

Had our Big John Ebel been a great hunter in the year AD 1290 and resided in Apartment 1-13 on the first floor of Betatakin (Navajo for hillside house) at the head of Tsegi Canyon which I visited a day later, he would probably have hung a sign on the ladder which gave access through the roof into his 6x10 room meaning the same thing as last November—Gone Hunting. But this time the conditions would have been for different reasons. As the streams dried up and the rains did not come to fill even the desert pot holes, the game had migrated elsewhere or died. The seed of his corn, beans and squash hadn't germinated last spring. Times were indeed desperate. Long ago the domesticated turkeys and dogs had been killed for food. Yes, John had gone hunting—never to return to apartment 1-13 for he and the few remaining cliff dwellers were abandoning their homes because of the Great Drouth.

Warren Bidwell, President

Next Month: **A Look Behind The Turquoise Curtain**



GENE CONWAY

NEW COURSES IN THE CHICAGO AREA

This is a continuation of a series of articles started last year about new courses that have recently been built in the Chicago area. This month we are describing the new and beautiful Signal Point Club in Niles, Michigan.

Signal Point is unique in its design and construction. It is a regulation 18 hole course with only nine greens. The architect was Robert Bruce Harris of Chicago. There are 18 tees of enormous size; two per green. The object is to play the first nine holes from one set of tees and then play the same nine holes from a different set of tees. This allows you to vary the length of the hole as well as varying the approach angle to many of the holes. As an example the second hole which is also the eleventh hole is 535 yards the first time you play it and the second time the yardage is 475 yards. The fifth hole and 14th hole is 420 yards the first time you play it but it becomes 335 yards the second time around. Total yardage for the 18 holes is 6295, Par 72.

The course is just south of Niles along the St. Joseph River. The terrain is rolling and the landscape is wooded. While visiting the course I had the honor of playing with Gene Conway, the General Manager. He was originally at the Elks Country Club in Ft. Wayne; Indiana before coming to Michigan. He is a member of our Profession and Association.

The Club has a very small limited membership. The Clubhouse is very rustic and beautiful. The operation is somewhat of a family affair. Mrs. Conway and her two sons also work at the Club. They work in all areas of the operation.

If you want to see a course where all the greens have been built to strict USGA specifications then you should visit Signal Point. The turf selected for the putting greens was C 15. The fairways are a mixture of several Bluegrasses and some fescues.

Gene is appearing on the USGA Program in Detroit, Michigan, on March 25, 1964 to discuss the construction and maintenance of these greens. This should be a must for any Superintendent contemplating the construction of such greens.

WOODRIDGE GOLF CLUB

We at Woodridge felt the need of a change of location for our No. 6 Green on the Woodland Course. It was to the right of No. 7 Fairway about 30 feet and 100 yards from the No. 7 tee, and all too often a slice off the tee would put the ball on, over or near the No. 6 Green.

It was decided to place the new green up near the seventh tee. We drew up the plan for a six thousand square foot green with two sand traps. The length of the hole had to be sacrificed nine yards from 184 yards to 175 yards, but it was from a down hill shot to an up hill one now. We had to move a nursery of red and white pines 4½ to 5 feet in height, of which we made plantings in various places on the course.

We moved all Kentucky Blue Grass sod worth moving off the green site and later used it on the fairway. A D-7 Caterpillar was employed one day to push off and pile all top soil and then moved about 30 inches of the fairway hill to the green sites for rough grade. We then rented a ¾ yard bucket John Deere crawler to move back the top soil and shape traps and banks. The rest of the grading and leveling was done with our 800 Ford Tractor equipped with a half-yard bucket. We had to haul in 190 yards of top soil to get a 4 inch finish grade on the banks. Soil mixture for the green was made up of two parts top soil, one part humus and one part sand. Approximately 180 yards were mixed off-site and hauled in for the green area. Then 20 more yards were hauled in for the collar area, and 6250 lbs. of calcined clay was disked in the top six inches. A good fertilizer mixture, 200 lbs., including some urea-form nitrogen was rototilled in to a depth of four to five inches.

We cut C-15 bent from our nursery and bought 240 yards Merion Bluegrass for a six foot border around the green. The banks and fairway were sodded with Kentucky Bluegrass, from our grounds. We just finished hauling in and leveling twenty-one yards of No. 1 & 2 Torpedo sand and expect to top it with another 21 yards of No. 1 Torpedo for the upper two to three inches.