

The SPORT BROADCAST

BY
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SOMETHING different for this section: in the way of golf course construction is the promise of Perry D. Maxwell, nationally-known links architect, who is laying out the thirty-six-hole Walnut Hill Country Club course at Lemmon avenue and Northwest highway here. "Maxwell, who now resides in Ardmore, Okla., and who leaped into prominence a few years ago when he was commissioned to remodel the famous Pine Valley course at Philadelphia, outlined his plan to local newspaper men Wednesday noon at a luncheon given by Charles E. Turner, president of the Crown Hill Company, developers of Walnut Hill Country Club. William R. Mackenzie, former professional at Dallas Country Club, who will be identified with the new course in a similar capacity, also was present.

Maxwell has had more than a score years background building courses and studying golf architecture. He also remodeled the Philadelphia Country Club links. He laid out Dornick Hills at Ardmore, Okla.; Twin Hills at Oklahoma City, the Pennsylvania Athletic Club course at Philadelphia; Pat the University of Michigan links at Ann Arbor, Mich., and Fort Smith (Ark.) Country Club, among others.

"Because this is my first effort in Texas, I am going to do my best," said Maxwell, "to make Walnut Hill unusually attractive. My plans call for a difficult, yet a fair course. It will be a real test of golf, something that will require sound, accurate play but will not be unreasonably hard to score on. I have in mind a well-balanced course with a pair of par fives and two par threes on each eighteen. You hardly could call it sporty as we won't have the natural hazards. But, it will be fascinating.

"Our fairways should be excellent," Maxwell continued, getting into the real description of the layout, "but my keenest pride is going to be in my greens. There's where your real golf comes in--on the putting surfaces and in the approaches to the carpets. Our greens are going to vary considerably in size depending upon the length of the holes. Those requiring long wood shots to get home naturally will be large to allow for roll. The greens on the shorter holes, of course, will be smaller.

"Greens highly banked in back and on the sides will be taboo," the architect emphasized. "I detest greens built in such way that the entire surface slopes into the cup. Carnets that slope radically are not fair. The highest part should be no more than thirty inches above the lowest part and high banking takes something out of the game by preventing shots from rolling off. There will be undulations, plenty of them, but they will be shallow and will require putting accuracy to put the ball in the can. The putting surfaces at Walnut Hill will vary in design as well as in size."

"My plans also call for elimination of bunkers, which now are considered obsolete, and extremely deep, sharply cut traps will have no place on this course. As a whole the traps will be shallow. They will be penalizing but they will have a more natural appearance. We plan to eliminate to a certain extent the artificial element."

Walnut Hill, which is to be a moderately priced country club designed strictly for golfing purposes without extensive social activities, will have thirty-six grass greens sown in the Bermuda grass now in common use in this section. Perry Maxwell is a staunch booster for Bent grass, conceded to be the finest putting surface known, and believes it will be used extensively in Dallas within the next two or three years but he is skeptical about spring planting and he wants to have the new course ready for play some time in June. If he could have planted in the fall, he would have used Bent and he believes he can guarantee its success in this climate.

Each nine of Walnut Hill will begin and end at the clubhouse. An added feature will be a 60-yard practice ground on each end of which will be a putting-green.

One can't very well get into a discussion of golf development in Dallas without encountering the name of H. L. Edwards, known as the father of the royal and ancient game in Texas. He was a moving spirit in the organization of Dallas Country Club and helped lay out its first course as well as the one at the club's present location. Likewise, he was one of the organizers of Brook Hollow Golf Club. Now he is officially connected with Walnut Hill, giving him a part in this State's first and its newest country club.