



APPROACHING NO. 2 GREEN ON THE NEW LA GORCE COURSE

Dancing Waves Now Golf Course

By JOE COPPS

Man, in his drive to perfect golf courses, has used almost everything under the sun as a foundation except the bottom of a bay and now comes the new La Gorce course at Miami Beach, Florida, that was created exactly from such a watery spot. It will be opened for the first time January 2nd and 3rd for the Miami Beach Open tournament with some of the leading professionals of the country as players. The La Gorce course is probably the only links that was ever built completely from nothing.

The story of La Gorce is the amazing one of a man who had a dream about a perfect golf route and turned it into a reality with the assistance of a clever designer and the efficiency of modern engineering. In 1923, Carl G. Fisher, developer of Miami Beach, was filling a low, swampy site at the northern tip of his island. In the middle of this fill which was to be occupied by palatial winter homes, he wanted the best golf course that could be produced and he called into conference Captain H. C. C. Tippetts.

Tippetts was given the ideal assignment for a golf architect. He was to design a golf course that would be completed in every detail, from swampy land and bay bottom. The dream of La Gorce first took material form on a sculptor's work-board. Tippetts played indoor golf on a \$625,000 project in pliable clay in his studio room, and came out to the engineers with not only a flat blueprint of the course but a miniature.

Then the giant suction dredges got to work and poured in \$250,000 worth of mud and sand that would some day become the footpaths of thousands of worshipers of the Scottish pastime. One hill on the course, which is the only rolling one on the east coast of Florida, is said to have cost the Fisher Interests \$50,000. When the course had been roughed in by the manipulation of the suction pipes, the task of chiseling in its details commenced. A solitary figure played the course in those days, surrounded by steam shovels and mule-drawn scoops and Captain Tippetts, the Rodin of the links, etched out his masterpiece. He was now using individual clay models for each hole and playing his shots through the muck and the marle that had not yet been sodded. The books at the Fisher office show that some \$250,000 was expended for landscaping. The new club house has just been completed at a cost of \$125,000.

After the sodding had been completed and foliage planted to make the course one of the most picturesque spots in a land that is naturally beautiful, the course was allowed three years in which to cure before it was opened to the public.

The course this year will be used in connection with the Fisher chain of hotels and courses. It is the fourth to be opened at Miami Beach although the first nine-hole course has now been converted into a municipal re-

creation park. Next year, however, La Gorce will become an exclusive membership country-club.