

some clans in design

Fazio brothers continue tradition

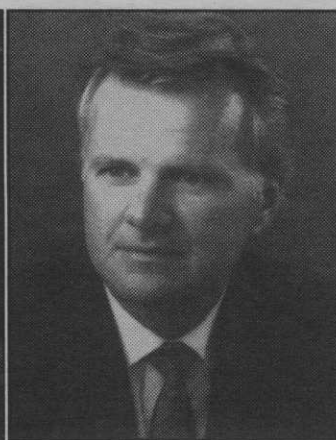
George Fazio's missed putt on the final regulation hole of the 1950 U.S. Open may have been the biggest break of his nephew Tom's life.

"If he'd made that putt it wouldn't have gone to a playoff and (Ben) Hogan wouldn't have beaten him," remembered Tom. "Winning that tournament might have changed his career. He might not have gotten into golf course architecture which meant I probably wouldn't have either. Having him miss that shot might have been the best thing that ever happened to me."

George, who died in 1986, might disagree. But he'd still get a chuckle out of his nephew's assessment.

Despite his overtime 1950 loss to Hogan, George had a successful playing career, winning the 1946 Canadian Open and finishing fifth in the 1952 and fourth in the 1953 U.S. Opens. He was a resident pro at several courses, including Pine Valley, before turning to architecture in 1959.

Tom's older brother, Jim, joined



At left, George Fazio makes a design point to young nephew Tom. Above is Jim Fazio today.

George's firm in 1961. The pair did the bulk of their early work in the Philadelphia area.

Tom, who weeded greens summers and washed dishes in the clubhouse winters while growing up and working at George's Pennsylvania club, came

on board a year later at age 17.

"Golf was always a part of the family. I never thought about doing anything else, never considered doing anything else, never did anything else and never intend to do anything else," said Tom, whose father was a pro at a Pennsylvania club..

Dyes

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railroad tie bulkheads and deep native roughs — into their own style. Many of those characteristics can be seen on Pete's better-known courses, including Casa de Campo in the Dominican Republic, The Golf Club in Columbus, Ohio, Harbour Town Golf Links on Hilton Head Island and the original Tournament Players Club at Ponte Vedra, Fla.

Roy Dye, Pete's younger brother and a chemical engineer by trade, left that field and joined Pete's design practice in 1969. Roy worked with Pete on several projects before opening his own business, which is located in Carefree, Ariz.

Sons Perry, 37, and P.B. (Paul Burke), 34, became involved with the game and architecture at an early age.

"I had a golf club in my hand for the first time when I was 4 and was on a tractor at 7.

"I've been on a golf course every day I wasn't in school since," remembered P.B., who now runs his own firm, P.B. Dye Inc., in West Palm Beach, Fla.

"They were running the equipment as soon as they were old enough to reach the pedals," said Alice.

"That experience helped them. It's so important in this business to know what equipment can do."

P.B., like his parents, runs a relatively small-scale operation that has concentrated its work in the United States.

"We basically work out of a suitcase," said Alice, who, with Pete, generally has no more than one or two projects going at a time. Pete estimates he has designed 70 courses in 20 years.

P.B., who shares an office with a contractor, said he prefers to have no more than 10 fires in the iron at once and is most comfortable with about six.

P.B.'s first collaboration with his father was Long Cove Club on Hilton Head, voted among America's top 100 courses by Golf Digest magazine just two years after it opened.

The Honors Course near Chattanooga, Tenn., another joint venture with Pete, was



Pete Dye years ago with sons Perry, left, and P.B.

Golf Digest's best new private course of 1984.

Now on his own, P.B. is concentrating on developing affordable, public courses.

Perry, on the other hand, employs about 120 at Denver-based Dye Designs Inc.

A graduate of the University of Denver's real estate marketing program, he has designed and built courses throughout the world.

Perry and his father co-designed the TPC of Plum Creek near Castle Rock, Colo.

Perry is one of the better-known developers in Japan, where his work has received substantial publicity and current president of the Golf Course Builders of America.

"We're just two different people," said P.B. "Perry's an excellent promoter and helps keep a lot of people working. I like to keep things smaller and get more involved with the building myself.

