

GolfNotes

February 2021



Allan Grim driving from the No. 7 "Monster" Hole at Capon Springs Golf Course and trying to avoid the mighty "Frankenstein" White Oak tree looming on the right.

August, 1981

THE TREES ISSUE

Trees: Second Best Living Things

Why are trees disappearing from golf courses?

The Nine Signature Trees of Capon Springs

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Notes from the bench on No. 6 Tee



Since my last year's unpleasantness, I've discovered an easy way to start a conversation past the hollow, "How're you doing?" I didn't used to think twice about it. Now I do and I want to say, "I'm much better." (I didn't say it for a while because it wasn't true.) I know that will spark an inquiry. I still can't bring myself to say that without also thinking, *I don't want to be blabbing about my ails.* People have their own, often real, but unexpressed. We often don't realize the pain and chronic discomfort people are going through. It can easily be emotional trials too. I'd rather hear about

others' issues. Mine are always boring for me. •

We're ridding ourselves of Indian nicknames right and left, mostly from the left. Ha. Some should be kept. Indian names for places are special because they convey so much meaning in fewer words than our faltering English ones do. I lived in Perkasio, Pennsylvania, for several years. The word "Perkasio" is actually an Indian name meaning "the place where the Hickory nuts were cracked." Eight **letters** are all it took to capture and explain with nine **words** what on earth happened here. Whether that justified starting a town there is another question. Maine has a town called Ogunquit, which derives from the Indian name, "Beautiful place by the sea." You can't beat that three-syllable word for word economy. •

There are certain features that repulse golfers. They don't want to face them. I'm baffled why many courses have them. Sometimes they are unavoidable, but you wonder if the architect tried his best to avoid them. Or he was

clueless about what we want in our layouts. Here is my list. Blind shots, especially for a tee shot on



a long hole. I've never seen one for a par 3. At least they didn't allow that to happen. We despise long carries over long and thick no-man's-lands. Well, I do especially, since I'm not a long hitter. If we hit a short drive, we've mis-hit our ball enough that we want a chance to salvage a bogey. Don't put water right in front of the tee or nearby. If you hit it that short, it's a bad shot and we're already a long way to the green. •

In the green area, I've never understood why they design a hole that's close to water and they put a bunker next to the green, where the bunker is even closer to the water. If there's water near a green, that's enough of a threat. You don't need a bunker there too. All it does is catch stray approaches to the green and prevent them from running down a slope to the water. A blatant sign

of a poor architect is one who designs all the greens to look similar. I recognize that none is created to look

virtually the same. Even the ones that make them too similar have a few that deviate from that formula, especially the par 3's. A typical design is – too many greens that are long and lean, often with the usual traps as holsters on each side. Some green surfaces have little rolls, but when the designer tries to show they have made a tough green, they plop shelves on the back of the green. That's agony to me. That's the unmistakable sign of an amateur, uncreative architect. •

Done course that breaches my standards is acclaimed Winged Foot. Too many of the greens are long and thin and side-trapped. They do toughen them with their elevations from the fairways, and the severe undulations, and the depth of the traps. But their chronic similarity is alarming for a respected layout. •

No More Kneeldowns in Football and Maybe No More Chains Either

I'm not talking black oppression here

I've railed about this before in GNs. I have said it's time to rid football of the hated kneeldowns at the end of a half or a game. No one likes them except fans of the team with the ball, which is no doubt ahead at the time. Okay, not necessarily at near half time. And the tables will be turned for those delighted, relaxed fans who are about to savor victory at the end because the other team is out of timeouts. Your time will come.

They are unsportsmanlike and unappealing. Nothing fun to watch occurs. I've never seen a fumble there as long as the QB keeps the ball. It's dead airtime. Go to a commercial. No, just kidding. Even the defense doesn't fight it because there is no defense for it. But my rule change was this: if the team with the ball does not gain at least two yards, the

clock automatically stops. I realize that measuring that small distance would require the sticks and chains to adjust awkwardly and quickly. And it's only six feet away.



Now I have an easier, more tolerable solution. The offense must advance the ball to the next white yardline or the clock stops till the next snap of the ball. Yes, I know, sometimes that will be no more than a yard or less. Other times it may be close to five yards. The variance will even out. The key is that



the yardlines are easy for all to see. Today the grounds crews are good at making them clear and accurate, especially because of the challenges and reviews. You won't even need a referee to measure. Any blowing a whistle for the player downed can also stop the clock, where the player didn't get to the white yardline.

Some teams will have their ball carrier fall down before he reaches the white line. Go ahead if you want to keep yourself from advancing the ball farther than you might be able at the time. That would be the risk. That act would likely occur more on the sideline than inside as players often are about to be tackled when they are finishing their run, especially quarterbacks. But then the clock won't stop either, except for an out of bounds runner.

The rules guys might also consider this principle for any first down too. The offense must gain two white yardlines for a first down. So the offense might need to go as

little as six yards or at most nine yards. Maybe the yardlines should be lengthened, so the distance might be, say, eight or twelve. That might not eliminate the need for the sticks as yardmarkers, as officials would need to show where the second yardline is. And they want to show where the ball is with a stick too. But chains would be unnecessary.



I haven't thought this first-down rule all through however. The question it might raise for college football is, Should the clock stop when a first down is reached? You still have to move the two sticks as before. But no chains needed. I also like that once the ball carrier is stopped and the ball set down by the referees, everyone knows immediately if a first down was gained. Sometimes we will need to see if the nose has reached the white line as we see at the goal line for touchdowns. But otherwise, this is a simple way for all to see instantly if a first down was gained. It will even be more definitive than that yellow line TV superimposes on the screen for first downs. ●



TREES

Second-Best Living Things



side from a fetching woman, I love a tree best of every living thing. Especially those sturdy old Sugar Maples that wait until after Halloween to discard their dying leaves of bull-teasing red, coward's yellow, and an orange that vies with pumpkins for best fall color. These pervasive marvels stand proud, reaching out with their leafy branches seeking your approval.

They will always get it. Some prefer needles as leaves, refusing to yield their color, or those leaves, without a fight that can last a few years. They may not be everleaf, but they are evergreen.

Trees bestow many benefits to us, and the rest of Mother Nature's realm, to sustain and enhance our lives. Lose your iPhone, remove your earbuds, and have a comfy seat. As we stroll in the woods or wander near our homes, we welcome their beauty

and their still solemnity. Stepping outside, we feel them calming our upset and easing our fears. For those stuck inside, gazing out at trees helps them tolerate their prison. Trees aid in unseen ways. They can transform high-crime areas to ones where people seek to live. They can



even induce residents to go outside and get along with their neighbors.

These hallowed statues never rest in their roles as first and fast responders. They save us from a searing sun, a sudden downpour and a gusting wind. In the fall we stare at their blazing colors, which open are mouths. As their leaves float and meander from limb to the ground, we are reminded that days will darken and grow chill and that snow will thrill you until you must shovel it, and a surly wind will insist you go back inside. Trees may bow to the wind's might, but they refuse to yield their adopted spot, buttressed by their sprawling roots. Although their limbs may be bare in winter, their evergreen brethren will pose with their adorable shawls of white snow. In frigid times, even down to their twigs, trees present their stunning tubes of glassy ice.

Trees outdo other parts of nature in their diverse acts of real

support. They are vital to our environment by drawing in the carbon dioxide from our tainted air and converting it to oxygen. They absorb foul odors and polluting chemicals. They give us shade on a sultry summer day. In an urban setting, they also lower the temperature and the utility bills of nearby dwellers. Our squirrels and other animals need them for nesting, eating, and shelter. Some trees we enjoy for their delectable fruit.

For our senses they can hide unsightly views, muffle unpleasant sounds, and thwart blinding glare. If we must take their wood, we have a source of heat and a staple for furniture and other crafted items. Their chips can be an outdoor rug or pavement. A tree can define boundaries, create landmarks, and tell us the time of year. They will also slow traffic and attract more visitors, part of the appeal of a building or a home. If we are thinking of a sale, they will increase the value of both a residential community and a business park.



When we go outside, they are usually nearby. When they aren't, we bless them in our thoughts and salute their worthy existence, knowing we can count on them, wherever they are. ●

Why are trees disappearing from golf courses?

It's not because they're stolen, diseased, or dead



Trees are also essential to a complete golf course, I maintain. Yes, golf has its links layouts, where few if any trees appear. That is one of its main features. I accept that. But for the other major kind, known as the parkland, we must have trees. First, re-state with glee all the benefits of trees I just cited as reasons to have them on golf courses too. For golfers add the most important one—their role

as obstacle to every wayward lie seeking a direct way to the green. We want them in our way to challenge us and enrich our treasured outdoor pastime. Despite hating them when we are behind them and blocked on our sidetrip to the green, we cherish them when we glance at them on our march down the fairway after a stellar drive. Our love-hate relationship can only continue if they are in our golfing lives.

In golf they are special. Since golf is an individual sport, they function as one of the few ways your fellow foes can play defense. Your opponents didn't stick them there in your way, yet they delight in your plight when you end up behind one. They will never admit that but then neither will you when the Nike is on other foot. You can insert other non-tree items that mount a defense on a course: ponds and other bodies of

water, bunkers, rough, and other bulky vegetation, tough or tall. They are different from trees; none hinders a direct line to the pin. I know but dismiss big lips at the front of traps, large growth in front of your ball sitting in the rough, and any steep incline looming just past your lie anywhere.

