

One Man's Ten-Year Effort Brings Club Out on Top

IT IS seldom that an entire country club is the product of one man's enterprise, but such is the case with Columbia Hills Country Club in the Cleveland District. This picturesque course, tucked away in a rural setting southwest of the city is, and always will remain as a memorial to George L. Williams, Cleveland manufacturer, who died June 3 of this year.

John Dietrich, writing for the Cleveland Plain Dealer, tells the following story about Columbia Hills and of its illustrious and foresighted founder:

Back in 1926 Williams had the vision of a golf course in the deep valley of the winding west branch of Rocky River, south of the hamlet of Columbia. His imagination pictured a scenic and hazardous course, full of alluring shots over the river, and down through lanes in the forest.

The course was built by Harold Paddock and opened late in the summer of 1927.

For ten years Williams devoted himself to elevating Columbia Hills into a major private club of the Cleveland district. The effects of the great depression were a severe obstacle, but he never lost hope that Columbia Hills some day would be one of the recognized front rank golf organizations of the locality.

Last winter when Williams was stricken with his fatal illness, a group of members of the club began negotiations to buy the Columbia Hills property. The transaction was completed before the opening of the season, and Columbia Hills began the summer with the ownership and the responsibility in the hands of some 40 of the club's enthusiastic golfers.

River Is Hazard

It is impossible to play Columbia Hills without being infected with some of George Williams' original enthusiasm. The river, which sometimes rears from its high banks in a roaring flood, is a hazard not to be sniffed at by the finest of players. No course has more unusual shots, some requiring the muscle of a Samson to slug the ball to a hilltop, and others demanding the delicacy of a clock-maker to hit the rolling emerald greens.

Reggie Myles, the Columbia Hills professional, likes particularly to point out to strangers the No. 5 hole, a par three ranging from 145 to 175 yards. It is all

carry diagonally over the river, and is in every detail one son-of-a-gun. When he walks to the extreme back tee and points out the green set up like a target, Scottish Reggie's eyes gleam with delight. This is the kind of shot the professionals love.

Myles holds the course record, having once shot an astonishing score of 32-31-63, nine under par. This might seem a slight on the vigor of the Columbia Hills par, but Myles holds four other course records around Cleveland, some of them very distinguished layouts.

When the little Scotchman goes into one of his sub-par trances he can knock out a three on almost any hole. Once upon a time, in a district open tournament at Lake Shore, old Country Club, Myles did the final nine in 29, missed a tie for the championship by one shot and was madder than a hornet because he took a par three instead of a two on the last hole.

Prospects Are Bright

Columbia Hills' prospects for the future are very bright. The man now in charge is Dr. John H. Tildes, the club president, a stalwart physician whose swing is being developed by Professional Myles. The club has a nucleus of good players, the foundation of a first-class team not so many years hence.

In competition Columbia Hills major objective is to compete in the regular city interclub team race. This is a step not to be taken lightly, for the old line clubs have most of the best talent securely sewed up, and average golfers are just cannon fodder.

Slammin' Sam Authors Fine Instruction Manual

SAM SNEAD'S "Quick Way to Golf," a large instruction book retailing for \$1.50, features progressive action pictures of the season's biggest money-winner, together with brief printed matter accompanying each picture. In type, Sam tells what significant details of the stroke-making to observe.

The forward is a strong plug for pro instruction. In it he tells the necessity of getting pro personal counsel and supervision to make the use of his book most effective. He's made up his book so it serves as a printed textbook to go with pro personal instruction.

The book may be obtained from Wilson Sporting Goods Co., 2069 N. Campbell ave., Chicago.