

# Architect's Plans Translated Into A Course When Martin Moves In

By JOHN M. BRENNAN

Charlie Martin was born on the fringe of Old Bellelaire GC, Bayside, L.I., N.Y., during the pre-depression era when courses were mushrooming in Queens, one of the five counties that comprise the City of New York.

When Charlie became old enough to swing a club, he began to caddie for Joe Turnesa at Old Bellaire and occasionally went to nearby Fresh Meadow CC, Flushing, where Gene Sarazen was pro.

It was at the latter club that a decision was made one summer day that changed Charlie's life and started him on his way to becoming the most important and influential course construction man in the Westchester-Long Island sector.

## Helped with Weeding

"It was a hot, humid day in the 1920's when Ed O'Brien, the head greenskeeper at Fresh Meadow asked me to help with the weeding and mowing of one of the greens at the course where Sarazen was to win his second U.S. Open title after annexing the British Open earlier the same year," recalls the youthful-looking Martin as he and his comely wife, Ginny, an important cog in his golf course construction firm with headquarters at Commack, L.I., recently talked of the vast growth of golf in their area.

"There were no caddying jobs that hot day, because of the high humidity. So I was anxious to make a few dollars helping O'Brien and his foreman, Jimmy Keough, now the superintendent of Fresh Meadow's new layout at Great Neck, formerly known as Lakeville," says Martin.

"That was my start in the maintenance and construction phase of the sport, something for which I shall be eternally



Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Martin  
*... no job is too big.*

grateful to O'Brien and Keough. Golf has been kind to me through the years, has offered a tremendous challenge and given me a great satisfaction because of the courses I have helped to create and revamp."

## Baseball, Golf Maintenance

At one time, when Martin was associated with the late Walter Grego, recognized as one of the leading turf developers in the country, the pair maintained the grass at Yankee Stadium, the Polo Grounds and Ebbets Field. At the same time they were responsible for the condition of Winged Foot GC, Deepdale GC and Shinnecock Hills.

It was shortly after Charlie and Grego parted company that Charlie launched the

C.K. Martin Co. with headquarters at old Indian Road in the burgeoning Commack, L.I., area. At present Martin uses more than 150 pieces of heavy equipment to build new courses. His 60-acre nursery featuring all strains of turf, and his vast trap sand and top soil facilities are the talk of the golfing world in the East.

More than 90 per cent of the clubs in the Long Island and Westchester area, in addition to Fairfield county in Conn., are clients of Martin's firm. During the spring, summer and fall, the Martins have a force of more than 150 on the payroll. In the winter months, spent mostly in reconditioning and repainting the machinery, there is a force of 30.

### Three This Spring

This year during late spring, three more Martin-built courses were launched on Long Island. One of these is a 27-hole privately owned public course at Middle Island, near old Camp Upton of World War I days. Another is Baiting Hollow, a scenic masterpiece that overlooks Long Island Sound at Riverhead. The other is Mill River Club in the Gold Coast sector of Old Brookville.

Other new courses built by Martin during recent years include Island's End at Orient Point, L.I., Indian Hills at Fort Salonga, Heatherwood at Squantum and Commack Hills in Huntington.

Martin's role as a course remodeler has earned him an outstanding reputation in this field. He has recently been commissioned to facelift Gardiner's Bay CC, located on picturesque Shelter Island in Peconic Bay. He also has been called upon to complete the new Noyac CC, Bridgehampton.

### Has Modernized Many Courses

Other clubs that had Martin modernize their layouts included Rockville CC, Lake Success, Glen Head CC, Engineers CC, where Chick Evans captured one of his U.S. Amateur titles. IBM's course at Sands Point, Pelham CC, Scarsdale CC, the new North Hills, a layout designed by Robert Trent Jones. Pine Hollow CC and Brookville CC also have been modernized by Martin.

Course Designer Dick Wilson, after building the Meadow Brook and new

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### Grau Takes Brief Leave

Fred Grau, who has been writing *Golfdom's* Q & A column for many years, is so deep in Penngift crown vetch that he has asked to be excused from writing his regular contribution during the summer months. He has been working from sunup to well past the dinner hour seven days a week for the last several months, and prospects are that he will continue to do so through mid-September. He won't get a chance to get back to the typewriter until after harvest time.

Grau's popular column will be resumed in October.

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Deepdale courses, decided the Martin's touch was required. So Charlie embellished those courses, shortly after doing a major renovation job at Inwood, where Bobby Jones won his first U.S. Open.

Probably the outstanding accomplishment of the Martin firm was the building of Tam O'Shanter CC in 90 days three years ago. With 50 pieces of equipment and 64 men, Charlie constructed and seeded the 18-hole course on which the LPGA has staged several tournaments in recent years.

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### Non-Member Clubs Invited to Join USGA

The membership committee of the United States Golf Association has again invited all non-member clubs and courses to apply for USGA membership.

There are two classes—Regular Membership, open to any regularly organized club in the United States; and Associate Membership, open to any golf course in the United States not controlled by a regularly organized club. Associate membership entitles a course to all USGA privileges except voting rights and eligibility of the course's patrons for the USGA Amateur, Women's Amateur, Senior Amateur and Senior Women's Amateur championships.

According to Fred Brand, Jr., of Pittsburgh, chairman of the membership committee, member clubs of the USGA now total 3,092, a record high.