A tree is the only serious barrier. Yes, we all know the adage that a tree is 90% air, although when we are behind one we swiftly reverse that to 10%. Grumpy, we select carefully the club for our next shot. We grope for space under branches to hack out to any side with room. With no opening, we can decide to shape a slice or a hook around it to get where we really want to go, minus much yardage. We ponder that with irony. We hit the curving ball where it is by failing to hit it straight on purpose after failing to hit a straight shot straight on purpose.



In recent years a movement has arisen to remove trees from the golf course. It's been adopted by architects, especially those hired to redo a course. It's endorsed by golf course superintendents, the guys in charge of maintaining a golf course. And now country clubs themselves. Advocates have a cogent case when you consider the threats trees present to properly maintaining

the golfer's outdoor arena. It's the grassy turf golfers dig holes into most times they are not teeing off and not putting on the green. Supporters say that trees, especially those around for a while, are selfish and, worse, thieves. They deprive you of your right to destroy precious fairways and lush rough in your way around the golfer's green

field of dreams. Here is their claim.

Trees cause shade that prevents precious sunlight from reaching grass. When wetness remaining from rain endures, fungus and other harmful conditions slink in along with odious weeds. With their invasive roots, and their outstretched limbs, trees skim water and other nutrients from grass.

Their haughty presence limits airflow, adding more moisture buildup. When sunlight blocks and water persists in grassy areas, eventually trees take over, clogging drainage and degrading water irrigation systems. Tree roots grow longer and fatter, rising in time to the ground where they intrude upon golfers walking in the area. More personally, they threaten injury to wrists and hands striking a ball within their hostile tentacles.

Tree-shruggers will even hurl at you the potential coup de grace inflicted by old or

diseased trees: They can fall on golfers. Not a bad place for golfers to end it all, but it isn't likely to occur behind the 18th green when you're blessed last round is done.

Proponents will add to this the final act of a tree falling in the woods (or other area of the golf course, where any golfer present can hear it), that there will then be high costs of removal, including the remaining stump and roots looming near or above the surface. Lastly they throw in the rare act of lightning, which can damage trees and cause a fall. Lightning apparently has its own GPS to reach the earth. Looking for the older and bigger tree, the more likely it will happen.

They are relentless in their obsession to rid our sainted grounds of our equally sainted trees. Head of the USGA's Green Section, Jim Snow, says that trees are the biggest problem for golf course agronomy. The most prevalent area

is around greens and tees. They overhang them or are close and they are the areas with the most foot traffic. With the sun's evolving passage, trees south and west of a tee or green create the most trouble with shade.



American courses had tree-planting movements in the 1960's and 70's. They were often large and spirited but slapdash. Often the trees were placed too close to each other and in the wrong locations. When you plant a tree, you must visualize your baby as a hulking man with a bushy Afro, giant arms and spreading legs. Planting trees requires great foresight that yields slight immediate gratification. You must consider eventual impacts years away. You may like your child

as he is, but he won't stay that way. That can be both good and bad. Where it's a tree, plan for the eventual bad.

Reed MacKenzie, a USGA President, has declared this about trees on golf courses: "I hate trees. Trees wind up costing you money. You get areas where you can't grow grass." He condemns emotion about them too: "People become attached to trees, and their attachment is irrational." He cites the practical: "Trees get diseased and they fall down." All of his comments may be true, but his own emotions seem overwrought and negative. Trees deserve more respect. Many of us recoil from such rants.

Some courses have installed fans to increase air flow. This solution upsets golfers, although it

"I hate trees. Trees wind up costing you money."

--Reed McKenzie, former President of USGA



does allow a tree to remain unscathed.

Crusades to delete trees from golf courses have ensued the loudest and longest at Oakmont Country Club near Pittsburgh, site of many USGA tournaments. In the 1990's club officials began steps to remove several trees for the reasons I've cited. They also wanted to return the course to its original look when Henry Fownes built it in the early 1900's out of treeless farmland. Over the years many trees were planted. Since most courses were also constructed on farmland, this was a common step. Even courses that weren't open planted more and more trees, mostly without considering the ultimate harmful results.

In the mid-1990's when they began removal,

they did it in the middle of the night to avoid upsetting members. How they did that

without them knowing it was also approved is not clear.

Anyway, the action continued until the mid-2000's when an estimated 15,000 trees had disappeared. Early on some members resisted the process by threatening violence and lawsuits. After some serious squabbling, peace arrived. The trees had to



go. In fact, over the years the Club has become a big defender of its spare number of trees and promotes its actions proudly. Other courses and especially architects and course superintendents have joined the movement.

Other famed layouts began chopping their way at our leafy and wooden friends. Winged Foot, where the recent PGA Championship in San Francisco was played, has adopted it, as well as Baltusrol in New Jersey, site of US Opens and PGA's.

Mike Davis, (photo below left) USGA's CEO, loves it too. He thinks that Oakmont has become a tougher layout without so many trees. He asserts that it is windier, and that focusing on the approach shots to the greens is harder. He and the rest of the spare-no-trees movement savor that grass now is freer with more sunlight and water, becoming thicker and longer. The Club itself says that it uses 45% less water than before. Swayed members also now enjoy the great vistas they have on this rolling terrain.

As one convert asked, "Do you want an arboretum or a golf course?" That sets it up as too stark a choice. And

that is my problem with these actions that too many courses, their supers, and their architects have adopted. I recognize that ideally a blade of grass should have at least eight to ten hours of sunlight and basic minimums of water and other nutrients that keep the turf healthy and thriving. But they've gone too far. It has gotten out of balance. The actions have become too extreme.

Yes, the fewer trees, the better the grass grows. But trees, as one of the several hurdles to golfers who stray, are vital to the sporting test of golf. You can add in all the other features of trees less important: their beauty and comfort to an



agitated golfer, their protection from a downpour or a bristling wind, and their cooling shade under a grueling sun. You just need to analyze where each tree should be planted, or which one causing havoc should be removed. Each gone tree should have a good reason for it. One agreeable step is countering the sun's arc by keeping trees from south and west of the congested areas of tees and greens. Same with the sides of fairways in the common areas of most tee



shots. They should remain a threat to a golfer there but far enough away to avoid damaging the fairways.

Also, replace removed trees with others in different and new areas of the course. Some trees removed might allow for a better view of sights on the course or beyond. And the more practical. As George Waters, the current head of the USGA's Green Section, has written, the wood taken can be recycled on the course or beyond. Convert it to wood chips in landscaping and deposit others around streams for erosion control and fish habitat.

Golf has its two most familiar layouts, the Parkland and Links (*Photo below left*). The open and windy links began along the seaside of Great Britain. Few trees grew because they weren't amenable to the sandy soil. That's the current state too. We expect Links to be treeless. We enjoy their other qualities that make them unique and appealing. Away from the

sea is the Parkland with its many trees and its bobbing hills and dales and an occasional slide into an incline fit for skiing. A superb one gains its respect from trees that provide pleasing fat and marvelous muscle.

Tree shruggers want to take the “Park” out of the “...land” and leave it as a horrid skeleton. That impairs the aesthetic charm and the athletic arm of golf courses.



This movement should be reversed. Even Paul Bunyan, the giant lumberjack in American and Canadian folklore, should join us in our crusade to keep trees to warm and enrich our imperfect journey around the golf course, where we fail often and succeed only eighteen times. We covet these marvels of nature being there to get in our way and heighten our sporting stress, knowing they worsen our plight when our Titleist 2 wanders off line on our way to the green. ●

BEST IF READ BY FEBRUARY 01, 2021

My Word Tropes

I enjoy playing with words. I have developed, or merely discovered, some word combinations that you might call word tropes: expanding words beyond their basic dictionary meanings through new contexts. I choose certain words and, by combining them, transform them into new meanings as a group. Some word combos don't need transforming. You merely need to recognize the special relationship some words already have with each other. Here are a few of different kinds I have created, or recognized, and named.

Clashing Clichés, or Clachés

This one is simple. I take two maxims or other expressions now so familiar that they've become clichés. I combine parts of them into one adage that hopefully is at least amusing. For me it began when I read the remark of TV tattoo artist Kat Van Deen (*pictured here right*) about something she thought wasn't that hard to understand: "It's not rocket surgery." We are familiar with "It's not rocket science." And "It's not brain surgery." is the other. From that trope I created some of my own. Here they are.

