



GARY GALYEAN'S GOLF LETTER

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Dear Subscriber:

WITHOUT PERRY MAXWELL'S ARCHITECTURAL DISCERNMENT—learned from Alexander “Alister” MacKenzie and Mr. Maxwell's observation of other designers of his remarkable generation—the true, fleeting hint, lilt if you will, of Scottish golf course design in America would not still exist in a simple form. Southern Hills [1936] was his original, truly championship design—a course that embodies Mr. Maxwell's minimalist approach on a large canvas capable of testing the world's best players; Prairie Dunes [1937] his masterpiece, no longer of a scale large enough for championship play, fortunately protected by that Club's reverence for its genius just as it is.

It is my theory, Mr. Maxwell wrote, that nature must precede the architect, in the laying out of links. It is futile to attempt the transformation of wholly inadequate acres into an adequate course. A featureless site cannot possibly be economically redeemed. ... Many an acre of magnificent land has been utterly destroyed by the steam shovel, throwing up its billows of earth, biting out traps and bunkers, transposing landmarks that are contemporaries of Genesis.

Mr. Maxwell was born in Princeton, Kentucky, in 1879 during a period of 15 years that also saw the births of H.S. Colt, C.H. Alison, Dr. MacKenzie, Donald Ross, George Crump, George Thomas Jr., A.W. Tillinghast, Thomas Simpson, Seth Raynor, Hugh Wilson, and Hubert Strong. C.B. Macdonald preceded them by 14 years, and Marion Hol-

lins followed by 10. This group, and there were others, produced a body of creative work unrivalled by any other period in American golf history. Generally they believed, as the British had shown them, that the land made the course, there should be minimal disturbance to nature's topographical gifts, and that spending money did not necessarily produce a better result.

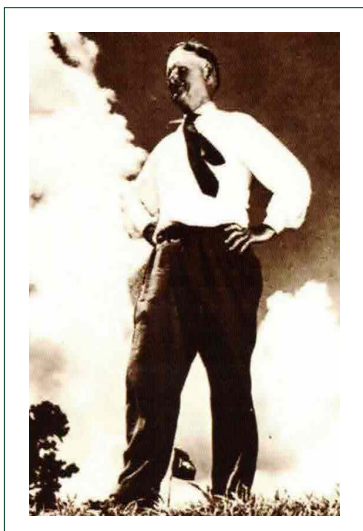
Mr. Maxwell's father died when Perry was only nine. He was raised by his mother and an unmarried uncle of means. Both his parents were of Scotch descent. He attended Kentucky University, and then Stetson University, to study classical literature. Poor health due to tuberculosis provoked his move at age 18 to Ardmore, Indian Territory, which joined the United States 10 years later as part of Oklahoma.

In 1902, Mr. Maxwell met and married Ray Woods. She produced three daughters, one son, and Mr. Maxwell's affinity for golf course architecture. It was Mrs. Maxwell who gave her husband an article from *Scribner's Magazine* that described the creation and opening of The National Golf Links in 1911. Mr. Maxwell traveled to Southampton to see the course and discussed the design with Mr. Macdonald.

On his return to Ardmore, Mr. Maxwell designed and built [1913–1918] the first nine holes of his architectural career on a former dairy farm he owned. It was named Dornick Hills and was, once again, at Mrs. Maxwell's suggestion that he undertake it. During this time, Mr. Maxwell traveled to Ekwanok in Vermont to attend the 1914 U.S. Amateur, which was won

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Perry Maxwell & Southern Hills
104th PGA Championship
Nicklaus Cos. v. Nicklaus

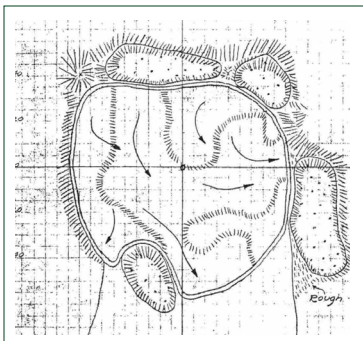


by Francis Ouimet playing over Walter Travis' notable design. Mr. Maxwell was clearly beguiled by the subtleties of the game and its landscape architecture as applied to the topography on which it was most enjoyed.

