

# Yale's New Championship Course Open for Play

The First Step in the Development of the Ray Tompkins Memorial, which will Eventually Afford the University One of the Most Magnificent Playgrounds in the World

By WILLIAM ELLIS

YALE UNIVERSITY has just opened for play an eighteen-hole golf course which in character and construction is one of the finest courses in America. It is rare enough for a college to possess its own golfing privileges—but a full length championship course, which can be compared with two of the most beautiful courses in the world, is an attainment of which few clubs can boast. Such is Yale's claim to golfing distinction.

This acquisition was made possible when an immense tract of over 700 acres in the western part of New Haven was bequeathed to the college by Mrs. Ray Tompkins, widow of Ray Tompkins, Yale, '84, for the purpose of encouraging athletic sports at Yale. The property is to stand as a memorial to her husband, who was one of Yale's finest athletes, captain of the 1883 football team.

The development of the "Ray Tompkins Memorial" was assigned to the Board of Control of the Yale Athletic Association, and the first important step was the construction of a University golf course. Charles MacDonald was chosen as the architect, and the supervision of the construction was put into the hands of Mr. Seth J. Raynor. The entire tract was at their disposal. The fact that there was such an unusually wide latitude with which to work, has made the Yale golf course one of the most unique in the country. Many clubs have only a given acreage for a course layout, necessitating similarity and limitation in many respects. Two foreign courses are widely reputed for their bold variation of contour: the Mid-Ocean at Bermuda, and the Gleneagles in Scotland. The Yale course, in its general characteristics, is a close parallel to these courses, and among American courses it is one of the most outstanding.

After thoroughly studying the big tract Mr. MacDonald selected whatever was best adapted to his purpose, and work began in January, 1924. The possibilities were extremely varied, and skilful construction was demanded. This property, formerly the John Milton Greist woodland estate, and for over two decades one of the largest game preserves in Connecticut, lies to the west of the Yale Bowl, and radiates in all directions around Greist Pond, a natural lake thirty-two feet deep. One hundred and twenty acres in all were utilized for the golf course. A horde of lumber jacks and rock handlers had to be employed to clear the land of the immense boulders, ledges of rock, swamps and acres and acres of woodland. An interesting feature of the work was that through the Bureau of Appointments many Yale undergraduates were sent out to do their part, at the same time earning money with which to pay their college expenses.

The course now measures 6552 yards, with a par of 71. As each of the eighteen holes has three tees, there are three more or less distinctive courses. These will be known as the long, the regular, and the short courses. Par for the latter two is 69, but championship play will be over

the long course. The other two measure 6107 and 5548 yards respectively.

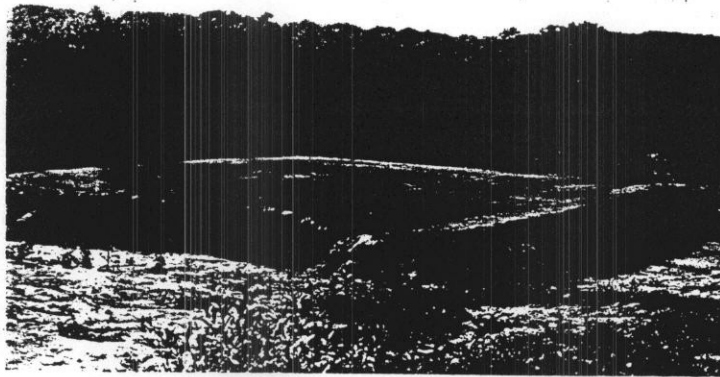
There is a great deal of water play on the course, six of the eighteen holes having it in whole or in part. The first hole has a carry of 135 yards over the southwestern end of Greist Pond. Again at the third, the drive from the tee demands a carry of 118 yards over the end of another and larger lake. The remainder of this hole, for 242 yards, runs along parallel to the water. The green is a double punch bowl type with water along the back and right of it. The fourth hole is played back over the same hazard with a carry of 132 yards on the line of play. Mid-way on the hole an arm of the lake intersects, and a second shot, if one has not played to the left of this inlet, compels distance, height and hold. The green is a replica of the Road Hole at St. Andrews, where a pot bunker lies tangent to the line of play in front.

The fifth hole, though not a water hole, is interesting as it is original with Messrs. MacDonald and Raynor, and was first tried on the National Golf Links at Southampton. hole No. 6. This is a short hole of 135 yards. The green is completely surrounded by sand, making it an island green, elevated twelve feet above the level of the sand. Its contours mark a horseshoe around the pin.