1. *That's the elephant in the coal mine.*
2. *He's cool as a clam on cloud 9.*
3. *Trump is like a bull in a clown car.*
4. *He's happy as a snake in the grass.*
5. *He wants to have his cake and beat it to a pulp.*
6. *This is not my first roadkill.*
7. *The early bird gets the whole nine yards.*
8. *This is not a get out of Dodge free card.*
9. *The inmates have taken over the sandbox.*
10. *You can lead a horse to water but that's beating a dead horse.*
11. *That's throwing the baby out under the bus.*



Cupolas



Those fancy little centerpiece structures installed on the roofs of houses and garages and other kinds of buildings, especially public ones, are the metaphor for this trope. Often cupolas are four-sided with windows. I chose it because, although houses and other buildings are common; cupolas are not. As a

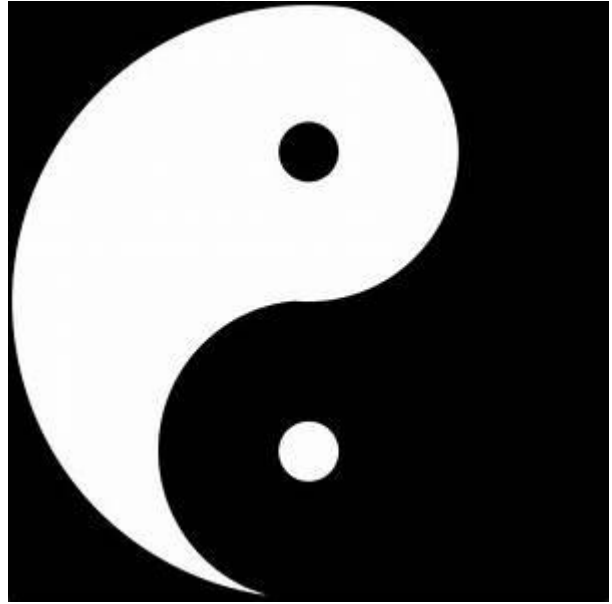
trope, a cupola is common words linked to an uncommon word. In fact, it is seen only with that common word. Most times the rare word comes first. A classic example is the phrase “bated breath.” Although “breath” is familiar to all, “bated” seems never to appear anywhere except in front of “breath.” I compiled a list of these word combos. A few are more than two words. Here is my list.

-
- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Unrequited love | 17. Brandished (or brandishing) a gun |
| 2. Blithering idiot | 18. Wreaked havoc or wreaking havoc |
| 3. Cast aspersions | 19. Wishful thinking |
| 4. Curry favor | 20. Unvarnished truth |
| 5. Short shrift | 21. Ulterior motive |
| 6. Boggles the mind or mind- boggling | 22. To and fro |
| 7. Ill-gotten gains | 23. Sleight of hand |
| 8. One fell swoop | 24. Existential threat |
| 9. Run amok | 25. On bended knee |
| 10. Strange bedfellows | 26. Collateral damage |
| 11. Take umbrage | 27. Good riddance |
| 12. Filthy lucre | 28. Nooks and crannies |
| 13. Slim pickings | 29. Gee, whillikers! |
| 14. Stickler for the rules | 30. Dire straits |
| 15. Ran roughshod over | 31. Blithe spirit |
| 16. Rough hewn | 32. Fend for themselves |
| | 33. Prurient interest |
-



One-Eighties

I have noticed that certain words are special because when you remove a letter or two, the word's meaning changes to the opposite. Thus, a turn of 180 degrees for each of these words. I don't count words that have the opposite meaning built in, such as, humane and inhumane, typical and atypical or corrosive and non-corrosive. You may question whether some of my words are truly opposite. I recognize this is an issue. But that's always an issue in other contexts. Some say the opposite of love is not hate but indifference. Here are ones I created.



Close Call

Number 2 is one is from an actual letter I had written in which my secretary typed, and this is a rough version, "We will now pay you \$20,000." It should have been "not." I can't think of any other typo of significance she ever made otherwise during decades working for me.



180's

1. Sizzle—fizzle
 2. Now—not
 3. Friend—fiend
 4. Fix—nix
 5. Mild—wild
 6. Flip—flop
 7. Hire—fire
 8. Pet—pest
 9. Present—prevent
 10. Strive—thrive (two letters)
 11. Defy—deify
 12. Owned—owed
 13. Cremate—create
 - a. Pray—play (Some people only hope things will happen; others make it happen.)
 14. Feast—fast
 15. Feckless—reckless
 16. Kiss ass—kick ass (two letters)
 17. Fake—make
-

SURPLUS

When you convey a thought, you don't need to add words that merely repeat the thought or words that otherwise add nothing to it. Here are some too-common examples.

1. Over again
2. Joined together. Also, Cobbled together (Some say “cobble” means “to hammer together.”)



3. Free gift
 4. Illegal crime. In football, illegal procedure.
 5. Past experience
 6. An omen that augers future events (two unnecessary phrases)
 7. Reason why
 8. Complained before
 9. From whence (“whence” means “from where”)
 10. Keep it going forward from now on in the future (Bad; three unnecessary phrases)
-

Gestalkers

Some word phrases consist of words that individually carry only vague or mere meaning by themselves and as part of the phrase. But when you combine them they gather clarity and special meaning. It may have evolved by usage and familiarity. They've become clichés, but often for good reason. They've retained their power to explain a situation and people can't seem to create something better. The name I've given them comes from the psychology term “gestalt,” which has evolved in popular culture to mean “greater than the sum of its parts.” I've merged it with the word “stalk” to indicate that these phrases sneak up on you as you combine the individual words to reach their separate meaning as a whole. I'm sure there are many more of these; many are idioms from way back. Some may have three key words seeking to convey meaning as a group. My examples don't, however.



1. Movers and shakers

2. Cut and dried

3. Fits and starts

4. Nip and tuck

5. Tooth and nail

6. Rough and tumble

7. Hue and cry

8. Spic and span



HOLE NO. 1 FROM THE TEE AT CAPON SPRINGS GOLF COURSE

What I would do to improve the Capon Springs Golf Course

It doesn't need much

by

Allan Grim



his is one of those exercises you conjure in your agitated (Coronavirus, Trump, dark and cold winter) mind as you try to drift off to sleep. Actually, three factors grease my ability beyond desire to produce thoughtful changes to this revered layout. I've played the course countless times since 1954, it has only nine holes to hone, and I relish making courses better.

Since it is only nine holes, I feel some guilt doing this, wondering why I need to do this exercise. It's because of all the courses I've ever played, it is my favorite, all things considered, emphasis on those last three words. The mountain backdrop and the overall setting, aura and experience of Capon Springs themselves enhance its value. If it's so great, why any changes? Because even with its few flaws, it's still my favorite. Nothing man-made is perfect. Every golfer has their own ideas about golf courses. Like many other things, sometimes it's just a matter of taste. Still, as is, this course is the one I answer to the question, Which one course would you play every day if you had to? I might give the same answer if you take away all those outside factors too. I'd have to think about that, but maybe not for long is my guess. So here it goes. I will try to be objective and also not pick a lot of nits in arriving at my suggestions to improve a course (I already cherish) based on my own criteria and, okay, even tastes.

Hole No. 1

You want the opener not so long and not too tough and not too tight. This one is all three, although it is toughened by being gradually uphill all the way. Golfers seem to play uphill holes poorly. They're chronically short on their approaches and when you can't gauge well the green's surface, you wind up

with balls too short or too long on the green. I've decided I like it as it is. The wide fairway rocks and rolls. Good drives will leave short irons. On the side are only a few distant trees until you get close to the green. The green sits on top of an imposing perch as if on Mount Olympus. It's



also elevated with falloff on both sides and the back. That front bunker deters any runoff to the green. The front right approach is guarded by a huge old White Oak tree. You might consider adding a bunker or two at the

This green has a deep front bunker that is far in front of the green, which has a bank that runs down to the bunker. A few years ago the two front bunkers were combined and a peninsula up front added. The extensive

the sides. Having trees that close to a green in its front is unusual. The trees are also in the forbidden zone near a green where much sun shines and the trees' shade hinders healthy grass growth. But the trees don't



appear to be close enough to catch much of the green, although the left bank is threatened. And those trees will grow taller. Until recently the green had a baby bunker left of the green adjoining a small tree. I thought removing it was a mistake. Too many tee shots are pulled to the left and the ground slopes severely from near the green down into the nearby woods. Also tee shots struck too long and left either run down

green but both sides and the rear have a steep drop into rough. You don't need any trap to strengthen it. Any ball off the edges will require a touchy pitch to the green, which has just the right size and roles for a first hole—modest and modest.

Hole No. 2 is a par 3 of about 155 yards (the card somehow has long shown 168 yards). The green is mostly flat but runs steadily downhill from front to back, an unusual surface for a green. I would redo it with some wrinkles but retain the slope. It's good to have this rare variety of incline. Problem is No. 8 also slopes downward. Okay, that's my limit. But more about that when I get to No. 8.

roots underneath the trap from the prior White Pine tree had required the bunker to be reshaped and a peninsula was added to make up loss of size from the roots removal. (*See photo above of the old tree and bunkers from years ago.*)

There are three White Pine trees front and left of the green and down the front bank that covers the initial portions of



into the woods or down toward the next tee back and left of the green, causing chronic lost balls and threats to golfers. With the three trees golfers teeing off on this hole also lose sight of their drives. I think that the left bunker should not only have remained but expanded to catch those wayward tee shots. To the right is another tiny bunker that I would enlarge to balance out the trouble on the left and make it more meaningful. There is plenty of slope on the right otherwise to send balls tumbling down into rough and leave a long pitch to the green.

