

APRIL IN AUGUSTA continued

in mid-April — and he says he could not do the job he does without his hard-working crew.

Augusta totals 365 acres with 130 acres maintained by Luke and his crew. This consists of the main 18-hole course, plus a par-three, nine-hole course that sponsors local tournaments every Wednesday.

The course is a 328 Bermuda hybrid base overseeded with "Penn-fine" perennial ryegrass on the

greens and tees, and with "Penn-lawn" fescue on the fairways. This year is the first Augusta has gone to "Feldspar" sand in its traps, the same sand used by Vance Price at Tanglewood Golf Club, in North Carolina, site of last year's PGA Championship. Luke says he has gotten at least 100 requests from other superintendents about his sand. More than 40,000 azaleas are planted throughout the course for

color, in addition to the other 17 plants for which the 18 holes are named. There are no car paths on the course.

Luke utilizes a Toro automatic irrigation system which has the capability of watering greens, tees and fairways separately. He has 725 heads total on the par-three and the main course. One of his workers, Herb Turner, is trained to troubleshoot the system, and spends most of his work week providing maintenance for the system. continued

42 YEARS AT THE MASTERS

Probably the best-known shot in all golf tournament history occurred in the fourth round of the 1935 Masters. Gene Sarazen holed out the 15th hole with a 220-yard, four wood shot for a double eagle. The stroke enabled him to tie Craig Wood for first place, and then set the stage for his ultimate victory in a play-off round. Bruce Devlin became the only other player in Masters history to score a double eagle when he also holed out on his second shot using a four wood on the par-five 8th hole during the first round of the 1967 Masters.

The youngest player to win the Masters was Jack Nicklaus in 1963 at the age of 23. The second youngest was Byron Nelson in 1937 at the age of 25 and two months, and the third was Gary Player in 1961 at age 25 and five months.

Craig Wood shot an 88 in the first round of the 1936 tournament, then scored 67 in the second — a difference of 21 strokes.

Frank Walsh used up 12 strokes on the 8th hole in 1935. Herman Barron took an 11 on the 16th in 1950 and Dow Finsterwald took an 11 on the 12th in 1951.

Herman Keiser three-putted the 18th green on the final round of the 1946 tournament, thereby opening the door for Ben Hogan to overtake him. But Hogan, although he had a good chance to score a birdie that would have given him the championship by a one-stroke margin, also three-putted — leaving Keiser in sole possession of first place.

During the first round of the 1947 tournament, Jimmy Demaret played a shot out of deep water in front of the 15th green. The ball

came to rest within four feet of the pin and Demaret holed out for a birdie. He went on to win the tournament.

During the third round of the 1953 Masters, Count de Bendor (better known as Johnny de Forest) found his ball lodged in the bank of the brook in front of the 13th green. After carefully surveying the situation, Johnny decided, although the stream was running rather full, that he could play the ball. Thereupon he stripped off his left shoe and sock and rolled his pants above his knee. Johnny next, very carefully, planted the bare foot on the bank and stepped into the deep water with his well-shod right foot. The spectators who witnessed this incident will long remember the look of incredulity on the affable Count's face as he realized what he had done.

While playing the fourth round in 1954, Al Bessellink hit his tee shot into the water on the 12th. Finding that the ball had come to rest on a small sandbar in midstream, Al waded out to the spot and succeeded in playing his ball to the green. Then, following the unconscious dictate of long habit, he carefully smoothed out the indentation he had made, leaving an unblemished sandbar for the next golfer.

Cary Middlecoff's putt for an eagle at the 13th hole during the second round of the 1955 Masters was estimated, by common consent of Middlecoff and the writers, at 75 feet in length. That this is a conservative estimate may be judged by the fact that one writer, who paced off the distance, arrived at a figure of 86 feet. Considering that there are relatively few greens in existence big

enough to even permit a putt of this length, Middlecoff's must go down in golf history as one of the all-time long putts of major league competition.

Gene Sarazen and George Fazio were first off the tee in the final round of the 1947 tournament. They finished the 18 holes in one hour and 57 minutes, Gene scoring 70. In 1960 George Bayer and Jack Fleck went around in one hour and 52 minutes and made scores of 72 and 74.

Two fine golfers encountered almost incredible difficulties during the fourth round of the 1951 tournament. Sam Snead began the day tied with Skee Riegel for the lead with 211 but went from a third round 68 to a fourth round 80. Surprising as this was, William (Dynamite) Goodloe, Jr. started the same round leading the amateur field but followed his 72 of the previous day with a concluding 88.

Ed Oliver, Jr. and Hogan waged a classic medal play duel when they were paired together on the third day of the 1953 Masters. From the moment Oliver birdied the first hole, the twosome produced some of the most spectacular golf ever seen at Augusta. Hogan shot 32-34-66 to Oliver's 34-33-67. The best ball score for the two was 31-29-60.

In 1957 Byron Nelson put his tee shot into the water at the 16th hole, then hitting a second ball brought off a superb seven-iron shot. The ball struck the flagpole squarely, about a foot above the cup and bounced back into the water. Nelson said this was the only time in his career he had had a shot strike a pin and end up in a water hazard. □