



Pleasant landscaping makes Temple clubhouse attractive

## Skill In Small Spending Brings Good Golf to Temple, Tex.

**T**EMPLE GOLF and Country club, located about a mile and a half from the business section of that thriving 15,000-inhabitant central Texas metropolis, is an interesting example of the economical way in which a club and course can be operated and at the same time satisfy the members. No little of the credit for this showing is due Temple's combination pro-greenkeeper, J. C. Jenkins, who somehow manages to keep the course in fine playing shape on the minimum budget. Jenkins has written GOLFDOM to tell some of his maintenance secrets. But first, before we pass them on to our readers, a description of the club and course is in order.

The club is some 35 years old, although the golf facilities have been available only for the past eleven seasons; prior to that time the Temple C. C. was a hunting and fishing club with 55 members. Forty-acre Lake Polk, reputedly one of the best fishing spots in Texas, lies entirely within the club grounds. In 1920, the members of Temple C. C. decided to expand, construct a golf course and rebuild their clubhouse. To finance the undertaking they increased the membership limit from the original 55 to 200 through an intensive membership

campaign, soon closed their roster and acquired enough capital to finance the building program.

A two-story brick clubhouse, with locker-rooms, large hall, grill and kitchen on the first floor, and ballroom, lounge and dining room on the second was constructed. It is a popular structure today, being the scene of frequent dances, teas, bridge parties and other social functions.

The club makes no attempt to maintain an expensive dining room force. A colored cook takes care of the kitchen, cleans the clubhouse, assists at all parties and will serve full course meals provided 3 or 4 hours' notice is given. Otherwise the menu is limited to sandwiches, light lunches, sodas, hot drinks and candies.

Close to the clubhouse are two tennis courts, an 18-hole putting course and an electrically lighted picnic grounds, with tables, benches and three barbecue pits. In summer these features are well patronized.

Let Jenkins tell us about the golf course and how he maintains it. He writes:

"Our nine-hole course, which is laid out to encircle the lake, is 3,250 yds. long. Greens are Bermuda grass with an area of



Contoured greens where you'd expect sand adds to Temple course's interest

4,500 to 5,000 sq. ft. Since coming here in 1923 I have rebuilt nearly all the greens and lengthened all holes with the help of two colored men in the summer and one in winter. At present I am building grass tees to replace the clay ones formerly used and am installing a hoseless sprinkling system, to keep them in shape, doing all the plumbing work myself. I have four tees completed with 3 to 6 sprinklers, each throwing a 20 ft. spray, and in the near future I expect to have all nine finished.

"My reason for installing hoseless sprinklers on the tees is to save the time it takes a man to move rubber hose and sprinkler around. Also, there is no replacement of hose necessary and less hose lying about the course to be stolen at times. Instead, I can water the tees by simply having a faucet turned on. It ought to be a saving in water consumption, too.

"The greens which I have constructed and rebuilt were done during the fall and winter at practically no cost, as I have my helper around anyway doing very little. So I have him haul topsoil with the mules and wagon, a process which is pretty slow. It takes nearly all winter to build a green, but we get it done and another year starts with a little improvement added. By sticking to this program each year I now have one

of the best 9-hole courses in Texas. It is a real test of golf; Joe Kirkwood and Harry Cooper and also many leading amateurs have played it and none of them has burned it up so far.

"Regarding the upkeep of my greens, I have so far got along without chemical fertilizers except worm eradicator. For top-dressing I use sand (contributed by a member), soil which I dig from the lake when it goes down in summer, and manure from the stock-pen, free for the hauling. I build my compost pile during the hot summer months when my men are not so much needed to keep the fairways mowed. When I start screening and dressing I hire an extra man for a week—I can finish the job in that time.

"I have two green mowers, a Jacobsen power unit and a Toro hand mower. I sharpen and do all repairs unless the job is too large, in which case I send the mower direct to the factory.

"My fairway unit is a 3-gang Toro, drawn by two mules who make two rounds of the fairway a week and cut the rough once a week. I make all necessary repairs on the mowers and there is practically no upkeep expense to the mules, as we have 15 acres which I sow in oats and have a farmer bale for me. I get about 400 bales in early summer, and in late fall I get



J. C. Jenkins  
Pro-Supt. at  
Temple (Tex.) G. & C. C.

enough hay off this same patch to give me enough fodder for the year; in fact some years I have to sell part of the crop."

The course demands accurate golf, Jenkins says, what with rough or drainage ditches in front of all tees, the hazard of the lake alongside most of the fairways and the numerous traps which he has constructed in strategic spots. Greens must be pitched to, as the Bermuda grass is too heavy to permit run-up shots. He invites all golfers passing through Temple to visit the course and try their luck at breaking par.

### Rhode Island's Third Greens Day, May 23

**T**HIRD ANNUAL Greenkeepers' Field day will be held at the Rhode Island Experiment station, Kingston, R. I., Monday, May 23rd. Program will include visits to experimental plots, dinner with speaking program, and demonstrations of golf course equipment. Everyone interested in turf problems whether for lawns, estates, golf courses or other purposes, is invited.

The program planned is as follows:

10:00-10:30—Registration — Experiment Station.

11:00-12:30—Visit to Experiment plots.

12:45- 2:30—Lunch—Dining Hall. "Soil Conditions and Plant Growth," by Dr. Howard B. Sprague, Agronomist, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. Discussion and question box on golf course problems.

2:30—Annual business meeting of R. I. Greenkeepers' Club.

2:30—Exhibits and demonstrations — College campus.

Experimental plots include various fertilizer treatments, lime tests, weed and worm control in lawns, brown-patch control, different varieties and strains of bent grass, bent grass breeding experiments and others. A number of new plants have been added during the past year.

Commercial firms dealing in golf course and other turf equipment have been invited to exhibit and demonstrate their different lines. The local management has received excellent co-operation from a number of firms in these field days. The demonstrations will be held on the college campus.

### An Inexpensive Handicap Board For Small Membership

**F**ROM THE Coolamon G. C. of Australia comes this inexpensive but effective handicap board. In the left hand column are the members' names, the smaller columns represent handicaps from 1 to 27.

The markers are thumb tacks, easily moved as required.

The surface of the chart is white cardboard, mounted on soft wood so the tacks will hold where inserted.

A handicap board of this nature is not suitable for a club with more than 75 to 100 members, but for the small course with a limited number of active golfers it should be adequate.—*Golf in Australia*.

**L**ARRY STRILEY, Penobscot Valley pro, makes a leading remark: "Most manufacturers send out catalog at tremendous expense with the prices listed. Such being the case I naturally suppose that I am expected to sell this merchandise at the prices given by the manufacturer. But when the manufacturer permits and apparently, in some instances, encourages dealers to cut these listed prices, what am I to believe about the sincerity of the other statements the manufacturer makes in his catalog?"

There's an angle about that cut price trouble that some of the manufacturers ought to be giving attention.