Hole No. 3 (*shown here left*) is not long but it's one of the tightest par 4's you will ever play. Woods on the left

with a steep slide down to it also. On the right is a simple tree line but the narrow fairway cants toward this tree line at the middle of the fairway. The green is flat but a fair width. It could undulate more but I can't argue for too much because of the bowling-alley fairway. An evergreen is at the right front of the green. It's a rare spot, but it's proper here. It helps to bat down pushed approaches. But it also helps to prevent them from hurdling to the right down a steep hill on No. 5 close by and, further, from



lip. That helped to deter some but not all putting. I would like to see the bunker deepened and the lip can remain where it is. Too much more lip would rise up to hide the green surface and stand out oddly. Although I think no green should be flat, I can accept this one because it's small and the trouble I just described

Hole No. 4 is the signature hole at Capon and one you will never forget. It is only 114 yards and downhill too. *(Photo above from the tee.)* But the green is tiny and rectangular, and flat. It is actually called the "Postage Stamp" on the sign next to the tee. All it needs is a serrated fringe. The green is framed by woods all around but at some distance. What shortens this distance is that both sides and the back incline severely toward the woods. In front of the green is a large square bunker that is not deep. Until recently, you could putt from the bunker onto the green, as it had no lip and the green is set several feet below the bunker. Capon recently gave the bunker some

around it is also reinforced by a long bunker off its port side and a sheer bank behind its stern *(see photo left)* that jettisons long shots into another wide bunker at its bottom, or worse into thick rough. Besides, a stamp is supposed to be flat.

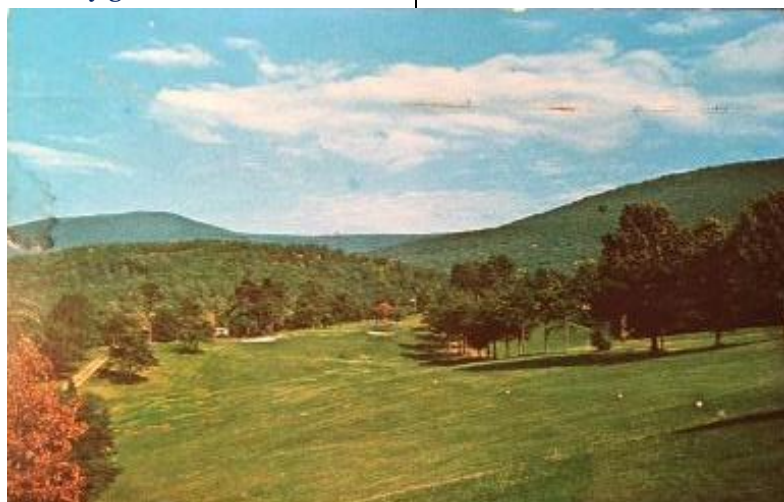


NO. 4 GREEN FROM BEHIND RIGHT

hitting golfers walking from the 5th tee toward their drives since the 5th is parallel to the 3rd.

The green seems to plead for a bunker on its left side. It probably should have one. But there is such a falloff on that side that propels a pulled approach down a steep hill into thick rough. It isn't really needed. All in all, I can leave this hole alone but would prefer more rolls on the green, as the hole is not that long and I think that a green should have at least a modicum of curves for a complete sporting test.

Hole No. 5 is a par 4 of about 320 some yards. The card, whose distances haven't changed since I started playing here in the 1950's, says 367. Still, the last 140 yards is uphill. Its main feature besides the fabulous vista it gives you from the tee is a giant hill left that sprints down to a thin mostly dry stream and woods beyond. If your drive is decent length,



the slope and the woods end. From there is a steep hill that slogs you up to the green. There you face a green that slopes itself seriously from back to front. It's frightful, especially if you are above the hole or aside anywhere. (All the holes at Capon have great vistas beyond the hole or the hole itself provides one. Most have both. This hole is one.) Two front side bunkers, one front left, the other side right and a rightside tree line (as well as one from the woods on the left to near the green) all the way from the tee to the green complete all the features this hole needs. The only change I would consider for this hole is maybe add some length. A good drive will gain distance as the fairway runs down where most decent drives land for a while before picking up that hill. Otherwise, I would leave this eccentric hole alone.

Hole No. 6

needs a full makeover. It's a dogleg right par 4 of 379 yards, says the card. No, it's about 315. It's tree-lined on both sides but the driving area is wide, especially if you don't try to cut the dogleg. It's known as "Lonesome Tree" for the huge oak tree that used to stand in the way of those trying to cut the dogleg about 200 yards out. It died a few years ago and was replaced by three young trees a few yards closer to the



NO. 6 HOLE FROM TEE. PHOTO IS FROM SEVERAL YEARS AGO, AS THE NOW-GONE OAK TREE APPEARS ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE DOGLEG.

green. Two were removed recently and the remaining one is not much of a threat. This is another short hole. Capon needs one in the upper 300's. This hole is parallel and goes in an opposite direction to the No. 7 Hole. With so many attempts to cut the dogleg down the right side, too many sliced drives veer into the 7th fairway or its shared tree lines. There is plenty of room on the left side, which eventually is woods, and beyond the green to the left and behind to change direction of the fairway. Capon could craft a green close to the woods and behind and to the left of the present green.

The green is too small as it is and it is humdrum flat and old-days rectangular. You can have a small green with a short hole. In fact, I believe every green size should relate to the hole's length. Most greens are not proportionate. But since I'm deleting this green and lengthening the hole to a new green, I would make a larger green with some hills and dales and place it near the left woods but not too close, since the afternoon sun blazes over the



NO. 6 GREEN FROM RIGHT SIDE

sky beyond the woods. It needs its beauty sun. Make the hole about 390 yards. This will also eliminate the dogleg right direction of this hole and would make it fairly straight. There's enough room that the fairway could be made dogleg left or right. It would also have a slant to the right, as the ground to the left of the fairway runs uphill to the woods. Because a drive would roll right somewhat, I would make the fairway wide. Golfers are upset enough with the rightward slope on the narrow 3rd Hole. I would also add a few bunkers on either side of the fairway. None exist now. And some trees down the right side. At the green I would add a large sandtrap front and right of the green. The left side would be close enough to the woods on the green itself and on a hill that a leftside bunker wouldn't be needed. Now the golfers on No. 7 are safe from slices off the No. 6 tee.

Hole No. 7

is the par 5 uphill 511-yard hole called officially "The Monster." It is straight and tree-lined on both sides

while its driving room is spacious. It's fairly flat until you reach about 200 yards out when it dips for a bit at what is called "The Saucer," then steadily climbs uphill. It has a large bunker on the left at the about a hundred or so yards from the green and then two other small ones that are inside the tree lines on both sides ten yards or so off the front of the green.

This green is unique; it is rectangular and thinner from front to back than side to side. It's also set up on a plateau and has a steep bank in front. It resembles a stage, but the theatre of seats of fairway in front rise to it instead of slanting down to it. Maybe more like a Parthenon. Behind, the hill continues upward with another bank as backstop above it and a maintenance road just behind. The green itself slopes severely from back to front and its rolls are minor. As the same as No. 5, behind the hole any putt is delicate. So are curving side putts.

Interesting to me is that I've seen plenty of balls in the large left bunker a bit over 100 yards from the green, but can't recall the last time I saw one in either smaller bunker near the green. Although I am inclined to want to see a bunker in the front of the green in the steep bank, I have decided that I can live with no changes to this hole. However, I want to comment on one aspect not mentioned before. This hole had a huge oak tree on the right treeline that was around before the course



NO. 7 HOLE FROM BEHIND AND LEFT OF THE GREEN (2017)

was built in the 1930's and 2003 Hurricane Isabel destroyed it and it had to be removed. (*You can read more about this in the Capon signature trees article at the end of this issue. It's also discussed in a prior 2014 GNs issue [not on my website] where I wrote an article called, "Capon trees that aren't there anymore."*) Fortunately, Capon did the best it could and planted another decent-sized Oak closer to the tee. This replacement has grown to a fairly-large size. After a few years, it's asserting

more and more its command of the right side tree line. I dearly miss that old Oak tree and haven't gotten over its loss. But I am warming to its maturing replacement.

Hole No. 8 is a

long par 3. The card somehow says it's 238 yards long. No, it's about 210 yards. It's fairway all the way and steadily downhill



GEORGE GRIM PUTTING WITH COLORED BALL ON THE BACK OF THE GREEN. PHOTO IS FROM SEVERAL DECADESS AGO.

since it's parallel and opposite direction with No. 7. Trees line both sides and some short ones sit on either side of this small rectangular green, which is distinguished by continuing the fairway's downhill slope. Because of its length most golfers face a tricky pitch shot when short of the green. A ball will plop but run to the back edge or over unless it has good backspin. Behind the green is a trap that no one ever seems to reach because the hole is so long. Just behind is a giant double oak tree that also never seems to come into play. But it

This "Easy Bogey's" downhill run from front to back is unusual for any course. But Capon has two with the par 3 No. 2 Hole. That one is less testing because it's not as inclined or curvy as No. 8. After much thought, I've decided I wouldn't make any changes to this lengthy par 3. Because of the closeness of No. 7 and only a single treeline between them, as well as the next hole, No. 9 lying parallel on the right and opposite in direction, they both are threatened by constant

Maybe shorten the hole to 180 yards, which could easily be done since the distance puts you at the ladies tee. This length does add the right diversity to Capon's three par 3's of short ("Postage Stamp" 114 yards), medium (No. 2 155 yards) and long No. 8 210 yards). 180 would still give it that distance between them.

Hole No. 9

I've discussed in other areas of GolfNotes. I've played many courses since 1956 (when I think I took up the game) and this is my favorite finishing hole. All things considered, it is probably my favorite hole, period. I'd have to think about that one a bit more. But for the time being, it's Number One. It's a dogleg left par 4 (of 413 yards, says the card. No, it's about 380) I won't try to describe it in a few words as I have for the other holes. Go to the photos. I would not do it justice in a brief set of descriptions. I will do one to repeat my comments for emphasis about the large tree behind the 8th Hole. That tree looms as a serious obstacle to any drive on No. 9 offline even a little to the right. And it's only about 50 yards or so out from the teeing ground.

