

TEE SHOTS

A new star has arisen on the golf architectural horizon in California. 14 year old Woody Richardson has started the world's first magazine devoted to golf course architecture. Vol. No. 1.01 appeared in December.

To give you an impression both of Woody and a glimpse of the future, we reprint his front page article. We wish him all success and look forward to seeing results when he finally takes up the job.

"McCormick Ranch

Nestled between the gentle slopes of Scottsdale, Ariz., is a Kaiser Aetna development; McCormick Ranch. And within that development are 2 championship golf courses which are challenging every player who plays them.

The golf course architect is Desmond Muirhead and along with his usual unusual tees, greens, lakes, and fairways, a new idea has been introduced; TransGlide Co., a division of Dahlberg Industries has designed a system that will move players around the golf course on a track. The principle is somewhat like that of a top slot car track, but in this case the players will be able to operate the 'cart'.

The 'carts' will look similar to a regular electric golf cart, as they

move on a 2" wide track. They will run down the middle of the fairway connecting tees with greens, and greens with tees. The 'carts' will operate on 220 volts, this will come directly from the track, thus enabling possible heaters, coolers, ball warmers, and more. The possibility of the golf ball hitting, falling into, or obstructed by the track is "O", a zipper-like network of flaps will open as the 'cart' moves along the track, and drop as it continues on.

A trial system will be installed soon at McCormick Ranch. It will be just North-east of the Palms Course on the Pines Course.

For more information we suggest you contact :

Mr. Ron Jashowski; TransGlide Co.,
14601 North Scottsdale Road,
Scottsdale, Arizona 85253"

(With grateful acknowledgements to "The Golf Designer")

Work is now proceeding on the new Birmingham Municipal Golf Course and Sports Centre at Hilltop. The site lies alongside the Handsworth Golf Club where the President is also our President and Vic Smith, a well-known Midland member, has charge of the course. Vic has been an Honorary Member of his club for some years now.

It looks as though restrictions on Government spending via Local Authorities is bound to hit new golf course building. Greenkeepers can look forward to crowded courses and difficult maintenance conditions for some years to come. Happy New Year.

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