

Neosho's Golf Course Designer Shaped National Open Course in Texas

The following article by United Press to the Democrat regards a man well known in Neosho. In 1923, or thereabouts, he designed Neosho's golf course, and last year he came here to check up on the course and to make suggestions for several changes, when A. E. Weston, chairman of the board of governors wrote him for advice. Mr. Maxwell made no charge for his trip here last year. The article:

By ARNOLD DIBBLE
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FORT WORTH, Texas. (U.P.)—A strange life brought Perry Maxwell here to "doll up" Colonial Club for the country's greatest golf tournament—the National Open in June. It may be stranger yet.

The bluff 58-year-old Englishman rates with the greatest golf course architects of all time. Yet, until he was 40 years old his life had been spent in proximity to red and black ink, huge ledgers, and

piles of currency. Maxwell was an Ardmore, Okla., banker at that time.

In his spare time he puttered at designing. He designed the Dornick Hills Course at Ardmore.

When he could spare the time from his bank, he took off across country and played golf at nearly every stop.

Quit Banking in 1923.

In 1923, the banking business began to pall on him. Like other artists who left successful businesses, Maxwell closed his books and left for Scotland to observe St. Andrews, the famous St. Andrews.

After returning to this country he designed courses in Oklahoma and Kansas (and Neosho). He planned Southern Hills at Tulsa and Twin Hills at Oklahoma City, two oil-rich layouts that rank with the most beautiful in the country.

During the 20s and early 30s he worked at Pine Valley and Spring Mill courses, near Philadelphia and designed several private courses for Eastern millionaires.

But the job he is most proud of is the nine-hole course called Prairie Dunes at Hutchinson, Kansas.

There, few trees make beauty spots on the course. Sage grass covers the fairways. Maxwell designed the course to fit in what he called "undulations" of the topography.

"Perfect Course" Visioned.

Despite his pride in this Hutchinson course, Maxwell now has a dream of building the perfect course. He would construct it on the sand dunes of the New Jersey coast. He would provide an amphibian plane base so that wealthy New Yorkers could ferry down for a round of golf and return to the city within two or three hours.

The golf course architect believes the "undulating" sand dunes would make the finest topography in the world for a layout. Someday, someday he's going to build his greatest course there.

Meanwhile he concentrates on Colonial. He and course-engineer, Dean Woods, worked there all winter. Three new holes have been built and every green re-conditioned.

"Colonial," he said, "will have one of the finest sets of greens and the finest combination of holes in the country."