"I told him I'll take everything east of the Mississippi River and he can have everything to the west, including the rest of the world."

The Dyes rarely collaborate on course designs now that banks no longer need to

see the Pete Dye name next to his sons' before providing financing.

"Designing a golf course is like painting. You don't want someone else adding brush strokes. We might discuss ideas. But each of us does our own thing," said Alice.

Alice sees similar architectural styles between parents and sons, and is especially pleased with her offsprings' placement of forward tees, an aspect of course design she has long championed.

But there are differences. For instance, the sons may design an 8-foot bunker that is difficult enough to climb out of, let alone hit out of, said Alice.

"Their work is much more severe. Pete may suggest they downplay it a little. But they don't listen. Kids are kids," chuckled Alice.

Growing up with Pete and Alice, Perry and P.B. developed a taste for the classic designs of the old Scottish courses that first attracted their parents.

"If anything, they have a harder time letting go of the past than me," said Pete.

In the early days the Fazios dealt in turnkey operations, designing and building a course that was turned over to the owners ready for play. Courses were built for about \$10,000 a hole, a far cry from the millions spent on today's links.

"Of course those weren't the same courses we have today. We didn't build cart paths. We didn't install irrigation systems. We didn't use sod. We didn't have USGA spec greens. We did not move the same amount of earth.

"We did like they did around the turn of the century: look for a good piece of land to put a golf course on. Today you can put a course just about anywhere, it's just a question of dollars. You can create something from nothing," said Tom, referring to Shadow Creek, a Fazio-designed course recently forged out of the Nevada desert near Las Vegas.

Money is the biggest change in the game over the past 30 years, agreed Jim.

"There's too much of it, today," he said. "Something like 47 of the top 100 courses in the country were built before 1940, and I'll bet none of them cost over \$100,000.

"Today it costs six, eight, 10, 20 million dollars. It's a crime. But each developer wants his course to be better than the last one. Anything beyond the rough line is just an added expense to the golfer. All the rest is just eyewash."

The Fazios' early-1960s construction costs often exceeded, sometimes by hundreds of thousands of dollars, the \$180,000 they charged buyers. But George was willing to absorb the financial setbacks in order to learn the business. Fortunately he had off-setting income from several other courses he owned and an automobile business he operated, said Tom.

Jimmy Demaret, a former pro golfer and good friend of George's, got the Fazios involved in their first out-of-

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Fazios

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state job at the Champions GC in Houston in 1964. Nevada's Edgewood Tahoe CC in 1967 was their second out-of-Philadelphia-area effort. Jupiter Hills opened the Florida market in 1970.

Jupiter Hills helped launch an era similar to today's construction boom. New courses nationally were being built at a pace of 100 to 200 annually in the 1960s. Those numbers rose to the 200 to 350 range in the early 1970s, similar to the course-a-day goal architects are setting for the 1990s.

Designing and building courses was pretty heady stuff for 22-year-old Tom, who found himself directing construction at the Edgewood Tahoe course.

"Here you had one of the greatest sites in America, right on the lake with giant Ponderosa pines all around. I had a penthouse suite at the Sahara Hotel. Gambling, drinking, great food, women and being just 22. Now that was a lot," he remembered.

Tom sees several key courses that kept the Fazio ship pointed in the right direction. Moselem Springs CC in Fleetwood, Pa., helped launch the company in 1964. Jupiter Hill gave it momentum heading into the 1970s.

Wild Dunes Golf Links in South Carolina put wind in the sails heading into the 1980s. Wade Hampton GC in North Carolina and Shadow Creek will open the waters to the 1990s.

But it all comes back to George, one of the first professional golfers to get into architecture. He was an artist, a dreamer, who enjoyed sculpting his courses, according to his nephew.

If he had a fault, it might have been that he dreamed too much, said Tom. Some players at Jupiter Hills, where George lived the last 15 years of his life, felt he was changing the course too much. But many Pinehurst No. 2 players said the same about Donald

Ross, who liked to toy with the course he designed and lived on the final years of his life.

