr., Jackie Gleason, Andy Williams and Glen Campbell. Bing Crosby was the first to throw pros and celebrities and business bigwigs into one tournament but the history of



Dinah Shore did for women's golf in the 1970s what Crosby and Hope had done for the PGA Tour decades earlier.

the pre-tourney pro-am - the life-blood of professional tournament golf - is as dusky as the origins of the game itself.

It is not unlikely that Fred Corcoran was involved somehow. Corcoran had started in Boston caddy yards and was working as an assistant secretary to Donald Ross in 1936 when he was hired as tournament manager of the PGA Tour. He hustled to sell the

pro game during the Depression innovating, among many other golf fixtures, the use of red for sub-par numbers and green for bogies.

Corcoran not only managed the Tour but also the career of Sam Snead who broke on the scene at the same time. Some saw this as a conflict of interest and as his stable of clients grew to include the likes of Ted Williams and Stan Musial, Corcoran's relations with the PGA Tour frayed. He co-founded the LPGA Tour in 1950 and managed stars Babe Zaharias and Marlene Hagge while handling Tournament Director duties. Corcoran also developed the two-man World Cup of Golf and ran the international event until his death in 1977 at the age of 72. No wonder he was known as "Mr. Golf."

Despite Fred Corcoran's best efforts the LPGA was a low-profile affair in the golf world in 1970. When Shore was approached by David Foster, the CEO of Colgate-Palmolive, to be a host she thought he was suggesting a tennis tournament. Foster selected a club near Shore's home in Rancho Mirage, Mission Hills, to hold the Colgate-Dinah Shore Winners Circle Tournament.

Mission Hills was at the vanguard of golf communities being built in areas of spectacular weather. Palm Springs was one such oasis, especially after 1959 when it became legal for the Agua

Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians to create lucrative long-term lease agreements on its land. Max Genet, Jr., a Tulsa, Oklahoma businessman, found the lure of Palm Springs so powerful that he abandoned his beloved Oklahoma Sooners football team and came to the desert to develop Mission Hills in 1968.

To build his first golf course Genet hired Gordon Desmond Muirhead. Like Shore, Muirhead came late to golf, an almost accidental golf course architect. He was born in Norwich, England in 1923 and like fellow British golf designer Alister MacKenzie, Muirhead drew inspiration from wartime experiences. But whereas MacKenzie sought to hide course features from a background in camouflage, Muirhead had been an RAF navigator with over 2,000 mission hours and looked at his golf courses from a more lofty perspective. He loved downhill holes and the power it afforded golfers standing on the tee.

Muirhead was a land planner and only came to golf in the 1960s when courses began to be integrated into residential communities like Mission Hills. Despite his growing notoriety as an architect, Muirhead was a high handicapper and seldom visited a course with a golf bag in tow. He enjoyed the "community" designing as much as the "course" designing; when helping create Muirfield Village with Jack





Hijinks were always afoot at celebrity pro-am tournaments -  
Bob Hope could even turn Richard Nixon jolly.

Nicklaus he was as proud of the "village" as the "Muirfield."

Muirhead would sour on golf completely in the mid-1970s and light out for Australia where he bought an art gallery and toiled on large-scale community projects. When he came back to golf a decade later the artist in his soul was unleashed. Muirhead began using golf courses as roiling canvases, infusing his designs with symbolic and spiritual references. A Desmond Muirhead course was best viewed

from a bomber's seat at 10,000 feet.

At Stone Harbor Country Club in New Jersey, where each hole was named from an incident in Greek mythology, the seventh hole featured a football-shaped island green framed by bunkers in the form of menacing pincher-like teeth. The ninth green was shaped like the Garden State. Muirhead designed sand bunkers that resembled Nordic crosses. At Aberdeen Golf and Country Club in Boynton Beach, Florida

the entire 11th hole depicts a mermaid slinking in the water, complete with a fan-tail tee box and "earthen scales" lining the fairway.

