Fourth green at Wickenburg, where watering system and smart turf management has made the desert bloom with a fine course.

Golf Now in the Dude Ranch Capital, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Up to recently there were two sets of golf clubs among the 100 residents of Wickenburg, Ariz. Now this area which is a great resort center famed for its dude ranches, probably is the world's fastest growing spot of local golf interest. Play has begun on the first 9 of what eventually is to be an 18-hole course and resorters and local residents are giving the new course a great play.

The course was designed by Billy Bell and was built by Joe Sanders. Joe stays on the job as supt., with Jules Platte as mgr.-pro. Platte is pro at Knollwood CC (Chicago dist.) in the summer. The greens and fairways are in amazingly good condition for a new course and represent an achievement in which modern golf course building, turf science and practical greenkeeping have converted rough, practically desert country into a well-groomed green turf area with interesting contours. Considerable money had to be spent in fencing the course as the grass attracts hungry live stock from many miles.

Chuck Everett of the Triangle V ranch donated the land on which the course has been constructed, in getting under way the move to extend the variety of resort entertainment in the area. About $60,000 has been spent in constructing the course and an excellent, complete watering system. Construction was begun last July 5 by Sanders and the seaside bent greens were in and the rye fairways growing in good shape early in January this year. Sanders, a veteran with considerable successful experience in course maintenance in Iowa and Illinois, tells of coming onto the Wickenburg site in July and wondering what all the bridges were for in the desert. When flash floods came and washed out his second green twice, he learned. Joe also learned that a crew of 15 men and two bulldozers can get a lot of construction work done during the Arizona summer with 115 temperature and the only shade being that supplied by cactus plants.

Ground needed a lot of hand raking. Three hundred pounds per acre of ammonium sulphate was worked in. Rye was sowed at the rate of 350 pounds per acre.

This year Bermuda will be planted. When course construction was proceeding Joe says the force had big galleries of gals which "are cutest damn things but nice to play with," some rattlesnakes, scorpions, pretty lizards, jack rabbits big as coyotes and coyotes big as ponies. But when the course got in and the place was manicured and civilized-looking all the wild life vanished. Their absence won't be at all
lamented by the golfers but Joe says he will miss them and he's sorry Platte didn't get there to take a course in Wickenburg natural history.

They got plenty of water in a 300 ft. well. They've got about six miles of pipe in their watering system, 475 sprinkler heads, and Buckner equipment. The entire property is 170 acre piece and the way play has started under Platte's direction and encouragement the golf course is proving a boost to the ranch vacation business. Wickenburg has a number of notable establishments of the dude ranch type. Altitude is 2250 and winter climate is balmy most of the time.

A clubhouse and a fine pro shop for Platte are being constructed. The job that's been done in building a very attractive, finely turfed course on the apparently un-promising land for golf around Wickenburg indicates that with good men and water a good golf course can be installed almost anywhere.

STEERS THE DRIVE

Art Hall's Victory Hill fee course is made easy to find by this attractive sign in colors, located where the road to Victory Hills joins the main traffic artery out of Kansas City, Ks. The sign always is kept in bright condition. That's a tip to other fee course operators whose signs often are battered and have faded paint. Possible customers, seeing such signs, may think the courses also are run-down.

WESTERN JUNIOR AT NOTRE DAME

Golf's oldest teen-age competition—the Western Golf Association's Junior Championship—will have its 33rd renewal this summer at the University of Notre Dame June 20-23. Dean Lind, Rockford (Ill.) youth who won the title last year will be attempting to retain his crown in the face of a tradition that has seen only two players win in successive years. Ben Downing of Louisiana State won in 1940 and repeated in 1941 and Fred Haas, Jr., turned the trick in 1934 and 1935.