

The Golf Course



The Newark Advocate issues of May 17 and 19, 1910, tells of golf architect Thomas Bendelow's coming to town to lay out a "golf links" for the Licking Country Club. So let's see what history tells us about Mr. Bendelow and the 9 holes he designed.

Thomas M. Bendelow, one of America's pioneer golf architects, was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1872. He came to New York City in the 1880's and worked as a typesetter for the New York Herald. When golf fever hit New York in the 1890's, he laid out several nine hole courses, left his job with the Herald and about 1901 joined the A.G. Spaulding and Brothers sporting goods company.

He was a salaried employee and laid out hundreds of courses for Spaulding. They charged a fee for his services and hoped to sell clubs and balls at the new courses. They also made golf clubs with the name Thomas Bendelow stamped on them. Mr. Bendelow's approach to the design and construction of a golf course was not as thorough as that of

golf architects of today. It consisted mainly of an inspection of the site selected, then, with the golf committee, he would pick out the spot for the first tee. The following description of his method is taken from an article by Ron Whitten that appeared in the USGA's Golf Journal, January-February 1985, issue: "Another stake located the green, which could be round or square according to one's tastes. The same process was used for all the holes, although some were very short. On each unit of nine holes, there were always one long hole and two short ones. Few clubs found it necessary to keep Bendelow longer than one day because this was supposed to be all the time required. Besides the charge was \$25.00." Mr. Bendelow left instructions to guide the committee in building the course but seldom, if ever, came back to the site.

The June 5, 1911, issue of The Newark Advocate had a feature story, with photos, of the opening of the Club to be held on June 15, 1911. The story filled two columns on the front page plus three more

on page 7 (more about that in the chapter on the Clubhouse). Here is the description of the golf course:

"THE GOLF LINKS"

— From June 5, 1911, *The Newark Advocate* —

"The links are as 'sporty' as any to be found. The view from the front piazzas of the clubhouse practically covers the entire course and the players are always in full sight. At present the regular putting greens are out of commission, temporary greens being used. These are a little rough and make accurate putting an impossibility. In spite of this, excellent scores are being turned in. The regular greens will, in all probability, be put back in use by the time the formal opening of the clubhouse takes place.

"The starting point, or first tee, as it is called, is directly in front of the clubhouse. The hole is called 'Dugway', as the drive is toward Dugway Hill. At the start off, the course calls for classy golf. A slice or a pull will at once put the player in difficulty.

Trees on each side guard the course and the drive must be straight and direct if one is to keep out of trouble. Three hundred and seventy-five yards away is the hole. A drive and a brassie shot well placed will put one within an easy approach shot and two putts make a bogey five for the hole.

"The second tee is on top of the circle mound. The hole, called 'Eastward Ho' because one is driving toward the east, is 325 yards distant. The hole is guarded by the mound, which forms a natural bunker, and trees. Bogey on this is also five.

"The third tee is behind the mound. It is one of the most difficult holes on the entire course. A slice will put one into the trees, while a pull sends the elusive ball into a wheat field out of bounds. The hole is 400 yards distant and the entire way is beset with difficulties. It is called 'Boomerang' from the shape of the direction which one goes.

"The fourth hole is named 'The Veldt.' It is 575 yards long, straight down the course. There are no bunkers as yet guarding the hole; but one must maintain a straight course or the mound on one side and the gully on the other will play havoc with his score.

"'Cherry Valley,' the fifth hole, is a short one. A deep ravine on one side and a wheat field on the other offer disadvantages to the unwary golfer. The view to the left along this hole is one of the most beautiful in the entire course.

"One of the small mounds guarding one of the openings in the octagon mounds has been utilized for the sixth hole. It is just a pitch shot of 75 yards with the mashie, but instead of being as easy as it looks, trouble abounds on all sides. The ground is rough between, while the sides of the mound present exasperating difficulties. 'Minnie-ha-ha' is its name.

"From the top of the octagon mound to the seventh hole is 380 yards. Good golfers will make it in 5 but more often the player requires 7 and 8 before he holes out. This hole has been named 'Indian Mound.'

"The eighth hole takes one back over the circle to the octagon mound, a distance of 330 yards. In honor of the man who laid out the links, this hole has been called 'Bendelow.' It is an easy 4 hole and presents no difficulties.



No. 10. In this photo the 3 big American Elm trees on the altar mound can be seen. Victims of the Dutch Elm blight, their loss changed both No. 10 and No. 18.

"The ninth and last hole, called 'The Beeches,' brings one back to the clubhouse.