The golf world was alternately mystified, amused and disdainful of this later period of Muirhead's work. He was lauded more in the design world where artistic statements were more celebrated than shot values. And that no doubt pleased Desmond Muirhead who never bothered to join the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

Colgate-Palmolive and Dinah Shore instantly raised the profile of women's golf in 1972. The tournament offered a \$110,000 purse - the first time women had ever played for money in the six figures. Jane Blalock won and took home a \$20,050 check when the average first place prize was \$4,600. Beginning in 1983 the tournament, then sponsored by Nabisco, became an official women's major, an LPGA version of the Masters.

Television did not locate women's golf until 1963 when the final round of the U.S. Women's Open was aired from Kenwood Country Club in Cincinnati, Ohio. The "Dinah Shore," as it was known on Tour, changed that. And Desmond Muirhead had designed a television star with his closing hole, a par-five that flows downhill - naturally - to an island green. In 2009 Brittany Lincicome

became the first player in golf history to win a major tournament with an eagle at the 18th hole.

In 1988, overcome with exuberance after setting the tournament record with a 274 to win her second Dinah Shore title, Amy Alcott leaped with her caddie Bill Kume into the pond surrounding the green. Alcott won a third time and reprised her splashdown, taking Dinah with her. After Donna Andrews took the plunge in 1994 the celebratory leap became a mandatory tradition. The splash zone is now named Poppie's Pond, a name his grandchildren called long-time tournament director - and the man who gave Dinah Shore emergency golf lessons in preparation for the first pro-am - Terry Wilcox.

Dinah Shore's name was hauled down off the marquee in 2000, six years after her death. But her presence is not forgotten. When the Dinah Shore Wall of Champions was dedicated behind the first tee show biz and golf luminaries were out in force for the dedication. Even Mickey Wright who rarely showed up for golf-related functions following her retirement after her 82nd and final LPGA win in the 1973 Dinah Shore was on hand. All agreed that no one had ever done more for women's professional golf than the lady who once thought she was hosting a tennis tournament.

# Harbour Town

## Hilton Head, South Carolina

### 1969

Jack Nicklaus? Charles Fraser had heard of him. But this other guy, what's his name, Pete Dye? Who was he?

Charles Elbert Fraser was born on June 13, 1929 into a career military family. His father, Joseph B. Fraser, served in both World Wars and the Korean War and rose to the rank of general. He commanded the South Carolina National Guard and also dabbled in the timber business. In the 1940s General Fraser and two partners bought one of the largest islands off the Atlantic coast, carrying the name of 17th century British sea captain William Hilton.

In the 1950s Charles Fraser began eyeing his father's land with more than two-by-fours and shingles in mind. He convinced his father to sell him a chunk of the southern part of Hilton Head Island. Fraser had gone to Yale Law School and knew his way around a property deed and protective covenants. He envisioned a wholly new type of south-

ern resort community - not with beach cottages but ecologically sympathetic multi-million dollar houses, gated subdivisions and nature preserves. No structure would be taller than the tallest tree and all buildings would be painted in natural earth tones. Oh, and there would be golf courses.

George Cobb designed the first two courses for Sea Pines Plantation and had drawn up



Charles Fraser's nonchalance with a Hilton Head gator was captured for the Saturday Evening Post in 1962 and helped spread the word of his Sea Pines Resort.



Charles Fraser made Hilton Head, one of America's largest coastal islands, a haven for golfers.

plans for the third in 1967 when Nicklaus, eager to get into the golf course construction business, approached Fraser about designing the course. It was intriguing to have the best player in the game on board but it also would be a risky play to trust the marquee course of his 5,000-acre development to a designer with zero experience since Fraser had promised the PGA a tournament course for 1968. Nicklaus mentioned that he intended to collaborate with an insurance broker-turned golf course architect from Indiana named Pete Dye.

Paul B. "Pete" Dye had spent part of his hitch in the United States Army Airborne during World War II as the greenskeeper

for the Fort Bragg golf course in North Carolina which gave him plenty of time to play at Pinehurst and get acquainted with Donald Ross. After the war Dye became the youngest member of the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance million-dollar roundtable and played amateur golf well enough to qualify for the U.S. Open at Inverness in Toledo in 1957. And Dye was maybe not even the best golfer or the best insurance policy pusher in the family - his wife Alice was the youngest member of the quarter-million dollar roundtable and collected nine Indiana state amateur golf titles.

