Lancaster CC resurrects Ross design

By MARK LESLIE

LANCASTER, Ohio — Donald Ross plans that were drafted but never implemented 70 years ago, have been completed on nine holes at Lancaster Country Club.

Ron Forse of Forse Design in Uniontown, Pa., carried out the 75-year-old plans on holes 10 through 18. Forse said he only added a few bunkers to the Ross design to keep balls in play, and "saddle-cut" the fairway on the 18th hole to make the green visible from the tee.

Lancaster CC Greens Chairman Tom Lally said, "We are extremely pleased with

the job done by Ron and Sheldon Price [of Links Renovation and Construction in Mentor]."

Forse explained that the back nine holes were designed by an unknown club member or members and built in 1909. Jack Kidwell of Columbus designed the front

nine, built in 1959.

But back in 1926 one of Donald Ross's project managers, J.B. McGovern,

Ron Forse

on-site with a set of Ross plans to rearrange the back nine with Ross' special touch.

The plan denoted bunker schemes and changed the 18th from a par-4 to a long par-3 to make room for an expanded parking lot.

For a reason unknown today, club members decided not to proceed with the renovation... until 1988.

"We have a very active Greens Committee," Lally said, explaining that they found the old Ross design in the club museum, searched for a student of Ross, "who believed in his type of architecture," and proceeded.

While Ross' plans added a number of bunkers, Forse and associate Bruce Hepner built a few more, taking into consideration the greater distances golf balls are struck today.

Lally said members planned to spend \$500,000 on course and clubhouse renovations.

Three Sisters proceeding

Continued from preceding page

in such a pristine area.

Still, Melchin sees some "alarming things" coming out of the NRCB process, a fairly new regulatory approval system that made Three Sisters "a guinea pig."

Developers have spent \$9.5 million and many years getting to this point, he added.

"That's a lot of time and money," Melchin said. "It would probably have been impossible for a smaller developer. Alberta is making a serious mistake. This could scare away a lot of potential development."

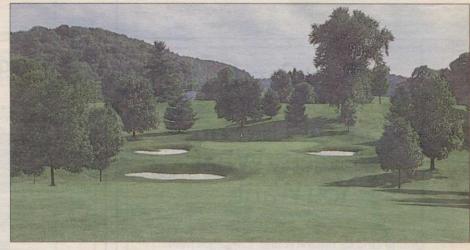
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- Tom Lally

Greens Committee chairman

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Sounds very Ross-ian.



Lancaster (Ohio) Country Club's new 12th hole.

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