



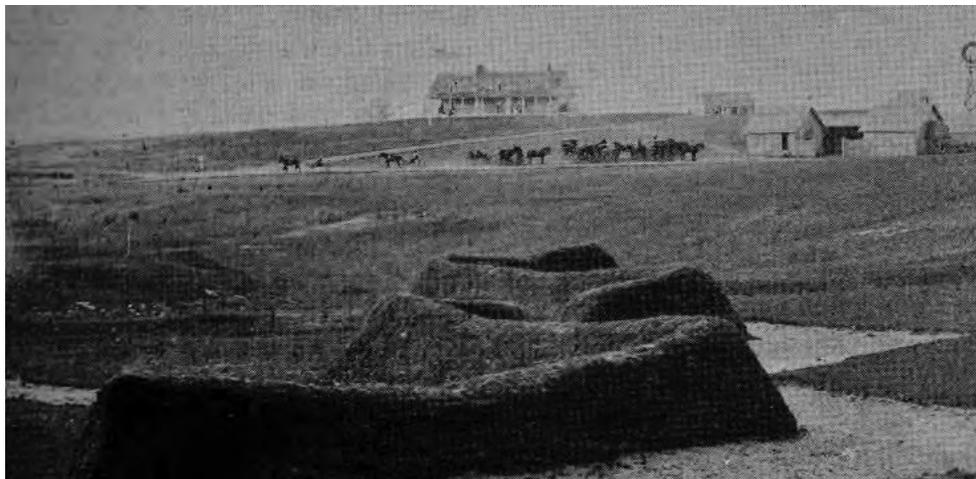
Sand By SEAN TULLY

Sand plays an integral part in the game of golf; from forming hazards to helping provide quality putting surfaces, it can hinder as much as it can improve the conditions that we play the game over. From golf's earliest days on the links, sand played an important part in how the game was played and shaped. It has often been said that the original bunkers were formed from animal scratches or areas where animals found shelter from the wind and rain. When golf moved inland sand came with it, but it was forced on the land as golfers tried to recreate golf as best they could, using a bunkering style that more closely resembled military entrenchments than a natural looking wind blown bunker.

A very early bunker that is highly engineered and takes on an almost rhythmic nature was found on the original course at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club in 1894.

But we need to go back to England and look at the evolution of the course at Royal Mid-Surrey from around 1900 with this highly engineered bunker that guarded the 18th green just behind it. It would be another 10+ years before some of the earliest attempts of "naturalizing" work was done by J.H. Taylor, a five-time winner of The Open and Peter Lees who was the club's Greenkeeper. A mention of the work at Royal Mid-Surrey in *Golf Illustrated* in March of 1911 states, "the older methods are being discarded in favour of something more pleasing to the eye, but still sufficiently effective in punishing wrong doers in the golfing sense." If you go onto Google maps you can still see some of the old mounds around the Mid Surrey Golf Club today!

In the two photos from around 1910, one can see in the background how flat the property was before they worked on adding more natural looking features. Their work would take on the



name of "alpinization" and would be implemented by many other golf architects that followed. The last photo is of A.W. Tillinghast's Somerset Hills Golf Club circa 1919 and it shows some of the same early attempts at trying to recreate natural features on a flat property.

Today we are reminded of these earlier attempts at taking a flat, featureless property and making a golf course that tries to recapture the appeal of a links course. Whistling Straits comes to mind!





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