Pete and Alice undertook their first design job at a nine-hole course in Indianapolis in 1959, doing the work at El Dorado Golf Club for free. Paid assignments followed and at the age of 36 in 1961 Dye traded insurance for golf design. Like the famous architects of a half-century before Pete and Alice traveled to Scotland to study the classic seaside links. His first acclaimed work was at Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel, Indiana in 1964 that John Daly would conquer to win the 1991 PGA Championship.

When he started work on The Golf Club near Columbus, Ohio Dye called up hometown hero Nicklaus for advice.

Fraser gave Nicklaus and Dye the job, got a one-year extension from the PGA and got out of the way. The first thing Dye did was take Cobb's routing and jettison the 18th hole that worked back to the clubhouse and put it along the Calibogue Sound marshes. Fraser jumped on board and built a red-and-white banded lighthouse as a beacon for the harbor and a backdrop for Dye's hole. Golf had its most famous finishing hole east of Pebble Beach.

Nicklaus threw himself into the project, visiting the Hilton Head site 23 times in 11 months as Dye set about introducing new words into the golf vocabulary: railroad ties, pot bunkers, waste areas, Pampas grass. In an era when golf - personified by Nicklaus - was about power, Harbor Town featured the smallest greens on Tour. From the tips the course did not play 7,000 yards.

There was grumbling in 1969 when the pros saw Harbour Town for the first time at the Heritage Classic. But any chance for rebellion was quashed when Arnold Palmer came home the winner and called Nicklaus and

Dye's creation a "thinking man's course."

But it would not be correct to attribute this modern classic solely to Jack Nicklaus and Pete Dye. The drive-and pitch 13th, one of the most memorable holes at Harbour Town, was the vision of Alice Dye, who sketched it out on a cocktail napkin just as her husband was wont to do.



Most golf fans have become accustomed to seeing the 18th hole at Harbour Town from the other direction - facing the red-and-white striped lighthouse.

# Onion Creek

Austin, Texas

1974

The man responsible for the best golf show in the history of television had never walked onto a golf course before he got the assignment in 1961. After leaving the U.S. Army, Fred Raphael went into advertising and then television production. He was with Filmways when the company landed the contract to produce golf matches for the Shell Oil Company in Houston.

The idea for *Shell's Wonderful World of Golf*, hatched at the 19th hole between an advertising executive and a Shell Oil big shot, was simple: pit two top professionals against each other on the world's best golf courses. The matches were filmed months ahead of time, put in the can and aired on a future Sunday afternoon. The one-hour show would have feature interviews and instruction spliced into the on-course action.

The first match was played at Pine Valley Golf Club between Gene Littler and Byron Nelson, coaxed out of retirement for the occasion. Nelson won honors on the first tee and striped his drive down the left side of the fairway,

setting up the ideal angle for his pitch to the green. As Littler got set to hit there was a commotion in the fairway. The cameraman had clambered down off his truck, retrieved the ball and heaved it back towards the tee. He barked into his radio that Nelson would need to hit again since he hadn't gotten the shot on film.

Production went smoother after that. All of golf's top players appeared on *Shell's Wonderful World of Golf*. Sam Snead and Ben Hogan in the last gasps of their careers; Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer and Gary Player in their primes; and young Lee Trevino and Chi Chi Rodriguez. The \$7,000 prize to the winner was enough to convince the big guns of golf to fly to every corner of the world at a time when the winner of the United States Open took home \$14,000.

Not only did *Shell's Wonderful World of Golf* highlight famous courses the public never saw but the show served as a travelogue for more than four dozen foreign lands. Fans cared enough about the results of the matches that the scores were kept under lock

and key for months, much as reality and game shows are today. The formula was a hit - broadcasts typically received ratings of more than 10 - about what an NFL game gets on Sundays and golf broadcasters can only dream about these days.

Jimmy Demaret, a Texan who rode a low fade to three Masters wins, signed on as co-host for the broadcasts midway through the series run, teaming with Gene Sarazen. Throughout his career, including in the Open Championship at Royal Troon in 1973 where he made a hole-in-one at the age of 71, Sarazen always wore stylish plus-fours in competition. Demaret wore such flashy clothes on Tour that Herbert Warren Wind called him "The Wardrobe." Together they helped popularize golf on television. *Shell's Wide World of Golf* ran for nine years and featured 92 matches on six continents.