The question for me then becomes, in view of my superlative labels for it, would I have any suggestions to make it better? After much tossing



NO. 9 GREEN FROM BEHIND RIGHT. PHOTO SHOWS EMMETT MILLER PUTTING WITH ALLAN GRIM BEHIND HIM. NOTE THE INFAMOUS WHITE OAK AT THE CORNER OF THE DOGLEG ABOVE AND BEHIND GRIM AND MILLER PHOTO FROM LATE 1970'S.

does provide a superb backdrop from the tee and to the green. The green sits low to the fairway and its sides have only small drop-offs to meager trees. In front on both sides of the green are two dwarf, shallow traps on moguls that seem to catch a surfeit of drives or pitches but are easy to escape, although facing a green sloping downward away from the golfer.

wayward long tee shots from No. 8's tee. That is a serious issue that should be addressed. However, I don't have any way to prevent that. The lines of trees keep growing, which help somewhat, but many shots fly over them from the elevated tee. You can only minimize it by shortening the hole, which I don't recommend.

NO. 9 FROM BEHIND THE GREEN, 2017

and turning, in my head anyway, I



can't think of anything worthy of improvement. I recognize that, as what happened at No. 7 with the loss of a signature tree, that No. 9 has also lost its signature tree. That was also replaced with some youngsters, but the line of remaining trees along the left side at the dogleg still provides a formidable threat to those trying to cut the dogleg.

I even applaud the recent act by Capon to remove

two small bunkers to the right of the green and before the bank to the First Tee. (*One of them is shown on the left photo on previous page.*) They have been there since the initial construction of this course. They were unnecessary as a price a golfer would pay for straying to the right of the green. Actually they may have been inserted more to prevent balls from running up and harming those on the First Tee, although they aren't that big. I applaud their

removal because ending up in that specific area leaves the golfer with a very delicate pitch or chip onto a green that plummets your poor ball downhill toward a large bunker left of the green. The ball not only will scurry downhill but will break a few feet to the left in getting wherever it decides to stop. This stroke to the green close by on the right is hard enough without trap. •

Warning:

Golf is not good for your health, especially if you are a lousy golfer.



MEET
Allan
Kuhn
Grim,
Jr.



IN 55 COMPLETION QUESTIONS

You really don't know him

It wasn't supposed to be my colleague Allan Grim. As Editor and Publisher, he had asked readers to volunteer as the next interview subject. No one stepped forward until finally Allan stepped in by default. Since then two family members put their hands up, although one apparently had spoken before the default kicked in. He says he doesn't recall it. However, he will have them featured in an upcoming issue.

Grim drafted me to do the interview. *(If you're not familiar with our link to each other and GolfNotes, go to GolfNotes May 2018 issue and scroll to page 11. This issue is on his website at the bottom of his menu at **MY GOLFNOTES ISSUES.**)* He gave me much leeway to conduct and format this interview.

He wasn't happy to be the next subject. He wanted to continue the interviews and the CQI format. It has become a favorite of readers, especially because non-golfers are curious

enough to scroll through the pages to check it out. They and actual golfers have also been vocal in expressing that they enjoyed learning many new facts about the interviewee. They especially covet the deep insights into their personalities. Grim was also reluctant to submit because, as you may have read in past issues, his self-consciousness lingers and he doesn't like talking about himself. It even bores the heck out of him, so he says.

He adds that many of you know much about him and that's good enough.

Anyway, he says they read the more public and typical items on his life's resumé in the About Me menu item on his website GrimHandwritingAnalyst.com. I replied that more is required. People want to learn things about him outside of the formal aspects. Like his views on various matters and memories of special moments in his past. So, I tried to cover a wide range of items.

A few will relate to Grim's time as lawyer, writer, handwriting analyst, and golfer. Some other topics maybe he would only respond by whispering it to a shrink. Now you can listen in as he lies on the couch and I pretend to

listen and utter an occasional "Uh-huh. I see." And maybe a "Really" now and then.

This CQI format is evolving and expanding as GNs tries different variations. This time we decided to allow Grim as subject to expand some more on the answers. Some would object to that, saying the short and snappy answers, which are just the finish to a statement that's not even a question, are the peanut in the shell for CQI. No need to tell the reader how it got in there or where they both come from. Just give it to me to pop into my mouth and go to the next one. Besides, 55 is a lot of questions and I don't have a lot of time here. To which we reply, read which ones you want, skip the rest, and then we fling the dreaded but all-purpose word "pandemic" at you to tell you that you do have time.

We decided some of the answers will remain short; others that cry out for elaboration will get it. We will see how it all works out. You may offer your opinion and we will listen attentively and assess how we structure the next interview. And volunteers as interviewees are still welcome.
–Martin Povser, Editor Pro Temp

Completion Questions of Allan Kuhn. Grim, Jr.

- 1.** **Something I will never get right is – chopsticks. Not the piano song. Trying to eat with them.**



- 2.** **My forte as a golfer is – golf courses. I don't know the other parts well, nor do I play well. But I know my links.**

- 3.** **When I graduated from college, I – should have moved to New York City for a year. I was really unfocused about my future. I had been an English major. As they say, with that all you can do is be a novelist, a journalist, or an English teacher. I chose teaching but I considered it temporary.**



ALLAN GRIM LOOKING WELL-FED AND TANNED IN PHOTO OF NEW TEACHERS AT HAMBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL, SEPTEMBER, 1963

- 4.** **I got that middle name Kuhn from – my father's mother's family name. She was Nettie Kuhn. She died in 1941, the year I was born. My maternal grandmother died in 1923. I never met either of my grandmothers.**

- 5.** **The hardest part of being a lawyer was – treating it like a business, which it also is. You have to hustle for clients and you have to pay the staff and the electric bill. The rest was a snap. Okay, not. Intellectually stimulating but stressful and peoples' lives and money are often at stake.**

- 6.** My three favorite movies ever are – *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Gone with the Wind*, and *Wizard of Oz*.

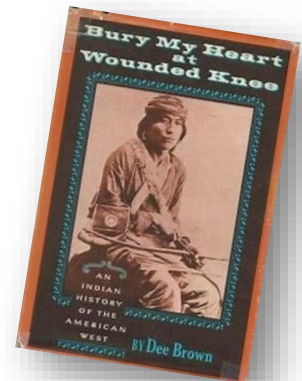


- 7.** Something new and daunting I've thought about doing – *singing an aria from an opera in the Capon Springs Talent Show*. Then it won't be over till the thin guy sings.

- 8.** I'm really good at – *multi-tasking*. *Time is perishable*. *MT extends your life without wasting anymore time*. *Maybe the stress of it shortens your life*. *Uh-oh*.

- 9.** My advice to young men on romantic steps is – *pause close in before you actually kiss her*. *Yes, there should be a pause*. *It enhances the sensuous thrill*. *It's also delayed gratification....for both*. *It also lets you know if she wants to share her lips*. *Also, if she is willing, she will give a better effort*.

- 10.** My favorite book title is – *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*. *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a close second.



- 11.** One thing people really should know about handwriting analysis is – *that anyone who questions its legitimacy is not competent to judge it*. *You must first learn it and then apply it*. *I've never met anyone who has done that, then trashed it*.

12. **I weird eating habit I have is** – *I will snack on a combination of peanuts and sourballs. Chomping on peanuts in my mouth on the left; sucking on sourballs to the right.*

13. **People really know it's me when** – *I say, "Ledz GO!"*

14. **A TV commercial I still chuckle about is** — *Abe Lincoln, stove pipe hat on lap, applying for a job at the HR's office while the HR chomps on a chicken salad sandwich, tells Abe he really should have a "sheepskin" and he's not really "executive material." Can't recall what they were selling.*

15. **I was a bad boy when I** – *wrote with black crayon on the bricks of our front porch on College Hill. Not sure what happened after. Maybe I was never caught. I also threw some liver behind the buffet in our dining room when Mother served it for dinner in the kitchen once.*

16. **I've come to realize after 79 years that** – *People find the time to do the things that are important to them. Otherwise, they rationalize and tender excuses.*

17. **The first girl I had a crush on was** – *a Freshman two years behind me in high school. She lived just below the gates to the College when we lived on College Hill. I called her for*



a date but she turned me down. I tried to be a lawyer before my time. Mother said you don't try to convince a girl to go out with you. Months later my prom came up and she didn't have a date. I asked her to go and she said okay. When the prom was over, the next event was, can you believe it, a late movie at the local theater. After that was over, I drove her home in my parents'

Chrysler. I stopped the car at the right curb going up Main Street in Kutztown. Her home was across the street. She thanked me, jumped out, and scurried to her home. You're welcome. We never dated again.

18. I am a – *mediocre writer, but a good editor.*

19. One thing that I can't forget from grade school is – *our Sixth Grade Homeroom teacher, Mr. Adams, telling us boys it was time to stop playing with the girls at recess, etc, because their bodies are changing. I'm wondering now, were we*



supposed to get serious with them and start dating them?

20. My favorite name for a rock group is – *Cycle Sluts from Hell. Yes, it was a girl group that actually existed.*

(Photo of them above) I never heard or saw them. But the name is tatoored on my music memory.