"If one has played perfect golf, his score is 40, called 'bogey' after the imaginary opponent 'Col. Bogey,' who always plays the game as it should be. Most scores turned in, however, are in the fifties and up. But best of all, the player will have walked at least two miles in the untainted country air, his lungs being opened by the swing of his arms, breathing in to the full the rich ozone with its good

blood making properties. All the muscles are called into play. The eye is trained to be keen. The mind is refreshed and invigorated. Golf is the best outdoor game ever given to mankind. All can play it, old and young, high and low, rich and poor, male and female. It brings the glow of health to the cheek and clear thinking to the mind.

"A new amateur record of the course has been made by David Manning, going the round in 40 strokes beating his own record of last season by one



This is how No. 4 Green looked in 1929. In the background is No. 5 Tee. Notice the wooden steps and the next time you play No. 4 notice how the Hackberry tree on the mound has grown.

stroke. Taking into consideration the condition of the temporary greens, this score is first class golf. His score by holes was as follows: first hole 5, second 6, third 5, fourth 6, fifth 3, sixth 3, seventh 3, eighth 6, ninth 3, total 40."

The above-mentioned article (Newark Advocate, 6/5/11) also stated, "The golf course includes nine holes and by next season nine more holes will be installed, making a course of 18 holes. Tennis courts will also soon be constructed." We thought that this

enlargement of the course would be done as planned but apparently some things must have interfered (WWI, for one) and we learned in talking with George Berry (see "Golf Professionals") that when his father became the pro here, work had just started and the first 18 hole course opened in 1923. We have a score card for that 18 holes and, with the help of George, have attempted to describe this layout.

The Course In 1923

Holes

Nos. 1-2 and 3 were the same as in the original nine holes; however, the distances vary a bit from the description in the newspaper article.

No. 4. This is our present No. 11 with the tee and green about where they are today; however the bank was steeper and the green was smaller with no bunkers. 520 yards, par 5.

No. 5 was an unusual hole, to say the least. The tee was just off the green to the east and you had a pitch shot up the hill to about where the Halfway House is located today. Again no bunkers. 105 yards, par 3.

No. 6 was our No. 12 today. 395 yards, par 4.

No. 7. Today this is our No. 13; however, the tee was smaller and more elevated than at present. 125 yards, par 3.

No. 8. The tee for this hole was smaller than our present No. 14 but was in the same general area. In those days the creek cut deeply into the course and your tee shot on this hole was over a bit of the creek, into it if you sliced badly. 193 yards, par 3.

(Editor's note: In the following article, Mr. Pan-coast describes Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 as they played in 1929 when they were Nos. 13, 14, 15, 16 & 17)

No. 9. The green for this hole was our present No. 15 green and the teeing area was in the woods where a bad slice off No. 14 puts you today. 115 yards, par 3.

No. 10. The tee for this hole was where the Red Tees are today for No. 16 to the same No. 16 green. 357 yards, par 4.

No. 11 was a shortened version of our No. 17 today. 106 yards, par 3.

No. 12. To reach the tee for this hole you had to cross No. 4 fairway (now No. 11). The tee was on the Circle mound about even with today's Red Tees for No. 2. The green was our present No. 2 green. 300 yards, par 4.

No. 13. The tee for this hole was our present Blue Tee for No. 7. The hole was straight away (south) to our present No. 3 green. 445 yards, par 5.

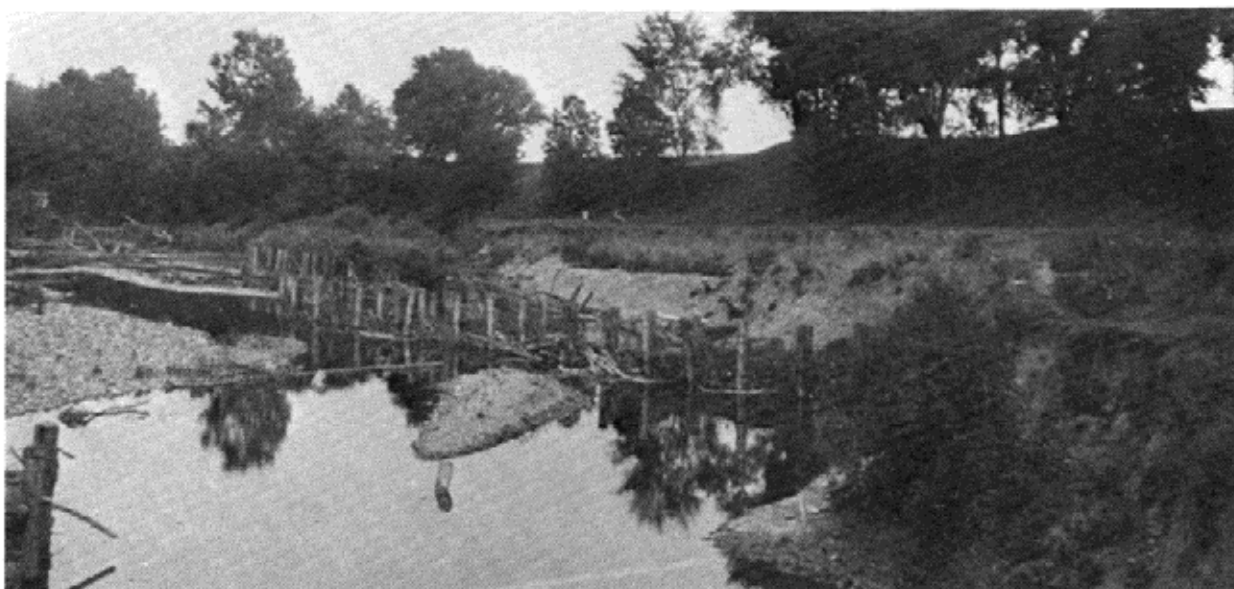
No. 14. Back over the mound for the tee, about where our present No. 6 tee is located. However, the hole played straight away to our present No. 6 green. 360 yards, par 4.

