

Old Course Design Needs Re-write

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THE probable great expansion of golf in the postwar era will result in the construction of many new courses but mostly in the correction, modernization and expansion of existing golf facilities.

Many of the courses put in during the golf boom in the twenties are not too good and the bunkering of the older courses is often out of gee with the modern game.

In some layouts the terrain is so badly used that the only satisfactory remedy is complete rearrangement, but in many cases a few deft and comparatively inexpensive alterations will work an utter transformation.

Frequently changes in fairway location which can be made by the mowers alone, will effect wonders. At times the selection of a new tee site will convert a drab hole into a thriller.

Hazards should be constructed to promote safety, by preventing or deterring play onto adjacent fairways, to encourage bold, thoughtful golf and to properly reward it, but should seldom be built for the sole purpose of catching bad shots and never where they form impossible barriers for the weakest players. Hence, in revamping old courses, meaningless

traps and those which are impossible for the duffers and can not be by-passed should be removed, and a few bunkers which have positive strategic value installed.

Putting greens are frequently badly sized and contoured—big, flat, open greens reached by short shots and small, closely guarded, severely warped ones the targets of full shots. Green correction may be expensive but often is not.

Many courses need changes in surface drainage conditions on both greens and fairways and would also be vastly improved, from a landscaping and maintenance standpoint, by re-grading to soften ugly slopes and angles, eliminate unnecessary climbing, and permit the wider use of power maintenance equipment.

Up-to-date earth moving devices, such as the bulldozer, have greatly reduced the cost and time of grading operations and in skillful hands do a much better job.

Finally, judicious planting of shrubs and trees not only improve the appearance of golf property but promotes safety and may play a vital part in the game itself. To get the best results a skilled golf course designer should at least check up on the landscape man's suggestion.

"Shot That Saved Bobby"

★ O. B. Keeler, ventures the opinion that the most important shot ever played by Bobby Jones, now a member of A. G. Spalding & Bros.' advisory staff, was a twelve foot putt made on June 29, 1929, in the U. S. at Winged Foot, Mamaroneck, N. Y. In an article entitled "Prelude to the 1930 Grand Slam" appearing in the June issue of "Esquire Magazine" O. B. describes Jones' crucial round and tells his reasons for believing that on that single

putt hung Jones' spectacular season of 1930.

Jones had got through the 7th hole of the final round with an expanding lead over his closest rivals . . . then suddenly the tide turned and a spurt of brilliant golf by Al Espinosa began to cut down his lead. At the sixteenth green it had disappeared. But that's just the beginning of a great story by one of golf's greatest writers, and an unusually fine colored picture illustrates the tense moment. This is a "must" for golfers.