21. I was late for – *my wedding rehearsal, because we were playing the Grim Open at Moselem Springs CC near Kutztown. We took a lot of strokes, what can I tell you.*

22. I've always wondered – *Why are there so many more horses' asses than there are horses? I know I'm not the first one to wonder this.*



23. Recently I learned that – *in elementary school my Third Grade Homeroom teacher noted on my Report Card that I was self-conscious in front of the group. I didn't know that came out so early in my schooling.*

24. **I hardly ever** – take vacations. I don't count Capon Springs, which is an annual pilgrimage. Yet I love travelogues and documentaries about places and things. I'm a creature of habit and a homebody. This is not an apology. Maybe it should be. One regret Ruth Ann, another homebody, voiced to me toward the end is that we didn't travel more for our son.



25. **The best part of Christmas is** – the unclosable treasure chest of music. We have the traditional carols that endure, and we also have the many pop tunes. Ask someone to pick their favorite. They should take a while to answer.

26. **I think that my cat Lily** – should get lost. I open the door for her on a regular basis to ask if she wants to go out. She only goes out if it's great weather. But she refuses to run away. She will stay close to the house and come in after just a few minutes.

27. **A comedian I marvel at is** – Mort Sahl. He's heady and can spontaneously muse about any issue with insight and wit. He was on "The Dating Game" once and the lady asked him, "Bachelor No. 1, what would we do on our first date?" He replied, "We'd go out and search for truth." I wanted to be their driver.



28. **I've always had a secret desire** – to design and build my own golf course. Not much of that happening now. They're closing them, not opening them, or just renovating the good ones. Sad.

- 29.** **I graduated from** – *Dickinson College. Should I be proud of that? So did Roger Taney and James Buchanan.*



Taney was the Chief Justice in the US Supreme Court's Dred Scott Decision, and James Buchanan was one of the worst presidents ever, the only one from Pennsylvania, single, and probably gay. Although the guy my college is named after, John Dickinson, (photo here left) was one of the founders of the US, he opposed fighting Great Britain.

- 30.** **I've always struggled with** – *talking too fast and choppily. A lotta stop-and-go traffic darting from my mouth.*

- 31.** **A part of my past you won't believe is** – *between my English teacher beginnings through Handwriting Analysis, I've taught at 23 different schools. I couldn't believe it either.*

- 32.** **I shouldn't tell you this but** – *I watch "The Bachelor." Hey, I am one. But I multi-task to minimize my guilt. In fact, no one should watch most things on TV without doing at least two other things during any program.*



- 33.** **My advice to my younger self is** – *do a lot of things away from your home. Dive into new experiences, some that are outside your comfort zone. It will create even more experiences and you will meet more people. When*

you're my age, what you mostly have is memories. The fewer you have, the more regrets you feel later on.

- 34.** **The best TV series ever was** – *The Sopranos. I held my nose for the profanity, sadism, crime, immorality, murder and mayhem but its sustained excellence overcame them. The characters themselves are worth it.*



- 35.** **As fate would**

have it – *I never would have dated my wife Ruth Ann if my legal secretary hadn't lied to me. I was 29, single, and looking. She told me she wanted to find me a wife. She insisted I should ask out this teller at the American Bank located on the next corner from my office in Reading, Pa. I said okay, but she should be at least age 21. My secretary said she was. She was 19. No, I will not say the rest is history. **If I were to start a collection of something now it would be** – posters. I love them. But they're*

big and take up room. Travel posters and those from the turn of the 20th Century are my favorites. I would count magazine covers too, especially from the early 20th Century.



- 36.** **I don't know why but** – *I can remember a scene when I was a tot in my crib and we lived on Highland Avenue, Kutztown in a Tudor home. I recall a toy with me, a wooden car, and also looking out the window and seeing my brother Jim playing with a friend named David Lightcap, I would learn.*

37. **I'd like to propose** – a new TV series that would be called “*Golfers in Golf Carts Playing Golf on a Golf Course.*”

38. **An unusual routine I have is** – eating small bites of my food. *Eating is one of life's pleasures and we do it often, so stretch your enjoyment, I say. I can't believe some of the gorging some people do. Like folding pizza. That stuffs your mouth and shortens your satisfaction. And all that crust.*



39. **I'm pretty good at** – not swearing in public. *I try hard not to. It's a continuing stab at discipline. And the words are just lazy expression of feelings that a few other letters can clean up. It's also pathetic that this is the best answer I can do for this question.*

40. **I remember my Mother saying** – when we said something crude or just outrageous, “*Slap your face or I'll slap it for you.*” *I always wondered why she put it on us to do it. Now I know. She knew we weren't masochists and she was no sadist. And we were never bad enough to get a hardy, cracking smack.*



41. **When are they going to** – fix *The Sphinx's nose? I guess they're waiting for the Israelis and the Palestinians to make peace.*

42. **I have new-found respect for** – doctors and nurses. *It seems that most of their patients are old, overweight and have multiple ailments. At least I wasn't overweight.*

- 43.** **I'd like a do-over** – for that Lehigh Valley Spelling Bee when I was in 7th Grade. I had won my Junior High one and went to Allentown for the big one. The first word I got was “talebearer.” I don’t know if we were allowed to ask any questions, like, use it in a sentence. I had never heard the word before, but I knew it was two familiar words. Anyway, I spelled it “tailbearer” and was out. I think I could have spelled all the words after that.



- 44.** **I can't believe that in high school** – I had no enemies or that I wasn't teased or bullied. I hear stories now from my classmates and other people who still carry their resentment. So they don't go to reunions. My nickname was “Judge.” I wonder if that had anything to do with it.
- 45.** **I'm lucky for** – having come from a large family in a big old house in a small town with parents who stayed together and gave us a comfortable living and a traditional religious upbringing. And we had a huge backyard for sports.



- 46.** **If you want to make me look stupid** – put me at a piece of electronics, mechanical, or computer device. My GPS app will show me the roads but refuses to talk and tell me where to turn. What did I do? Disrespect.
- 47.** **For me, trivia contests were** – reward for all the time I spent reading newspapers, books and magazines and

watching TV and movies, and listening to music. Too bad I couldn't recall a lot. Maybe the warehouse was too full.

48. **A good working code for living is** – *be nice and do good for others, be modest, shut your mouth, relax, exercise, eat right, get enough sleep, have some friends. It's good but it's not working for me. Or should I say I'm not working good for it. Anyway, too many virtues to remember.*

49. **I decided to become a lawyer when** – *I was just sitting at home on July 27, 1964 when this intense feeling overwhelmed me. It told me to go to law school. (Not kidding. These things do happen, like Paul on the road to Damascus. But no blinding light or such for me.) Why it*



happened I don't know. My parents wanted me to be one but they didn't pressure me. I was between teaching jobs. I never aspired to the law, but it was on my unwritten career list almost by default. I had thought I probably wouldn't qualify for

law school because of my lackluster college grades. But I applied and got into Indiana School of Law (photo left) primarily from good scores on the Law School Aptitude Test. Temple also accepted me but I really wanted to go to a large school in the Midwest after attending a small school in the East.

50. **The Grim family** – *enjoys sex. We have a lot of children. Of course it started with our parents with five children over fifteen years. And so do our married children. They were not brought by the stork.*

51. **No, I've never** – *colored my hair. Do you?*

52. **A life lesson I've learned in recent years is** – *a man should sit while doing No. 1. He'll never miss and his bowl-cleaning wife will thank him. And it makes an overnight trip there easier too.*

53. **If you ask me now what it all means** – *all I can do is scratch my head and pull up on my shorts.*



54. **I really worship** – *trees. When you plant one, it's a*

AUNT WINNIE, ALLAN GRIM, AND BROTHER JIM, CIRCA 1951

profound act of delayed gratification. And, in this issue, see my article on how great they are.

55. **If you think it's bad now** – *how about our grandparents having to live through the Great Depression from 1929 through probably 1945 and then World War II a double whammy from 1941 to 1945. And maybe even WWI. ●*

The Nine *Signature* Trees of Capon's Nine Holes



One of the great unique qualities of the Capon Spring Golf Course is that every hole has had at least one prominent, cherished tree that enhanced the hole's value as a sporting challenge and a visual joy. Call them each the hole's Signature Tree. Here I identify each one and explain why I've picked it.



No. 1

Guardian of the Right

The First Hole still has its huge White Oak tree just front and right of the green. (Shown above) It was there when Capon Springs founder Lou Austin laid out the course in the mid-1930's. As a giant obstacle to sliced drive, it hinders their entrance to the green. Only a towering approach shot up the steep, undulating hill will get you on the carpet. Good luck. An approach from the right might get you there if you aim for the left part of the green. Trying to get on from the far right close by leaves a tricky pitch. If you're close to the green, you might try scurrying under the tree, but, careful, as the front bunker lurks close by.

No. 2 Three Little Pines after One Big One

No. 2 is a par 3 of 168 yards, says the card. It's really only about 155 from the middle of the tee. This hole had a large white pine tree in the front left of the green (*shown here right from years ago*) next to the wide and deep front bunkers below a bank with several yards between them and the table surface. This tree was distinctive because it is rare for a hole to have trees in front of its green, especially where part of their branches impede a straight line to that side of the green. It had also grown into the side of the front bunker, another rarity. When it was planted, it likely was a few feet off and the years of trunk expansion brought it to the bunker. That tree suffered through wind, rain, and snowstorms and lost vital branches over the years. A few years ago it was skeletal and faltering and was replaced by three more young but several-foot-tall White Pines. Another evergreen does reside behind them and gains its own height and increasing value to threaten golfers on the tee.

