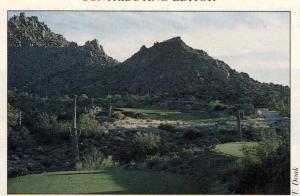
The 100 Greatest Holes in America

Our nationwide panel has named the best designs in the land

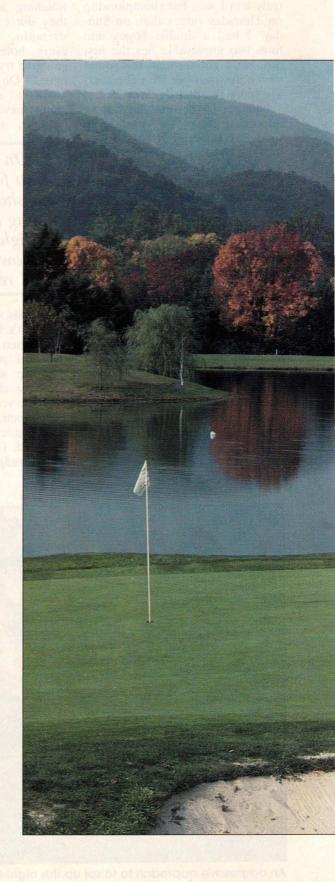
by TOM DOAK

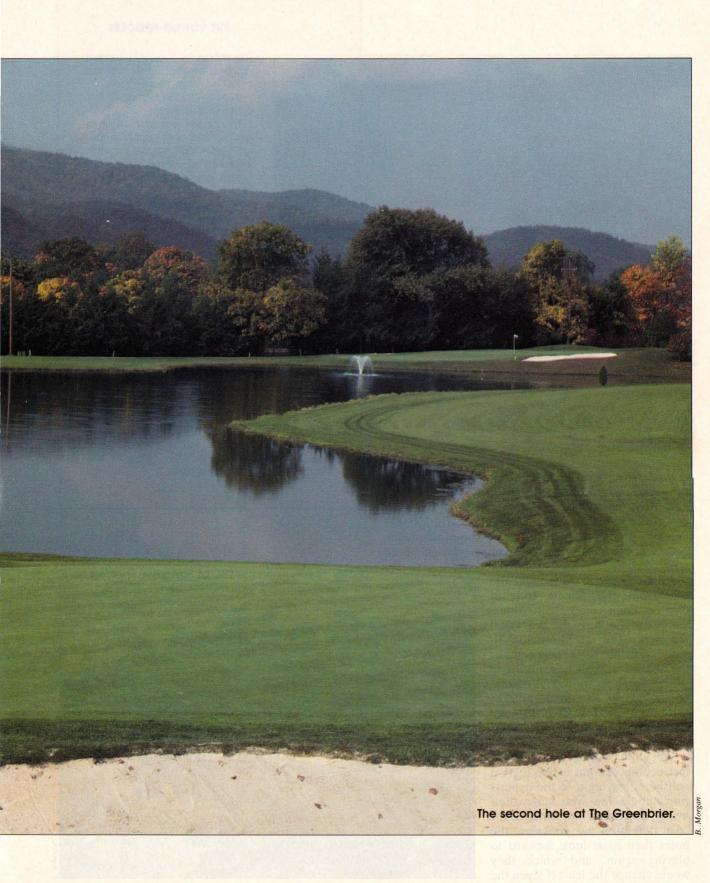


A desert par three, the 15th at Troon.

The Best Hole Discussion of 1900" wasn't too well received by Charles Blair Macdonald. It appeared in Britain's blue-blood Country Life magazine and had Macdonald seeing red. For although golf was just a pup in the U.S., not a single American golf hole made the list. So enraged was Macdonald that he decided, "I'll show 'em," and

continued







The fourth, one of two holes from the Myopia Hunt Club.

he went out and built the National Golf Links of America, which remains as one of the top courses in the country.

Eighty-six years and literally thousands of golf courses later, America abounds in fine—no, fantastic—holes, more than enough for a list of its own. This we've compiled by asking a national panel of experts to select the 100 best. With nearly 250,000 holes to choose from, it has to be the most prestigious honor roll of golf-course design ever published.

All kinds of golf holes make the list, from the famed 16th at Cypress Point (the best in America; see "The Top 10," p.37) and the tricky 14th at Muirfield Village, to such lesser-known gems as the second at The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, Virginia, or the ninth, and final, hole at Whitinsville, Massachusetts. All corners covered, all holes considered.