Five years later [1919], Mrs. Maxwell died from a burst appendix. Mr. Maxwell, devastated by the loss of his beautiful wife with whom he had so much in common, attempted to ease his grief with a trip to Scotland to see the golf courses that he and his wife had so often discussed. Innately he grasped the Scottish method for utilizing the landscape as it lay and for the natural features it provided for compelling golf. While in Scotland, Mr. Maxwell met Dr. MacKenzie, who was just home from World War I and trained as a camouflage expert by the British Army. Dr. MacKenzie left his medical career for golf course design and an association with Harry Colt and Hugh Alison. The doctor was also about to become the first to survey the Old Course in its then 500 year history.

Upon returning home, Mr. Maxwell cut back on his work at the local bank, in which he held stock and where he worked since college, to devote more time to golf course architecture. The approaching decade of the Roaring Twenties saw more

golf courses built in the United States than any other decade before or since. His construction diagrams were drawn to the scale of 1 inch to 100 yards, rather than the customary 1 inch to 200 yards. His artistry demanded the extra clarity and precision.



Perry Maxwell's Renovation Diagram
Saucon Valley No. 6 Green

In 1923, he designed and built the second nine holes at Dornick Hills, created grass greens for the first time in Oklahoma, and saw the course become respected, for many years, as the best in the state. A year later he was invited to join the Green Committee of the United States Golf Association, and was also elected president of the Oklahoma Golf Association.

By the end of the decade, Dr. MacKenzie was known in most parts of the world for his captivating design work. He invited Mr. Maxwell to partner with him as engineer and finisher. That association lasted until Dr. MacKenzie's death in 1934. Most notably, the two design geniuses produced the University of Michigan's course [1929], Crystal Downs [1928–1931], and Ohio State University – Scarlet [1935].

During these years, Mr. Maxwell honed his understanding of what he saw and what Dr. MacKenzie studied in St. Andrews and elsewhere in Scotland. What came to be called “Maxwell Greens” were large putting surfaces with contours and swales, also known as “Maxwell's Rolls” [see Saucon Valley diagram]. The continuing refinement of his work was recognized when he was chosen to supervise the re-contouring of Pine Valley's greens [1933] as well as those at Augusta National [1937]. Indeed, it was Mr. Maxwell who moved the 10th green at Augusta—which used to be the 1st—from its position beside the (now) fairway bunker to atop the hill 50 yards further back. That change left what has since become Dr. MacKenzie's last remaining original bunker, just as it is today, and elevated the difficulty and appeal of the current 10th hole.

Dr. MacKenzie, as reported in the *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, told the secretary of the Oklahoma Historical Society, “Mr. Maxwell speaks of my ability to make a good fairway or develop a worthy green, but I wish to tell you that in laying out a golf course and to give it everything that the science and art of golf demand, Mr. Maxwell is not second to anyone I know.”

About the same time that Mr. Maxwell's work was underway at Augusta National, his work at Southern Hills was taking shape in Tulsa. The total budget to build Southern Hills was \$100,000, which included his fee of \$7,500. Also underway was the construction of the first nine holes of his greatest work, Prairie Dunes, in Hutchinson, Kansas.

Both of these courses reflect his emphatic belief that attempting to remold featureless land into an interesting golf course resembles “the inauguration of an earthquake. The site of a golf course should *be* there, not be *brought* there.”

Most of the interference with nature, he reflected, comes “into existence at the instigation of amateurs obsessed with a passion for remodeling the masterpieces of nature. A golf course that invades a hundred or more acres, and is actually visible in its garish intrusion from several points of observation is an abhorrent spectacle. The less of man's handiwork, the better the course”.

Mr. Maxwell, 73, died in Tulsa on November 15, 1952. He was a member of the Ardmore Presbyterian Church, a 33rd Degree Mason, and a charter member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.



