

## The Joe Kirkwood Jr Golf Center

by john jones

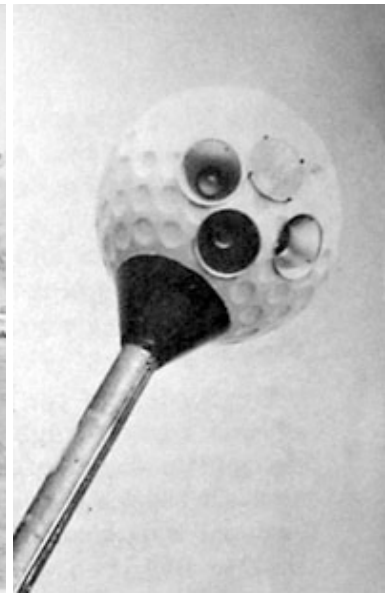
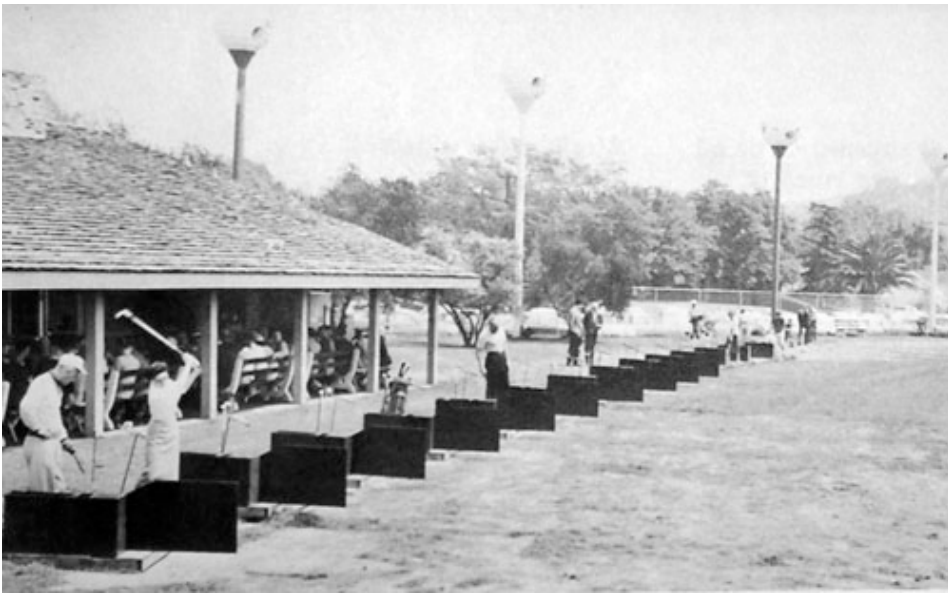


The **Joe Kirkwood Jr Golf Center** opened on New Years Day 1956. **Joe Kirkwood Jr** was the son of Australian professional golf legend and trick shot pioneer, **Joe Kirkwood**, who travelled the world in the 1920's and 30's with Walter Hagen, promoting the game of golf through exhibitions and Kirkwood's trick shot show.



Joe junior became a top professional golfer and motion picture actor, playing boxer [Joe Pulooka](#) in the movies and on television. He has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Joe and his father were the first Father and Son to make the cut at the U.S. Open in 1948.



The range and it's novel lighting design.

The Joe Kirkwood Jr Golf Center was praised for it's parking spaces, with their lane markings, which were important factors in the "successful operation of a modern golf driving range". Another highlight were the special lights.



These sheltered vending machines, used to be at the far south end of the tee line.



The adjoining 1704 Yard golf course opened a few months later on May 13, 1956, with a celebrity golf tournament for the benefit of the Women's Adoption International Fund (WAIF's).

Maurie Luxford, manager of the Crosby tournaments and head of the City of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation department, organized the opening exhibition, featuring Mickey Rooney, Phil Harris, Bob Hope, Gordon MacRae, Adolph Menjou, Dennis Morgan, Dennis O'Keefe, General Omar Bradley, Jim McLarnin and Hoagy Carmichael.

All the receipts from the tournament were used to find homes for orphaned children whose parents were lost in wartime.

The original course featured small scale reproductions of famous holes from courses around the world.

In the early years the course was even used for Pro-Am's with Tommy Bolt winning the first one in 1957.

**COFFEE SHOP OPEN 8AM-10PM**  
**BREAKFAST LUNCH DINNER**  
**SPECIAL STEAKS**  
**APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR**  
**MEMBERSHIP IN**  
**THE JOE KIRKWOOD JR GOLF CLUB**

HOLE	DESIGNED AFTER -	YDS
1ST	13TH HURONA JAPAN	150
2	5TH AUGUSTA MASTERS	229
3	14TH QUEENS COURSE SCOTLAND	91
4	2ND ST LOUIS C CLUB	219
5	3RD AUGUSTA MASTERS	310
6	8TH AUGUSTA MASTERS	291
7	7TH ROYAL SYDNEY AUSTRALIA	125
8	5TH SEA ISLAND GEORGIA	149
9	18TH TAM O SHANTER CHICAGO	140

**Joe Kirkwood Jr Golf Center**  
**Hole Routing**  
**1956**

Hole #1 is a copy of the par 3, 13th at HIRONA Golf Club in Kobe, Japan, designed by Alison & Colt (1930)

Hole #2 is the uphill par 4, Magnolia, from Augusta National, designed by MacKenzie (1933)

Hole #3 is Witches Bowster, a par 3, at Gleneagles hotel, Queens Course, Scotland, designed by Braid & Hutchison

Hole #4 is from the St Louis Country Club, designed by C.B.MacDonald (1914)

Hole #5 is the par 4, Flowering Peach, from Augusta National, designed by MacKenzie (1933)

Hole #6 is the par 5, Yellow Jasmine, from Augusta National, designed by MacKenzie (1933)

Hole #7 is the par 5 at Royal Sydney, Australia, modified by MacKenzie (1926)

Hole #8 is from the Sea Island Golf Club, Georgia, designed by Alison & Colt (1928)

Hole #9 from the Tam-O-Shanter in Chicago, designed by C.D. Wagstaff (1937).

Below is a shot of the 9th hole.



An artists drawing of the complete park.



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