We didn't offer any explicit instructions of what makes a great golf hole, leaving it to the experts (including a few who make their living designing) to write their own definition by choosing the holes they most look forward to playing again, and which they would change the least if given the

THE VOTING PROCESS

The voting for the 100 Greatest Holes spanned three months and involved more than 70 panelists, representative of the entire United States.

The panel was chosen from touring and club professionals, architects, golf course superintendents, well-known amateur golfers, golf association officials and the golf media. Each panelist was asked to submit 20 holes from his area and holes from other parts of the country he felt worthy of submission, in a fair mix of par threes, fours and fives.

Almost 1,000 holes were submitted and went on the final ballot. Each panelist was asked to rate on a scale of 1-10 the holes he had played or seen. If the panelist was unclear about a hole's look and layout, he was asked not to rate it. The only

restriction on the list was that it could include only two holes from any single course.

We have ranked the top-10 holes in order and could have done so with the whole list. But toward the middle, scores became very close, So the top 10 is the "elite" of the list; the rest form a praiseworthy pack.

Water threatens on the TPC at Sawgrass' finishing hole.



continued

The par-three ninth at Jupiter Hills.

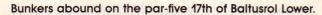
opportunity.

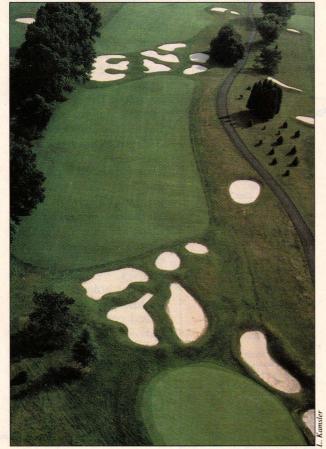
But we can draw a few conclusions from the results. Difficulty, while not the only measure of a great hole, is a necessary ingredient: A beautiful hole that doesn't challenge the best players just isn't good enough. It's no coincidence that the 16th at Cypress is also ranked annually among the most difficult on the PGA Tour.

But by the same token, a truly great hole offers weaker players safer, if less rewarding, routes to the green. The famous island 17th at the TPC almost missed the list because of such purist concern (even though the lack of an alternate route to the green is also the

hole's strength). The 16th at Cypress might have received considerably less support if the player had no choice but to conquer the 220-yard carry. Fortunately, designer Alister Mackenzie also left a less ambitious route, partially via land, around to the left; otherwise, most players would spend an eter-

continued







The 50 Best Holes Open to the Public

HOLE	COURSE	CITY
13	Arcadian Shores	Myrtle Beach, S.C.
18	Bear Creek, Golf World (Masters)	Houston, Tex.
5,17	Bethpage State Park (Black)	Farmingdale, N.Y.
11	The Captains GC	Brewster, Mass.
12	Cascades (Upper)	Hot Springs, Va.
13	Cochiti Lake GC	Pena Blanca, N.M.
18 13	Doral (Blue) The Dunes Golf & Beach Club	Miami, Fla.
7	Eastmoreland GC	Myrtle Beach, S.C. Portland, Ore.
17.18	Edgewood Tahoe GC	Stateline, Nev.
12	Golden Horseshoe	Williamsburg, Va.
13	Grapevine Municipal	Grapevine, Tex.
2,6	The Greenbrier Course	White Sulphur
		Springs, W. Va.
13	The Greenbrier (Old White)	White Sulphur
		Springs, W. Va.
18	Half Moon Bay GL	Half Moon, Bay, Cal.
15,17	Harbour Town GL	Hilton Head, S.C.
14	Inn of the Mountain Gods	Mescalero, N.M.
13	Jones Creek GC	Augusta, Ga.
17	Kemper Lakes GC Lawsonia Links	Hawthorn Woods, III. Green Lake, Wis.
18	Leatherstocking GC	Cooperstown, N.Y.
17	Marsh Harbour GC	Myrtle Beach, S.C.
3	Mauna Kea Golf & Beach Club	Kamuela, Haw.
6	Mauna Lani GC	Kawaihae, Hawaii
10	Offer Creek	Columbus, Ind.
14,16	Pasatiempo GC	Santa Cruz, Cal.
8,18	Pebble Beach GL	Pebble Beach, Cal.
2,5	Pinehurst (No. 2)	Pinehurst, N.C.
16	Pinehurst (No. 7)	Pinehurst, N.C.
8	Pipestem State Park GC The Pit GC	Pipestem, W. Va. Pinehurst, N.C.
13	Port Ludlow GC	Port Ludlow, Wash.
9	Riverdale (Dunes)	Henderson, Colo.
4	Sea Island (Seaside)	St. Simons Island, Ga.
4	Sentryworld	Stevens Point, Wis.
7	Shanty Creek (Legend)	Bellaire, Mich.
4	Spyglass Hill GC	Pebble Beach, Cal.
5	Tanglewood Park (West)	Clemmons, N.C.
6	Tok-a-Tee GC	Blue River, Ore.
17	Wailau GC	Lihue, Kauai, Haw.
3	Waterwood National	Huntsville, Tex.
13,18	Wild Dunes	Isle of Palms, S.C.



