

## CHOOSING SITES

### New England Experience Shows Value of Soil Appraisal

**G**ALLERIES, players and press during the 1932 Women's National championship at Salem (Mass.) C. C. probably won't realize the fact, but they will be walking over a course that illustrates one of the lessons most golf club organizers still have to learn.

The lesson Salem teaches was profitably put to account in the construction of another New England course, Lake Sunapee, which is highly rated by the veteran golf writer of the Boston *Transcript*, Linde Fowler.

Edward J. Poor, who figured prominently in the official activities of both clubs, tells the tale and points the moral. Says Mr. Poor to GOLFDOM, in commenting on the unusual foresight Lake Sunapee showed in selecting its site from one of 7 offered locations:

"In 1925 and 1926 I served on the committee which built the Salem C. C. golf

course and clubhouse. In developing the project, 800 acres of land were purchased by the club before the golf architect, Donald Ross, was engaged. Although the site was convenient and the contours satisfactory, much of the land had to be cleared, swamps had to be drained, and after the work started, it developed that the land, although without ledges, was very rocky. Nearly 15 tons of dynamite were used in the construction, and the final result was that the 18-hole course cost about twice the estimate to build.

"As a result of this experience, when I went to work on the development of the Lake Sunapee C. C. 18-hole course, I strongly advised that a golf architect be engaged before the site was selected, and that in selecting the land for the course, convenience and accessibility of the location should not be made the major consideration. Although putting this plan into effect delayed the project somewhat, the final result was that the course was built in a very expeditious manner and the cost was very moderate because the site was deliberately selected to provide these ends.

"Seven sites were available and considered in connection with the Sunapee proj-



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ect. Some of these sites which were within 10 minutes by water or bus from the center of the vacation region which the golf course was being built to serve, were naturally strongly favored. The site finally selected, however, was perhaps the most inconvenient one from the standpoint of the average member, but there is little complaint now in regard to the inaccessibility because the members appreciate that a first class golf course with exceptionally fine turf and a very satisfactory clubhouse has been provided at a moderate expenditure and with a very low cost of upkeep. Although there is a substantial first mortgage on the property, the club is being operated, including interest, for less than \$25,000 a year.

"As the Lake Sunapee course is located in a sparsely settled country region, many more satisfactory low cost sites were available than would have been the case in a large city or built-up community. However, I believe that any golf venture would be better handled if the golf architect is engaged before the land for the course is selected, and given definite responsibilities in regard to the cost to build and the quality of course which will result."

## Three-Quarter Million Rounds on Chicago Muni Courses in '31

**M**UNICIPAL golf figures for the 1931 season in Chicago reveal 717,194 rounds of golf were played on the district's ten public park and forest preserve courses, eight of which are 18-hole and two 9-hole.

Lincoln Park led the parade with 119,750 rounds. Other courses returned figures as follows: Jackson Park (18-hole), 80,812 rounds; Jackson Park (9-hole), 73,903; Marquette Park, 79,889; Columbus Park, 76,752; Garfield Park, 54,201; Northwestern, 47,334; Edgebrook (18-hole), 74,671; Edgebrook (9-hole), 90,441; Palos Park, 19,441.

## SWANN TELLS OF TESTS OF NEW FERTILIZING METHODS

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