

## **GEORGE FAZIO**

(1912 - 1986)

### **BACKGROUND**

A native of Norristown, Pennsylvania. Played part-time on the PGA Tour from the mid-1930s until the mid-1950s. Won the 1946 Canadian Open and the Bing Crosby in 1947, lost the 1950 U.S. Open to Ben Hogan in a playoff, and placed 5th and 4th respectively in the 1952 and 1953 Opens. During the same years, served as resident professional at several clubs, including famed Pine Valley in New Jersey.

Became a course architect quite by accident, when a friend asked for his help in routing a course. Soon began designing courses on the side while operating a car dealership. After a series of successful golf courses in the Philadelphia area, established a full-time practice.

Did a series of courses that garnered national acclaim. Also worked as consulting architect for a number of major golf tournaments, including the Masters and several U.S. Opens.

Among the laborers who worked for him in building courses were two nephews, Jim Fazio and Tom Fazio, as well as Jay Morrish. All later became successful architects.

Formed a partnership with Tom in 1974. After a disagreement over whether to own and operate courses or simply design them, the two dissolved the firm in 1981. It was at this time that he discovered he had cancer, and although he underwent five years of treatment, he continued to plan courses, this time in partnership with Jim. Died in Jupiter, FL in the summer of 1986 at age 75.

### **DESIGN PHILOSOPHY**

George Fazio was the consummate traditionalist in his work. He always strove to make his courses seem older and more mature than they actually were. He fashioned his green complexes after his favorite Donald Ross models. He appropriated bunkering philosophies from the many Bill Flynn courses he played in Philadelphia, and from his beloved Pine Valley, a course he attempted to honor in his work on several projects. He never indulged in popular fashions such as island greens. He often insisted he designed for match play, as that was the game played by club members. His one flaw: he was not particularly skilled in the areas of engineering and drainage.

### **IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS**

Straightforward holes with bunkers that define shots. The absence of blind shots of any kind. An 18th hole always tough as nails, normally involving a long forced carry over sand, water, or both.