A beauty uncovered: the ninth, and final, hole at Whitinsville.

nity on No. 16 and never even reach the 17th, Cypress Point's other contribution to the list.

Lest we forget, the 16th has other assets. For one, the shot values are right—the green is a large enough target to handle a full drive, and has just enough contour to lull the triumphant golfer into

negating his brilliant tee shot with three putts for bogey. The optional route also covers on days when the hole plays into a stiff headwind and reaching the green in one is out of the question. It is also a completely natural hole; Mackenzie added a quartet of bunkers to frame the green, but the hole still fits John Low's test in that "the ground determines the play." Finally, having the Pacific Ocean as backdrop adds a touch of character.

In short, a great golf hole is a great course in microcosm—challenging, well-balanced. flexible. beautiful and, above all,

inspiring to play. So, as one might expect, the majority of holes selected (63 out of 100) are the showpieces of courses we ranked among our "100 Greatest Courses in the World" (Sept., 1985, p. 33). Our two highest-ranked courses, Pine Valley and Pebble Beach, would have placed 12 holes between

them in the top 100, but to reduce the bias in favor of such famous tracks, we limited the list to no more than two holes from a single course. Twenty-one courses placed two holes and only one—the Myopia Hunt Club, in South Hamilton, Massachusetts, scene of four early U.S. Opens—was not ranked our 100 greatest courses.

exclusive property of hallowed courses. Many layouts have one or two holes tucked away that deserve comparison with the acknowledged greats. These are the lesserknowns we'd hoped to

Great holes are not the

The Panel

John Abernethy, Pa. Judy Bell, Colo Deane Beman, Fla. P.J. Boatwright Jr., N.J. Andre Buckles, Ohio William C. Campbell, WVa. Sam Cantor, Conn Jim Chew, Okla. Geoffrey Cornish, Mass. Ben Crenshaw, Tex. Tom Doak, Conn. Harold D. Durham, N.M. Pete Dye, Fla. Howard Everitt, Fla. Tom Fazio, Fla. Jim Ferree, S.C. James W., Finegan, Pa. Joe Finger, Tex. Raymond Floyd, Fla. Leo Fraser, N.J Vinny Giles, Va Wilma Gilliland, Neb. Tim Greenwell, Ariz. Jon Gustin, Ala Edward Haas, Wis. Bob Hanna, Cal. John Harbottle, Wash. Dick Haskell, Mass. Peter Jacobsen, Ore Rees Jones, N.J. Robert Trent Jones, N.J. Bill Kittleman, Pa. James J. LaRosa, W.Va. John Laupheimer, Tex. Duff Lawrence, Ariz

Dr. Ray Lebel, Maine John Lombardy, Vt. Melvin B. Lucas Jr., Mass. Ray McDonald, Ind Dale McNamara, Okla. John MacNeely, Miss. Dan Maples, N.C. Eddie Merrins, Cal Woody Millen, S.C. Johnny Miller, Utah Steve Mona, Ga Jay Mottola, N.Y. Fred Muller, Mich. Dick Murphy, Ga. Jim Murray, Cal. Will F. Nicholson, Colo Arnold Palmer, Pa. Dick Passey, Utah Dr. Kenyon Payne, Mich. Ronnie Quinn, R.I. Al Radko, N.J. Warren Rebholz, Minn. Ron Riemer, III. Bill Shean, III Brian Silva, Mass Bob Sommers, N.J Johnny Stevens, Kan. Frank D. Tatum Jr., Cal. Bob Thomas, Cal. Peter Tuffs, N.C. Hale Van Hoy, N.C. Ken Venturi, Fla. Scott Verplank, Tex. Orrin Vincent, Nev. Brent Wadsworth, III.