About a decade after the series went off the air Demaret got a call from Raphael about a nostalgia-based golf show he was putting together for NBC. Demaret and his partner Jimmie Connolly had



Colorful Jimmy Demaret was so well known for his personality off the course that it was sometimes forgotten he won 31 PGA titles - including three Masters championships inside the ropes.

recently opened the Onion Creek Club in Austin, Texas and would he consider hosting the event?

And so the Legends of Golf was born, a tournament for two-man teams of former PGA pros over the age of 50. At the time there was not even a United States Senior Open so who knew if these old guys could even play. Sam Snead showed them. The 66-year old birdied the final three holes to win the first event with Gardner Dickinson against eleven other teams by one stroke.

If anyone found that drama



Sam Snead proved that, yes, there is life in golfers over 50 - or 60.

wanting the next spring Roberto De Vincenzo and Julius Boros birdied the last two holes to force a playoff with Tommy Bolt and Art Wall. The teams threw birdies at each other for six holes until De Vincenzo and Boros claimed the win. The NBC network carried the made-for-television event to conclusion and into its prime time programming. The PGA Senior Tour was the obvious next step.

Regular tournament play began in 1980, no doubt helped by the presence of Arnold Palmer. Arnie wasn't a regular but played enough to get ten wins and five majors. The dominant players were solid PGA pros like Miller Barber and Don January who became the biggest beneficiaries of the "second life" Tour. The U.S. Senior Open started in 1980 as well with De Vincenzo winning. Palmer won in 1981 and Casper and Player and Trevino all took

early titles, sealing its legitimacy as a major event.

Jack Nicklaus showed up in 1990 and was even more reluctant than Palmer to be back on tour but he also won ten times, including eight major championships which is a record, just like his 18 professional PGA majors. Hale Irwin arrived in 1995 and dominated the Senior Tour like no one ever has, taking 45 titles and more than \$27,000,000 in prize money.

The Legends of Golf left Onion Creek after 1989. *Shell's Wonderful World of Golf* was revived by the Golf Channel in 1994 and ran for another nine years, and again all the biggest names in golf went globetrotting. Of the men's players who won at least five career majors the only one never to appear on *Shell's Wonderful World of Golf* was Tiger Woods.



Gardner Dickinson teamed with Sam Snead to win the first Legends of Golf.



# Muirfield Village

## Dublin, Ohio

### 1974

Jack Nicklaus invented this business of counting majors. Bobby Jones knew nothing of "major" golf tournaments. For him they were "onlys" - he would only enter four or five events a year. The "Grand Slam" was only invented after he won the British Open, British Amateur, U.S. Open and U.S. Amateur. He certainly wasn't counting majors.

Ben Hogan may have been counting majors but he had his own definition as to what a "major" was. The Western Open was as big as any professional tournament in his day and he won two of those. The PGA Championship and the British Open were often held at the same time so there were only three possible professional "major" tournaments if you didn't count the Western.

And during World War II the USGA decided it would not be appropriate to hold the U.S. Open. But the organization did join the PGA of America to stage an alternate event called the Hale America National Open Golf Tournament. It was run just like a U.S. Open with 1,500 entries, local qualifying and the top pros

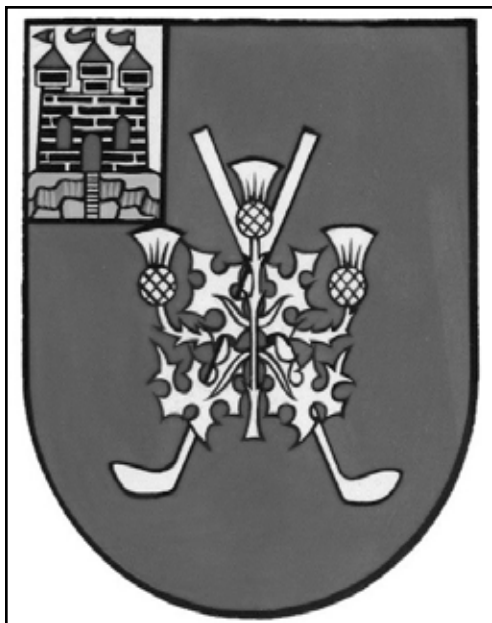
were all in the field. Hogan won by three and always considered that to be a major championship.

