

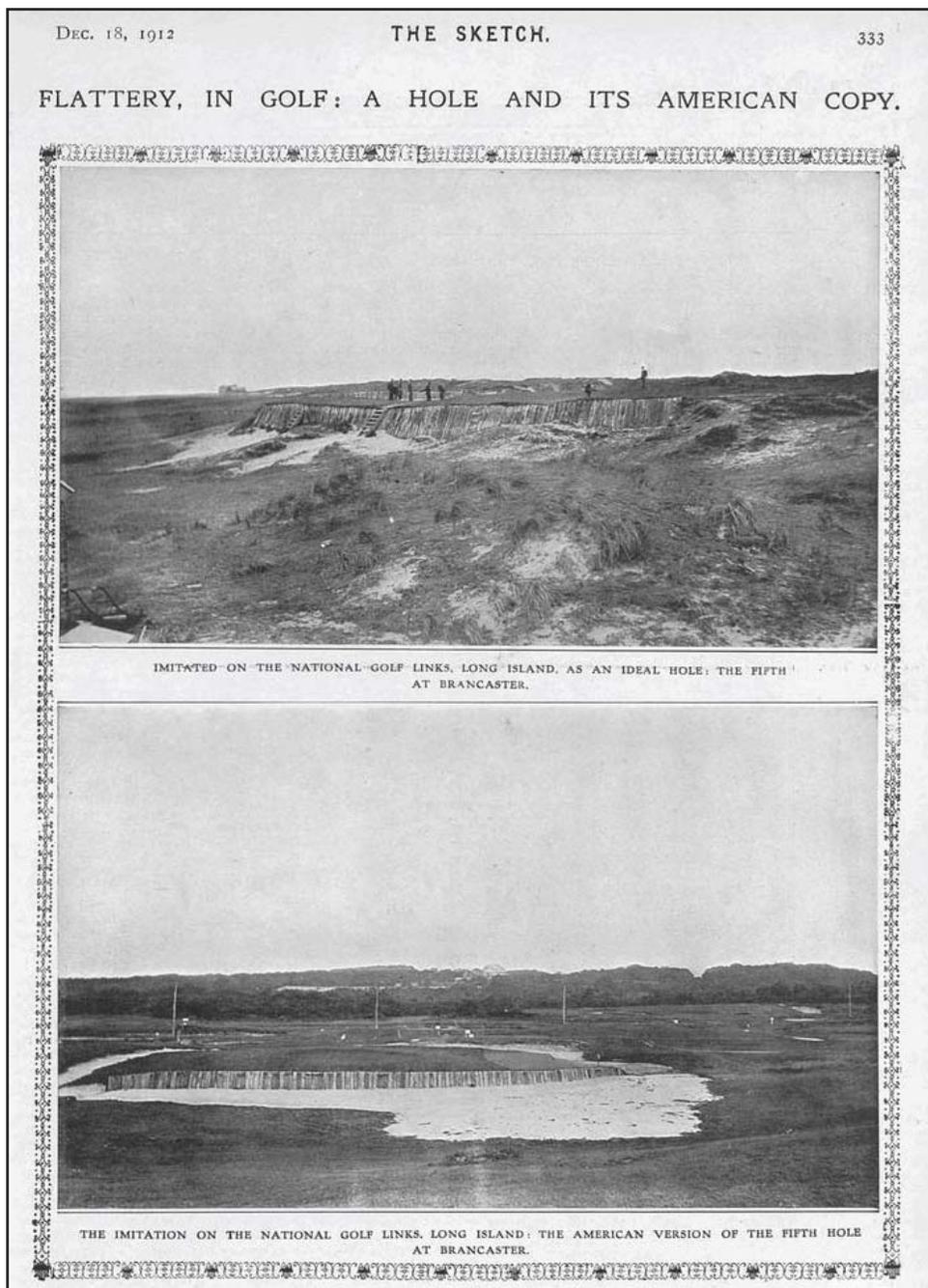
# Short Hole Restored at Hackensack

By Bill Brightly

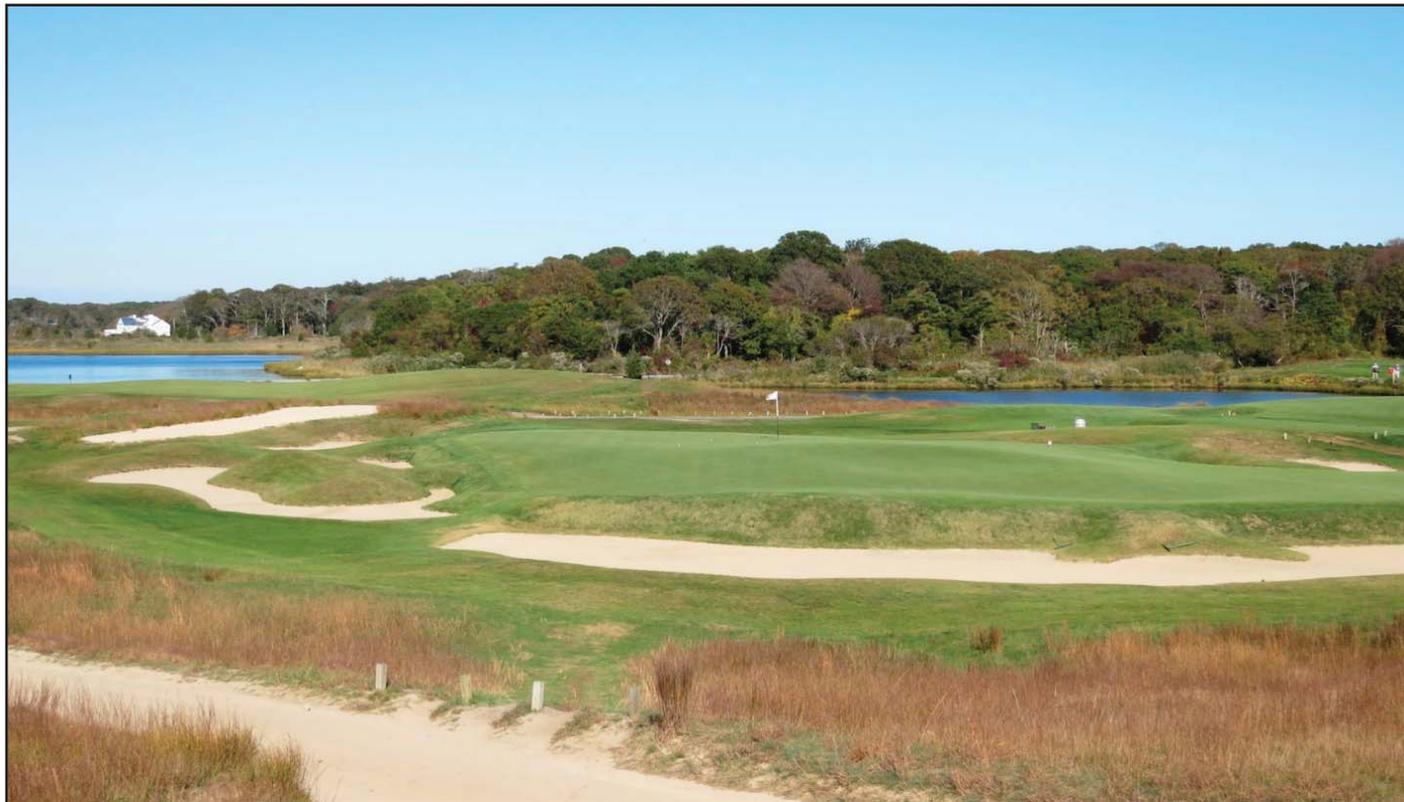
Many of the members observed the restoration work that occurred on our 6th hole this past fall. When you get back on the course this spring, you'll see the finished product. After several unfortunate alterations to this hole over the years, the hole has faithfully been restored to its original glory.

Do you know where this hole was inspired? Charles Banks, and his mentor, Seth Raynor, built holes in a template-manner following the teachings of C.B. Macdonald (CBM). Before starting construction of the National Golf Links of America, CBM studied all the great holes in the United Kingdom, and then recreated his favorite features to build a golf course that raised golf course architecture to a new level when it opened in 1908.

His Short Hole, number 6 at National, was modeled after the 5th at Royal West Norfolk in England.