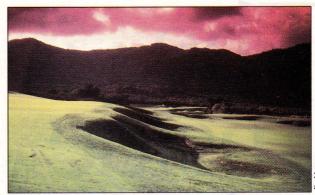
Open for complete list

find, and did. They include such holes as the seventh at Palmetto, a medium iron to a narrow green shelved high on the side of a hill; the eighth at Fishers Island, a short par five on an exclusive summer resort on Long Island Sound, where the tee shot must carry a corner of the beach and a guardian sand dune if the golfer is to skirt the left-front greenside bunker with his long second shot; and the ninth at Whitinsville, a brilliant conclusion to a gem of a nine holer.

On closer examination, however, most of these places ought to be better-known already. Palmetto, for example, was created by Dr. Mackenzie in his spare time while designing Augusta National a few miles down the road. Similarily, the Fishers Island hole is the work of Seth Raynor, the longtime protege of master architect Macdonald, and Whitinsville is a Donald Ross creation.

Thirty-three architects are represented on the list, but the virtuoso designers claim the vast majority. Brook Hollow and Rockaway Hunting Club are both A.W. Tillinghast layouts. Crag Burn and Mauna Kea? Talk to Robert Trent Jones. The Country Club, outside Cleveland (not to be confused with the Brookline, Massachusetts, variety)? Maybe we

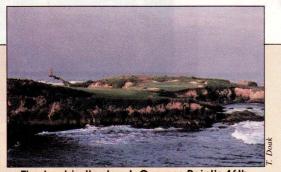
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The winding fourth at Nicklaus' Bear Creek layout.



One of Muirfield Village's finest: the 14th.



The best in the land: Cypress Point's 16th.



The well-guarded seventh at the San Francisco GC.

THE TOP 10 HOLES, IN ORDER

Cypress Point, No. 16
Pebble Beach, No. 18
Pebble Beach, No. 8
Winged Foot (West), No. 10
Augusta National, No. 13
Merion (East), No. 16
Pine Valley, No. 15
Augusta National, No. 12
Prairie Dunes, No. 8
The National Golf Links, No. 17



The third at Mauna Kea in Hawaii is all carry.

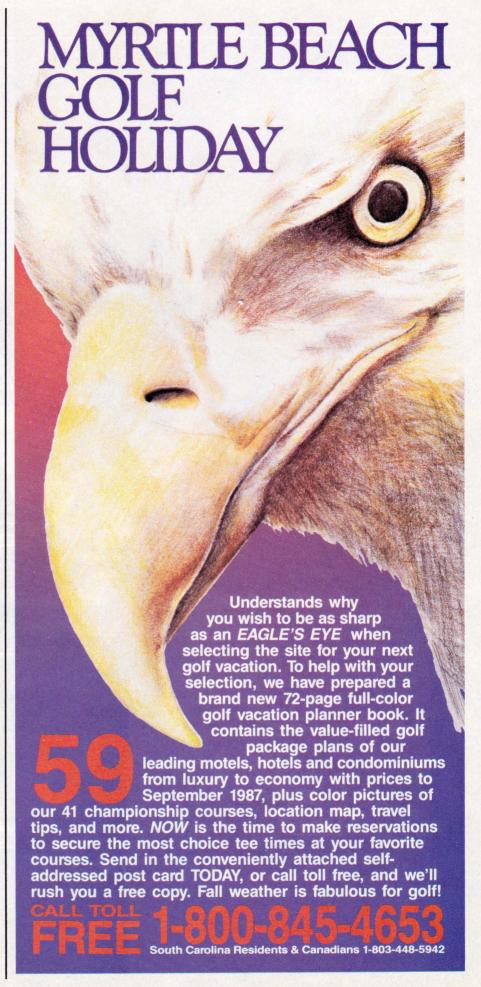
should know more about William Flynn, who was also the force behind the 1930 redesign of Shinnecock Hills. The "big three" of modern design, Dye, Nicklaus and Tom Fazio, are also well represented, with a total of 19 holes on the list.