The ninth hole was originated on the course at Biarritz, France. This is the second of the short holes, and calls for a carry of 163 yards over the northwestern end of Greist Pond. On account of the full water play this hole is very deceptive. The green is behind a deep turf trench which is nearly as wide as the green itself. The approach is heavily bunkered on both right and left with water. As the green is battered at the right and at the back, the psychology of the play is to "let out" on the tee shot. The distance, however, is not so great as it seems, and a moderate carefully played ball is more likely to reach safety in the end. The correct manner is to carry to the near edge of the trench and roll up and onto the green. The appearance and reappearance of the ball lends a fascination to the play.

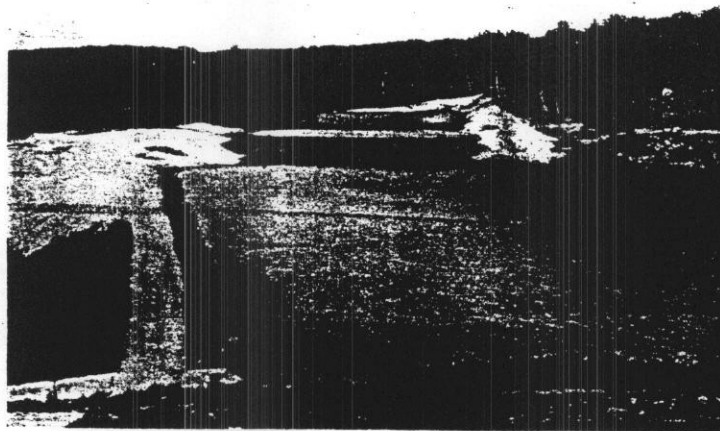
The thirteenth hole is copied from the North Berwick course in Scotland, another one-shot hole. The tee is 48 feet above the water, which partially crosses the fairway. A carry of 176 yards is necessary here. Number 17 is the last of the water holes, and requires a carry of 155 yards to the top of a lift in the fairway. From there the ground slopes down to a plateau green. A hidden bunker here is copied from St. Andrews.

From ten of the holes Long Island and the Sound can be seen, either in whole or in part, furnishing a beautiful panorama. On a knoll between the first and tenth holes, to the east of and overlooking Greist Pond, a clubhouse will eventually be built. From here one has a beautiful view of the golf course—ten holes actually being discernible. This is unusual, considering the rolling, broken nature of the property. (Continued on page 46)



FIFTH HOLE, YALE GOLF COURSE

The island green, original with Raynor and MacDonald and first used on the National Golf Links at Southampton. It is elevated twelve feet above the sand. The hole measures 135 yards



NINTH HOLE, YALE GOLF COURSE

A duplicate of the famous water hole at Biarritz, France. A deep turf trench lies in front of the green. The ideal play is to land on the near side of the trench and roll through it up to the green

(Continued on page 46)



### Opportunity Anchored in A Port of Pleasure

"We see Greater Palm Beach," said the yachtsman, "as the world's most wonderful resort city—marvelous climate, famous Lake Worth, magnificent homes and estates, social functions, matchless ocean beaches, lovely motor drives and scenic beauties—but, there are possibilities here even more interesting to the average man.

"Greater Palm Beach (Palm Beach and West Palm Beach) has tripled in population in five years! Over \$30,000,000 in new buildings are now under construction. Lake Worth, opening into the Atlantic, is being deepened into a great harbor. Many millions to be spent on docks, wharves and other improvements.

"And back of this city, so well placed for commerce, are the reclaimed Everglades and a back-country producing three and four valuable crops a year from the same land."

A beautiful illustrated four-color booklet is ready for you. Write us to-day.

### Greater Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce

504 Chamber of Commerce Bldg.  
West Palm Beach, Florida



### Yale's New Championship Course Open for Play

(Continued from page 25)

The construction of the course has been elaborate in detail. Over seven miles of water pipe have been laid. Through the gravity feed system each green and fairway may thus be kept thoroughly watered at all times. At the highest point of land a 75,000-gallon water tank has been built. The water for this is pumped from a large well over a distance of 2400 feet. The well is replenished by numerous springs, and has an immense capacity. It is estimated that 50,000 gallons of water are used daily for the greens alone.

