



Trillora, swank 9-hole estate course at Sands Point, Long Island, once the pride and joy of the Guggenheims, joins the private club ranks on a lease arrangement by Spencer Murphy, professional at nearby Glen Oaks CC.

## Taxes Change Estate Links to Private Clubs

By JOHN M. BRENNAN

In the New York Metropolitan area the impact of taxes is yielding courses on which fabulously wealthy citizens used to dig divots on their own estates.

Latest of the exclusive estate courses to be transformed into a private club is swank Trillora, once the pride and joy of the Guggenheim brothers, Isaac and Edward, the copper tycoons, at exclusive Sands Point, overlooking picturesque Long Island Sound.

Trillora, in its heyday, used to have Willie Macfarlane as professional and only the invited guests of the Guggenheims were permitted to traverse the manicured fairways. After Willie won the national open at Worcester, Mass., in 1925, he quit to take over a job at nearby Westchester and the Guggenheims employed guest pros, among whom were the tops in the business.

With the passing of Isaac Guggenheim at the age of 87 years, Trillora became a tax burden to his widow, who disposed of the vast 450-acre tract soon after his death. Realizing the dearth of private golf courses, dynamic Spencer Murphy, pro at the nearby Glen Oaks GC in Great Neck, leased the Trillora layout, including its sumptuous 70-room mansion, surrounded by some of the loveliest of Long Island's gardens.

Trillora, a sprawling 3,750-yard nine-hole golfing paradise, rated one of the bet-

ter tests from tee to green in the east, will eventually be supplemented by another nine holes, probably next year, according to Murphy, whose brother, Ed, is general manager of the latest addition to the Murphy golf business interests.

### Gets Waiting List Quick

The Murphy freres, it will be recalled, during the last war, when Glen Oaks was compelled to relinquish its vast clubhouse and shifted to Lakeville for three years, operated the Glen Oaks course on a fee basis. As soon as word leaked out that Murphy had leased Trillora, he was besieged with applications for membership. A month after his announcement that Trillora would join the private club ranks, the club was forced to close its roster and had an imposing waiting list of applicants.

Long Islanders previously acquired a handsome estate course, the private Otto H. Kahn estate layout at Cold Spring Harbor, once the outstanding showplace of the area. The 75-room Kahn mansion, with its fabulous indoor swimming pool, gold-fixture bathrooms and other out-of-this-world sundry embellishments, is still unoccupied, but the course, surrounding the chateau-styled Kahn home, which cost some \$5,000,000, is being used by the Cold Spring CC.

Cold Spring CC has played host to several championships during the past year, including the Metropolitan PGA and the

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Long Island Open. Its professional is affable Jack Mallon, who used to be affiliated with the Garden City CC.

### Other Estate Courses

The former Kahn estate is a magnificent 18-hole layout, with each of the holes patterned after a famous hole of an English or Scottish course. The Cold Spring CC remodelled what was once the Kahn garage into a modern clubhouse and last year constructed an outdoor swimming pool, among other improvements calculated to make the layout one of the most complete in the New York area.

Long Island has a number of other private estate courses, including gorgeous Greentree, located on the 580-acre John Hay Whitney estate in Manhasset, one of the Gold Coast communities. Greentree is an 18-hole layout of some 6,500 yards located a brassie shot in the rear of Fresh Meadow CC in Great Neck, formerly known as Lakeville.

Other private estate courses, which eventually may develop into private clubs in an area where real estate prices are becoming almost prohibitive for golf, are located in the Glen Cove, Locust Valley and North Hills sections. One of these is owned by Cornelius F. Kelley, chairman of the board of Anaconda Copper. Nine holes of a private estate course adjoining the Kelley layout and owned by the late Mrs. Fair Vanderbilt, is still being used by the Strath-

more-Vanderbilt CC, a Manhasset home community.

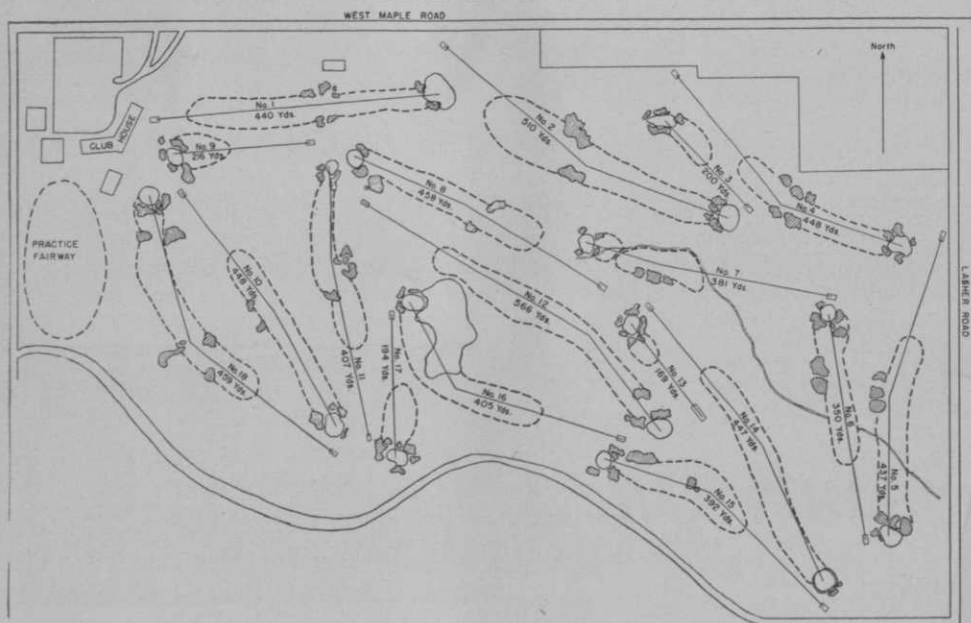
Taxes, too, forced the Lannin estate to relinquish its vast golfing tract at Salisbury Plains, Long Island, a five-course layout. J. J. Lannin, before developing Salisbury, was the owner of the Boston Red Sox when the late Babe Ruth was a talented hurler and Bill Carrigan was the manager of the Beantown aggregation.

The public links golfers of Long Island got their only relief from jam-packed fee links when the County of Nassau decided to revitalize the defunct Lannin enterprise.

Last summer, Nassau County's chief executive, J. Russel Sprague, who was campaign manager for Tom Dewey in his second unsuccessful bid for the presidency, cut the tape to officially open an unique 22-hole course to be known as the White layout. This is the famous course offering twin short holes.

Old Salisbury of five 18-hole courses thrived in the '20s after J. J. Lannin decided there was more gold in Long Island real estate and golf than in the Boston Red Sox. After the depression, Lannin passed on to greener fairways, leaving his son, Paul, to carry on the empire he had established in the central portion of Long Island. The tax load, plus the impact of the depression era, proved too much for Paul—and a lot of other guys—and the Salisbury tract was taken over by Nassau County.

## NEW TRAPPING AT OAKLAND HILLS WILL TEST THE BEST



Oakland Hill's layout as it has been revised by architect Robert Trent Jones. Tight fairway trapping from 225 to 260 yards out will keep the long hitters tested and the close trapping and contouring of greens also call for sharp-shooting skill and keen golfing brains. That tough finish of the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th may be scenes of tragedy. The rough also is something to stay out of if you want to be the 1951 National Open champion.