If there is a lesson to be learned from the list, it must be contained in the diversity of the holes represented. There is a long, uphill, bunkerless par four (the seventh at Inverness) and a short, downhill par four with a dozen bunkers to negotiate (the 17th at the National Golf Links). There are five par fives of over 600 yards each, and four par threes that can't be stretched to 150. There are even three par fours that measure out longer than the two shortest par fives. There are sharp doglegs to the left (such as the 13th at National), sweeping Augusta curves to the right (the fifth at Colonial) and ramrod-straight two-shotters (the 15th at Oakmont). There is the ninth at Yale, whose green measures 60 yards from front to back and contains a five-foot deep swale that could hide an army, and the 15th hole at Harbour Town, whose green couldn't hide an ant.

We have the old and the new, from the fourth at Myopia, whose canted green gave Willie Anderson fits in the 1901 U.S. Open, to the ninth at PGA West, which opened in the past year. And there are holes from the far corners of the country: Interlachen in Minnesota, Doral in Miami, Kittansett at the base of Cape Cod and Mauna Kea in Hawaii.

But there must still be hundreds of great golf-holes-in-the-raw out there, from the giant sandhills of Nebraska to the rocky coast of Maine, just begging for a golfer with the inspiration to dig the bunkers, mow the grass and cut a pin. As time passes, we hope that some will be discovered and transformed to their best golfing purpose, so that one day they may take their rightful place among the 100 greatest in America.

C.B. would have wanted it that way.■



GOLF 100 Greatest Ho

No. 12	Augusta National GC
No. 13	Augusta National GC
No. 4	Augusta, Ga.
No. 4	Baltusrol GC (Lower) Springfield, N.J.
No. 17	Baltusrol GC (Lower)
110. 17	Springfield, N.J.
No. 18	Bay Hill Club
	Orlando, Fla.
No. 4	Bear Creek GC
11- 40	Temecula, Cal.
No. 18	Bear Creek Golf
	World (Masters) Houston, Tex.
No. 10	Bel Air CC
110. 10	Los Angeles, Cal.
No. 5	Bethpage State
	Park (Black)
	Farmingdale, N.Y.
No. 16	Brook Hollow GC
11 40	Dallas, Tex.
No. 18	Butler National GC
No. 18	Oak Brook, III.
140. 10	Canterbury CC Cleveland, Ohio
No. 2	Chicago GC
	Wheaton, III.
No. 12	Chicago GC
	Wheaton, III.
No. 5	Colonial CC
NI- 40	Fort Worth, Tex.
No. 18	Colonial CC
No. 18	Fort Worth, Tex. Congressional CC
110. 10	Bethesda, Md.
No. 2	Crag Burn GC
	East Aurora, N.Y.
No. 6	Crooked Stick GC
	Carmel, Ind.
No. 8	Crystal Downs CC
No. 16	Frankfort, Mich. Cypress Point Club
140. 10	Pebble Beach, Cal.
No. 17	Cypress Point Club
	Pebble Beach, Cal.
No. 10	Country Club of
	Detroit
	Grosse Pointe
No 40	Farms, Mich.
No. 18	Doral CC
	(Blue) Miami, Fla.
No. 13	The Dunes Golf

& Beach Club

Myrtle Beach, S.C

HOLE COURSE

PAR/YARDAGE/ARCHITECTS
Par 3, 155 yds. MacKenzie Par 5, 465 yds. MacKenzie/Nicklaus Par 3, 192 yds. Tillinghast/Jones Par 5, 630 yds. Tillinghast/Jones Par 4, 456 yds. D. Wilson/Palmer Par 4, 435 yds. Nicklaus Par 4, 442 yds. Riviere
Par 3, 198 yds. Thomas Par 4, 438 yds. Tillinghast
Par 3, 228 yds. Tillinghast Par 4, 466 yds. G. & T. Fazio Par 4, 438 yds. Strong Par 4, 440 yds. Macdonald/Raynor Par 4, 405 yds. Macdonald/Raynor Par 4, 466 yds. Maxwell Par 4, 434 yds. Bredemus Par 4, 465 yds. Jones Par 5, 607 yds. Jones Par 3, 189 yds. Dye Par 5, 550 yds. MacKenzie Par 3, 233 yds.
MacKenzie Par 4, 375 yds. MacKenzie Par 5, 581 yds. Colt
Par 4, 437 yds. D. Wilson
Par 5, 575 yds. Jones

