

Corsicana Invitation Golf Meet Visitors May Not Recognize Old Course This Year

BY FELIX R. McKNIGHT,
Staff Correspondent of The News.
CORSIKANA, Texas, May 3.—
Golf's blue blood will start pouring
over lush fairways of the Corsi-
cana Country Club next Friday in
quest of the club's ninth annual in-
vitational title.

It's a good golf tournament, one
of the finest in the Southwest. The
field will be gaudily decorated with
some of the nation's biggest ama-
teur names.

But that isn't the story.

Six or seven men whose names
won't be springing at you from the
tournament headlines make up this
story—one of the strangest in Tex-
as golf annals.

Bankers, business tycoons, physi-
cians, insurance men, wealthy oil
operators and lawyers, residents of
this community of some 18,000, set
out more than a decade ago to
build a golf course.

Today the Corsicana Country

Club course, pieced together by the
sweat, toil and ingenuity of these
men, rates as one of the best in
Texas.

The case of H. R. (Bill) Stroube,
millionaire oilman, is typical.

Chairman of the grounds com-
mittee the past three years, Bill
Stroube got together with his co-
horts and decided the course need-
ed improvements. A watering sys-
tem was essential, several holes
needed remodeling, new greens
were imperative to make it a true,
championship test.

Bill Stroube quietly started on
the watering system. He borrowed
equipment from a utilities com-
pany, gathered employees from his
own personal properties, donned
greasy overalls and started to
work.

Bank Executive Nick Garrity and
Insurance Man Charles Holloway
took over crews of men. It was a
strange sight—an overalled million-

aire riding herd on a tractor, dig-

ging a ditch or mowing beside a
green.

But the watering system was in-
stalled—110 sprinklers all over the
course. And the pumping station
was built out of discarded brick
near the lake. Bill Stroube, quite
a hand with machines, supervised
installation of the big gasoline-
powered pumps.

One night Bank President J. N.
Edens decided the rolling four-
teenth fairway needed rebuilding.
Next day he had fifteen teams of
mules, several Negroes and plows on
the course. He arranged with a
near-by farmer to pitch his "camp"
on his grounds.

For days Banker Edens and his
strange crew tore up and rebuilt
the fairway. Today the fairway is
a masterpiece of contour and turf—
built by a bank president who just
knew what he wanted.

Only recently Bill Stroube
brought a stranger to the course,
walked its length and breadth with

him. Soon Bill Stroube began tear-
ing up the place. Old holes began
disappearing. New holes, some of
the finest in Texas, began shap-
ing up.

The keen-eyed stranger he
brought to the course, at his,
Stroube's own expense, was just
Perry Maxwell, the most noted golf
course architect in the nation.

Bill Stroube has planted 275 trees
on the course, spends all his spare
moments tinkering with machinery,
digging a new trap or mowing a
green.

And he would raise hell if he
knew about this story being
printed.

Incidentally, every living ex-
champion of the Corsicana tourna-
ment is a Dallasite. Reynolds Smith
won it in 1933 and 1936; Spec Gold-
man in 1935; Harry Todd in 1937;
Jamie Gough in 1938, and Don
Schumacher in 1939 and 1940. Mar-
vin Carroll of Houston, now de-
ceased, won it in 1934.