

THE GOLF COURSE

A MONTHLY BULLETIN DEVOTED TO THE DISCUSSION OF MODERN METHODS AS APPLIED TO GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION AND UPKEEP

Modern Golf Chats

By A. W. TILLINGHAST

WITHOUT a doubt one of the most certain earmarks of a modern golf course are twisting, irregularly shaped fairways.

The boy from the backwoods shows unmistakably by the cut of his hair that Mother has taken the sugar bowl, placed it helmet-like over his head, and cropped around the rim. Whenever you see a fairway cut with the same precision, you may know immediately that the green committee is composed of antiquarians who are "sot in their ways."

Another time I shall discuss the simple twisting of the fairways of comparatively straight holes, but at this time let us consider the extreme types where the fairways snake around Dog-legs and Elbows.

As a rule, the two terms are used indiscriminately, but I always have made this distinction. A Dog-leg hole provides some pronounced obstruction, which forms a corner in a twisted fairway from either side. If it be impossible to carry over this obstruction, but at the same time necessary to get beyond it in order to open up the next shot, we have a Dog-leg.

If a similar obstruction may be carried by a courageous shot, which is rewarded by a very distinct advantage, we have an Elbow.

There is still a third variation, where a corner is formed close by the green itself, usually by the encroachment of a hillside or sandy waste, and this type is known as a Cape hole.

The inclusion of these very twisted types lends variety to any course, and in a great measure they may eliminate the old evil of paralleling which is encountered so frequently on courses of common pattern. Then, too, these types require less bunkering than the straight-aways, for usually the projecting areas are provided by Nature. In laying out courses inland where wooded sections are numerous, the planning of the Dog-leg is quite simple. The trees are permitted to remain along the side for such a distance as may be considered proper for a well-hit shot to exceed. Of course, the length of this shot would be regulated by the slopes of the fairway and the character of the turf. Under normal conditions, a player should be required to drive at least two hundred yards before the barrier to his second shot is removed. From this point the fairway turns abruptly either to the right or left, opening up the green or its approaches. The first hole of the new course at Pine Valley provides an excellent example of the Dog-leg, and,

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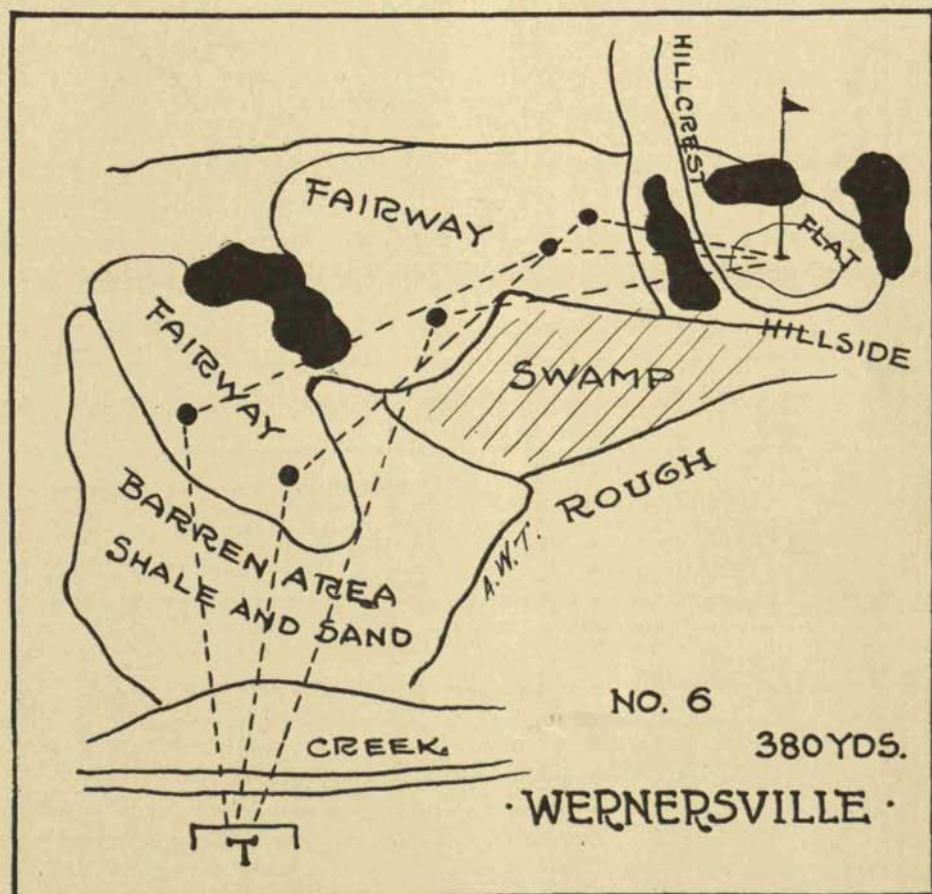
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indeed, many of our most modern courses present equally admirable types.

Last year I was called to Wernersville, Pa., to reconstruct a nine-hole course, and my rough sketch illustrates

the green with a second, for the bunkering is very close.

The word Rough, which looms forth threateningly from the sketch, need not carry terror with it. I insist that rough country should be a prominent feature on every course, but I am no believer in the matted rank grass variety, where



one of the new holes. Inasmuch as the corner of the swamp at Wernersville may be carried to a distinct advantage, it should be designated as an Elbow.

While the length is well within the command of a drive and a mid-iron or mashie, the player who declines to attempt the hazardous carry of the swamp will find it exceedingly difficult to reach

balls are rather sure to be lost, and vexatious, irritating delays occasioned. Like the instruments of torture from the days of the Inquisition, this form of rough belongs to golf of the past.

Rough country may be created to exact its penalty of one stroke without having the lost ball plague lurking within its borders.