• **Two major architectural renovations** took place at Southern Hills during the past 84 years. In 1957, preparing for the 1958 U.S. Open, Robert Trent Jones

Sr. treated Southern Hills to his signature adjustments for testing length and accuracy. He pushed the tees back, brought the rough in, and added bunkers. The work reflected what Mr. Jones learned preparing Oakland Hills [1950 work for the 1951 U.S. Open], Baltusrol – Lower [1952 for 1954], Olympic – Lake [1954 for 1955], and Oak Hill – East [1956 for 1956].

By 2000, 65 years after Mr. Jones’s work, it was once again clear that Southern Hills needed attention if it was to retain its standing as a major championship site.

Keith Foster, hired by the Club as a consulting architect, eased the Club through early work that would later become the Club’s most substantial renovation.

Mr. Foster’s approach in the 2000s was comprised of tree removal, fairway widening, the return of short grass surrounding putting greens, and the restoration of interior green contours—the Maxwell’s Rolls.

In 2015, Gil Hanse joined the consulting effort at Southern Hills. Mr. Hanse was concerned with restoring as much of Mr. Maxwell’s work as possible while simultaneously making changes that would accommodate major championships. Mr. Hanse specifically worked to restore the putting green edges to their original design that slope off the green rather than funneling balls onto the green.

Mr. Hanse’s major second phase (10 months) of the second renovation (Foster and Hanse) came at a price of \$11 million and was unveiled in 2019. It straddles the widening canyon between original course design intent and unbridled implements and ball improvement. Also important was the installation of under-green tubing that allows for heating and cooling and, therefore, predictably firm conditions.

• **Phil Mickelson**, a week before the championship, chose to not compete at Southern Hills. He is golf’s oldest major champion having won the PGA Championship last year at age 50. Comments he made last November about using a Saudi-backed

8 a.m. Weather

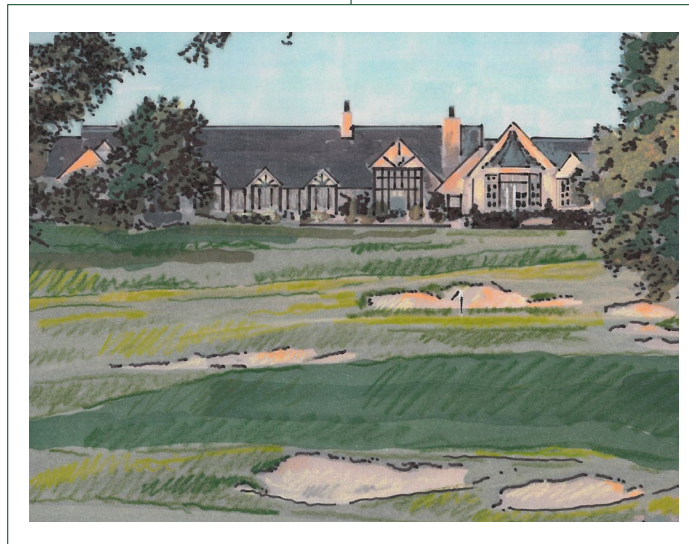
74° Wind SE 4 mph
Humidity 83%
No rainfall last 24 hrs
83° Midday

golf circuit as leverage against the PGA Tour and claiming that he paid lawyers to draw up the league’s operating charter have resulted in his having been absent from professional competition since those comments were made public.

In a Feb. 22 statement acknowledging his derisive comments, Mr. Mickelson stated, “The past 10 years I have felt the pressure and stress slowly affecting me at a deeper level. I know I have not been my best and desperately need some time away to prioritize the ones I love most and work on being the man I want



to be.” His self-absorbed behavior for many years lends a tinny hollowness to his statement and earned a rating of “High” on our *Mickelson Obfuscation & Myth Meter*.



SOUTHERN HILLS by Tag Galyean

While several competitors and past champions regretted Mr. Mickelson’s decision, Dave Stockton, 80, a two-time PGA past champion [1970, Southern Hills; 1976, Congressional – Blue] and former Ryder Cup captain [1991, Ki-

awah], supported the absence. “[The Past Champions’ Dinner was a fun evening. Phil was not missed,” Mr. Stockton said. “I think Phil would have been a big distraction whether [*sic*] he was here. The story here this week is the PGA.”

