

# Atlanta's New Peachtree is Pre-Tested by Bobby Jones

By ROBERT TRENT JONES

To be asked to build a golf course with Robert Tyre Jones, Jr., in his home town of Atlanta, is an honor and a responsibility. Such was the opportunity presented to me in the spring of 1945 when I received a call to come to Atlanta. Bob Jones, I felt, by virtue of his character, his achievements and his position in golf, had to have one of the country's great golf courses.

He and I had discussed the principles upon which we felt a great golf course should be founded. The character of the course we felt should be determined by a principle upon which Bob Jones and I were in perfect agreement, namely, that the course would be a testing challenge to the expert and at the same time a pleasurable and fair test to the average golfer. In keeping with this principle the fairways should be wide; there should be little or no rough except for the extremely wild, badly played shot; and the appearance of the course in general should be parklike.

## Intensive Search for Site

The first property shown me and upon which I made route plans, produced a good golf course with some great holes, but did not have the complete roster of qualities which we were seeking. After three months of intensive search in the whole Atlanta area another piece of property was found that looked feasible. When a route plan was made on this property we knew we had what we wanted. By coincidence, the property was a nursery, as was the property upon which the Augusta National GC was built.

The property had everything: tall Georgia pines, majestic oaks, flowering plants of all types, and an abundance of dogwood. The terrain was gently rolling, replete with beautiful green and tee sites, and three creeks traversed the property from different directions making strategic as well as picturesque possibilities from their use.

The 100-year-old Ashford colonial mansion standing on the property adapted itself well for use as the clubhouse. The grounds have attractive gardens and an abundance of magnolia, dogwood and privet hedge. The finer homes that were built in the ante-bellum days were engineered for permanence with handmade brick walls throughout. The house is now being remodeled to its clubhouse requirements but at the same time it will remain what it has been for decades, one of Atlanta's valid reminders of the Old South; a truly historical landmark.

Work began on the course after models of the holes had been submitted to Bob Jones and were approved by him. Bob Jones' close friend, Dick Garlington, was made chairman of construction, and a harder working, harder driving, construction chairman I have yet to see.

## Jones Tests the Design

Bob Jones himself spent a great deal of time on the development of this golf course. He played hundreds of shots from the tees, from the fairways, and approach shots to the greens, from time to time.

The greens are large and have flowing contours which we feel are fair in every



Bobby Jones (L) and Dick Garlington play one of the model holes on the first nine of the new Peachtree course. Note rolling terrain with fairways lined with tall pines and majestic oaks in distance.

sense and there are no positions that could be called tricky. The tees are large and long and this gives the course a tremendous flexibility and range that can meet any problem of wind, and drought, and still make the course a fine test of golf.

The course from the back of the tees can be stretched to a length of 7300 yards, which possibly makes this the longest golf course in this country. At the same time the tees are of such length that from the front of the tees the course can be shortened to 6300 yards. The tees however will have two sets of markers, one for regular play which will make the length range from 6300 to 6500 yards, and one for championship play which will make the length range from 6500 to 6900 yards. Only under tournament conditions, or unusual weather conditions, would the course be stretched anywhere near its full length.

Nine holes of the course are now in play. These nine holes are really comprised of part of each of the planned final nine hole routings. The best score to date, playing the nine hole routing twice, is 71, and appropriately, this score was made by Bob Jones.

Peachtree GC has 150 members. Bob Jones is president of the club.

The nine hole course that has been put into play is getting the acid test, namely, the judgment of the players. The consensus of opinion seems to be that when the course is finally completed it will come up to expectations.

#### **GOODALL ROUND-ROBIN TOURNAMENT**

The 7th Goodall Round-Robin Invitation Tournament will be played at the Wykagyl Country Club, New Rochelle, New York, May 6-9, (Thursday through Sunday). Elmer Ward, Sponsor, announced the return of the golf classic to the Metropolitan area in which sixteen leading professionals will be invited to compete at round-robin match play. The entire gate receipts will be donated to the New Rochelle Hospital.

Bobby Locke of Johannesburg, South Africa, won last year at the Charles River CC, Newton Center, Mass., finishing the five rounds of competition with a plus of 37. His medal score was 347 strokes, 13 under par, a medal average of 69.4. The proceeds, amounting to approximately \$10,000, were donated to the Children's Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts.

The unique tournament, a match play event without eliminations, was originated in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1938 when Sam Snead defeated Gene Sarazen in a playoff. Harry Cooper, Ben Hogan, and Paul Runyan won the next three tournaments at Fresh Meadow, prior to the war; and Hogan repeated at Winged Foot in 1946.

Harold McSpaden will be the tournament supervisor.

## **Western GA Expanding Its Caddie Program**

Western Golf Assn. has issued an invitation to every club in the country to take advantage of the WGA program that helps clubs improve its caddie service and awards deserving caddies with a college scholarship. Maynard G. Fessenden, WGA pres., says: "In '48 we expect to double our member club list. Last year clubs in 30 states used our caddie program and reported fine results. The more member clubs in WGA the larger will be the number of caddies eligible for scholarships."

To date 82 caddies have been sent to college. Twenty are now in school at Northwestern University, Loyola University, American Academy of Art, Michigan State College, University of Michigan.

The 1948 supplement to WGA's Caddie Committee Manual has been issued to all member clubs. The new supplement includes up-to-the-minute material on caddie matters. Subjects dealt with include: recruiting and training caddies; rates of pay for caddie-masters and caddies; new sections on the club manager and his job in the caddie program; the effect of the new USGA ruling which permits employment of caddies, assistant caddie-masters and caddie-masters up to age 21 without making the person a professional.

The supplement also includes recommendations to golf associations on what they can do to improve caddie service. Wisconsin State GA, the first to affiliate with WGA, is conducting a campaign in Wisconsin to make all clubs members of WGA and to send Wisconsin caddies to school in Wisconsin on scholarship funds raised within the state. Winners of WGA Honor Caddie Badges, that member clubs award to their best caddies, are eligible for college scholarships.

Club members benefit from the club membership in WGA in other ways. Only members of member clubs are eligible to enter the Western Amateur and Western Open championships.

The Western Amateur will be played in Wichita, June 29-July 4. The Western Open is to be played at Brookfield CC, Buffalo, New York, July 29-August 1. Profits from these championships are used to extend the caddie service plan and the scholarship fund.

The Western Junior championship at Purdue university, June 15-18 is for all junior golfers under 20 years of age. Member clubs are urged to see that their caddies participate. This championship is the oldest national ranking junior event and dates back to 1914.