ally, he schedules 4-5 aerations of the greens each year.

Desert Inn presents still another problem which doesn't exactly involve the playing areas. It is trees. Southern Nevada is not a big forest area, but the Club boasts some of the oldest trees in the state. The olive trees are estimated to be up to 100 years old. There are also elms, cottonwoods, Arizona cypress and ash, and weeping willows. Connally maintains them with the same thoroughness that he attends to the greens and fairways. They are hydrosapped with liquid fertilizer each spring and fall. Once a year, professional tree surgeons come to prune and trim the trees. They add to the beauty—and hazards—of the course.

Connally's 20-man maintenance crew work round the clock. Mowing is done at dawn. Aerifying, watering, topdressing are accomplished while the guests are asleep, or at the gaming tables. After all, Las Vegas is a 24-hour town. Only the golfers wait until daylight. So the work on the course has to be done when course traffic is light.

Despite his year-around battle with the climate and the crowds, Jim Connally maintains a keen sense of humor about the things that go on around him.

One of his favorite stories involves a player who walked into the maintenance yard and asked for a ladder.

"Why a ladder?" asked Connally.

"I blew a shot on the 17th fairway, right under that big cottonwood tree" said the golfer. "I got so mad I threw the club up in the air. It stuck in a branch. I threw one, and then another club up to get the first one back, and they stuck. I'd leave the clubs and give up this game . . . except that clubs are rented. I have to get them back to the pro shop."

Connally found a ladder.

One time, owner Howard Hughes stopped by the Desert Inn just before a major tournament. Several television relay towers had been erected. "What are those?" demanded Mr. Hughes. Their purpose was explained. "Take them down. They spoil the beauty of the course," was the order. It took fast teamwork to remove the towers and lay ground cables overnight to get the game on the air.

It is all in a day's work for Jim Connally. And while others gamble fortunes, he invests in sound maintenance programs that pay off handsomely in quality turf at Desert Inn. For Connally has found that even in Las Vegas, you can't gamble with turf.