No. 15 is difficult to describe unless you remember our old hole No. 6 before the changes in 1968. The green lay between the present No. 7 Blue Tee and the side of the Octagon mound to the north. The tee was last on the mound at the opening in the octagon. 175 yards, par 3.

No. 16 is now our No. 7 using the Blue Tees. 430 yards, par 4.

No. 17 is now our No. 8 using the Red Tees. 250 yards, par 4.

No. 18. The teeing area was just to the south of the 17th green (presently No. 8) to a green located southeast of our present No. 9 green. Your line of flight was directly over the point where the Circle mound joins the connecting mound from the octagon. Some present members may remember this green as for many years it was the Practice Green. 190 yards, par 3.

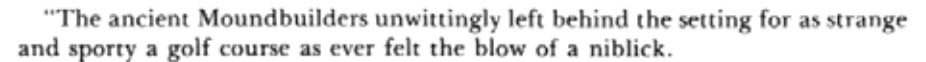


Looking back towards the 14th Tee. Raccoon Creek followed a different course in 1929 and was eroding the 14th hole. The pilings visible in this photo helped deflect the stream which has since been channelized to its present course.

No. 3 Green showing access to the MCC from 30th Street.



The following, entitled "A Moundbuilders' Course" was written by Mr. Chalmers L. Pancoast and appeared in the January 1930 issue of GOLF ILLUSTRATED, a monthly magazine no longer published.



"There is a certain feeling of adventure in driving balls across the symmetrically shaped mounds, and it is interesting to let the imagination turn back centuries to speculate upon the people who built this prehistoric city, fort, ceremonial amphitheater, or whatever it may have been.

"At Newark, Ohio, the Moundbuilders' Golf Course wanders back and forth across the mounds in such a way as to provide an exciting game and calls for every club in the bag—especially the spade-niblick in digging the balls out of the rough of the steep mounds.

"These ancient earthworks are situated upon a broad level delta-terrace about fifty feet above the river bed. On this plateau is a half-mile circular enclosure of twenty acres with walls five to six feet high and eight to ten feet in width on top. This circular mound has only one opening where two parallel walls connect with a large octagonal mound having eight openings with a "sentinel mound" guarding each entrance. The octagonal mound contains about fifty acres, with gateway openings at each corner which are about fifteen feet wide and the walls are higher than the circular mound.

"The people were sufficiently skilled to set out a perfect circle, parallel walls, observatory and the octagon and symmetrically placed guarding mounds. The mystery of who those people were may probably never be solved. No one knows whether the mysterious mounds were a fort, an arena for prehistoric sports, a shrine for religious ceremonies, the enclosure of a famous city or a necropolis.

"These earthworks of a lost race present ruins remarkable for both extent and design. Nothing but the ruins of earth structures remain to tell the story of their number and civilization.

"The first fairway is in front of the clubhouse and crosses the large circular mound for 370 yards to a green just over the mound. This green is completely hidden from the golfer, as is also the eleventh fairway and eighteenth tee.

"Some golfers consider that it is not only sporty but dangerous as well, but in all the years the course has been in use no one has been injured by balls coming unexpectedly from behind the mounds.

"In the first nine holes, all of which are across the mounds, there are five hidden greens and many fairways are obscured by the earth walls. Both circular and octagonal mounds are just high enough to make it impossible to see what is beyond.

"The second tee is on top of the west side of the circular mound. The earth embankment swings away to the right causing confusion in getting a straight line to the green, 300 yards away.

