

Vast Expanse of Sand Dunes May Give City a Famous Golf Course

Oklahoma Architect Says Tract Owned By Carey Brothers Offers Great Possibilities

The vast expanse of sandhill waste which stretches for miles in the territory north and east of Hutchinson offers the finest natural topography for golf courses of any in the world.

That startling statement isn't the opinion of the writer. It is the firm conviction of an expert who has moulded and built some of the finest golf layouts in the United States and who is recognized as one of the country's foremost golf course architects.

He is Perry D. Maxwell, of Ardmore, Okla., who built the beautiful Ledger course at Philadelphia, the swanky Twin Hills links at Oklahoma City, the picturesque course at the University of Michigan, and in fact, dozens of other equally famous courses in cities throughout the country. As a matter of fact Maxwell has been a golf architect since 1914 and has constructed no less than 37 elegant courses in more than 14 states in the union.

Knows Famous Course

In addition to supervising the building of nearly two score golf courses, Maxwell has visited and studied such internationally famous courses as Westward Ho, St. Andrews and Rye in England and Scotland; Pine Valley and Oakmont, of Pennsylvania; Cypress Point and Pebble Beach in California; Baltusorel, Garden City and many other equally well known links which are the scenes of the biggest tournaments of the world.

But the Oklahoma obstetrician sticks to his guns that the sandhills north and east of Hutchinson are tops as natural layouts for golf courses.

Preliminary Work

The writer found Maxwell supervising preliminary work for a new golf course in the heart of the sandhill region. It is on a several hundred acre tract purchased by the Carey brothers and is located exactly four miles east of 30th and Main streets. A steam shovel was digging out big chunks of earth, depositing it in waiting trucks. Tractors drawing heavy rollers and drags moved over the landscape while teams of horses pulling more grading equipment added to this unusual sandhill scene.

Maxwell, discussing the advantages of such natural topography, bubbled with enthusiasm.

"It's marvelous," he declared, pointing to sand dunes all about him. "They are classic examples of the famous sea shore courses of Scotland and England. Look at those sand dunes and undulations in the land. Why, it is a natural canvas for the finest golf course in the country."

Maxwell explained that in building golf courses thousands of

dollars are expended to give the effect conveyed by the rolling sand dunes, valleys and stretches of sand.

"But you don't have to do that here," he added quickly. "It's all here. The artistic angle and background is marvelous. Do you know that I got one of the biggest thrills of my life when I first saw this natural setup. There isn't anything in New York or any other part of the country which touches it for natural beauty and artistry for a golf course."

The golf architect explained that when he came to Hutchinson to view locations for a possible golf course he was very skeptical of finding a suitable one.

"I had been all over Kansas and knew the general contour of the country—flat prairie land for farming purposes," he continued. "But when I saw this I knew it was the greatest thing for a classic example of modern golf courses I have ever seen."

No Water Wanted

Maxwell was particularly impressed with the natural bunkers and hummocks which the sandhill tract offers.

"What about water hazards?" the writer volunteered.

"You don't want them," came back Maxwell. "Look at the finest courses in the world along the sea shores of England and Scotland. They do not have a drop of water on them—just the natural canvas which you have right here."

Only preliminary work has been done on the Carey sandhill course. Greens are being graded and prepared for top soil. Fairways also have been turned over, ready for planting of grass.

But the natural hazards are all there and the usually mammoth task in connection with building golf courses, throwing up billows of earth, biting out traps and bunkers and transposing landmarks, is unnecessary.

"Magnificent Location"

Maxwell builds golf courses on the theory that the site should be there, not brought there, and in his own words, the Hutchinson sandhills represent a "magnificent location."

Maxwell, who at the age of 38 retired as a successful banker, built the first grass green course in Oklahoma. It is the Dornick Hills course at Ardmore and today no one, including the coun-

try's greatest professionals who have played there, have been able to equal par, 70.