



Russellville's clubhouse is a colorful combination of gray native stone, white woodwork and red composition shingles

Russellville Members Proud of Their \$16,000 Clubhouse

By R. E. LIVINGSTON

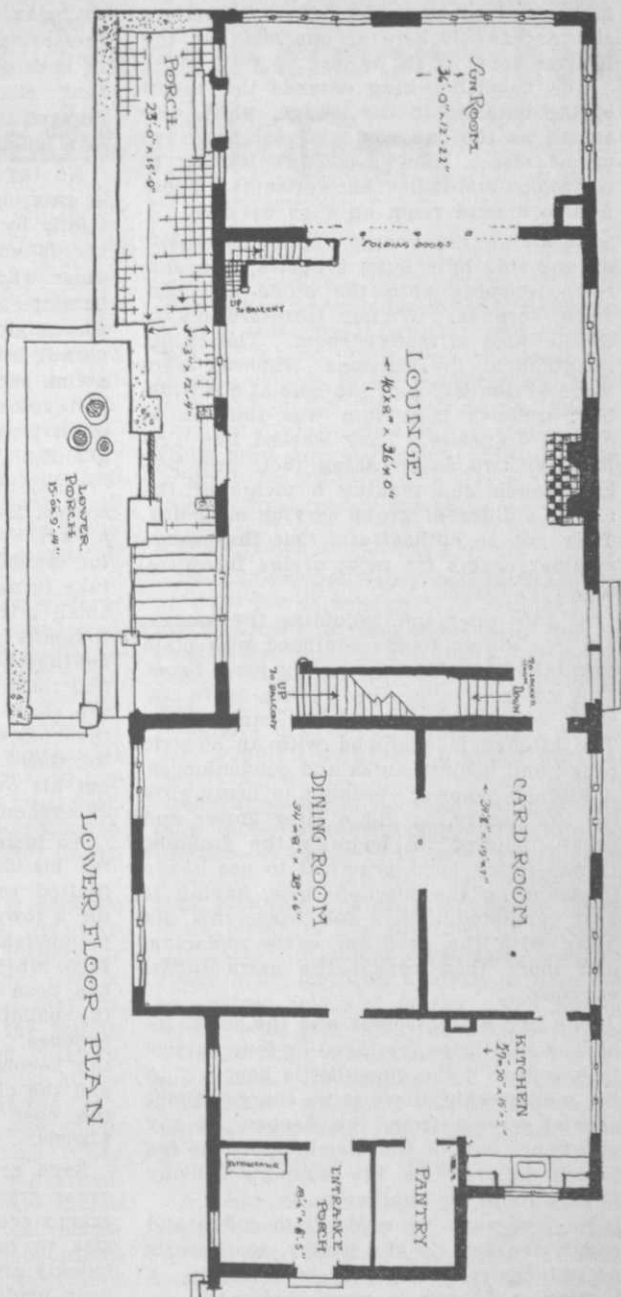
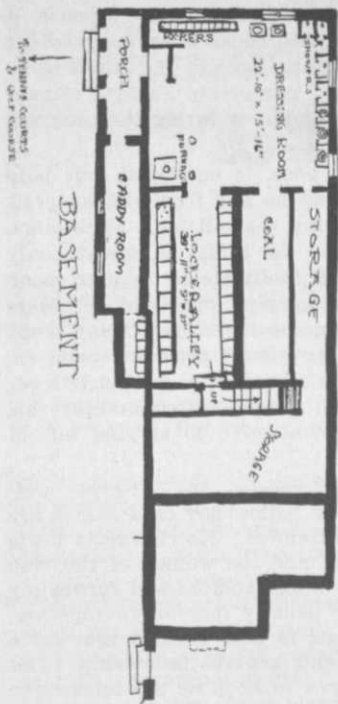
JUST FIVE MILES from the little town of Russellville, Arkansas, stands one of the most beautiful golf courses in the entire South, the Russellville Country Club. Many a tourist, speeding along the highway, has slowed down when he spied the attractive layout, and has driven in to play a round of golf, which he was welcome to do without green-fees, providing he could show a membership card in any other club.

When the club was founded, the grounds were an abandoned hill-side farm, covered with all native pine, scrub oak, persimmon sprouts and scraggy fruit-trees. The soil is yellow clay and a gully running through made it wash badly for farming. So it was bought at a very low figure, and a young banker visualized how beautiful a clubhouse would be, set on the side of the hill. More than this, his practical eye saw that there was more than enough

native stone rolling around in the way to build the house.

