mostly poa annua. So if you tried to fly the ball in, the greens were too hard to hold. But if you bounces it in and let it roll in, you were more apt to get on the green.

"They'd protect part of the green with a bunker of hollow and allow you to roll it in on another part of the green... The old vertical courses preferred the bump-and-run."

WHERE DID THEY GO?

So what happened to those old-style courses?

Paul Fullmer, executive director of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, said: "Sites almost demand some of the changes in design. Oftentimes, architects' only choice is to move earth, build mounds, and create some character. Therefore you end up with a course you could label target golf."

Morris said the golf course looked changed after World War II.

"We had the old-time architects - (A.W.) Tillingshag, (Donald) Ross, (Alister) Mackenzie, George Thomas. Then, after World War II we really had a drought in architects except for Robert Trent Jones Sr., Dick Wilson and Geoff Cornish.

Then along came a group of others, namely Pete Dye, the Frazios and, a little later, Nicklaus. They started putting different holes in, but I have never considered any of their looks traditional. Pete is as close to being traditional as anyone, and I guess Tom is. I would not call Nicklaus 'look traditional.'

Parks, who works with Tour golfer David Graham, another "adamanant traditionalist," said, "In the '50s, '60s, '70s and '80s everyone was trying to reinvent the wheel and come up with something different."

Jones agreed, saying many architects in the last 20 years started "creating artificial

"They built these vertical walls and unmaintainable features, which led to unplayable conditions. I don't know how that style got into vogue but it seemed to stay in vogue."

— Rees Jones

"I wonder what Mr. Ross would have done to Pinehurst #2 if he'd known that the greens would be cut at a (Stimprometer speed of) 10, that Cary Norman was going to fire it off the tee at 310 yards. I wonder if he would have kept it status quo or plowed the whole thing under and started all over again.

"He might have put the first tee back in the parking lot on the other side of the clubhouse."

"If you're trying to envision a golf course like Mr. Ross had envisioned at Pinehurst, you'd have to add another 500 or 600 yards easily to come remotely in the same ball game."

Dye did not want to design longer courses.

"I had to. I was forced into it," he said. Average golfers can play the forward tees on his new 7,600-yard Ocean Course on Kiawah Island, Dye said.

He said he designed the course to enhance a bump-and-run game but doubts it will work because of several conditions.

"State-of-the-art in maintenance is to flood these fairways. The only place you can get (hard) turf in our country is in Maine, Vermont, some of Long Island, and northern Michigan, where you can grow fescue on sand. The big problem with bentgrass fairways, which we have in the Midwest and all the way out through California, is the turf is not resilient.

"At Kiawah, we have short grass in front of the greens. They're wide open. At 14 greens you can roll it in. I've even put in Tifdwarf. I've done everything I can to make it look like a bump-and-run course. But I guarantee that after three or four years, that Bermudagrass will build up enough thatch that it will not work."

"Perhaps Dye's work at Kiawah is a precursor of things to come."

"I think what happened for a while was that the frame became more important than the painting," Jones said. "And now we're getting back to making sure the painting is what we're designing."

Jones feels the 1988 U.S. Open, held at the Country Club of Brookline, which he had just remodeled, "may have been the turning point architecturally."

He said the Open showed a course with "basically good routing, rudimentary design using the lay of the land, with greens coming in flush to the fairway quite often, fairly small greens, undulating contours, to true-degrees approaches, could still test the best players in the game... It showed you didn't have to have steep banks, super elevated greens and built-in where face water restrictions that in the old traditional fashion and they would still be a test."

Curtis Strange said afterward it was nice that funder par could win the most important tournament in the world and members could go out and play the same course the next day.

"Golf courses are built to be played every day. That's why we're getting back to the traditional designs. In order to make it viable, even if you're building a public golf course, you have to design it so that people want to play it on a repeat basis," Jones said.

Parks said: "I think we need to be concerned with building courses that are affordable to build, affordable to maintain, pleasant to play, and pleasing to the eye. A lot of the

Continued on page 39

Environmental laws may mandate return to the basics

Environmental laws may cause a "natural evolution" back to the traditional bump-and-run golf courses, some feel.

There's going to be a natural evolution because of water shortages, which will bring back the bump-and-run," said Gary Parks of Parkinson/Plank Environmental in Scottsdale, Ariz. Parks explained that golf course superintendents in Arizona, Southern California and elsewhere have to fight water restrictions that will probably result in harder, drier courses with more bounce.

Architect Rees Jones agreed: "With more environmental and water restrictions, maybe we won't be able to keep the grass as lush, and the golfer will have that option to roll it on or fly it.

Parks referred to the Arizona regulation allowing no more than 90 acres of turf and 4.8 acre feet of water per year for courses.

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