HOI	E	COURSE
No.	18	Edgewood Tahoe GC Stateline, Nev.
No.	17	Firestone CC (North)
No.	16	Akron, Ohio Firestone CC (South)
No.	8	Akron, Ohio Fishers Island Club
No.	2	Fishers Island, N.Y. The Greenbrier Course
		White Sulphur Springs, W Va.
No.	18	Half Moon Bay GL Half Moon Bay, Cal.
No.	15	Harbour Town Links
Na	47	Hilton Head, S.C.
No.	1/	Harbour Town Links
No.	12	Hilton Head, S.C. Indian Creek CC
No.	12	Bal Harbour, Fla. Interlachen CC
No.	7	Edina, Minn. Inverness Club
No.	9	Jupiter Hills Club
		(Hills) Tequesta, Fla.
No.	17	Kemper Lakes GC Hawthorn Woods, III.
No.	3	Kittansett Club Marion, Mass.
No.	3	Linville GC Linville, N.C.
No.	7	Long Cove Club Hilton Head, S.C.
No.	9	Maidstone Club East Hampton, N.Y.
No.	14	Maidstone Club East Hampton, N.Y.
No.	3	Mauna Kea GC Kamuela, Hawaii
No.	17	Medinah CC (No. 3)
		Medinah, III.
No.	11	Merion GC (East) Ardmore, Pa.
No.	16	Merion GC (East)
		Ardmore, Pa.

No. 12 Muirfield Village GC Par 3, 152 yds.

No. 14 Muirfield Village GC Par 4, 363 yds.

South Hamilton, Mass. Leeds

Dublin, Ohio

Dublin, Ohio

No. 4 Myopia Hunt Club

	PAR/YARDAGE/ARCHITECTS
	Par 5, 591 yds.
)	G. Fazio Par 3, 218 yds.
	Jones
)	Par 5, 625 yds. Jones
	Par 5, 460 yds.
	Raynor Par 4, 403 yds.
	Nicklaus
	Par 4, 428 yds.
	Palmer/Duane Par 5, 562 yds.
	Dye/Nicklaus
	Par 3, 179 yds.
	Dye/Nicklaus
	Par 3, 190 yds.
	Flynn/D. Wilson Par 5, 541 yds.
	Watson/Ross
	Par 4, 452 yds.
	Ross Par 3, 190 yds.
	G. & T. Fazio
	Par 3, 203 yds.
	Killian/Nugent
	Par 3, 170 yds. Hood
	Par 4, 455 yds.
	Ross Par 4, 439 yds.
	Dye
	Par 4, 410 yds. Park
	Par 3, 140 yds.
	Park Par 3, 215 yds.
	Jones
	Par 3, 220 yds. Bendelow/Killian
	Par 4, 369 yds. H. Wilson/Flynn
	Par 4, 428 yds.
	H. Wilson

Nicklaus/Muirhead

Nicklaus/Muirhead

Par 4, 392 yds.