When Nicklaus came along he supported the PGA Tour and made it a point to play every event at least once every three years. But he made it clear that the only tournaments that really mattered were the four majors. That was



Did Ben Hogan win four U.S. Open titles  
- or a record-setting five?

The official U.S. Open was cancelled due to World War II in 1942 but the Hale, a national Open in everything but official name was played instead. Hogan won by three shots.



Jack Nicklaus named his golf club after Muirfield, the Scottish course owned by the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, the oldest golf club in the world.

how golfers from different eras could be judged. So everybody went back and counted up Jones' "majors" and the number was 13. Walter Hagen had 11. Ben Hogan had 9.

People began tracking Nicklaus' progress to breaking Jones' record of 13 major wins, although they started the clock after Jack turned professional, negating two U.S. Amateurs. He would clock out at 18 - the standard by which all golfing greatness came to be measured.

Like Jones, Nicklaus planned to remain an amateur golfer but the world was a different place in 1960 than it was in 1930. And as Jones had his own course and tournament, Muirfield Village

was going to be Nicklaus' course and The Memorial would be his tournament. It could not be a major but Nicklaus made sure it would be operated as a standout among regular Tour stops.

He began planning shortly after joining the Tour. In 1966 he acquired land in Dublin where he had hunted rabbits with his father. Construction would not begin until 1972 for which he hired Desmond Muirhead who was not only a skilled architect but an adroit urban planner. One way his course would differ from Augusta National is that 2,400 families would be living on the grounds. For a name, Nicklaus chose Muirfield, the home of the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers and where he completed the first of his three career Grand Slams by winning the Open Championship in 1966.

The course was dedicated on May 27, 1974 with an exhibition match between Nicklaus and fellow Ohio State Buckeye Tom Weiskopf. Nicklaus posted a 66 in his first official spin around the course. No one would shoot lower for five years.

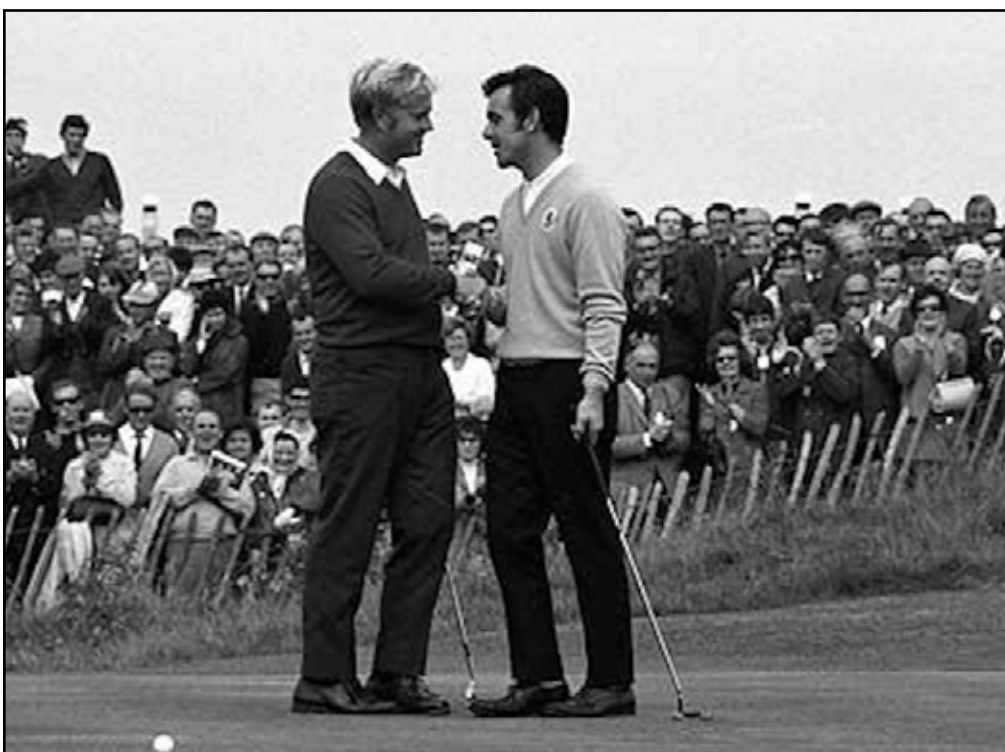
The Memorial Tournament launched in 1976, honoring a player or players from the past each year. The initial honoree was obviously Robert Tyre Jones. No one could break par for 72 holes as Roger Maltbie and Hale Irwin tied at 288. In the Tour's first ever three-hole aggregate-