George was both difficult and easy to work for, remembered Tom.

He was difficult in that he was a taskmaster who rarely took a day off and expected the same of others. That work-a-holic tendency created a bit of a rift between George and Jim.

Jim had to leave the business to join the Naval Reserves in 1964. He met his wife, Amy, and they were married shortly after his discharge a year later.

When raising his three children cut into Jim's ability to work seven days a week, 24 hours a day, George

handed Jim's spot on the company ladder to Tom.

Jim continued to work for Tom and George for several years. Tom and George designed Hidden Springs CC in Horsham, Pa. and Jim built it. Jim stayed as head pro of the 36-hole course for five years, before rejoining the firm and moving to Palm Beach, Fla. in 1973.

"I felt like kind of a fake pro," confessed Jim. "I had a hard time breaking 80."

Tom bought out George, who then retired to Jupiter Hills, in the mid-1970s. The brothers returned to their former arrangement, Tom designing and Jim building. The relationship came full circle when Jim started his own company in 1984 with George as his partner.

Among the courses built under the Jim and George Fazio names were The Reserve Golf & Country Club in Ft. Pierce, Fla.; LaQuerce Golf Course in Rome; St. Lucie West Country Club in St. Lucie, Fla.; Hawk's Nest Country Club in Vero Beach, Fla.; and the Woodlands Country Club in Falmouth, Maine.

"I kept the George and Jim Fazio names on those courses, even though George never got to see them finished," explained Jim, whose uncle died in 1986.

Jim renamed his company Jim Fazio Golf Design and recently appended that to & Sons, with Jim Jr., 23, and Tom, 22, now actively involved in the business. Young Jim is currently working on a pair of courses in Japan and his brother a 36-hole project for fashion designer Laura Biagiotti in Rome.

Now that Jim's kids are grown, he's the one jetting around the world putting in the long days. Tom, whose six children range from 4 to 13, confines most of his work to the Eastern United States, within a two-hour private jet ride of his North Carolina home.

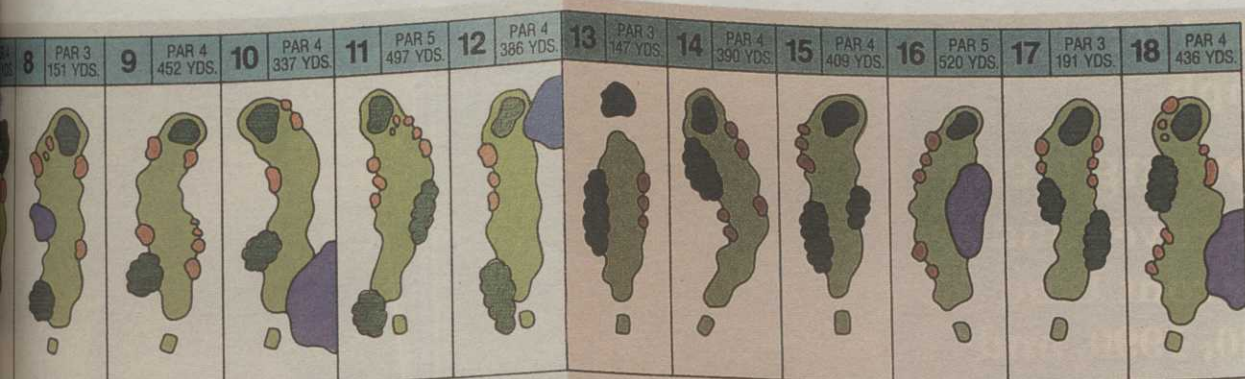
"George's philosophy was great if that (working 24 hours a day) is what you wanted to do. But he didn't change my way of thinking, or Tom's either," said Jim.

And how about the easy part of working for George? The nice part, and it far outweighed any negatives Tom and Jim agreed, was George's willingness to give his then wet-behind-the-ears nephews immense responsibility and provide almost anything needed to get the job done right.

The biggest design difference between George and contemporary architects is more the result of changes in environmental laws than a difference in philosophy, said Tom. Hole placements around natural areas, protective buffer zones and drainage considerations in contouring fairways weren't things architects had to worry about 15 to 20 years ago.

