

Man Who Designed Dornick Hills Not To Be on Hand for Big Golf Feature

By BILL HAMILTON

Dornick Hills, a piece of art in golf architecture nestled snugly in the foothills of the Arbuckles, reached a milestone in its turbulent history this week with the opening of the first annual PGA Ardmore Open, a \$15,000 plum that has attracted the cream of golfdom's illustrious horde.

The milestone is a sweet note to the ears of the many club members who have struggled along with a mediocre layout that on at least three occasions was faced with bankruptcy.

But a sad note will be sandwiched in with the celebrating when the top pros of the nation tee off on the first round of the 72-hole swing-for-the-money.

The man who left his banking job back in 1910 to organize and build Dornick Hills will not be among the spectators.

Perry Maxwell, dean of America's golf architects, is bedridden in his home in Tulsa and unable to attend the big show that is a climax to 42 years of following the tournament trail.

Maxwell planned, purchased and constructed the first nine-holes which was to become Dornick Hills.

Dornick Hills was his first attempt at laying out a golf course. Since that eventful day in 1913, Maxwell has built more than 47 courses and remodeled at least 75, including the famous Masters course in Augusta, Ga.

In order to get the approximately 80 acres used for the original nine holes of the club, Maxwell had to purchase about 600 acres of land.

The first nine holes of Dornick Hills, constructed in 1913, had grass greens, the first of any course in the state of Oklahoma.

The course and the original clubhouse were constructed in 1914 and formally opened on June 17, 1915—just 37 years ago.

In 1923, through the enthusiasm of Wirt Franklin, \$50,000 was raised by the sale of bonds, and a dance hall, swimming pool and the additional nine holes of golf were constructed.

The state tournament was played upon its completion in 1924. Depressions, lagging interest in the game and a general shortage of money put the club in precarious predicaments at various points along its career, but due to foresight and planning it was always abl

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Perry Maxwell