11

"On top of a "sentinel mound" is the tee for both the third and seventh holes. The green on the third is 485 yards away (a par five hole) hidden by two walls. The approach is across the side of the octagonal mound, a road, and then over the wall of a small circular mound enclosing the green. This enclosure is supposed to have been a burial chamber.

"The ball must be lifted high and dropped into the circle. It is called "the five or fifteen hole." Playing this hole in par is a real accomplishment. If the second or third shot lands in the rough sides of the mounds, or in the road, almost any score may result.

"Again on the fourth (566 yards) the green is hidden by a large "sentinel mound." A ball straight through the opening in the octagonal mound is caught by the mound guarding the gateway. The tee shot must be long and high to carry this hazard.

"On top of another "sentinel mound" is the fifth tee. The golfer is confronted here with well placed sand pits to reach the green 298 yards away. It looks like a short easy shot from another high mound on the sixth tee (175 yards) but a slice carries the ball over on the twelfth fairway separated by a section of the octagonal wall, and a wild shot from the twelfth tee may meet an unsuspecting golfer coming up the sixth fairway. Then the sixth green lies between a "sentinel mound" tee and a side and front wall. A ball sliced or pulled means many extra strokes, and a shot that is too long goes into a moundful of trouble.

"Again the golfer climbs a "sentinel mound" for starting on the seventh (450 yards). He must play across two mounds to reach the green. One mound is a mental hazard right in front of him, but, if he is a long driver he may catch the second mound, the side of the large circle.

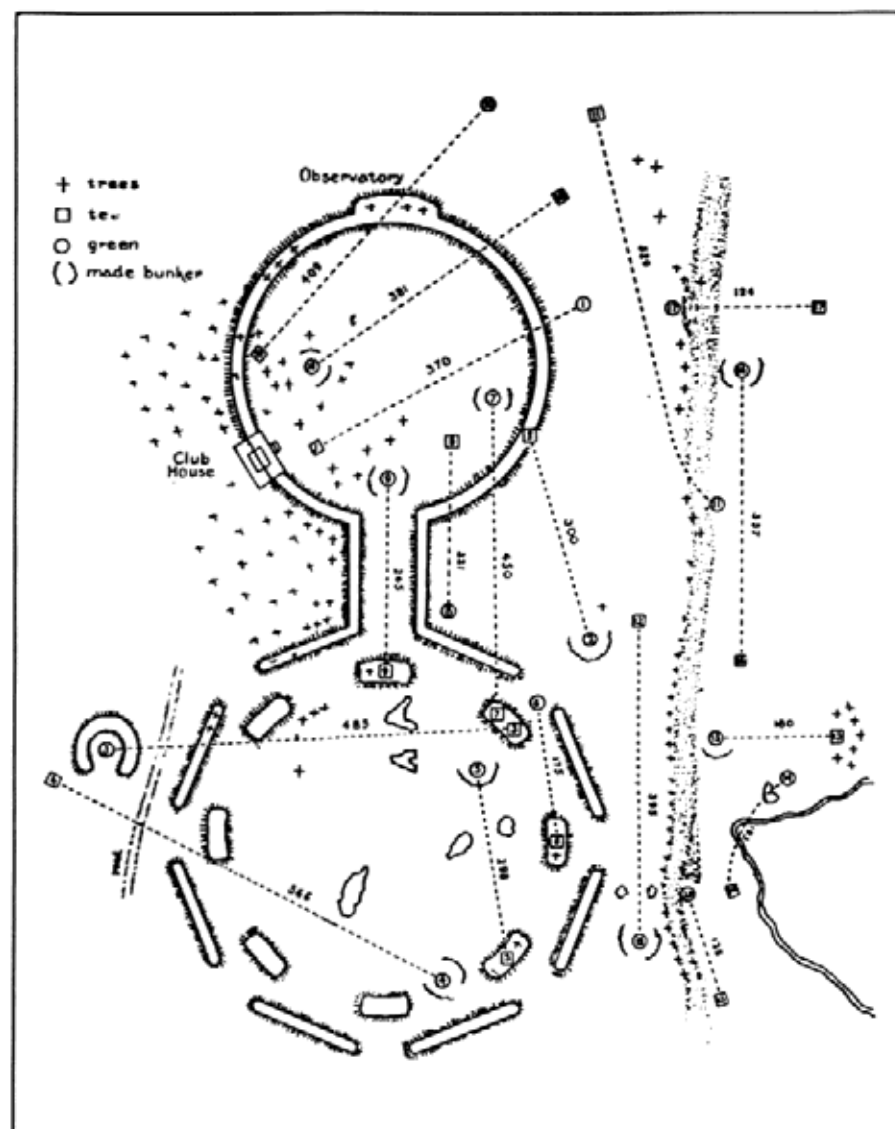
"On the eighth (321 yards) again a section of the circular mound must be crossed. It is placed just right to catch an average drive. A long ball goes over, a short one is safe. And the green is alongside the wall of the octagonal mound. Over the green means trouble.

