

# Pinehurst Pictures Hung Prophetically

1940

N. Y. Times  
April 27/48

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[Special Dispatch to The Herald]

PINEHURST, N. C., March 22—Hanging side by side in the lobby of the Pinehurst Country Club are framed pictures of Old Tom Morris, the white-bearded patriarch of St. Andrew's, and Donald J. Ross, the 68-year-old "father" of Pinehurst.

The more one looks at those pictures, the more one realizes that Pinehurst was ahead of its time in hanging them side by side, for all that "Old Tom" ever was to St. Andrew's, "D. J." is to Pinehurst. And Pinehurst comes pretty close to being the St. Andrew's of America.

## Came to Boston from Scotland in 1899

"Old Tom" reigned over the professional's shop at St. Andrew's for almost two score of years. He was more than a great golfer and a great teacher. His high ideals and his kindly wisdom pervaded the whole game of golf in its formative years. He represented all that was fine and honorable and holy.

"D. J.," who came to Boston from Dornoch, Scotland, in 1899, moved down here in the winter of 1900 to improve the rough golf course which James W. Tufts of Medford had laid out on the grassless soil of North Carolina. He has been here

every winter since; the golfing colony at Pinehurst has grown up around him.

In more ways than one, he has injected his own ideas and ideals into the game of golf in America; and he stands today, technically the manager of the Pinehurst Country Club, but actually the patriarch of Pinehurst and of American golf.

"Golf is the one gentleman's game," he says, "and for this reason you never can draft rules to control the game completely. Every golfer is on his honor. As long as we keep golf a game of honor, we're on the right road.

## Started Course-Building at Oakley

"I owe the game a great deal, and the way I can repay my debt is by helping to keep it the finest game in the world."

That's the type of idealism "D. J." has been injecting into American golf for 40 years, and that's the legacy he will leave behind him.

As for ideas—well, you've probably been playing on courses designed and built by Donald J. Ross most of your life. He has built 600 in this country.

The start was at Oakley. He signed as professional there a few days after landing in this country and went right to work building the course.

He built Woodland, Brae Burn, Winchester, Tedesco, Salem, Oyster Harbors—to mention a few around Boston. He built these great Pine-

hurst courses; he built the fine Seminole course in Florida; he laid out Oakland Hills in Detroit, where the national open was played a few years ago. You find Ross courses everywhere.

After nine years at Oakley and three more at Essex County, he gave up professional work, except in a supervisory capacity here at Pinehurst, just to build. In 1926 he had 3000 men working on courses he was handling all over the country, and Bert Nicolls of Belmont, now in his 16th year here, was heading up his staff of instructors.

Indirectly, one gets the impression that he is most proud of the No. 2 course at Pinehurst, Seminole and Oyster Harbors as examples of his handiwork, but he doesn't say so directly.

## Rolling Terrain, Sandy Soil Make Best Courses

"There's a great deal of individuality in a golf course," he says, "and you can't really compare two layouts. I couldn't, for instance, have built a course like Oyster Harbors at Winchester, the soil and terrain are so different.

"But give me slightly rolling terrain and sandy soil, and I'll give you the best courses."

Beyond producing fine courses, "D. J." has produced also fine pupils. The Curtis sisters, Fanny Osgood, Molly Adams and others in that brilliant array of women golfers who represented Boston at the start of the century all were his pupils.

George Dunlap, who won the national amateur championship in 1933, and Dick Chapman, who holds the title now, grew up in the Pinehurst colony and were "his boys."

When the touring professionals pass through Pinehurst on their way south in the fall and north again in the spring, they come to him for advice and he usually straightens them out.

Winner of the first North and South open in 1903, the first Massachusetts open in 1905 and numerous other championships, "D. J." still is a great golfer. Only two years ago, he went around the No. 3 course here in 67, and he's usually in the 70's.

Unlike some of golf's veterans, he doesn't view with alarm the rapid

strides the game has made in recent years.

"The game is easier now. We never used to find two greens that putted alike on a course. No attempt was made in the old days to build a green so it would hold an approach shot. We never had more than seven clubs, and they were crude compared with the clubs used today.

"But the improvements have made the game easier and more attractive for the average player, and that's as it should be.

"There has been great progress in golf in recent years, as in every other phase of American life. That's only natural. Look at the time and study these professionals give to the playing of golf today.

"The thing that pleases me most is that such fine sportsmen and gentlemen are playing professional golf today. That's a wonderful thing. Chaps like Horton Smith and Byron Nelson are a credit to the game.

"The only evil that's creeping into the game, as I see it, is the tendency to bet on it. I don't mean a quarter nassau bet between two friends. What I dislike are the big Calcutta pools. They don't belong in such a fine, clean game."

On the whole, though, "D. J." is pretty well satisfied with his handiwork—American golf. And, as far as he can see, it's hold on the people is growing stronger every year.

## DONALD ROSS DIES; GOLF DESIGNER, 75

Set Up Many of the Country's Leading Courses, Including Pinehurst and Brae Burn

PINEHURST, N. C., April 26 (AP)—Donald J. Ross, who came to America forty-nine years ago to become one of golf's greatest course designers, died today of a heart attack at the age of 75.

Mr. Ross, who came to this country after serving a brief apprenticeship under Tom Morris Sr. at St. Andrew's, Scotland, established himself as a premier architect of the links. His label, a Donald Ross course, marked more than 600 golfing layouts in this country, Canada and Cuba.

One of his greatest achievements was at Pinehurst, his home from October to May each year. He came here in 1900, a year after arriving in America. There was only a nine-hole course here. He built the three courses that have made this village a byword wherever golf is played. The 6,879-yard No. 2 championship course is rated among the best in the world and has attracted most of the game's greatest names in its long history.

Mr. Ross' first job in America was as professional at the Oakley Country Club in Boston. In his year there he redesigned the course—his first course-building experience.

Although in recent years he had relinquished active duties as golf professional, he was president of the Pinehurst Country Club and honorary president of the Society of Golf Course Architects.

Besides Pinehurst, Mr. Ross developed such noted courses as Brae Burn in Boston, Seminole and Belaire in Florida, Oak Hill in Rochester, N. Y., and Arminink in Philadelphia. He was especially active in the Chicago area. He built the Beverly, Calumet, Evanston, Northmoor and Old Elm courses and remodeled Exmoor, Indian Hill, Skokie and Roviolee.

Only last week during the staging of the forty-eighth annual North and South Men's Amateur tournament here, he fell to reminiscing on his long career of course construction. He termed the building of the Country Club of Waterbury (Conn.) course more than a quarter of a century ago the most difficult he had encountered.

Surviving are his widow, the former Mrs. Florence R. Blackinton of North Attleboro, Mass.; a daughter by his first marriage, Mrs. R. B. Pippitt of Andover, Mass.; a step-son, John Blackinton of North Attleboro; two sisters living in Scotland; a brother in Scotland, and a brother in Detroit, Alec Ross, winner of the 1907 United States National Open Golf Championship.

MAR 27 1948