

DONALD J. ROSS MADE GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO GOLF

• While many golfers were enjoying his three Pinehurst golf courses on Monday morning, April 26th, Donald J. Ross, the golf architect who built more than 600 courses on the continent of North America, died in Moore County Hospital.

Mr. Ross was 75 years old. He died of a heart ailment after only a few days of serious illness. He had been about the Pinehurst Country Club a few days before his death, wishing "good luck" to competitors in the North and South Championships. Then he was stricken and taken to the hospital.

Years of man are numbered, but Mr. Ross has left to American golfers records of lasting memorials in the class golf courses he constructed for the pleasure and health and companionship of golfers. In the past, unnumbered golfers have played over millions of the ever increasing courses built by Mr. Ross, and in the millions of the ever increasing of players will benefit from Mr. Ross's contribution to American golf.

On the day Mr. Ross died two tournaments were scheduled at the Pinehurst Country Club. Play had already started when the news of his death reached the club house. Some thought that these tournaments should be cancelled or postponed. Some even suggested that the club house be closed. But others felt that as Mr. Ross had lived by and for golf all his life, that he would have wished for the tournaments to go on; for the golfers to continue to play the game. The flag at the club was lowered to half-staff. The tournaments were completed.

Memorial Service

On Tuesday a memorial service was held in the Pinehurst Village Chapel, conducted by Rev. Thaddeus A. Cheatham, Rector. Rev. Dr. Cheatham had been a golfing companion of Mr. Ross for more than 30 years, and Mr. Ross had been a member of the Village Chapel. This edifice was filled with the friends of Mr. Ross for the service.

Donald J. Ross was born in Dornoch, Scotland. As a young man he was apprenticed to a building contractor. He played amateur golf and he was a good player. Members of the Dornoch Club urged him to go to St. Andrews to learn the club making business. His family thought that he should continue to learn the trade of a carpenter.

When Dornoch club members stated they would make him their professional after he learned the club making trade, his parents consented, and away he went to St. Andrews.

He learned club making in Forgan's shop at St. Andrews and was paid \$1.50 (approximately) per week. He learned



DONALD J. ROSS
(A lifetime of golf)

golf from old Tom Morris. By 1893 he returned to the Royal Dornoch Golf Club as professional. A banker loaned him money to put in supplies. The loan was for \$500, Mr. Ross had nothing but his character to put up as collateral. Within a year he had repaid the loan.

An American Star

In the summer of 1899 Professor Robert Wilson of Harvard University visited Dornoch, told the young Mr. Ross to hitch his wagon to a star—an American star. The Harvard Don predicted that Mr. Ross would find a great future and fortune in the United States.

Discussions followed at the Ross home. His parents were hesitant about their son, who was doing so well in Dornoch going to America. But Donald, like many another young and ambitious Scotchman, was set on America. At the turn of the century, he sailed for New York.

Mr. Ross was headed for Cambridge, Massachusetts, and his friend Professor Wilson. When he arrived in Boston, his funds were so low he decided to go to the Cambridge home of the Professor. The next day he took over as professional at the Oakley Golf Club.

In 1901 he was engaged by Tufts, founder of Pinehurst, for golfing activities at The Pinehurst Country Club.

Career In America

Success in every way came

in America. At Pinehurst he met hundreds of men who shaped the political, industrial and economic life of America during its most progressive period. He taught them golf and played with them. He interested them in building courses in their home towns and states.

Here is what Mr. Ross said about the influence of Pinehurst in American golf:

"Pinehurst was absorbed by the pioneer in American golf. The game had been played here in a few years before Pinehurst was established. It was right here on these sandhills that the first great national movement in golf was started. Men came here for lessons, bought a few clubs and they were determined to organize their own clubs. Their influence gave golf a new start. It needed in many communities."

Through the years Mr. Ross's influence has been in demand as a golf consultant, but he has made his home in Pinehurst and was active in the promotion of golf at the North Carolina Golf Course until his death.

Mr. Ross was one of the greatest golfers. Although he seldom played in competitions, his swing was marked by ease, grace and rhythm, and his temperament was sublime. When in the late sixties he frequently played the number one and number three courses in Pinehurst in as many strokes as his age. This meant he scored 68s and 69s when he was that age, a few years ago.

Massachusetts Champion

In 1905, Mr. Ross won the first Massachusetts open championship with a score of 320. He repeated in 1911. He won the North and South open in 1903, 1905 and 1906. He seldom played in competition outside of the North and South and in Massachusetts.

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