"Everyone who plays the course exclaims in delight over the ninth. The tee is perched upon a "sentinel mound" facing a narrow lane between the two parallel mounds connecting the circle and octagon. Down this avenue 245 yards away is a tilted green to catch a perfect drive. A slice goes over the mound into the rough or into the circular mound, a hook across into the grove of trees. A straight drive is the only kind that counts on this hole.

"On the tenth the green is hidden 409 yards away behind the "observatory mound" the largest on the plateau. It is at the side of the circle opposite the opening to the octagon. This high mound with its old trees growing in the top is supposed to have been a secret tunnel gateway.

"The eleventh is a 520 yard hole alongside the eighteenth tee and first green and about 450 yards away drops down over the edge of the plateau fifty feet or more to the river basin. It is a spectacular hole.

"On the twelfth, trouble of the most destructive kind may be encountered on the 395 yards of fairway. On the right is a side of the octagon to catch a slice, or a high wild ball goes over on the sixth fairway. On the left is a steep grassy embankment. More good golfers go wrong on this hole than on any other. It is just full of penalties for bad shots.



LOCATION OF HOLES ON THE MOUNDBUILDERS' COURSE

Showing just how the mounds are utilized. It is an excellent thing that through the agency of a golf club these interesting monuments of the past have been preserved. Most of the other mounds have been obliterated.

"A short shelf hole of 125 yards across a low piece of rough is the lucky thirteenth. Only a perfect shot means anything here. The river is on the right and a high rough bank on the left. The thirteenth may be either a three or a thirteen.

"Golfers with a leaning to trouble due to mental hazard will find it on the fourteenth (193 yards). The spring floods of the river have made a natural water hazard filled with rocks and driftwood. It is an easy drive into the water and many balls take the easy way. Small boys make more money retrieving balls from the creek than they do caddying.

"The fifteenth is a 180-yard carry from a low tee hidden away in a jungle of river underbrush and trees. Going down the sixteenth (357 yards) a high bank on the left causes much trouble, but it is a comparatively easy hole for the average golfer. The trickiest hole on the course is the seventeenth (124 yards). From the low tee to the top of the plateau, against a forbidding high wall, is just an easy niblick or mashie-niblic toss, but once the ball goes into that steep bank trouble begins. Too long a drive reaches the eleventh fairway where all the players are hidden. Even a yell of "Fore" is never heard. It is the same with many of the fairways alongside of the mounds, the player never knows whether his ball is reaching another golfer or not.

"Homeward bound on the eighteenth, the green

in 381 yards away, across the circular mound. A slice goes over on the tenth fairway and a hook on the first fairway. From the eighteenth tee it is impossible to see the players coming down either of the other two fairways. Lusty voiced caddies are sent out ahead on the mounds to warn other players of a wayward ball.

"These ruins of the Moundbuilders are more extensive than anywhere in the state of Ohio, which in the early days had more than ten thousand within its borders, many of which have, however, been obliterated by man.

"Many visitors come to Newark, Ohio, to see these prehistoric ruins, and as they wander about over the mounds golfers almost have heart failure from the narrow escapes lest they hit these careless tourists. Last summer as I drove from the eighteenth tee, two prominent sightseers came from behind the "Observation Mound" and my ball missed their head by inches. "Fore" naturally was Greek to them.

"The earthwork ruins at Newark, once the State Encampment Grounds, are leased from the County and it is through the care and attention of the Moundbuilders' Country Club that they are in such a fine state of preservation.

"It is unfortunate we cannot know more of the primitive civilizations, but a people living in a sim-

ple existence, housed for the most part in tents, or rude huts, and leaving no monuments of an enduring nature behind them and not having even advanced to the stage of hieroglyphics or picture writing which they might carve on monuments to the dead or in their temples, leave no trace except their simple graves. These provide nothing further than a few pieces of pottery, some simple adornments, a few rude flints or primitive weapons, nothing on which to discover whether they developed rule over a wide area, or how advanced were their savage arts in general. In many parts of the world evidences of ancient races crop out which have left most solid remains, and many inscriptions, and yet we know nothing of them from their own sources.

"The Etruscans in Italy have left remains comparable or even exceeding in massiveness, the works of the Egyptians, and fairly numerous inscriptions, but these inscriptions have only yielded about two hundred words. How much the less can we hope ever to learn anything of peoples leaving no solid records."