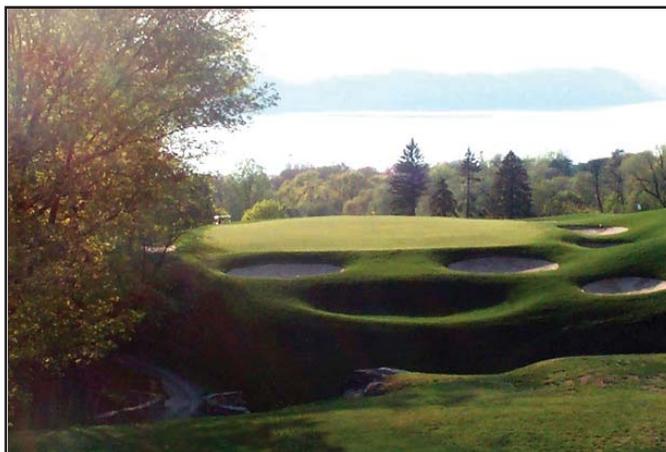
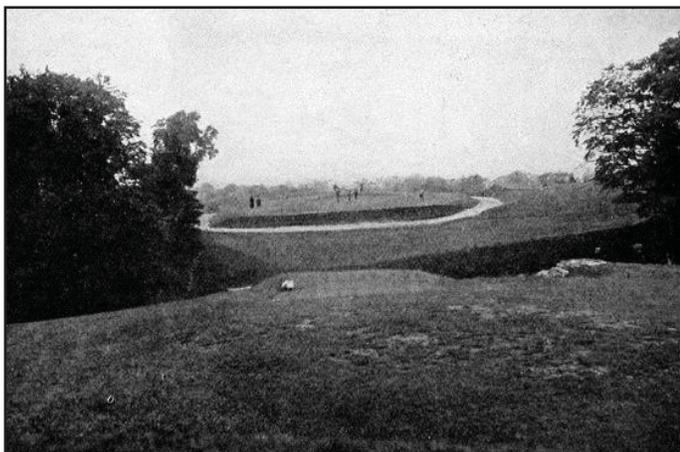
As you can see on the previous page, Macdonald used Brancaster as his template, even to the point of adding wooden “sleeper walls” on the faces of the bunkers. From a playing standpoint, CMB wanted to test the player’s short iron ability - but not with a small green on a short hole. Rather, he built a huge green with many different sections. Here’s what the hole looks like today at National.



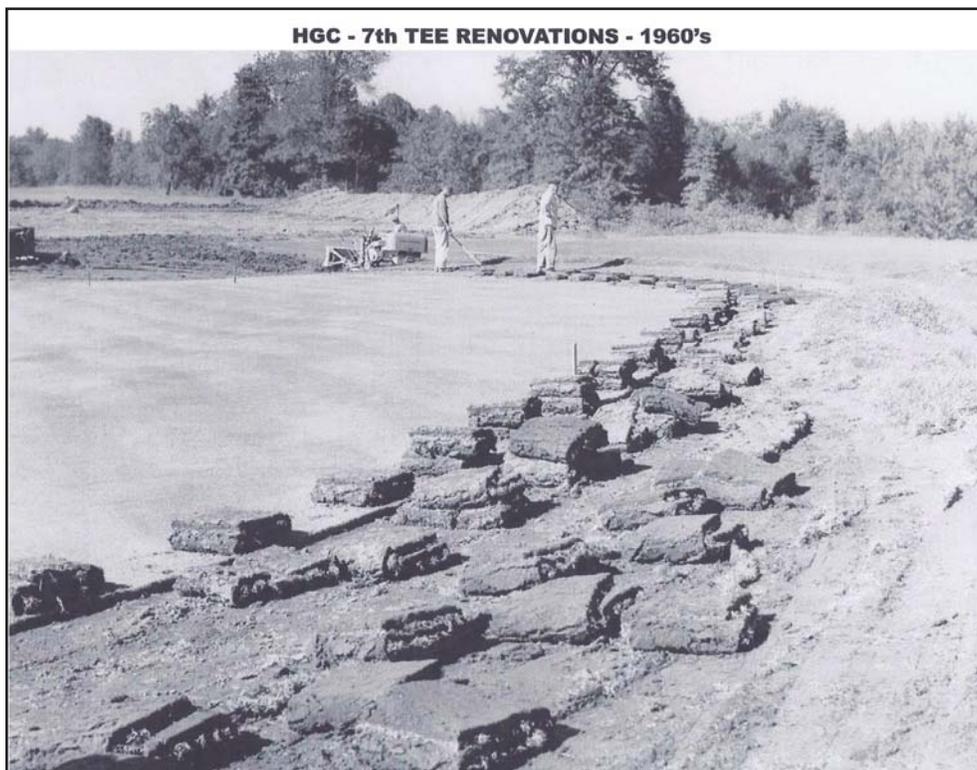
Raynor and Banks built similar holes and these are almost always among the most visually stimulating approach shots on their courses. Here is Raynor’s version of a Short Hole at Fishers Island.



Macdonald used the Hudson River as a backdrop at Sleepy Hollow below. Here is the hole that Macdonald built, a subsequent alteration and most recently, a restoration of the hole to its original intent.



As with many things, tastes regarding golf course architecture changed over the years. HGC created a Modernization Committee in 1960 and the hole was dramatically altered by William Gordon. The back bunker was removed and the putting surface was greatly reduced in size. Here is a photo of that work being done. Sadly, you can see the green sod being rolled up.



We think you'll enjoy playing our restored 6th hole and hope you appreciate knowing a little more about its historical ties to one of the greatest golf course architects of all time, Charles Blair Macdonald.

