

# THEY CALL IT "A CLUB THAT HAS EVERYTHING"

By L. J. DRAKE

IBM employees shown putting on the Crow's Nest, (6th hole) of the original 9-hole layout purchased in 1935.



**H**OW would you like to join a country club at a membership fee of \$1.00 per year? You may play golf there at a season's green-fee of \$7.00, or—if you wear culottes—\$4.00? The \$1.00 membership includes the privilege of participating in 17 other organized sports. Employees of International Business Machines corp., at Endicott, N. Y., do like the club, as evidenced by the fact that practically the entire personnel of 4,000 have gone in for golf and the other sports without reservation.

But don't let the fees lead you to false conclusions. The facilities and atmosphere of the club are on a par with the better country clubs.

A complete golf course of nine holes was purchased by President Thomas J. Watson for his employees in 1935. The immediate response of employees and members of their families was greater than anyone would dare to predict. During the first year, 9,200 games were played on the course, and it became apparent that a larger course was needed.

Highly pleased with the whole-hearted swing to this healthful and recreative sport, Mr. Watson started plans, before the end of the first season, for a complete new 18-hole course in addition to the original nine.

On July 3, 1937, the first nine holes

of the new course were ready for play. It was designed by John R. Van Kleeck, nationally-known golf architect of Chappaqua, N. Y. Covering 125 acres, it will have a total playing distance of 6,312 yards for the full 18 holes. The first nine totals 3,164 yards at par 36 while the second nine will be par 35 when opened next year. It is amply interspersed with sand traps, water, ditches, trees and natural hazards.

A new type aluminum pin, extremely light in weight, is constructed to allow the flags to rotate in the breeze without furling. Bent grass greens, some containing multiple levels and uneven rolls, add zest to the putting. There are two par-5 holes on the first nine, the longest being 530 yards.

## Two Pros Needed to Handle Business

All the conveniences that go along with an enjoyable game of golf have likewise been provided. A two-hundred foot wing

Pros Eddie Kuhn, left, and Lynn Higgs, right, teaching fundamentals to a group of beginners on the IBM course.



which was added to the clubhouse last year contains locker and shower rooms for men and for women, as well as the golf shop, whose entrance is adjacent to the first tee.

In addition to providing these facilities at a low cost, IBM goes further and provides golf lessons without cost to employees and their families. 2,200 individual lessons were given during the first season, and more than 3,500 last year.

The services of one professional were found inadequate to meet the overwhelming demand, and two full-time professionals are now kept busy—with the wives and night force during the day, and with the day-time employees themselves after working hours. This year beginners are started in group classes of 15 to 25 to learn the rudiments, after which they receive private lessons. At the present rate, it is expected that more than 5,000 lessons will be given this year—all without charge.

Eddie Kuhn started this year as professional of the new course, while Lynn Higgs remained as pro of the older course.

And how about the other sports sponsored by this "club that has everything"?

The clubhouse, which is a beautiful historic landmark 137 years old, has been completely renovated and furnished with facilities for ping pong, pool, checkers and card playing. An extensive library is an adjunct of the spacious living room.

The original dining room was hopelessly inadequate, and the new wing which was added to the clubhouse last year includes a dining room which seats 500 very comfortably. At the same time a complete new kitchen was installed, fully equipped to render prompt service. All food is served at cost, a full meal costing anywhere from 25c to 75c.

Near the clubhouse are a baseball diamond, two softball diamonds, six tennis courts, a soccer field, a handball court, an archery range, quoits and horseshoe courts, a shuffleboard, and picnic grounds in a shady glen.

One end of the new wing is devoted to bowling, where 650 men and women organized themselves into 13 leagues last winter to enjoy this off-season game on the eight alleys.

A separate log cabin clubhouse is the pride and joy of the company's hunters and marksmen. Situated on a hill about a mile from the main clubhouse, the cabin is surrounded by skeet and trap fields

and rifle and pistol ranges. The skeet field is considered one of the best in the country, boasting a board walk around all the shooting positions, and an electrical timing device originated by the shooters themselves, which ejects the targets at irregular intervals.

All these activities are organized, supervised and managed by the employees themselves, chosen by popular election. The operating details and management are performed by a committee chosen for each sport or activity.

### Suburban CC Is Host at August Meeting of N. J. Course Supt's.

**AUGUST** meeting of the New Jersey Association of Golf Course Supts. was held at Suburban CC, Union, N. J., Aug. 2. Suburban's superintendent Frank Svehla and its green-chairman, Harry Holland, welcomed a large attendance. John Cameron of Yountakah is president of the active organization.

A dinner preceded the evening's educational session. Members heard talks by Dr. E. E. Evaul, Prof. C. C. Hamilton and Thomas Longnecker of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers University, and L. E. Allen of the American Agricultural Chemical Co.

Dr. Evaul, Prof. Hamilton and Mr. Longnecker spent some time answering questions having to do with the Japanese beetle, chinch bug and diseases of the soil.

Using a chart prepared at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Mr. Allen traced most of the ills which add to the woes of the greenkeeper. His talk presented both difficulties encountered and the most approved methods of overcoming them. He strongly urged moderation in treatment and cited various examples of the right and wrong ways to approach the problem.

**THE** Ohio State Golf Course Superintendent's Assn. will hold its first state tournament at Wyandot CC, Worthington, O., Sept. 20. Greenkeepers of central Ohio are hosts to the affair and are working hard to make it a gala event. An attendance of about 200 is expected. There will be about 125 greenkeepers, 25 manufacturers' representatives and a number of pros and managers who will compete in the day's golf.

Prize list for the tournament will run about \$500. Francis Marzolf, general manager of Wyandot CC, is handling details of the tournament.