

## **WILLIAM F. BELL**

(1918 - 1984)

### **BACKGROUND**

Son of golf architect William P. "Billy" Bell. Attended Southern Cal. Served in the Air Corps during World War II, then joined his father's business. Took over the practice after Billy's death in 1953, but retained the firm name of William P. Bell and Son in honor of his father. Thereafter he was often called Billy Bell, Jr.

Did a series of courses with William Johnson, another protégé of Billy Bell. Practiced golf design, primarily in California and Hawaii for over 30 years, often flying his own plane directly to course construction sites. Did over 200 courses in all.

Pioneered the creation of golf courses on lava rock in Hawaii. Was among the earliest to work in desert terrains of Arizona and southern California.

Served a term as president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in 1957. Died in Pasadena, CA of a heart attack at age 66.

### **DESIGN PHILOSOPHY**

Practiced in an age of low-budget construction. Concentrated efforts around bunkers and greens with very little earth-moving elsewhere. Emphasized maintenance by building big greens over which play could be spread out, shallow oval bunkers that could be mechanically raked.

### **IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS**

Often used a short par-5 as his opening hole in order to get golfers off to a relaxing start. Often used a par-3 as his 18th hole, and promoted the idea that a hole-in-one was the perfect way to conclude a round. Used big oval bunkers.