



One-shot greens of design that would be intriguing on a championship course, make the illuminated establishment one that is not a freak playground. This view shows the first green, taken from halfway down the fairway. Note evenness of illumination all over the course.

Fine Par Three Holes Make Lighted Course Draw

By HERB GRAFFIS

ILLUMINATED NIGHT play, the feature that has restored minor league baseball to the money-making class by making possible the patronage of the multitudes who take jabs at time clocks, has registered its most pronounced scientific success in the installation of the West Wilmette illuminated golf course. This nine-hole course, measuring 1,065 yards in length, is on Lake street three miles west of Wilmette and adjoins the Wilmette G. C. 18-hole full size course. Wilmette is about the center of the string of Chicago's north shore suburbs. In the territory handy to the West Wilmette illuminated establishment are 24 private, public and fee courses. Thus the site of the lighted course is strategically selected with respect to the player market.

The West Wilmette course has been in play for a month and although the greens are still on the bumpy side and the fairways are not in finished condition, due to late sowing, the course is in fairly good playable condition. Business to date has been very satisfactory with every promise that the play is on a steady basis without the element of novelty inflating the returns

beyond what might be expected as a routine income.

Greens, fairways and tees are stolons, with the tees already showing such signs of wear that sod boxes or some other tee surface, probably composition material, probably will be employed.

Design of the holes makes the course a real test of play rather than a freak proposition. The holes are smartly trapped and it takes deft and intelligent shooting to score. For that reason the play of the course is heaviest among the golfers who shoot reasonably good games. One of the problems in handling traffic at the course is the play of the dubs, but that is solving itself by the rates charged for play, the difficulty the dubs have with the course and the duffers' reluctance to reveal their games to their own embarrassment.

Lighting Is Engineering Feat

Although rather flat, the West Wilmette site is heavily wooded, and contending with the light and shadow factors for which the trees are responsible, gave the illuminating engineers plenty of grief.

Proposals have been made to the own-



Trees presented difficult problem in lighting of West Wilmette illuminated course but this picture shows how the job was handled so effectively that it's harder to lose a ball on this course by night than on the average course in daylight.

ers of the West Wilmette illuminated course, R. D. Cunningham and Joe Roseman, to make the establishment a private club. Those who have advanced this proposition are members of some of the private clubs in the adjacent territory who don't get enough chance to work down their golf fever during the day. To determine the wisdom of this change, the course owners are furnishing application cards for those who would be interested in joining a private club if 300 members can be secured. These prospective members are entitled to a privilege card for the balance of the 1931 season at the following rates:

Individual (with tax)	\$38.50
Self and wife (with tax)	55.00

Management of the course is exercising strict supervision over the character of play and promptly and expertly easing out any of the visitors who do not conduct themselves in accordance with the etiquette at the snootiest private club. That policy is promoting the private club atmosphere at the illuminated course.

An interesting and valuable by-product of the lighting is its advertising value. Enough of a glow diffuses above the course and out into the road fronting the site to attract the attention of people a considerable distance away.

Of course all holes on the course are par three, with the yardage of the holes running 150, 135, 95, 90, 75, 110, 140, 105, 165. The third, fourth and fifth holes are not handicapped. The six holes on which handicap strokes are given are in the fol-

lowing handicap order: ninth, first, seventh, second, sixth and eighth.

The guest book of the course shows an international registry. Many prominent golfers and golf course architects have made special trips from distant points to inspect the establishment.

One of the many attractive features of the place is a clubhouse with locker-room, club rental and refreshment counter and a roomy porch with tables for refreshment service.

There are 125 thousand-watt lamps supplying the lights for the course. These lamps are mounted on nine steel standards with the lowest battery of lights being 55 feet above the ground and the highest 75 feet. A special design of steel tower that is neat, compact and strong enough to withstand a gale of 120 miles an hour is used on the job. Specially designed mirror reflectors are used with each light. A transformer station that houses \$1,200 worth of electrical equipment is a feature of the installation. All electrical cable supplying the lighting towers is specially built and is installed underground. High location of the lights also helps to keep the bugs away from the players.

