



## ANCC FOUNDATION Did You Know?



### **Bunker-less Golf Course**

The original ANCC Arlington golf course was designed and constructed by Major Richard D. Newman. The first nine holes opened on September 1, 1928, and the second nine in the summer of 1929. One unique feature of this course was the total lack of bunkers. To learn Newman's rationale for this configuration and when/if bunkers were ever added continue below.

### **Bunker-less Golf Course**

The original ANCC Arlington golf course, which no longer exists, was designed and constructed by Major Richard D. Newman. The first nine holes opened on September 1, 1928, and the second nine in the summer of 1929. One unique feature of this course was the total lack of bunkers. Newman provided the following rationale for the absence of bunkers during the February 17, 1930, Annual Membership Meeting:

“It is felt that the matter of traps and bunkers is a future development. As the golf course stands now, I can find all the trouble I want with the natural hazards. I do not think that we should ever have traps as those hazards are for the extremely good golfer. I think we should build and keep our course for the average golfer.”

While this rationale may have been valid, it is likely that the limited funding available for the construction and maintenance of the course played a role.

The course did not remain bunker-less as described in the following April 12, 1933, Washington Evening Star article (page 32):

#### **“Army-Navy Club Loses Distinction of Being Only Bunkerless Layout**

##### **Traps Are Placed Back of 2 Greens**

##### **Check Overapproaches at 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Holes From Going Downhill**

By Walter M. McCallum

“Washington's only bunkerless golf course has lost that distinction. Ever since the golf course at the Army Navy Country Club was laid out five years ago in a valley over in Arlington, VA, it has been known as the only golf course around the capital which did not boast a single bunker along its length.

Now that is all changed. The first step in the bunkering of the golf course of the service club has been taken and with true military efficiency, was done with the view of speeding up play and cutting down the time required to cover the course on busy days.

At the back of the fourth and eighth greens, where one of local golfdom's busy corners encompasses the fourth, eighth and tenth greens and the fifth and ninth tee, now are located a brace of shallow sand traps to catch shots that go over the greens at the fourth and eighth holes. Hitherto shots hit over those greens might go anywhere far down long the side of the hills on which the greens are built. But now the traps will catch these shots and not only will penalize them but will stop them from rolling down the hills and thus will speed up play.

Other traps are to come along shortly near the ninth and tenth greens. A new ninth green is shortly to be built between the present green and the fourth fairway, lengthening the hole by about 30 yards, and a new tee for the par 3 tenth hole already has been constructed to eliminate the climb up to the old tee. The new tenth will play about 185 yards in length."