About Chalmers Pancoast

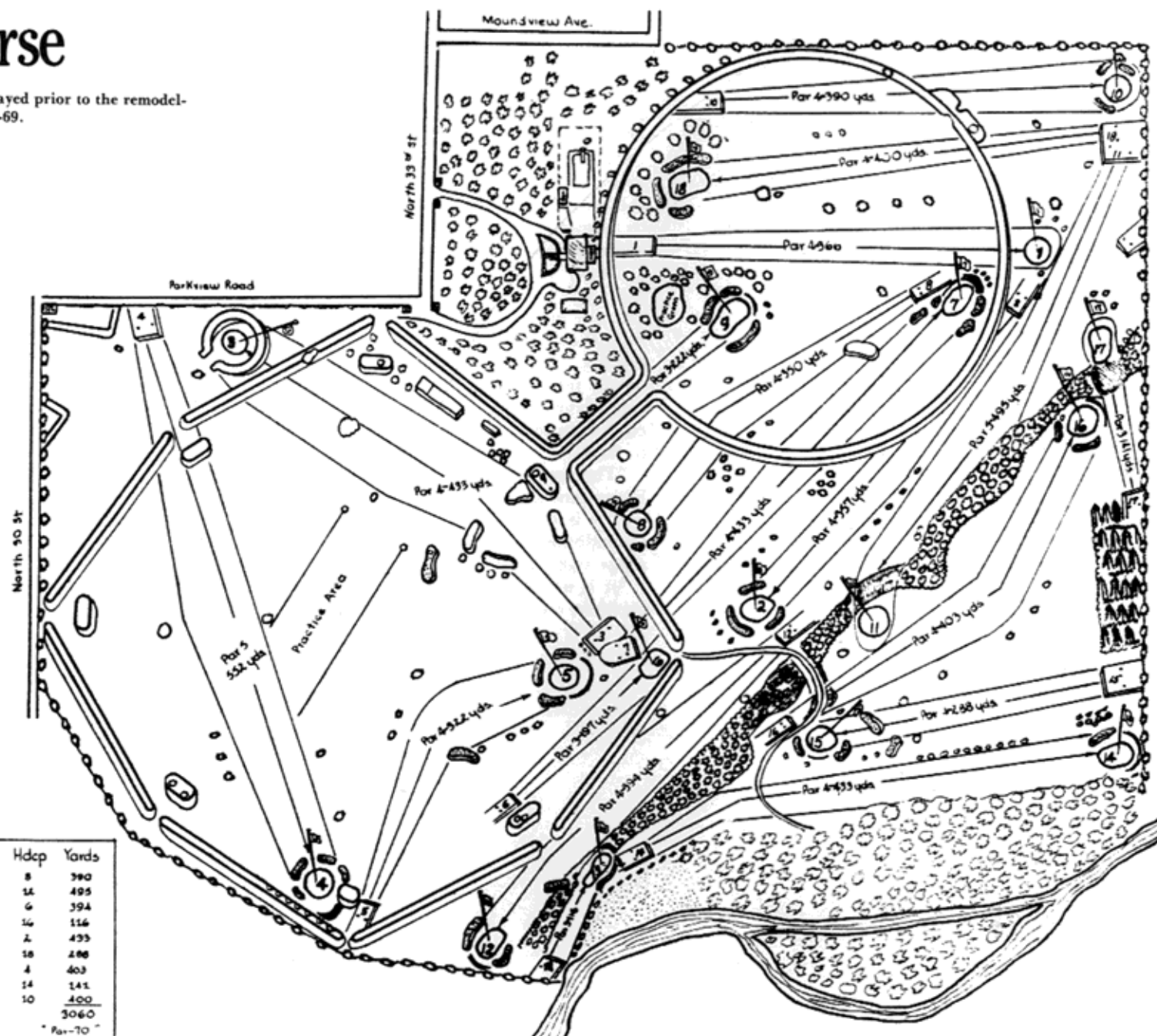
Chalmers Lowell Pancoast grew up in Newark with an early interest in photography. He left Newark for a career in public relations and advertising in New York and Washington D.C. When he retired he returned to Newark and having preserved many of his photographs of early Newark and Licking County wrote stories for *The Advocate* about those old days. He also wrote two books with photos of his home town.

The round of golf he wrote about in the above story would have been played in the summer of 1929 and was illustrated by four photographs. We are indebted to The Licking County Historical Society whose files contained 18 of the photographs Mr. Pancoast snapped that day.