Considerable filling and drainage have also been necessary. The sixth hole was once a dense, impassable swamp; now 324 yards of beautiful fairway make it unrecognizable as such. A sharp angle of the swamp has been left, cutting about half way into the fairway to afford a mental hazard.

The unusually large area of all the greens is a striking feature of the course. Each covers 10,000 square feet or more, whereas the average area on most courses is 3,600.

The committee in charge of the building is made up of J. Frederic Byers, '04, former president of the U. S. G. A.; Robert A. Gardner, '12, twice National champion and an ex-vice-president of the Golf Association; Jesse Sweetser, '24 S., former National champion; Mortimer Buckner, '95; George H. Nettleton, '96; John T. Blossom, '14; George P. Day, '97; Harold F. Woodcock, and, as chairman, George T. Adee, '95.

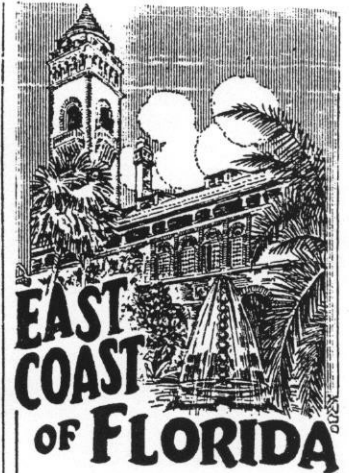
It is hoped that the building of this course will stimulate enough interest in the game to warrant a second course later on. Plenty of land is available for another eighteen holes, and in fact a plan has already been made on paper.

Playing privileges and memberships will be open to graduates as well as to the student body. There are four classes of memberships. The "Patrons of the Ray Tompkins Memorial" by a \$1,000 membership, will enjoy an unrestricted lifetime use of the course. "Founders" will have lifetime privileges, subject, however, to restrictions during the college year. Founders are divided into two classes—resident members, \$750, and non-resident members, \$700. "Members" are also subject to the restrictions and will pay an initiation fee of \$250—annual dues \$40, and \$20, for resident and non-resident members, respectively. Faculty and students will pay \$20 per semester, or \$35 for the university year. The golf club will be managed by the Yale Athletic Association, just as any other college sport, with its own committee.

Other parts of the Memorial will be developed in the future. Every form of outdoor sport is to be included—riding, walking and cross-country running, swimming in Greist Pond, and all winter sports, such as tobogganing, skiing and skating. Yale in time will have one of the most magnificent playgrounds in the world—only twenty minutes from the New Haven Green and three hours from downtown New York.

### Edith Quier Wins

Miss Edith Quier, of Reading, Pa., won her first leg on the Berthelwyn Cup, the trophy which is annually competed for at the Huntingdon Valley Country Club, Philadelphia. She came brilliantly through the week's play, eliminating Miss Fritz Steifel, of Wheeling, W. Va., Mrs. Dorothy Campbell Hurd, and finally Miss Louise Fordyce. In view, however, of the golfing abilities of those whom she defeated, the issue seemed rather inconsistent. Miss Quier, while she qualified at St. Louis, was put out in the first round by Miss Fordyce, 6 and 4.



There's more to Golf than slipping into a pair of plipps, handing your bag to a caddy and driving the ball into an un-seen trap.

You want atmosphere—inspiration—variety of surroundings, or whatever you call it—of the kind you will find on Florida's famous East Coast—at St. Augustine, Ormond, Palm Beach or Miami, where all good golfers go for the great winter tournaments.

Golf and tennis tournament dates will be announced in an early issue of golf magazines—or complete list of events, and illustrated booklet will be mailed on request to

### FLORIDA EAST COAST HOTEL COMPANY

(Flagler System)  
2 West 45th St., New York  
Phone, Murray Hill 4411  
GENERAL OFFICES  
St. Augustine, Florida



## Why let November end your game?

Chill blasts and uncertain weather may stop your golf at home this month. But you can still play under ideal conditions at beautiful French Lick Springs.

Located in the semi-Southern Cumberland foothills region of Indiana, the two 18-hole French Lick Springs courses are in excellent shape right now.

Motor or come by rail. If you wish, combine with your golfing a course of health treatments. Drink the famous curative waters of the Pluto, Bowles or Proserpine Springs. Ride horseback or tramp in the autumn woods. Enjoy the modern metropolitan hotel with its comfortable rooms and delicious, wholesome food.

Write or wire for reservations

FRENCH LICK SPRINGS HOTEL CO.  
French Lick, Indiana

"Home of Pluto Water"