

ONCE OVER

John Cronley Sports Editor

Lightly

GOLF won't be the same in Oklahoma and America, too, with Perry Maxwell not around.

The stocky, tanned fellow with bright blue eyes and a cheerful smile seemed to turn up everywhere across the country building a new course or remodeling and improving one.

America's leading golf architect? Maybe, maybe not, but one of the top three or four. He ranks with A. W. Tillinghast, Dr. Allister Mackenzie and Robert Trent Jones as the best of his day.

Virtually every major course in Oklahoma is a Maxwell creation. Here, there are Twin Hills, the Country club and Lake Hefner. At Tulsa, it's Southern Hills and Indian Hills.

The old Kennedy course there (adjoining the Country club) came off his drawing board, too. And those mammoth Mowhawk greens bear his stamp.

There's a Maxwell Memorial at Bartlesville

AT Bartlesville, picturesque Hillcrest is his memorial. At Enid, Oakwood. At Muskogee, the greens and a share of the planning at the Country club. At Ardmore, Dornick Hills, his very first venture into golf course designing. And on and on.

He took great delight in building courses for the colleges and universities, tests that would be fair to both the 89-shooter and the par golfer. The University of Michigan and Iowa State college arenas are his productions, and he laid out the new University of Oklahoma plot for next to nothing in the way of personal financial gain.

Around the nation he was in demand at swanky clubs which wanted their courses brought up to date and toughened. Among these were the Augusta, Ga., National, the Masters tournament site; Pine Valley, New Jersey's famous "examination" in golf; Saucun Valley in Bethlehem, Pa., scene of the 1931 National Amateur, and the Links club in New York.

Worked on Courses in 21 States

PERRY kept so busy he could only estimate the vastness of his work. His latest guess, in 1949, put the figure at approximately 70 courses authored in at least 21 states, and 40 others rebuilt or remodeled.

Pin him down on his best job? Hardly. He was an artist and always put forth his best efforts. Besides, every course presented different problems in the way of topography and landscaping.

He did admit some satisfaction at the Tulsa Open in 1945 when only one professional, Sammy Sneed, cracked par for 72 holes at Southern Hills. Three years ago he volunteered that the Prairie Dunes course in Hutchinson, Kan., was "the nicest canvas on which I've ever painted a picture."

The loss of his right leg in 1944, stemming from something apparently unimportant as a mild case of eczema, failed to detract from his activity. An artificial limb promptly went into its place and he kept on the run until a year ago, when illness put him on the sidelines.

Ardmore Was Always Home to Perry

MAXWELL, 73 years old at the time of his recent death, had lived in Tulsa for some years but Ardmore, where he earned his first prominence as a banker after arriving from Kentucky in 1905, was always "home" to him. He was a frail youngster who came to Oklahoma for his health.

He got into golf course designing by accident in 1914 when Ardmore folk called on him to build them a nine-hole layout. He did so—and for only \$10,000—and Dornick Hills was born. He gave up banking in 1919 to play golf and build golf courses.

Ardmore remembers him for other contributions, too. He was active in the chamber of commerce, a generous supporter of the Red Cross and Boy Scouts, and bought and donated a \$10,000 pair of chimes to the First Presbyterian church.

He also was a 33rd degree Mason and a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.