MAGAZINE'S

oles In America

HOLE	COURSE	PAR/YARDAGE/ARCHITECTS	HOLE	COURSE	PAR/YARDAGE/ARCHITECTS
No. 9	A STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE	Par 3, 136 yds.	No. 9		Par 4, 465 yds.
No. 1	South Hamilton, Mass. National GL of			Hunting Club	Tillinghast
140. 4	America	Par 3, 196 yds. Macdonald	No. 7	Cedarhurst, N.Y.	Par 3, 180 yds.
	Southampton, N.Y.	Macaonala	INO. 7	San Francisco GC San Francisco, Cal.	Tillinghast
No. 17	National GL of	Par 4, 368 yds.	No. 10	Saucon Valley CC	Par 5, 534 yds.
110. 17	America	Macdonald	110. 10	(Grace)	Gordon
	Southampton, N.Y.			Bethlehem, Pa.	
No. 3	Oak Tree GC	Par 5, 584 yds.	No. 4	Sea Island GC	Par 4, 382 yds.
	Edmond, Okla.	Dye		(Seaside)	Colt/Alison
No. 16	Oakland Hills CC	Par 4, 405 yds.		St. Simons Island, Ga.	一种
	(South)	Ross/Jones	No. 6	Seminole GC	Par 4, 390 yds.
	Birmingham, Mich.			North Palm Beach, Fla.	Ross
No. 15	Oakmont CC	Par 4, 453 yds.	No. 17	Seminole GC	Par 3, 175 yds.
	Oakmont, Pa.	Fownes		North Palm Beach, Fla.	
No. 3	The Golf Club of	Par 4, 415 yds.	No. 11	Shinnecock Hills GC	Par 3, 158 yds.
	Oklahoma Broken Arrow Okla	T. Fazio	No. 44	Southampton, N.Y.	Flynn/D. Wilson
No. 46	Broken Arrow, Okla.	Par 5 404 vide	NO. 14	Shinnecock Hills GC	Par 4, 444 yds.
140. 10	Olympic Club (Lake) San Francisco, Cal.	Par 5, 604 yds. Reid/Whiting	No. 11	Southampton, N.Y. Shoreacres	Flynn/D. Wilson Par 4, 349 yds.
No. 18	Olympic Club (Lake)		140. 11	Lake Bluff, III.	Raynor
140. 10	San Francisco, Cal.	Reid/Whiting	No. 15	Somerset Hills CC	Par 4, 385 yds.
No. 7	Palmetto GC	Par 3, 161 yas.	140. 10	Bernardsville, N.J.	Tillinghast
	Aiken, S.C.	MacKenzie	No. 12	Southern Hills CC	Par 4, 444 yds.
No. 8	Pebble Beach GL	Par 4, 425 yds.		Tulsa, Okla.	Maxwell
	Pebble Beach, Cal.	Neville/Grant	No. 18	Southern Hills CC	Par 4, 449 yds.
No. 18	Pebble Beach GL	Par 5, 548 yds.		Tulsa, Oklá.	Maxwell
	Pebble Beach, Cal.	Neville/Grant	No. 3	The Country Club	Par 4, 446 yds.
No. 9	PGA West (Stadium)	Par 4, 450 yds.		Brookline, Mass.	Campbell
	La Quinta, Cal.	Dye	No. 9	The Country Club	Par 3, 188 yds.
No. 18	Philadelphia	Par 4, 472 yds.		Pepper Pike, Ohio	Flynn
	Cricket Club	Tillinghast	No. 13	The Golf Club	Par 4, 369 yds.
No 0	Flourtown, Pa.	Day 5 574 vide	No. 47	New Albany, Ohio	Dye
140. 9	Philmont CC (North) Philadelphia, Pa.	Par 5, 574 yds. Flynn	NO. 17	TPC at Sawgrass Ponte Vedra, Fla.	Par 3, 132 yds.
No. 13	Pine Valley GC	Par 4, 446 yds.	No. 18	TPC at Sawgrass	Dye Par 4, 440 yds.
140. 10	Pine Valley, N.J.	Crump/H. Wilson	140. 10	Ponte Vedra, Fla.	Dye
No. 15	Pine Valley GC	Par 5, 603 yds.	No. 15	Troon G&CC	Par 3, 139 yds.
.,,,,,	Pine Valley, N.J.	Crump/H. Wilson		Scottsdale, Ariz.	Weiskopf/Morrish
No. 2	Pinehurst CC (No. 2)		No. 16	The Vintage Club	Par 4, 379 yds.
	Pinehurst, N.C.	Ross		(Mountain)	T. Fazio
No. 5	Pinehurst CC (No. 2)	Par 4, 445 yds.		Indian Wells, Cal.	
	Pinehurst, N.C.	Ross	No. 9	Whitinsville GC	Par 4, 440 yds.
No. 9	Point O'Woods	Par 3, 203 yds.		Whitinsville, Mass.	Ross
	G&CC	Jones		Wild Dunes	Par 5, 540 yds.
N - 0	Benton Harbor, Mich.			Isle of Palms, S.C.	T. Fazio
NO. 8	Prairie Dunes CC	Par 4, 420 yds.	NO. 10	Winged Foot GC	Par 3, 190 yds.
No. 40	Hutchinson, Kan.	Maxwell		(West)	Tillinghast
140. 10	Prairie Dunes CC Hutchinson, Kan.	Par 3, 169 yds.	No. 19	Mamaroneck, N.Y. Winged Foot GC	Par 4, 448 yds.
No. 7	Preston Trail GC	Maxwell Par 4, 422 vds.	140. 10	(West)	Tillinghast
	Dallas, Tex.	Plummer Plummer		Mamaroneck, N.Y.	mingridal .
No. 6	Quaker Ridge GC	Par 4, 446 yds.	No. 4	Yale University GC	Par 4, 443 yds.
1.1	Scarsdale, N.Y.	Tillinghast	The state of the s	New Haven, Conn.	Macdonald
No. 18	Riviera CC	Par 4, 443 yds.	No. 9	Yale University GC	Par 3, 228 yds.
	Pacific Palisades, Cal.			New Haven, Conn.	Macdonald