The 104th PGA Championship
Southern Hills, Tulsa

It is difficult to decide if it was a slog, a pleasure, or masochism. Justin Thomas’s 67 in the final round was good enough to make up a four shot deficit against Will Zalatoris, and put them into a playoff that Mr. Thomas won with aplomb.

Rory McIlroy began with 65, faltered with 71 and 74, drew within five of the lead at the 59th hole, then faded into levelness and eighth place.

Bubba Watson equaled the PGA scoring record, 63, on Friday but could find nothing better than 70 to go with it, finishing 23rd.

Thursday Morning

LADBROKE Odds

Scheffler	11-1
Rahm	12-1
Thomas	14-1
McIlroy	14-1
Spieth	16-1
Morikawa	18-1
Koepka	18-1
D. Johnson	22-1
Matsuyama	22-1
Woods	66-1

**Saturday Morning
LADBROKE Odds**

Zalatoris -9	9-4
Thomas -6	7-2
Pereira -8	11-2
McIlroy -4	7-1
B. Watson -5	20-1
C. Smith -2	20-1
Fitzpatrick -3	2-1
Ancer -4	25-1

2 p.m. Weather

58° Wind N 15 mph
.4" rain last 24 hrs
Humidity 76%
Rain expected at 3 p.m.

Mito Pereira, the first Chilean to lead a major championship, seemed destined, but Saturday's nerves continued into Sunday culminating in a double bogey at the last hole that left him one stroke out of the playoff. Mr. Thomas gained eight strokes over Mr. Pereira in the final round.

Outside the ropes, two ESPN commentators were struck in the head by errant tee shots in separate incidents on Thursday and Friday.

The renovation of Southern Hills proved confusing to

measure much of the time.

The 12th—"the greatest par 4 in the United States" according to Ben Hogan—presented itself erratically to the leaders. Mr. Thomas played it 1-under, Mr. Pereira 4-over, Mr. Zalatoris 1-over, and Mr. Young even.

The 500 World's Greatest Golf Holes chose this hole as one of the world's best 18 holes. Like its designer, the 12th is compelling to contemplate but unexaggerated. For those who disdain blindness in golf course architecture, this hole holds special consideration with a water hazard that crosses blindly just in front and then appears at the right side of the green.

"Spectacular and frightening at the same time," as Mr. Jones described it. It is disruptive in the general, quiet flow of Southern Hills.

As the ruling bodies ponder bifurcation to bring the professional game closer to the amateur level in terms of equipment performance, Southern Hills makes the point—as do Augusta, Pinehurst, and a misconstrued Shinnecock Hills—that the professional game already has almost nothing in common with the game the rest of us play. Does that mean bifurcation has already taken place? If so, why tear the game apart with lawsuits and almost pointless jabbering that will only affect about 300 golfers? Who cares?

**Sunday Morning
LADBROKE Odds**

Pereira -9	6-4
Fitzpatrick -6	10-3
Zalatoris -6	4-1
Young -5	8-1
Ancer -4	18-1
Thomas -2	28-1
B. Watson -2	80-1
McIlroy E	100-1

2 p.m. Weather

66° Clear
Wind NE 13 mph
Humidity 40%
No chance of rain

**Jack Nicklaus Sued by
Nicklaus Companies**

May 13 Complaint* Filed in Supreme Court of the State of New York

Alex Miceli reported in a story datelined May 21 in *Sports Illustrated / Morning Read* that a complaint was filed May 13 in the Supreme Court of the State of New York against Jack Nicklaus, 82, alleging that the Nicklaus Companies suffered an "alleged breach of contract by Mr. Nicklaus, as well as tortious interference and breach of fiduciary duty".

Howard Milstein, executive chairman of the Nicklaus

* Nicklaus Companies, LLC, against GBI Investors, Inc. and Jack W. Nicklaus; filed May 13, 2022, in the Supreme Court of the State of New York County of New York.

