

Nature Was Designer For Ardmore's Course

Perry Maxwell, Who Laid Out Dornick Hills, Believes Nature Should Precede Architect When Golf Course Is Contemplated; Natural Hazards Abound.

Perry D. Maxwell, the man who believed "nature should precede the architect in designing a golf course," laid out Dornick Hills Golf club, the course on which state amateurs will play, starting Monday morning in the annual state amateur meet.

In 1914, after making an extended tour of the eastern states and their prize clubs, Maxwell supervised the laying out of Dornick Hills. It was only 2100 yards in length when originally built.

Today it is 6350 yards long and possesses all standard-length holes. The course lies in a valley, guarded on either side by foothills of the Arbuckle mountains. The clubhouse, located atop the southern hills, overlooks the entire course.

Other Courses Are Visited

In addition to inspection trips in the United States, Maxwell drew on his reserve of knowledge gained on visits to English and

Scotch courses when he designed Dornick Hills. It is the boast of the club that nature's work was disturbed as little as possible when the course was built.

Only six artificial bunkers grace the course; the rest are natural. The average number of artificial bunkers on other courses runs close to 50. Maxwell didn't believe in that. He thought Mother Nature knew more about beauty and convenience than did architects.

The turf of the valley wherein Dornick Hills lies was not dug up when the course was built. No steam shovels gnawed into the earth and left gaping holes that could only be beautiful with work and money.

Workmen simply improved with as little "tearing up" as possible what was already provided—a natural valley that had beauty and a perfect setting for a course.

Natural Hazards Await

Up until the time of the 1924 tournament, the person who could par the course—70—was considered a master mind. Yet a small girl in her teens consistently played the course under 100.

A rolling ball on this course is of little value. Innumerable traps and bunkers—natural ones—await the bounding ball. The golfer with the short carry is in a good way to miss the championship flight when play starts Monday.

So if the unfortunate golfer heaps curses on the head of the man who provided the trap his ball goes in, he's more than likely referring indirectly to Dame Nature. She's the old girl that did most of the designing.

Man merely took what she had given him and adapted it—with a minimum of difficulty—to suit his own golfing needs.