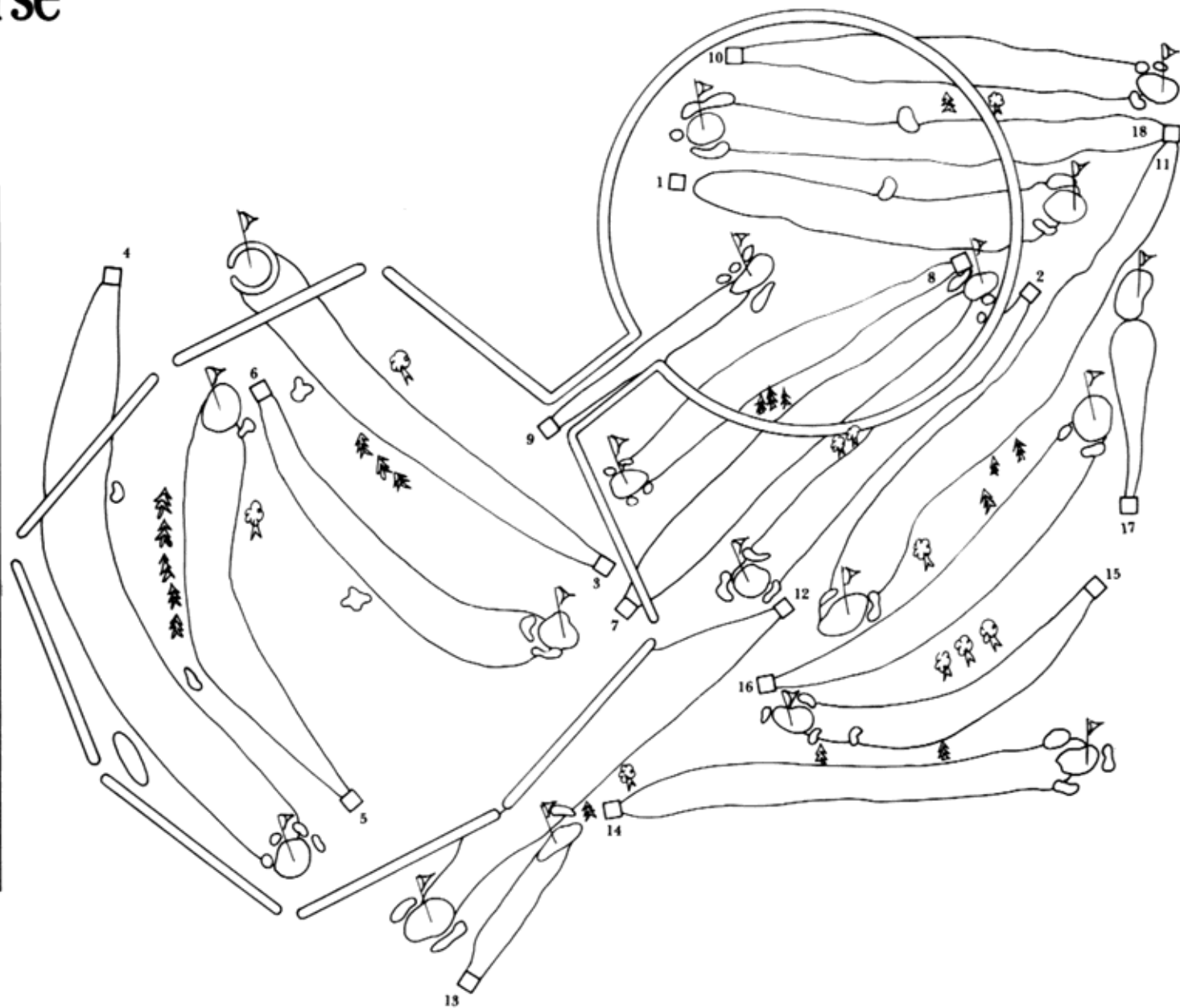
The Old Course

Here is a sketch of the course as it was played prior to the remodeling of holes 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 in 1968-69.



The New Course

HOLE	PAR	RED TEES	WHITE TEES	BLUE TEES
1	4	347	360	375
2	4	310	361	368
3	4	341	419	435
4	5	391	552	561
5	4	326	384	395
6	4	327	379	395
7	4	361	373	432
8	4	250	353	361
9	3	119	195	219
(Front Nine Yds.)		2772	3376	3541
10	4	352	380	396
11	5	457	505	516
12	4	350	390	403
13	3	96	111	133
14	4	313	390	421
15	4	251	330	340
16	4	350	397	412
17	3	103	142	164
18	4	333	395	403
(Back Nine Yds.)		2605	3040	3188
(Total Yards)		5377	6416	6729



The Old Clubhouse

The Moundbuilders Country Club is not only one of the oldest country clubs in the Central Ohio area, but one of the oldest in the State of Ohio. On Thursday, June 15, 1911, the club began operations with a membership of 160.