score playoff the players each posted a par and a birdie on the first two holes. On the third playoff hole Maltbie's approach into the 17th green sailed to the left and ricocheted off a gallery stake onto the green to get him a tournament-saving halve. He won the inaugural edition of the Memorial on the next hole.

Bobby Jones, then retired, never fared well as host of his tournament but Nicklaus made certain that fate would not befall him as he won a rain-plagued second Memorial. "I am never nervous before a golf tournament," he said afterwards.

"But I was pretty nervous this morning. I really wanted to win very badly." He added that he considered the title "my biggest thrill in golf."

Nicklaus won again in 1984, his 72nd and last win on the regular PGA Tour; only his seminal win at the Masters in 1986 at the age of 46 would follow. In 1987 Muirfield Village would open to international play, hosting the Ryder Cup. The Solheim Cup and Presidents Cup would also take place here. For those counting, Muirfield Village is the only course to host all the major professional cup competitions.



Muirfield Village is the only course to host all three international professional matches - the Ryder Cup, the Solheim Cup and the Presidents Cup. Here, Muirfield Village creator Jack Nicklaus concedes a putt on the 18th green to Tony Jacklin at Royal Birkdale in 1969 to give the Europeans a tie in the best finish ever to a Ryder Cup.

# TPC Sawgrass - Stadium

## Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

### 1980

You have to feel for the PGA Tour. The United States Open is run by the United States Golf Association, the ruling body of amateur golf in America. The Open Championship is run by the Royal & Ancient, the ruling body of golf everywhere else. The

PGA Championship is run by the Professional Golfers Association - the guys in the pro shops. And the Masters is run by a private club, for crying out loud. The PGA Tour IS golf and they don't have a major championship of their own.

Deane Beman did everything he could to promote the idea of a "Fifth Major." He started The Players Championship in 1974 and made sure it had the biggest purse in golf. The tournament was guaranteed the best field - no amateurs, no qualifiers, no club pros. And he gave the event a home like no other.

But first it was a home for alligators, water moccasins and maybe even the rarely seen Florida panther. Beman found the swampland near Jacksonville while looking for someplace to play on a Florida golf vacation. His idea was to build a course that catered to spectators with large mounds and amphitheaters around the greens - fans could leave their periscopes in the trunk. To execute his vision for "stadium golf" Beman selected Pete Dye.

Dye took target golf to an extreme. There were no optional



Deane Beman, the second commissioner of the PGA Tour, invented the concept of tour-owned, spectator-friendly golf courses beginning in Sawgrass.

Beman is also credited with the idea for golf yardage books based on notes the one-time United States and British Amateur champion took as a teenager.



Florida greens have come a long way over the years.

routes to the green - the golfer either had to clear a hazard or never finish a hole. Nowhere was this more evident than the 132-yard 17th hole that plays to an island green, a concept suggested by Dye's wife, Alice. The hole immediately entered the pantheon of golf's most famous holes. The island green reached its logical conclusion in 1991 when Scott Miller built a floating green in the middle of Lake Coeur d'Alene in Idaho for the 14th hole at Coeur d'Alene Resort. The only way to reach the green after hitting is in a spiffy mahogany boat.

The Players Championship settled into its permanent home in 1982 and player reaction was swift and unanimous. Drives off the fairway would not stop rolling

until they were behind a tree. Greens repelled well-struck irons. "Unfair," was the kindest criticism. Others had stronger opinions like J.C. Snead who said, "They messed up a perfectly good swamp...It's 90 percent horse manure and 10 percent luck."

