

Reactor

By Paul Azevedo



"Well, boys, the mob took to Sharp Park links like the proverbial duck to water."

That's how Frank P. Noon, the golf writer for the Call-Bulletin, wrote up the first day of action at the Sharp Park Golf course, April 16, 1932. That was 45 years ago. The old golf course was a green, sparkling baby.

He went on: "San Francisco's newest municipal golfing grounds will probably find a capacity crowd driving off on Sundays now that the layout has been opened, and the official record for the course of 73 is held by George Studinger.

"JUNIOR CHAMBER of Commerce officials inform me that 775 golfers competed in the inaugural tournament on Saturday and Sunday and the fact that the low card for the 18 holes totaled 73 is proof enough that the links designed by Dr. Alister MacKenzie is plenty tough.

"'You can say for me' said Studinger, 'that Sharp Park is one of the finest golf courses I've ever played'."

Joe Hickey, managing director of the city's golf courses, ventures the prediction that 'Sharp Park will become the most popular golfing grounds in northern California.'

"PROFESSIONALS like Willie Goggin, Harold Sampson, John Black, Benny Coltrin, Ted Robbins and Charlie Sheppard pronounce Sharp Park one of the finest golf courses in the country, and it is.

"For the benefit of the city's golfers who want to golf at Sharp Park, a 'book' has been opened at the White House where starting times may be secured.

"Green fees are the same as Harding Park. In other words it costs \$1 to play on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays and 70 cents on other days."

THAT'S HOW Sharp Park golf course was greeted by one of the leading golf writers of the early thirties. Perhaps with better management and some renovation, people will be saying that again soon.

Dr. Alister MacKenzie, the designer of the course, was well-known for several courses in Great Britain. He attempted, at Sharp Park, to duplicate St. Andrews, the famous pioneer course in Scotland.

"Like St. Andrews, the yardage is not excessive, totaling 6123 at Sharp Park against 6189 at St. Andrews, but the par of 71 will test the most accomplished golfer."

If you, like most Pacificans, have rarely been on the Sharp Park course, drop by some time next month and wish our middle-aged greenbelt a happy 45th. It is, together with the archery and rifle ranges, our largest center of public recreation.

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