

Did You Know?



Genesis of ANCC Fairfax

John S. Connolly left ANCC in 1936 after four years as the greenkeeper to become a Worthington outdoor power equipment franchisee in Bethesda, Maryland. He was obviously quite successful in that just a few years later he was able to buy 233.6 acres near Fairfax, Virginia and hire Robert Trent Jones, Sr. to design a golf course. Rather than employing one of Jones recommended (i.e. Jones owned) golf course construction contractors, he opted to build the “Fairfax Country Club” course himself, opening nine holes in 1940 and a second nine in 1946. In 1956 Connolly offered to sell Fairfax Country Club to ANCC for \$800,000 but was turned down by the Board of Governors. Later that year he sold the course to a developer for \$880,000. Two years later the developer sold the Fairfax course to ANCC for \$1,062,313.89. Until this past year, ANCC Fairfax was not recognized by the Robert Trent Jones Society as an RTJ designed course. As Roger Rulewich, Jones’ longtime associate, explained, Jones believed that field work was integral to the design of a course and, therefore, did not recognize a course as his own unless he (i.e., one of his companies) was involved in the construction.

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