To hear the pros you would think the course was unplayable. But first year winner Jerry Pate shot 280, eight under par. The highest score for any winner was -3 and 26 times in the first 34 years the winner was in red double figures. Greg Norman took advantage of soft conditions in 1994 to shoot 24 under par.

To his credit, Beman listened to the complaints and softened the course regularly over the years. The tournament, after all, was the only one of its kind,

owned by the players. Dye had contoured his greens to be played at Stimpmeter speeds of eight but during the tournament the greens rarely ran less than 12. As conditions matured and changes were made to bring the course more in line with Dye's original vision, opinions changed and the Stadium Course came to be regarded as one of the great strategic tests in golf.

Not that the public ever had a

doubt. From the beginning, Beman wanted the Stadium Course to be a place that average fans could play a great course from a great tournament. Golfers have lined up to have a go at "Pete's Pain Palace" ever since it opened and there is no telling how many "Xs" have been recorded on Sawgrass scorecards. An estimated 120,000 golf balls a year are pulled out of the drink on the 17th hole alone.



The most famous hole on Pete Dye's most famous course was his wife Alice's idea.

# Shadow Creek

## Las Vegas, Nevada

### 1989

Kerry Packer, the late Australian media tycoon who was known to frequent casinos around the world, was playing in a poker tournament at the Stratosphere Casino in Las Vegas one night when he was approached by a Texas oil man about playing a little side game of poker. The Texan attempted to impress Packer with his credentials for such a game for which the Aussie high-roller was not interested. "But I am worth \$60 million dollars," blurted out the aggrieved J.R. Ewing-type.

Upon hearing that bit of news Packer reached into his pocket and extracted a coin. "Let's toss for it," replied Packer nonchalantly. In Las Vegas that is what is known as a whale.

Shadow Creek was built for whales.

From his base in Utica, New York, Steve Wynn's father ran a string of bingo parlors on the East Coast but when he died of a heart condition in 1963 he left \$350,000 in debts for his 21-year old son who was about to leave the

University of Pennsylvania with a degree in English Literature. Nonetheless, Wynn made the bingo parlors profitable and by 1967 had enough money to buy a small stake in the Frontier Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. He was able to purchase a controlling interest in the Golden Nugget, a longtime landmark on Fremont Street, before his 30th birthday.

Wynn pushed the heritage property upscale and did the same thing in the new gaming frontier of Atlantic City with his Golden Nugget there. He was then ready to return to Las Vegas



and introduce the town to a new type of luxury mega-resort with multiple entertainment and dining options, top of the line lodging and, oh yes, gambling. The new Mirage cost \$630 million that could have bought a string of traditional casinos on The Strip. It rose on the rubble of the Castaways casino, a former Howard Hughes property.

The distinctive gold windows used actual gold dust in the tinting process. The original marquee was the largest free-standing sign in the world. Wynn re-invented Las Vegas with the free sidewalk show for tourists as the Volcano in the front yard of the Mirage erupted spectacularly on the hour each night until midnight when it opened in 1989.

But while Wynn casinos were meant to draw attention everything about Shadow Creek would be on the down low. When Wynn's best guests were treated to his golf course they could expect complete privacy. The only signage would be a small gold plaque next to the security gate at the entrance - not that anyone would need directions since the only way to get to the course in North Las Vegas would be a 15-minute limousine ride from a Wynn hotel. No one would be able to see inside since a 10-foot wrought iron fence encircled the property.

A club this secretive inevitably spawned rumors and myths.

Start with the price tag - between \$40 and \$60 million. And the source of that money. One story maintained that Wynn got the building funds for his course from a bad weekend suffered by the CEO of a high-profile Japanese company.

Steve Wynn did not want to build a desert course with targets of grass seeded among a vast brown wasteland. Shadow Creek was to have ponds and waterfalls and verdant hillsides and Chinese pheasants flitting around the fairways. And trees. Two hundred varieties of trees. Wynn wanted a course that came right from the Carolina mountains, a place like where his architect Tom Fazio lived.