Three were planted to ensure survival of at least one of them. Those 2nd Hole Pines are now mature enough to grab both tee shots short and left or even long enough but pulled and headed hard to the left. A hill there drops down toward the woods that covers the left side of this hole near the green. When this signature tree was removed, it took the lub-dubbing heart from that hole. (*Below right are the three trees in their youth a few years ago.*)

Capon could have decided not to replace it because of its odd location. But the resort rightly retained its tradition and satisfied sporting



golfers' desires. It would obscure and then grab and slap down any pulled iron to this green. The large front bunkers helped in the hindrance. Its left end still sits near in front of the three trees on the left.

The bunker had been two, but is now one big one that continues to impede short tee shots all the way to the right side of the green. (*See it in photo below left*) It was redone when the old White Pine was removed. When the digging for removal occurred, Capon knew it would find underneath extensive roots of the old White Pine. It was fearful of a worker hitting one as they worked to make the bunker more symmetrical. Instead of restoring the circular look of the bunker, Capon covered up the hole and planted grass above that prior sand area. The left front of the bunker was then enlarged to make up the lost area, creating a peninsula

of sand where no roots had reached. As you can see from the photo to the left, this one grand bunker now resembles a big key. ●



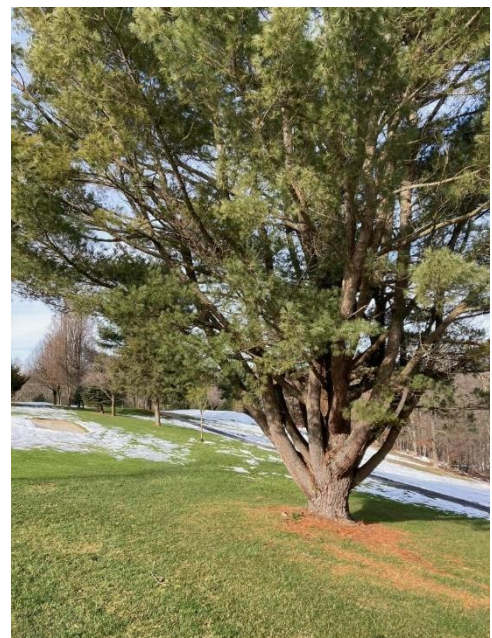
No. 3

SLICER'S SAVIOR AND NEMESIS

A short but narrow par 4, the Third Hole looks like an abandoned bowling alley, its wood warped beyond repair. Its tightness is magnified by downward slopes both left and right from the middle of the fairway. So many gutter balls into the right tree line or, worse, into the nearby Fifth fairway. To the left, errant drives bound down into the woods. Short and right of the green is a White Pine. It was added only about twenty years ago. ***(See it above as a toddler to the left of Jim Grim photo from 1985)*** On the approach to the green the right side of the fairway continues to slope right. If you happen to push your approach to the right, you can get lucky. This Pine can keep your ball from catching the steep hill of the close No. 5 hole. However, many golfers missing right and the tree itself will find their balls skiing far down across No. 5 fairway and risk striking golfers walking from the Fifth tee to their drives. Beyond that misfortune, your ball can also run down and farther away from the green, leaving a long pitch shot up the steep hill and over a right bunker and some small trees lining the right side of the green. Since the tee on No. 5 is less than a hundred yards from the Third green, and is also opposite in direction, your stroll onto the Third green can be threatened by wild slices from those golfers teeing off on this par 4 Fifth Hole. Thus, this one evergreen tree does triple duty protecting golfers on both holes while providing one more obstacle to golfers on the Fifth Hole approaching from the right.

White Pines are native to the area. So are Cedars. The course has many of both evergreens. Thus, Capon was able to transplant them from the nearby woods. Each appears often as fairway borders, limiting leaf clutter for the fall golfer. They redeem themselves as dense barriers for shots to their greens. ●

Photo of the White Pine from December 2020, with the Third green left and the steep incline of the Fifth Hole threatening behind the tree itself. >



NO. 4 An "Envelope" of Trees for the "Postage Stamp"



n the par 3 No. 4 Hole the green and all around it are well below the tee. No one distinct tree repels your short iron to the green or blares its uncommon cachet. This hole named "Postage Stamp" is enveloped by woods all around the rectangular green, which is only 114 yards away. Although the woods are far away, they are closer



than they appear. In each direction the ground descends abruptly from the green. Your wayward tee shot will seek them out like a mutt after your moving car.

ALLAN GRIM PUTTING
ON THE STAMP, CIRCA 1980

Your ball is not helpless though. The dense rough can hinder its desperate tumble. There is even an inner line of trees all the way to the green on the right. A few idle trees line the left but none is at the green. Added to your troubles is that the green



is trapped on all sides but the right.

Time magazine's Man of the Year, (now Person of the Year) has been several people at once: Protestors, Soldiers, Middle Americans, Whistle-blowers, and US Scientists. The signature tree here is not one but the many trees framing this hole, which you can't ignore and often can't avoid. ●

NO. 4 FROM LEFT OF THE TEE

No. 5 The Tree Lost in the Vista

You could say No. 5 also has no one signature tree. It is tree-lined on the right all the way to the green and the left has more woods. However, the left trouble is only in play if you hit a harsh hook. Still, even a short, pulled drive will plummet toward the woods

because right off the tee the fairway

and rough plunge toward a tiny parallel stream and the woods beyond. So where is the special tree for No. 5? When you look out from this hole, you marvel at one more vista that soars all the way up into the mountains well beyond Capon itself. It's been on one of Capon's post cards since the 1950's.

However, you probably won't see the tree for the vista. It's in an unusual spot to earn its label for this hole. Make that any hole. No more than 50 yards out from the tee, it stands slightly left on that sheer hill and it's joined by a few minor trees. It's a Pin Oak. It's also not that wide but it's leafy and now tall enough to stand out. Only a pulled drive will slam into it. A hook that starts out over the middle and dives left will fly past it. Any drive that hits near it and goes beyond is likely to disappear forever into the thickness of that woods down the hill. This is partly because you have to work your way down a sharp incline just to reach the woods. I've never seen anyone bother to rappel that slope close to the tee.



EMMETT MILLER IN FRONT OF THE THEN LONE SIGNATURE TREE IN THE MID-1970'S

Good bye Titleist. Now you belong to the ageless woods.

The tree reminds me of that

BOB GRIM DRIVING ON NO. 5 WITH A FEW TREES NOW GROWING JUST LEFT OF THE TEE, 1981

tree on No. 17 at Augusta National that you would always see in the telecasts. (**See it below circled**) They called it the "Eisenhower Tree" because Augusta National member President Dwight D. Eisenhower would find it too often. At a board meeting he suggested they remove it. Chairman Clifford Roberts, who founded Augusta with Bob Jones, abruptly adjourned the meeting rather than offend the President. It was about 200 yards or so out and intruded on the left of the fairway. But they treated it like a dogpound pooch and tolerated its presence. It was damaged by an ice storm a few years ago. Although they tried hard to save it, they couldn't, and it was removed. I have come to adore this Capon tree that has grown in an odd spot for a golf course tree. Except for Ike, familiarity for Augusta and me breeds contentment for these outlier trees. As noted American lawyer and Senator Daniel Webster declared in the US Supreme Court opposing the State of New Hampshire's attempt to transform Dartmouth College into a public institution, "It may be small but there are those who love it." ●



No. 6

Lonesome Tree

No. 6 is a short dogleg right par 4 that had a tall Locust tree with thinning-branches about 200 yards out at the corner on the right side of the fairway, only a few yards from the trees lining the hole to the green. The hole itself was called Lonesome Tree. The tree was there when the course was built and loomed as an obvious threat from the tee. Unless you were going to launch a rocket far and high at the corner, you had to aim left and hope to just catch the left side of the fairway where you would have no more than a short iron to the green. But that side also was downslanted enough to wreck your try at hitting a little rectangular, green with matching side bunkers. Even though the tree was not in your line, you felt as if your clubface



AS SEEN FROM THE TEE, HERE IS THE LONESOME TREE IN ITS DYING DAYS WITH MANY OF ITS BRANCHES GONE FROM TIME'S TIRELESS EROSION.

might open on contact and veer your ball into it.

The majestic Locust declined, constantly losing branches over the years. Eventually needing support, in the 1970's a piece of galvanized pipe was added from the ground to its top. A fast-growing Poplar was soon added to eventually replace it. A few years later, when Capon realized this was not a long-term solution, a Maple tree was also added. The homemade "lightning rod" lasted until the

Locust tree itself was finally removed in 2017.

In 2002, as an ultimate replacement, a Red Oak was planted by the Lindner Family in honor of their parent's (Tad and Mary Jean) 50th Wedding Anniversary. Neither of the other two trees were surviving well, so the Poplar was uprooted about ten years ago and the Maple about five. No. 6 is now down to the Lonesome Lindner Red Oak. It's a few yards farther out from the tee than the old Locust was. But it's only about eight or ten feet tall but its provenance is Oak so it will evolve as the new signature tree for this hole. But as an ominous threat to dogleg cutters, it's years away. ●



Looking from Tee of 6th Hole. Capon Springs Golf Course, Capon Springs, W. Va.