**Par 5s
ALL ROUNDS**

	5 th	13 th	TOTAL
Thomas	-3	E	-3
Zalatoris	-1	-3	-4
Young	-2	-1	-3
Pereira	-3	-3	-6

**Par 3s
ALL ROUNDS**

	6 th	8 th	11 th	14 th	TOTAL
Thomas	+2	+1	-1	+1	+3
Zalatoris	+3	E	-1	E	+2
Young	-1	+2	-1	+1	+1
Pereira	-1	+2	-1	-1	-1

**2022 PGA Championship Top Finishers' Statistics
72 HOLES**

	EAGLES	BIRDIES	BOGEYS	DOUBLE BOGEYS+	DRIVING DIST.	GREENS IN REG.	PUTTING	STROKES GAINED
Thomas	0	16	11	0	26th	2nd	2nd	T2nd
Zalatoris	0	16	11	0	16th	T3rd	10th	T2nd
Young	1	13	9	1	6th	T18	26th	4th
Pereira	0	18	12	1	33rd	T7	3rd	1st

Companies and chairman, president and CEO of New York Private Bank & Trust, filed the complaint.

The complaint states that Mr. Nicklaus was paid \$145 million in 2007 “to provide exclusive services and property to the Nicklaus Companies, which over time he has failed to live up to or has worked against the company directly.”

Three specific breaches are alleged in the complaint, according to the “*Sports Illustrated*” (SI) story, including “wrongful conduct regarding negotiations with the PIF Saudi Investment Fund where Nicklaus was reportedly offered \$100 million dollars to join the startup LIV Golf Invitational Series”. Also included are breaches involving a video game under development, and cash payment for promoting a tournament in Belgium.

“Fortunately for Nicklaus Companies – and Mr. Nicklaus – the Company was eventually able to convince Mr. Nicklaus to stop exploring a deal for the endorsement of the Saudi-backed league,” reads a portion of the suit cited by SI. “The Company essentially saved Mr. Nicklaus from himself by extricating him from a controversial project that could have not only tarnished his legacy and reputation, but severely damaged the Nicklaus Companies’ name, brands and business.

“Thanks to the intervention of Nicklaus Companies, the Company was able to minimize fallout from the situation and protect the goodwill and good name of both the Company and Mr. Nicklaus. The potential irreparable harm that Nicklaus Companies faced had Mr.



For W.C.F.:

“Millions of dollars annually are wasted in devastating the earth; in obstructing the flow of the rainfall; in creating impossible situations. Don’t blame all of this on the architects; the guilt lies primarily with the influential, misguided club members who take sadistic joy in torturing the good earth. As a result, the majority of American golf clubs are in the red.”

Perry Duke Maxwell
(1879 – 1952)

Nicklaus’s unauthorized activities not been abandoned has been highlighted by the continued statements made by the PGA Tour and various leading Tour players and the substantial negative news coverage criticizing Phil Mickelson’s involvement as a paid endorser of the Saudi-backed golf league. If not for the efforts of Nicklaus Companies, Mr. Nicklaus could have been pilloried in the news media for accepting payment for what could be characterized as betraying the PGA Tour.”

Mr. Nicklaus replied in a statement, “The claims made by Howard Milstein are untrue. Our relationship has been a difficult one, at best. I have little doubt about the outcome, but I don’t intend to make this a public spectacle, if it can be avoided.”

After the SI story was published, Nicklaus Companies issued the following:

“We have great admiration and tremendous respect for Jack and his legacy and have tried everything to avoid taking this step. We are asking the court to sort out the legal responsibilities of the parties so that there is no confusion or misunderstanding going forward.

“We are saddened to be put in a situation that now requires intervention from a court, but we have a responsibility to Nicklaus Companies and its employees, as well as to our customers and partners, to ensure that nothing disrupts the ongoing business of the company. We are confident that working together we can resolve this quickly and amicably.”

From other sources: Mr. Milstein is a graduate of Cornell University [BA] and Harvard University [JD, MBA], and was chairman of the New York State Thruway Authority [2011 – 2014] and led the procurement process for the replacement of the Tappan Zee Bridge.

Yours vly truly,

Gary A. Galyean
Editor & Publisher

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