"I can look at a course and tell what decade it was built in by how it takes into effect environmental consid-

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Bengeyfield

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Despite his retirement, Bengeyfield plans on staying active rather than viewing the game from the gallery.

He is already involved in consulting projects in Spain and Japan and figures to do more overseas and domestic work in the future.

He and wife Betty will spend May through October running Frankfort (Mich.) Golf Course, a nine-hole "Mom and Pop" affair the couple purchased about 10 years ago.

Winters will find them holed up in their Caldwell, Idaho, home.

Bengeyfield also expects to occasionally be in touch with his replacement, or replacements actually.

Jim Snow is being promoted from

Northeast region director to national director. Mike Kenna, who joined the USGA from Oklahoma State University in mid-January, will be director of research, taking over many of the duties Bengeyfield had as chairman of the USGA/GCSAA Turfgrass Research Committee.

"It's reached the point where one man can't do it all," said Bengeyfield. "There are 13 agronomists on the staff now. We had 600 subscribers in 1981 and now it's up to 1,700.

"The research committee invested \$3 million this year. Next year we'll invest even more with all the environmental concerns. Both jobs are on the incline and I'm on the decline."

Rossi

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Rickey said that after joining NGF, Don soon proved "a master" at working with diverse people with varied attitudes, and bringing those people together.

Don forever spoke highly of others in the industry. Asked his opinion of the NGF's move into the service field, he refused to pass judgment. "I think leadership at the NGF is extraordinary," he replied.

Rickey told the story of the near-collapse of the NGF shortly after Don took over its reins. At that time most of the funding for the foundation came from testing aluminum shafts.

When the aluminum shaft market collapsed, the NGF lost most of its funding and "Don had to go in and fire all these people we had just hired and trained, which is the toughest management assignment there is. Don had to cut the budget 50 percent. He not only managed that but built a very strong organization and handed over a strong organization on his retirement," Rickey said. "But what always remained with me and showed me the character of the man was the way he took care of the people we had to let go. The way he treated them and worked with them to place them in equal or even better jobs was masterful. He had so much compassion and was a fine human

being."

The "sentimental Italian," Don called himself.

Rossi is credited with fashioning the Allied Associations of Golf largely by his own enthusiasm and his genuine love for other people.

Near the end he took that enthusiasm abroad for the golf industry.

As Fullmer said, "He brought the Rossi radiance to the entire world."

If something was good for golf, he supported it.

From the very beginning, he encouraged Golf Course News and me, not because of me or the newspaper especially, but because he knew that by its very existence, the paper would help the game.

And though he wisely tempered optimism with realism, you couldn't dampen his outlook for the golf industry. In our last conversation of length, I asked him: "What if the stock market goes boom?"

His reply: "During the Depression there was more golf played than immediately before or after the Depression because people had more time on their hands and golf was a great outlet."

Calling him a driving force in the industry might actually be underdoing it. Don Rossi was an accelerating force.

He will be missed dearly. But those of us who will be spending time with him in the future can look forward to that time with anticipation.

Fazios

Continued from page 31

erations," said Tom. An emphasis on quality was the most important thing Tom and Jim adopted from George.

"His favorite saying was 'I never want to hear you say that's good enough.' Every time I hear that expression it rings a bell about George," said Tom.

Added Jim: "He wanted to do a good job, no matter what the cost. He told us money was just a by-product of what you did in life. If you are good at what you do, the money will come. And if it doesn't, don't worry. The pride in knowing you do quality work is more important."

As for the future, would Tom want his children to follow in his family's footsteps?

"I look at Jim and his kids. I look at the Joneses. And I look at Pete Dye with his two kids. I guess it's a natural instinct. But I certainly wouldn't force it on them. I've seen enough to know it's not an easy business," he said.

American Golf buys Riverside

American Golf Corp. has bought Riverside Golf Club outside Dallas Texas.

The par 72, 18-hole course, designed by Roger B. Packard, will be open to the public.

Its facilities include a clubhouse, golf shop, food and beverage facilities and driving range.



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