



A-Ga-Ming and “Chick” Harbert

By Art McCafferty

By happenstance, I have probably golfed the “Harbert” or now Torch course at A-Ga-Ming more than any other course in the North. Mike Terrell, one of our GLSP stringers and a long time scribe from the area, was also the son-in-

Photo: A-Ga-Ming Hole No. 1.

law of owner Bill Siebenthaller. Siebenthaller decided to take the course from nine to 18 and brought in his long time friend and 1954 PGA Champion Chick Harbert. Harbert helped to determine the rerouting of the original nine and to draft plans for the additional nine. They opened up the new 18 in the late 80's, built a new clubhouse and waited for the golfers to come.

The golfers found an unusual course. Hole Number 1, converted from a par 3, was a severe dog leg right over a pond. This was a tough way to start a round and caused backup on the tee. (The hole will revert to a par 3 again next year.) Then there was Hole Number 2 with the chasm and Hole Number 3 with a severe dog leg left. It was kind of an “Amen Corner” start.

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While I had the opportunity to play with Harbert, I was a little too intimidated to talk to him about the auspicious start of his course. Now I wonder if, perhaps, those holes were designed by the original owner Roy Wetmore. Wetmore constructed the front with a great deal of sweat and cheap kid labor. After those “interesting” three holes, the course eased up and became more enjoyable.

Harbert is now joined by Jerry Matthews and Matthews’ latest, Sundance. First of all, what a great name. Sundance fits right in with the breath-taking views you find a A-Ga-Ming. The course is maturing nicely, and will be

Photo: Michigan Golfer archives



Chick Harbert (left) is pictured here with *Michigan Golfer's* former editor, Terry Moore.



Photo by Art McCafferty

Sundance, Hole Number 3

joined by a new clubhouse this year. The course has room for a

Also, the old clubhouse will be renovated and used as both a

hole and give the area a little more room on top. The clubhouse area

Sundance fits right in with the breath-taking views you find at A-Ga-Ming.

variety of good and bad shots and enormous vistas against which to view those shots..

wedding staging area and small conference center. The old driving range will become part of the 1st

features a new driving range. All of this is set for a Spring '08 opening. *MG*



Photo by Art McCafferty

Sundance, Hole Number 1