

## Architect, A.W. Tillinghast



A.W. Tillinghast, also known as "Tillie", was a leading figure in shaping golf's first 50 years in America. He considered himself to be the "Dean of American Golf Course Architects". His design principals formed the foundation for the development of the modern golf course and fueled the growth in popularity of the sport in North America. Some of his golf courses are Baltusrol, Quaker Ridge, San Francisco, Somerset Hills and Winged Foot, to name a few.

For the first 30 years of his life, he engaged in a variety of activities of the well bred, one of which was golf. He frequently traveled to St. Andrews to take lessons from the old great Tom Morris and competed with moderate success in the U.S. Amateur between 1905 and 1915.

In 1907, he laid out his first course, Shawnee-on-Delaware, in Pennsylvania, at the request of a wealthy family friend. Tillie had found his calling and with great pop and panache, laid out and detailed magnificent golf courses during golf's golden age of the 1920's.

Tillie was a prolific writer and speaker and for a time served as the editor of Golf Illustrated magazine. The depression destroyed his chance to create more golf courses and he died in poverty in his daughter's home in Toledo Ohio.

While many of Tillinghast's courses disappeared entirely during the depression or have been severely altered by time, others remain so well distinguished that they are treasures of the game. Tillie's intentions were clearly known as he spoke and wrote his feelings about design. Tillie knew every hole must be unique, yet remain sound and rhythmic.

Golf courses cannot be designed by committee. Tillie's eccentric behavior and bombastic way with the wealthy allowed his true talent to shine through. Most of his holes are gorgeously balanced, beautifully bunkered, and yet blended into the whole of the golf course. Tillie's work is to be studied and treasured. To summarize, Tillie wrote,

***"Produce something which will provide a true test of the game, and then consider every conceivable way to make it as beautiful as possible."***

**Berkshire Hills C.C. is the only course in Massachusetts to be designed and built by A.W. Tillinghast. We at Berkshire Hills C.C. truly appreciate the work and the beauty of his design.**

[reference: Golfweb Library & "The Course Beautiful" by A.W. Tillinghast]