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— Rees Jones

mostly poa annua. So if you tried to fly the ball in, the greens were too hard to hold. But if you bounced 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-style 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."

Morrish said the golf course look changed after World War II.

"We had the old-time architects — (A.W.) Tillinghast, (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 Fazio's and, a little later, Nicklaus. They started putting different looks 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."

Panks, who works with Tour golfer David Graham, another "adamant 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

plateaus, both to the greens and the fairways, which really almost cut your target in half... 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.

"Maybe it came through TPC (Tournament Players Club) or PGA West. But the public outcry was such that from a supply and demand situation, that was not what the public wanted," Jones added.

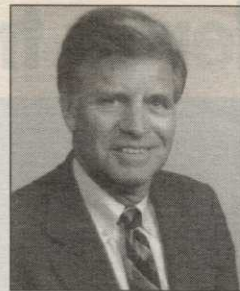
Dye, whose courses include PGA West (designed specially to be the toughest in the world) and such traditional layouts as The Golf Club of Columbus and Crooked Stick, refuses to take the blame for lost tradition.

He placed it squarely on the heads of improved equipment and the American public's demand for extremely well-manicured courses.

Clubs and balls that add 20 or more yards to drives, and mowing equipment that cuts turf to 32nds of an inch demand that courses be designed longer, Dye said. Bentgrass has replaced bluegrass in many areas. The heavy watering needed on bentgrass leads to softer turf and eliminates the traditional bump-and-run game, he said.

Dye and others contend that the middle and short games have changed because of the greater distance a ball can be hit.

"The courses have become so short to the professional players that all they do is hit an iron off the tee and an 8 iron to the green," Dye said. "So tradition has been lost... You once built two, three or four par 4s out of the 10 (par 4s on an average course) that required the great player to hit a big drive and a 3 or 4 iron to the green. They've taken that part out of the game... I haven't changed. They have. I'm perfect and they're wrong,"



It's time we kicked out a few windows and let in some fresh air... and go back to tradition.'

— Jay Morrish

he said with a chuckle.

"We've taken away the shot values ... because we've created a bowling alley effect. Everything's the same — the fairways, the greens... The old Scottish courses had one variety of sand in one bunker, another kind in the next."

"I wonder what Mr. Ross would have done to Pinehurst #2 if he'd known that the greens would be cut at (a Stimpmeter speed of) 10, that Greg Norman was going to fire it off the tee at 310 yards. I wonder if he would have kept it at 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 even 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 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, subtle contours, to some degree open 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 plateaus. You could build courses in the old traditional fashion and they would still be a test."

Curtis Strange said afterward it was nice that 6 under 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.

Panks 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

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under pressure.



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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 Panks of Graham/Panks International in Scottsdale, Ariz. Panks explained that golf course superintendents in Arizona, Southern California and elsewhere face water restraints that will probably result in harder, drier courses with more bounce.

Architect Rees Jones agreed, saying: "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 in."

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