

6-Hole Course Shows Best Architectural Principals

By TOM SIMPSON*

DUE to the cost of labor and materials at the present time, there are comparatively few people who are prepared to face the cost of the upkeep of a 9-hole private course, let alone the cost of constructing such a course. Yet there probably are quite a number of people who would like to have a small course laid out on the lines described in these notes.

A while back I received a letter from a client at Liege for whom I laid out an 18-hole course some 15 years ago. He told me he had six business friends in an outlying settlement in the Congo, all keen golfers. What could I suggest for their entertainment? He added that there should not be more than three putting greens. That, coupled with the fact that there would never be more than six people playing at any one time, gave me a clue as to what to suggest.

The ground available was dead flat, and because of local conditions couldn't be undulated. So, I was obliged to rely more on bunkers than I like doing in the design of a golf course. Putting greens were to be sand greens.

For a short course of this description to make any lasting appeal it is essential that all six holes should embody, as far as possible, classic principles of golf course design.

What exactly are the Articles of Faith in this matter?

Should Provide Entertainment

I shall not myself make so bold as to lay down what those principles are. I shall quote the words of John Low who said axiomatically that a golf course should provide entertainment for every class of golfer, particularly the medium player and the long handicap man, who after all are mainstays of the game.

Low also said: The course should provide a searching and difficult test for the powerful player. A simple matter for the architect who knows his business, always provided the long handicap men attack

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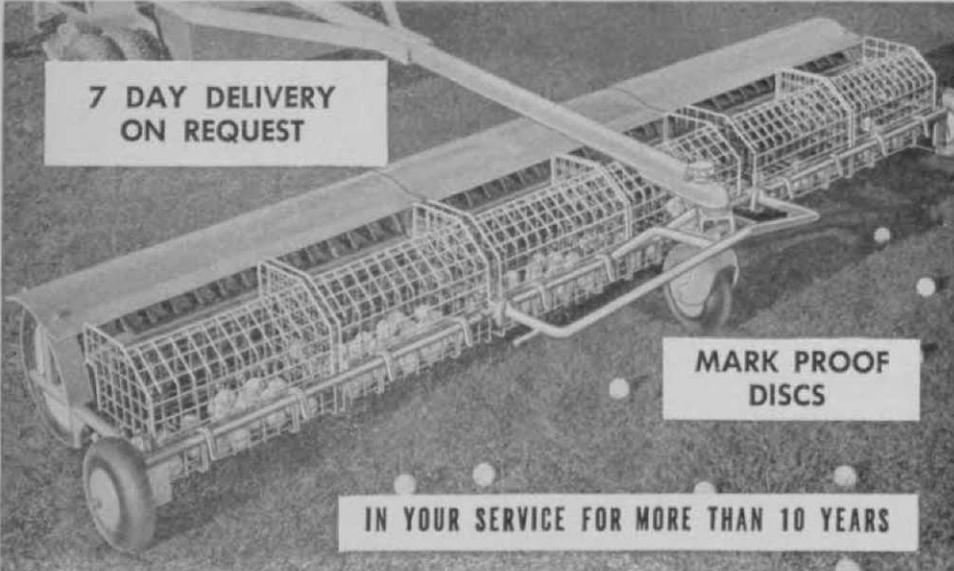
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a hole on their line and not on that of the "Tiger."

The primary function of a bunker is not to punish a technical error in the execution of a shot, but to govern the play of the hole, and catch the scratch golfer's good shot which is not quite good enough. Such bunkers are out of reach for the less proficient. At one-shot holes of course all have to share and share alike.

Ground Dictates Play

The trick of the thing is to make the ground dictate the play.

The good architect will see to it that so far as the powerful player is concerned, he must keep well to the right or to the left, as the case may be, with his tee shot if he has to have any hope of reaching the green with second shot.

The center of the fairway, the shortest line to the green, should never be the correct line for the Tiger.

A moment's reflection will show that all the great two-shot holes of the world are thus designed.

Putting greens should be oriented as to be required to be approached to best advantage from the left or from the right of the fairway.

These are the Articles of the Faith to which a man must subscribe if he is to understand the meaning and intention of a golf course, and it is on these principles the holes on this short course have been planned.

Proposes Building More Golf Courses on Air Force Bases

By **LYLE P. (Bud) WERRING**

Professional, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

GOLF in the Air Force is a necessity — not a luxury.

That, I concede, borders on being a pronouncement, a bald statement, or whatever you might want to call it, but I'm reasonably sure I can cite enough facts to back it up.

Let's look at it this way:

This country depends upon air power to survive. Few deny the need for combat capability. In order for a pilot to live up to the standards and rigors of his job of preparing and remaining prepared to defend this country in an emergency, we