I've been in golf for more than 30 years, first as a caddie, then as a supt. and for about the last 10 years as course owner-operator. At one time I was supt. of two courses, simultaneously, which gave me only one ambition — I wanted to be in charge at a nice private club where I wouldn't have to knock myself out trying to take care of 36 golf holes. But the opportunity didn't come along and so I ended up building a course.

This was back in 1940. I worked 10 hours a day then or a municipal bus night run and spent the daylight hours constructing a course on a parcel of wooded land which I purchased that year. "Two-job Yesberger" is what they called me back in those crowded days.

I built the course alone. I was architect, contractor, head tractor driver, green builder and everything else. It took me eight long years, partly because I was working on the project during World War II and there were numerous interruptions. You remember Winston Churchill's famous "blood, sweat and tears," statement back in the war days. I got a first-hand idea of what he was driving at, but finally on Memorial Day, 1948, I opened the gates and first golfer played North Olmsted.

I designed the course not with a championship layout in mind but with the idea of providing a short, interesting public golf operation. North Olmsted is 2700 yards long with two par 3 holes and 7 par 4s adding up to a 34.

Here are some of its maintenance and operation features in which I think other owners and would-be builders of 9-hole courses may be interested:

Irrigation: The drainage system empties into a creek that cuts through the center of the course. This is extremely convenient because it does away with large mains running the length of our 60 acres. I used the creek for an irrigation source through
determine which one of three measured
through the band method so as to
a year and in fertilizing, vary the applica-
signal for fertilizing, I get a soil test once
think the appearance of clover, etc. is the
Time of the year, moisture, temperature
are of C-19, cut from 1/4 to 5/16. I used
and traffic wear are my guides. My greens
need regular replenishments of
topdressing because I am convinced that
weather gives it proper ageing. I favor
snap the sprinkler heads so as not to apply
an overdose. Normally three times as much
fungicide is applied as goes into the aver-
age treatment but I certainly have no
argument with the results, not only from
a cost but an artistic standpoint.

When I installed the irrigation system,
took photos of all connections and junc-
tions, marked pipe sizes and filed them
away for future reference.

Aerification: My program on this may
not be considered orthodox, but we aerify
greens in the winter. My theory: the right
time for aerifying is when the ground is
relatively dry and not frozen. Each green
is aerified from two to four times, plugs
are left out to weather and in the spring
only small tufts of turf are left on the
green surface. The greens are then verti-
cut. After two mowings the greens are in
excellent shape.

Topdressing: I mix enough topdressing
for several seasons and re-work it every
year. I feel that keeping it out in the
weather gives it proper ageing. I favor
topdressing because I am convinced that
greens need regular replenishments of
new soil and bacteria. This winter I plan
to experiment by applying a layer of dres-
sing over some aerified greens.

Fertilization: I depend on observation
to determine when it is time to fertilize.
Time of the year, moisture, temperature
and traffic wear are my guides. My greens
are of C-19, cut from 1/4 to 5/16. I used
to cut to 3/16 but this slowed up play. I
think the appearance of clover, etc. is the
signal for fertilizing. I get a soil test once
a year and in fertilizing, vary the applica-
tions through the band method so as to
determine which one of three measured
applications is best for the greens.

Tees, Fairways, Roughs: Tees are top-
dressed, fertilized and seeded with Astoria
bent twice a year. Markers are moved
ahead of tees for about two days a week
to encourage recovery. On fairways (10
per cent Colonial bent, 40 per cent Ken-
tucky blue and 50 per cent creeping red)
I fertilize in the fall and spot fertilize in
the spring. A light 2-4-D treatment is
made in the spring shortly before dande-
lion time. Then follows a 2-4-D and 2-4-5-
T mixture treatment in about 10 days.
Fairway turf gives me little trouble prob-
ably because drainage is good. I keep
roughs slightly higher than fairway height
for reasons of beauty. The contrast makes
the fairways stand out.

Appearance: I'm extremely fussy about
the appearance of North Olmsted. I think
more public course owners should feel
that way because it gives our particular
operation a better reputation among gol-
fers. I shudder when I see broken flag
poles, ill-kept flags, broken benches, dirty
markers, filthy water fountains, traps over-
grown with weeds, etc., etc., etc. Regard-
less of how you feel about it, appearance
makes or breaks a course. I paint all
course equipment or furniture once a year
and keep trees, bushes and hedges trim-
med. In recent years I have gone in for
planting flowers and the golfers, especial-
ly women, have been very generous in
commenting on how this improves things.

Operation: I have an Intercom with a
master station located in my home, which
is on the course, and three sub-stations in
clubhouse, office and maintenance build-
ing. A P.A. system also is installed in the
clubhouse. The two save millions of steps
a year and enable us to give superior
service to players. One person can run
the first tee from the clubhouse with the P.A.
system. A mike on the patio at the first
tee is also a big help in getting players
started. No person is allowed on the course
without a ticket and children under 12
and spectators are barred because a line
has to be drawn somewhere to protect the
owner and the players.

We have gone all out to promote golf
associations in our neighborhood. Leagues
are encouraged. So successful have we
been in these activities that, for example,
200 women play on week-day mornings.

Our clubhouse, small and compact, is
located near the No. 1 tee. Being in this
location, it enables us to operate the course
with minimum help. We have three full
time and two part time (including a pro)
employees in addition to my wife and me.