

BACKGROUND

Born in Savannah. Attended the University of Georgia, graduated in 1937 with a degree in landscape architecture. Worked for the National Park Service until 1941, then entered the U.S. Marine Corps as an engineering officer. Was assigned to build a golf course for Camp LeJeune, NC, so he retained golf architect Fred Findlay and served as his construction superintendent.

First solo project was for the Cherry Point (NC) Marine Corps Air Station in 1946. Entered private practice as a golf architect in 1947 but was recalled to active duty in 1951. Following his second stint, re-entered private practice in 1956 with an office in Greenville, SC.

Served as design consultant to Augusta National Golf Club for over 15 years, designed the club's nine-hole par-3 course, developed a close friendship with Bobby Jones and helped illustrate Jones' 1959 autobiography, GOLF IS MY GAME.

Worked primarily in the southeast United States. Was the first golf architect to establish golf on Hilton Head Island, SC. Design associates included Tom Jackson, who formed his own business in 1971, Bob Spence, and John LaFoy, who became his partner and assumed most design responsibilities when illness slowed him in the early 1980s. He died in Greenville at age 71.

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

George Cobb prided himself on being an on-site architect. Even though he prepared detailed plans and specifications, he felt obliged to supervise even initial stages of construction. He was more concerned with playability for average golfers than creating tests for professionals. Many of his bunkers were placed to serve as distant targets or as beacons to avoid worse trouble. He often bunkered his greens in front and back to aid in depth perception.

IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS

Layouts involving large man-made lakes that affect play on several holes. Widely spaced tee boxes that provide different angles for different levels of play. Bold bunkering behind greens.