Fazio, at the vanguard of modern golf architecture, is likely the last of his profession to come into the business the old-fashioned way - working on crews and bypassing college. For Fazio it was working in high school for his uncle George at the Kimberton Golf Club up Route 23 from his home in Norristown, Pennsylvania.

George Fazio was a standout Philadelphia-area golfer in the 1940s and 1950s who won twice on the PGA Tour but made his biggest splash by tying Ben Hogan and Lloyd Mangrum in the 1950 U.S. Open at Merion. If that 18-hole playoff had gone differently Fazio might never have gone into golf architecture and no one would remember Hogan's



one-iron from the 18th fairway.

The Kimberton Course that opened in 1964 was the first George Fazio had designed and built. Tom signed on after Bishop Kendrick High School and later his brother Jim would join the team. By the time the Fazio family business relocated from Pennsylvania to Florida, where they created the acclaimed Jupiter Hills, in 1973 Tom was creating the routes and running the projects.

Tom Fazio may have started out by building \$10,000 golf holes but he was decidedly not old-school. Fazio helped usher in the era of the designer architect and he did that by moving earth, not laying a golf course naturally on the land. Fazio knew what to do with a big budget and at Shadow Creek he was building a hand-made golf course from scratch on a flat and barren desert canvas.

He moved some three million cubic yards of dirt which was used to build up the privacy berm around the 350-acre property and create elevation changes of over 50 feet on the course. Waterfalls are so high they almost appear to be spilling down the slopes of the rugged Sheep Mountain Range in the distance. Each hole was designed so a golfer is totally out of the view of the 30 or so other players that might be on the course on any given day. Shadow Creek was entirely sodded and not seeded. More than 20,000

mature trees create a ready-made desert oasis.

Once Shadow Creek opened - for guests of Steve Wynn only - the myths only intensified. There were the denials to American Presidents who wanted to play but were turned away because they were not staying in a Wynn hotel. Ditto for the Canadian Prime Minister. No exceptions.

One thing Fazio did not do was to build a hard course. Tiger Woods and Fred Couples shared the course record at 60 before the architect came back in 2008 and lengthened the holes.

Wynn sold the property to MGM in 2000 which only slightly raised the bar to admission - registered hotel guests regardless of bank-roll could get a Shadow Creek tee time from Monday to Thursday. Greens fees were pegged at \$500 - the most expensive "public" course in America. After the golf market collapsed in 2008 Shadow Creek began publishing photos of the golf course for the first time and started a website looking for business. Not so secretive, not so exclusive but still the priciest round of golf in America at \$500.

And the public can even visit Shadow Creek without playing as a paying spectator for the Michael Jordan Celebrity Invitational charity tournament that the Aria Resort & Casino hosts. No limo ride, however, although parking is free with the \$30 ticket. But Shadow Creek would not be Fazio



Ed Sullivan, Red Skelton and original Desert Inn owner Wilbur Clark.

and Wynn's last stab at high-end Vegas golf.

The legendary Desert Inn opened in 1950 as the fifth casino on the Las Vegas Strip. Two years later a Lawrence Hughes-designed golf course opened up behind the casino and would be the only golf course on the Strip for 50 years. The Desert Inn Golf Course became the first home of the PGA Tournament of Champions in 1953 and was the only resort course to annually host PGA Tour, LPGA Tour and Senior Tour events. The first prize for the Tournament of Champions was \$10,000 - paid

in silver dollars and delivered to the champion on the 18th green in a wheelbarrow.

On Thanksgiving Day 1966 America's richest man, Howard Hughes, checked in for ten days and rented the entire top two floors. After his reservation was up the hotel needed to get the rooms ready for a junket of high rollers but Hughes refused to leave. He just bought the Desert Inn instead. And the Sands and five other casinos. He bought the Silver Slipper across the

street from the Desert Inn just to reposition the neon slipper out front since it was disturbing his sleep.

Steve Wynn bought the Desert Inn in 2000 for \$270 million and blew the whole thing up for a new resort he called The Wynn. But he kept the golf course as the only casino-owned links on The Strip. Fazio came in and transformed the flat desert course with mounds and swales and waterfalls. It's Vegas. It's golf. And it's a long way from gutta percha balls and sheep grazing in the fairways.

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