The course is kept in play all day with the lighting running from about 8:30 p. m. to 12:30 p. m. At the low rate of 2.1 cents a kilowatt an evening's lighting bill runs around \$20. Charges at the course are:

Week day, per round, 75 cents (day).
Week day, per round, \$1.00 (night).

Saturdays, Sundays and holidays (day and night), \$1.00.

No complaint has been registered against the charges and from the volume of play it seems that the customers agree that the charges are correct. Possibly one reason why the folks have put their O.K. on the prices is the thoughtful distribution of an explanatory card to all players registering at the course. Under the heading, "What would you charge?" some figures on the operation are given. The data run:

INVESTMENT

<i>Land value</i>	\$100,000.00
<i>Course construction</i>	10,000.00
<i>Bent grass</i>	2,000.00
<i>Electrical installation</i>	32,000.00
<i>House, equipment and hedge</i> ...	8,000.00
<i>Underground water system</i>	2,000.00
<i>Mowing equipment, etc.</i>	2,000.00
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	\$156,000.00

YEARLY MAINTENANCE

<i>Course labor and material</i>	\$ 10,000.00
<i>Electricity</i>	3,000.00
<i>Lamp replacements</i>	600.00
<i>House labor</i>	2,500.00
<i>Insurance and taxes</i>	1,200.00
<i>Water</i>	300.00
<i>4% interest on investment</i>	6,240.00
<i>10% depreciation on equipment</i> ..	4,260.00
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	\$ 28,100.00

<i>Maximum capacity players per hour</i> ...	36
<i>Possible players per day, average</i>	200
<i>Maximum number playing days</i>	150
<i>This course was built for golf players who wish to improve their "game" and lower their scores. It is not a cheap novelty amusement park.</i>	

Figures Show Big Field for Golf Competitive Events

RECENT SURVEY of municipal playground activities made by the National Recreation association reported 241,766 players in baseball teams competing in reported playground league games during 1930. A gross participation of 7,520,000 was recorded at the reporting municipal golf courses during the same period. Baseball was foremost in popularity among municipal league sports, with playground ball coming second. All sports reported showed an increase over 1929.

The figures necessarily were far short of indicating the vast use of municipal sport facilities due to the usual failure of municipalities to report. However, the

data show a field for more competitive events on the municipal golf course schedules. The baseball leagues indicate that league matches between various golf teams would contribute further zest to the use of the public courses.

Unfortunately many of the municipal golf courses do not have pro services although the cost of competent pro service, when shop concessions are granted, would not mean an expense to the community other than some nominal guarantee that would be fully warranted by the pro's work as a member of the staff of the municipal playground director. Get live pros on these municipal courses and tournament schedules will spring up in a way that is certain to give the tax-paying golfers more interest and pleasure from their pastiming.

In the majority of cases the municipal golf courses not only are self-supporting but return surpluses that may go for improvements or justify the removal of the public property from the tax lists. In some cases the surplus has served to rather speedily amortize the cost of the land and course construction costs. Just why golf should be the one municipal play activity expected to support itself is a question that has not been satisfactorily answered.

The National Recreation association has done excellent work in advancing municipal golf and it is to be hoped that the association will extend its efforts to see what substantial benefits a competent and active professional brings to a public course and its players. The association issues a helpful book on municipal golf course operation which may be secured by writing the organization at 315 Fourth avenue, New York City, and enclosing 50 cents.

U. S. G. A. Pushes Play by Rules with New Book

RULES of golf as approved by the R. & A. and amended by the U. S. G. A., together with special rules for various competitions and interpretations of the rules by the U. S. G. A. and R. & A. have been issued in 1931 form by the United States Golf Association, 110 E. 42nd St., New York. The booklet consists of 80 pages and a substantial cover and is bound in small size for convenient carrying in the pocket or golf bag. The price of the booklet in quantities of 1 to 25 is 10c each, with the prices scaled down to sell at 8½c each.