The original club house was of colonial style of architecture, both interior and exterior design. It was placed on the east side of the circle mound. It was so built that the large porches extended over the mound with a beautiful view of the golf course and a grove of beech trees. The exterior was of brown shingles with trimmings in white. It had three stories, with the porches extending around the west, south and north sides.

On the first floor was the life of the club. A hall extended the length of the floor from the east entrance onto the golf course. On the right side of the hall was the stairway. On the left of the hall were the manager's office, the kitchen, the boiler room, and the men's lockers. On the right were lavatories, showers, and lockers for the women.



Water Line

One of the items in the June 6, 1911 edition of the Newark Advocate reports that a water line was run from 16th Street (now 21st Street) to the new Moundbuilders Club House. Sixteenth Street was probably then the city limits of Newark.

The article does not report who paid the cost of the extension of the city water so far out of town. However, this extension surely helped in the growth of the town westward.

In the early '20's the Club drilled a well near the present storage shed and ran water lines to the greens. In 1968 the present well was drilled and the present irrigation system installed.



As you ascended the stairway you were led into a hall. On the left were the office and a service room; on the right were a cloak room and a powder room. The hall lead to the living room with a beautiful fireplace, old English style. In the north end of the room, and on each side were large window seats. Accordion doors connected the living room, with the dining room. Out of both rooms, five French windows open onto the spacious porch. The dining room also had a large fireplace. If dancing was desired, the two rooms could be thrown into one.

The entire interior finish was white. The white plastered walls were used throughout the building, with all the woodwork in white. All the chandeliers were burnished brass, with colonial art glass shades. Back of the office was a private dining room.

Hardwood floors were laid throughout the second story. On the third floor was a suite of rooms. In no place were colors other than green and white used. The rugs were of Wilton velvet, with a two-tone border in green. The furniture was of Crex Grass, as were the tables and chairs in the dining room. Furnishings on the porches were in old hickory.

The dining room was under the supervision of Miss Irene Grenier, formerly at the Sherwood Hotel. She had two girls for the dining room. All meals were served ala carte.

AS REPORTED IN THE ADVOCATE . . .

"In the Club the members feel as if they have found a mecca in which they can retrieve from the cares of the working hours of the day. The grounds offer ample opportunity for featuring the Athletic side of the organization. Golf has developed a great number of enthusiasts and from early in the morning until late in the evening may be seen many of its members making over the course."

During the 1930's the Board felt some physical changes and additions should be made. The north and south porches were enclosed. The southern portion was extended so that the first floor was turned into a bar and grill room. The addition on the second floor became the kitchen and a cocktail lounge. The first floor grill featured an oak bar made by contractor Ross Simpson. The bar was later separated by a glass partition. The grill room featured a cork tile floor with oak tables and chairs. A fireplace was featured on the inner wall, as was a booth used for nickel, quarter and half-dollar slot machines. During the war years, and with the Board of Governors facing a financial crisis, the slot machines provided a profitable venture. On the southeast corner were two large picture windows, and the remainder of the south wall had pane-windows that could be opened. Later, these windows overlooked the patio.

Moundbuilders Country Club

The Licking Country Club was formed in 1910 by a group of men who bought shares of stock and formed a corporation. Only stockholders were on the Board of Governors of the Club.

Associate members could not serve on the board. In 1946, one resident member was permitted to be elected from the membership and serve on the Board of Trustees. Later this was increased to three members.

About 1952, Andy Turner started a reorganization program. With the aid of Tim Norpell, he worked about two years to recover old stocks from estates, out-of-town heirs, and non-interested stockholders, etc. paying \$25 a share for all those obtained. These shares were reissued to interested members of the club.

When enough shares of stock were issued to interested members for a majority, a reorganization took place and the former private club for profit was changed to a non-profit corporation. Stock was issued to all full members for \$25, stock being non-transferable, and each shareholder had a right to vote for all board members or issues.

In 1957, Board Member Andy Turner initiated a plan to build the Club into a facility for all members of the family. The first phase was a swimming pool, and each member was required to purchase a \$200 bond at 1% interest annually, redeemable in 20 years. This fund was used to build the pool and dressing rooms. The pool was completed and dedicated in July 1959.

When the pool proved to be such a success, the second phase was initiated - to build a new club house building. Coupon bonds were offered for sale at \$500 each at 7% interest. A planning committee was organized with Lynn Campbell as chairman. Other committee members were Jack Olpp, Don Breneman, Andy Turner, Robert Van Voorhis and Orville Varasso.

The old club house was torn down in the summer of 1963. A trailer was set by #1 tee as a Pro Shop during the building program.

The new club house was completed and dedicated in the fall of 1964.

Later more tennis courts were built. The last expansion program was the new patio in the spring of 1985.