THIS IS A POSTCARD FROM THE LATE 1930'S SHOWING THE 6TH TEE AMONG SEVERAL TREES. THE LONESOME TREE APPEARS THROUGH THE OPENING IN THE DISTANCE.

No. 7 FRANKENSTEIN of the Monster Hole

The 7th is a par 5 uphill 511-yard hole. It is called the "Monster," but not as an informal branding by intimidated golfers. The official sign at the hole says it. This only par 5 at Capon's nine holes has had the signature tree of all the signature trees for the course. This mighty White Oak is now gone after being decimated by Hurricane Isabel in 2003. She no doubt wasn't a golfer, or maybe she was a disgruntled hacker. Of countless trees she chose this unique one. At least she didn't pick on the little guy.

We revered and feared this immense tree as a fleeting spot for our errant drives. Its massive presence menaced about 180 to 200 yards out and right of the fairway.

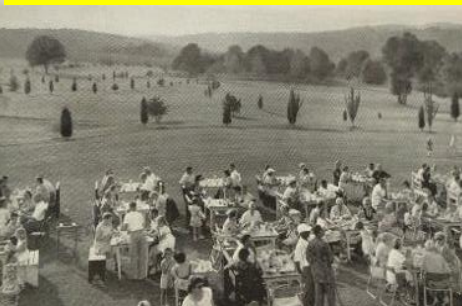
Some branches eventually reached to the fairway. It was ancient and one of the few trees on the course (outside of the woods) when it was laid out by Capon's founder Lou Austin in the 1930's. At least the One Great Scorer knew where to mark it. Standing Eiffel-



Tower proud and visible, it could be spied from all points on the Capon layout.

It was not only tall; its branches and trunk were wide. I still haven't gotten over its loss. Reports of its death could not be exaggerated enough. This tree evolved into its own behemoth metaphor as the Frankenstein of the Monster Hole. A humble granite monument has been set where it grew. Fortunately, with great foresight Capon had planted a Red Oak tree around 1990 several yards short of this memorable edifice. With thirty-one years of growth, that tree is now ample and imposing itself. I hereby declare it as the replacement signature tree for this hole and name it "Frankenstein, Jr." ●

AT THE UPPER LEFT OF THIS PHOTO FROM EARLY 1950'S, THE MONSTER'S BIG TREE IS VISIBLE TO GUESTS DINING OUTSIDE SUNSET LODGE NEXT TO THE FIRST FAIRWAY.



No. 8

Backdrop

A

long par 3 of over 200 yards, No. 8 has a downhill runway to a green that continues

that retreat from front to back, like No. 3. It's also tree-lined and when you glance at the green from the tee, no tree leaps into your mind as a signature tree for this hole. Certainly nothing that presents a major threat to a straying-spraying golfer. Here the tree is actually a double-tree, a White Oak, and it stands directly behind the green. The backdrop for this hole is large and pleasing. Where the green baffles golfers is those who've hit short drives and must delicately pitch unto the canted surface to avoid their ball's



running off the back of this small green. I've never seen a ball strike the huge tree, whether a drive or a second or third shot. A bunker

between it and the green lies unused and unnecessary. I've never seen a ball in it. I'm surprised since the entire green slants downward toward it.

At its base this elderly tree shows advanced age. It too may be on its mournful way to the woodpile. It was there when the hole was constructed around 85 years ago. Its value is its natural beauty. A major piece of scenery for the green as its stage, its tranquil dignity is easy to admire. I can't imagine this hole without it, especially as I gaze down toward the green from the tee. You feel you're at



HERE IS A POSTCARD FROM THE EARLY 1900'S SHOWING THE GRAND CAPON HOTEL BEFORE ITS LOSS IN THE FIRE OF 1911. BEYOND YOU CAN MAKE OUT AT TOP RIGHT BOTH THE TREE BEHIND NO. 8 GREEN AND THE MONSTER'S TREE ON NO. 7 TO ITS LEFT.

the distant SRO area behind the theatre seats. If Capon removed this tree, the image left is some idle props, stacked furniture and embarrassed stagehands.

Actually, the tree is near a pleasant grove of smaller but substantial trees. Capon can't take one more acclaimed tree like this one is. When the stirring oil painting has graced the living room wall in its untouched spot for years, you can't move it without upsetting the comfort of your rooted expectations.

Let me correct one observation. Although the tree may not be a danger to golfers on No. 8, it is a one for the 9th

Hole. When you finish putting on No. 8 you stroll past this august tree to its right and, under its shaded branches, it welcomes you to its awesome splendor.

The 9th Hole is parallel but reverse direction to No. 8. When you drive from the 9th tee, you dread its place and stature as a hazard.

This tree is only around 50 yards from the tee and its branches spread into the right side of the driving area for No. 9. This tree is wide like the former Oak ogre of the Monster. It will devour any drive that swerves right even a bit off the driverhead. I could select it for the special tree of the 9th Hole. But it has its own loftier prominence on No. 8 and needs to borrow none. •



THIS PHOTO FROM THE LATE 1930'S SHOWS FOUNDER LOU AUSTIN IN THE FOREGROUND WITH THE NO. 8 HOLE JUST TO HIS LEFT BEYOND THE POST AND THE SIGNATURE TREE ALREADY STANDING TALL BEHIND THE GREEN.

No. 9 Three Oaks or One Oak, Three Trunks



I've raved about No. 9 as the best finishing hole I've ever played and perhaps the greatest hole itself (I'm still searching my memory for one other hole to dispute that.) It has two trees worth mentioning. Along the left side of this dogleg left par 4 413-yard tree-lined hole, a bit over 200 yards out, was another multiple Oak tree. Capon can't decide whether it's three trees stuck together or one tree, three trunks. But it is called "Three Oaks." This grand Oak was the Don of the Dogleg. Some trees nearby were its lusty thugs, aiding its protection of the territory. The gang was an obstacle to all short drives, blocking a needed long second shot. If you caught the fairway near these trees, your ball would tumble down a hill that started just short of the tree and you were clear to reach the green from there. This tree was

another one of the few trees present when the course was built during the Great Depression, partly with mules. Over time one trunk died and was taken out. Lightning zapped another and was soon gone. The last was moribund and had to be taken out two winters ago.

In spring of 2020 three trees were planted nearby: a Pin Oak, a White Oak, and Sugar Maple. These other older trees have filled in well for the glorious Oak. They've grown old and high enough themselves to block anyone's try at getting close to the green from the left side with a short drive. I sang an elegy for the old Oak's legend in the Capon Springs talent show in August 2019. I then wrote about that tree and that moment in GolfNotes last summer.



THE TWO SIGNATURE TREES DESCRIBED HEREIN ARE BOTH SHOWN ON THIS PHOTO FROM 1981. THE SHADY MAPLE APPEARS ON THE UPPER RIGHT BEHIND THE NINTH GREEN. THE WHITE OAK AT THE DOGLEG CORNER OF THE FAIRWAY APPEARS JUST TO THE MAPLE'S LEFT ACROSS THE

That piece can be found on my website GrimHandwritingAnalyst.com under menu item My GolfNotes Issues. Click on its submenu GolfNotes February 2020 and scroll to pages 10 and 11.

No. 4 has a group signature tree. On No. 9 I have decided to go with two individual ones. This stellar finishing hole actually has had another tree that should be

mentioned. Behind the green and near the First tee was a Sugar Maple that shaded occupants of the chairs and benches awaiting their tee off or chatting nearby on this busy teeing ground only a few feet from the old wooden clubhouse.

Although the First tee is near the back right of the 9th green, it sits on a plateau above a steep bank several feet above it. About five or six years ago, Capon planted another tree, a Red Oak, on the edge of the teeing ground knowing the old Maple's days left were short. That hallowed Sugar Maple was removed three years ago. It's value as an alternative signature tree for the 9th Hole was high but somewhat below



A SUNNY MORNING ON THE FIRST TEE FROM THE EARLY 1990'S, THE OLD MAPLE TREE PROVIDES SOME SHADE FOR THE BENCHES AND CHAIRS. AMONG THOSE ON THE TEE ARE ADDIE GRIM IN BLUE AND BEHIND HER RIGHT, ALLAN GRIM CHATS WITH SON DOUGLAS.

the formidable Oak at the dogleg. It was less than the Oak partly because it was not in play unless you powered your approach beyond the 9th green. And it wasn't as old and tall.

Most golfers were short at this green, usually because of the great distance to get there. We were also careful with any close in approaches, knowing our third shot faced ruin over the green. There was a

embezzled water and nutrients from under the 9th green through its spreading roots. Every five years Capon backhoed the area between the tree and the green to break up its constant crime. Although both notable trees are gone, I deem either the ghost of the dogleg Three Oaks or the ghost of the shady Maple beyond the 9th green as signature trees here. Their enduring impact on our minds sustains their presence. ●

A TREEMENDOUS HELP

A special thanks to Pete Budnyk, longtime Capon Springs Golf Course Overseer. For this and the other article about Capon, he supplied the background on the trees, had his staff take the recent photo of the tree on No. 3, and provided the old black-and-white photos from his collection. He has supervised and maintained his emerald of a golf course with ardor and care over many decades. Pete has also presided over the First tee as a starter and as CEO of Capon's twice-weekly Best-Ball Tourney. His prime spot has been a chair on the First tee, near his Sugar Maple, chatting with guests, then sending them up the First fairway. He is married to Carolyn Austin, granddaughter of founder Louis Austin, whose progeny still have roles at managing this West Virginia resort. ●