

PETE DYE

(1925 -)

BACKGROUND

Earliest work on a golf course was as a youngster, pulling weeds at Urbana (Ohio) Country Club, a 9-hole course his father had designed and built. As a teenager, served as the club's greenskeeper. Also developed into a fair golfer, winning the Ohio State High School championship as a senior. At age 18, enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to the Parachute Infantry. He served until 1946.

Attended Rollins College and Stetson University in Florida, where he met Alice O'Neal. They married in 1950. Both sold life insurance in Indianapolis and played competitive golf. He won the Indiana Amateur in 1958. She won four more Indiana Women's Amateur titles (to go with three prior to marriage), three Florida State Women's Amateur titles, five Women's Western Senior Championships, two USGA Women's Senior Amateur Championships, and was named to the 1970 Curtis Cup team at age 42.

Together they laid out their first golf course in 1959. He then quit the insurance business and embarked on a career in course design. He and wife Alice were business partners in his design career, and she actively participated in both early designs and many after their sons were raised.

Started countless architects in the business. The Dye sons, Perry and P.B., worked for their father and later with him after establishing practices on their own. Other "Dye-ciples" include Pete's brother Roy, Bill Newcomb, Jack Nicklaus, David Pfaff, Lee Schmidt, Bill Coore, Bobby Weed, Tom Doak, David Postelthwait and Scott Pool. All went on to design courses on their own.

Was elected President of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in 1988. His wife was the first woman elected to membership in the ASGCA, and as a present officer will serve a term as President in 1997. Co-authored (with Mark Shaw) his autobiography, BURY ME IN A POT BUNKER, in 1994.

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

Pete Dye has constantly reinvented his architecture. After touring the great courses of Scotland in 1963, Pete Dye began to incorporate several Scottish features into his work, including small greens, undulating fairways, pot bunkers, railroad tie bulkheads and deep native roughs. He had a profound impact on late-twentieth century course architecture. In 1980, his original Tournament Players Club at Ponte Vedra, FL, popularized the island green. In the 1980s, Dye was concerned over escalating maintenance costs and experimented with slow-growing grasses, large areas of unmaintained sand

and native roughs. After decades of building what many considered to be extremely penal designs, Dye deliberately worked on instilling playability into his 1990s designs.

IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS

Railroad ties, although he has used fewer and fewer over the years because other architects copied him. Island greens with little room for error. Mounds surrounding greens that often demand a player invent a recovery shot. Bunkers consisting of a flat bottom of sand and a face of turf. For many years, this face was nearly vertical, consisting of lumber or stacked sod. On recent courses, the faces are much more gradual, allowing average players to blast out with a single swing.