When this was pointed out to the residents of Russellville they could see it, too; so the club organized and construction began with enthusiasm. The gully was bridged in a few places for a water hazard, and the washes furnished the rough. It was a small task to roll and cut down a few spots and plant a little more grass. A one-way road wound around the clubhouse site, and at one side it required but little excavating and leveling to form a splendid tennis court. In a little grove near-by Dutch ovens were built of stone, and rough tables and benches erected for picnic meals; higher on the hill, there are more of these, for those who wish to reduce by climbing.

At present, the course is nine holes in length, but there is enough land to extend it to eighteen holes whenever desired. The



Plenty of lounging room, lots of windows, and compact arrangement characterize the Russellville layout. The sketch is not to scale.

location is close enough to town that a member may leave his business and drive out in ten minutes over a splendid highway. City light and power-lines run close by, so the cost of water and lights is negligible, and this is quite an item to consider in building a clubhouse. Individual plants are a nuisance to keep in repair,

when subjected to uncontrolled public use. The inside of the house is finished in pine stained to a dull oak finish, with light oak floors in all except the kitchen. The total cost of the building was less than \$16,000 five years ago, so it would approximate that amount now in a city, or might even be a bit cheaper. It stands two stories

high. A deep basement houses the men's showers and lockers at one end and the furnace room at the other.

The beamed ceiling extends the height of the building in the lounge, which also serves as the ballroom. A stairway runs up at either end to balcony leading to restrooms and ladies' shower-baths. There is also a card room on each balcony.

Adjoining the lounge, which is broken on one side by a huge fireplace, is a sun-room, opening onto the stone and concrete veranda. Wicker furniture makes this a most attractive room. The chintz hangings at the casement windows were made by the ladies of the club at a sewing-bee; quite a neat sum was thus saved on the draperies. They worked like Trojans for two days, taking their own pot-luck lunch and making a picnic of the affair, a different group serving each day. They got so enthusiastic that they made summer covers for most of the furniture, too.

At the other end, adjoining the lounge, are two dining rooms equipped with plain oak tables made to order by local firms. The chairs are of the folding opera variety, so as to serve also for card-parties. The kitchen is equipped with an electric range and modern sinks and conveniences. A kitchen "shower" brought in many gifts for the pantry, as did a later flower and shrub "shower" to beautify the grounds. It was found most practical to use heavy linoleum on the kitchen floor, having it first cemented onto a felt base; this did away with the need for early replacing, and more than repaid the extra initial expense.

The two dining rooms and the sun-room offer possibilities for three or four parties in one day; if the guest-list is kept within the membership, there is no charge except special service from the keeper. If any guests are outside the membership, the fee is ten dollars. On the women's balcony is also room for another party.

No food supplies, aside from coffee and sugar, are kept in the pantry, so there is no inducement for tramps to break in. A bottle-drink stand—a mere shelter—is operated by a local boy during the summer season. Russellville believes with a small club of this type, situated within a few miles of town, it is a matter of economy not to maintain a chef in the house when the keeper and his family can prepare special dinners upon demand at reasonable fees. Most members, it has been found, prefer

to bring their own food and prepare it themselves; wall sockets are convenient in both dining rooms and the kitchen, so that electric percolator may remain plugged to receptacles during the progress of a luncheon.

No regular cook is employed, but help in catering may be had from the keeper's family by paying a small fee. Each member is entitled to bring as guests only those who are ineligible to regular membership—thus keeping out local residents who might become members. Many clubs permit bringing guests promiscuously, enabling persons to enjoy the club privileges quite often on friends' membership; this often proves conducive to staying out of a club.

Out-of-town guests are always welcomed, and the ladies' day card games are always well attended. No charge is made for the games, and the women of the club take turns in being hostess and furnishing small prizes; usually four serve together. A family picnic is held twice a year for a get-together and general fellowship affair and these serve to keep up the interest in the club. Cost of the "eats" is borne by the club treasury. No larder is provided for those who entertain, each one taking out his own supplies, but having the use of kitchen and dining room free of charge.

No member is allowed to sell or transfer his membership, and the number is limited to 150 members—quite adequate for a town of 6,000. The fee is \$150 per membership, having been raised from \$125, which was found inadequate. This has been ample to pay out the loan on the building, and take care of overhead expense. The total property, 80 acres and the keeper's five-room cottage, the barns and the clubhouse are valued at \$30,000—the cost of all buildings being nearly \$19,000.

Sand greens are used in preference to grass greens, for in the South good turf greens are too expensive for a club of this size to maintain. The oiled sand dries quickly after rains. Twice the course has been made in 35, but it is seldom parred. The whole course is one of the show-places of Pope county, and is a lasting demonstration of what can be done with a very poor hillside farm-site.

The usual tournaments are held with clubs of nearby towns, and in winter a number of invitation dances are given, but the place is never rented for any occasion.