

In the spirit of America's current game show obsession, spring calls for Golf-dom's own jump on the bandwagon: Who Wants to be an Augusta National Mill ... er, Expert? Actually, if you answer all the questions correctly, you are either David Owen (author of *The Making of the Masters*) or Clifford Roberts reincarnated.

Ready to play? Unlike Regis' show, we jump right in with the \$16,000 question. During The Masters, fairways are cut to:

- A) 0.18 inch
- B) 0.33 inch
- C) 0.39 inch

You were right if you guessed 0.39 inch.

Next stop, the \$32,000 question:

In the construction of the Augusta National GC course, how many cubic yards of soil were moved?

- A) 45,000
- B) 120,000
- C) 235,000

The answer is 120,000 cubic yards — amazing, considering just as many yards have been moved in the last two years rearranging mounds and tees.

All right, for \$64,000:

When Clifford Roberts complained in late 1931 that Alister MacKenzie was spending too much time in California and not enough at Augusta, MacKenzie sent which of the following "design associates" to look things over?

- A) Marion Hollins
- B) Roger Wethered
- C) Joyce Wethered

It was MacKenzie's boss from his Cypress Point and Pasatiempo projects, Marion Hollins.

OK, for \$125,000 try this:

Which of the following Augusta National visionaries once said, "I don't see any need for a tree on a golf course." Was it:

- A) Alister MacKenzie
- B) Bobby Jones
- C) Dwight D. Eisenhower

It might surprise you that Bobby Jones once told writer Alistair Cooke what he really thought of those woody plants.

For \$250,000:

In 1956, Clifford Roberts ordered the mounds around the 8th green removed so spectators could see better. Which architectural team

Time for Trivia, Augusta Style

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



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put them back in 1979?

- A) Jimmy Demaret and George Cobb
- B) Gene Sarazen and Desmond Muirhead
- C) Byron Nelson and Joe Finger

Bobby Jones was furious with Roberts for this disaster, but the green was returned to its original style by Nelson and Finger.

Big money now, for \$500,000:

The total amount paid to Alister MacKenzie for his design of Augusta National was:

- A) \$12,332 plus \$402 for expenses
- B) \$2,000 plus another \$460 bank note cashed in California
- C) \$4,300 plus travel expenses

Hard to believe, the answer is B. It was quite a bargain the club received. But Augusta has shown such loving gratitude by leaving the MacKenzie design alone over the years — not!

All right, audience, for \$1 million and the title of being a true expert on Augusta's history:

For several years, a Bobby Jones ode-to-the-Old Course at St. Andrews blind pot bunker was originally positioned in the center of which Augusta National fairway?

- A) the 11th
- B) the 15th
- C) the 17th

Bobby Jones placed a blind bunker smack in the middle of the 11th fairway landing area. When Col. Bob Jones, Bobby's dad, played Augusta for the first time in 1932, the Colonel hit his drive in the little pot bunker. It prompted him to ask, "What fool put a bunker right in the center of the fairway?"

Playing in the group, the son and course co-architect admitted, "I did."

Geoff Shackelford is the author of The Good Doctor Returns, which among other things, deals with Alister MacKenzie's Augusta National design philosophy. He can be reached at geoffshac@aol.com.