



William Flynn – The “Nature Faker”

The talent of Flynn was his willingness to let the natural contour of the land he was presented dictate his hole design, especially the areas around the greens. He once wrote, “To create interesting playing situations, a hole layout should be designed to fit the particular ground on which it lies.”

As a naturalist in his approach to golf architecture, William Flynn routed his golf courses to use as much of the natural features on hand as possible. There is no better example of this approach than EMCC. As Morrison further described, “Long before giant bulldozers and bigger budgets allowed the moving of great quantities of earth to shape the land to the architect's vision, Flynn envisioned what nature provided. When he needed to create strategy or simply provide drainage, he did so in a way that mimicked nature. Studying a Flynn course requires careful consideration because unlike many early architects, Flynn tried to hide much of his work, especially in the mid-bodies of holes, by making his architectural constructs appear natural.”



18th tee, Eagles Mere CC

William Flynn was a talented golf architect who designed a course to challenge all aspect of a golfer's game regardless of their skill level. Flynn suggested, “The principal consideration of the architect is to design his course in such a way as to hold the interest of the player from the first tee to the last green and to present the problems of the various holes in such a way that they register in the player's mind as he stands on the tee or on the fairway for the shot to the green.” He continues, “... the Architect's job is to provide eighteen distinctly different problems or types of holes insofar as it is possible to do so. Problems that hold the interest of the player that offer an incentive and provide a reward for his best golf whether he be the low handicap man or the one who shoots well over a hundred.”

