

IOWA STATE OPENS NEW \$133,000 COURSE



This view of Iowa State's new course shows the ninth hole—elevated green in foreground, tee at left end of bridge over creek.

THE results of three years of careful planning and work at Iowa State College, Ames, was seen for the first time by the general public on Thursday, May 12, when the college's new recreational area, including its 18-hole golf course, was formally dedicated. Dean Helser, chairman of the ISC athletic council, officiated at the formal presentation of the area, constructed with the help of the WPA. Charles E. Friley, president of the college, delivered the acceptance speech, and brief remarks were given by Governor N. G. Kraschel and State WPA Administrator George J. Keller. Several prominent foursomes then teed off to officially inaugurate the course.

The area, long a dream of George Veenker, director of athletics at the college, is located less than a city block from the college armory and is on property which has been owned by the college for a number of years. From the appearance of the 150-acre tract, it is apparent why it is called a recreational area rather than merely a golf course. It includes three and a half miles of cinder bridge trails; foot trails for hikers; a cross-country running course; and eight picnic areas of all sizes to accommodate from one family to 200 persons.

Part of the original 150-acre tract was an orchard three years ago. Some of it was pasture. Much of it was heavily

wooded. Through the center of the area runs Squaw creek which normally has a good flow of water. Clear creek also runs through the course; its entire channel was changed to build two fairways along its natural beauty. A third stream, Spring creek, runs along one fairway and for 300 ft. it is routed underground to gain fairway width.

Before any work was done on the course, Perry Maxwell, golf architect of Ardmore, Oklahoma, was called in by Veenker and after an intensive study of the layout with P. H. Elwood, head of the department of landscape architecture as the consultant, Maxwell and Veenker laid out the 18-hole course.

CCC and WPA Are Sources of Labor

In the early stages of the work, CCC boys were used to remove trees to create a number of fairways. A comprehensive WPA project was approved shortly after the government created the WPA and work was begun on December 2, 1935. The original project called for federal expenditures of \$160,287, but thus far only \$76,808 has been used and the work is virtually completed.

As its share of the project, the college has used \$56,353, most of which was profit from the athletic department's receipts during the 1935-36 and 1936-37 seasons. As many as 90 laborers have been given employment during the course of construction. Six of them will become full time employees of the college when the course is thrown open to the public.

Because "this is a recreational area, not a social club," Veenker planned no elaborate clubhouse. Instead, the clubhouse contains only a small pro-shop, space for

Madison (Wis.) pros, Alex Willmott, Karl Schlicht, Jim Milward and Herb Spaanum, in cooperation with the Madison Park commission, the Board of Education recreational department and two local newspapers, conducted a four-day free golf school for high school students. The pros donated their services to the highly successful group instruction which was held the week prior to the spring vacation.

The pro quartette was praised by educators, civic leaders and newspapers for contributing their expert services in introducing the youngsters to golf.

a limited number of clubs and two small shower rooms. The clubhouse, as well as the other buildings on the course, was built by WPA labor. The other buildings include: two 20x40 garages and one 10x20 garage for the storage of equipment; one 13x26 compost shed; one 20x30 picnic shelter; and one 12x21 caddie house.

Through the construction of huge teeing "areas" instead of tees, the length of the course can be varied from 5,596 to 6,573 yards. Par is 70, 35 for each nine. Veenker plans to use the teeing areas which will give a total yardage of 5,945. The longer yardage will be used only for championship tournaments.

All fairways are piped with water from the college pumping station. Five miles of pipe, ranging from 1 in. to 8 in. in size, were necessary. Two hundred fifty valves and outlets were needed. Seventy pounds of pressure can be had at the highest point on the course.

Plenty of Water Available

Using the sprinkling system six hours nightly, the entire course can be watered in three days, Veenker says. Sixty-seven gallons of water pour through the system in one minute and each sprinkler covers an area 180 feet in diameter. There are five bridges on the course—three over Squaw creek and two over Clear creek. The first three include one steel and concrete structure to accommodate maintenance equipment, a 120-foot span suspension bridge and a rustic foot bridge. Golfers cross the railroad tracks on a catwalk built on the bed of Clear creek through the tunnel carrying the creek.

Thirty sand traps, most of them merely for decorative purposes, are spotted throughout the course, but there are no bunkers to hinder golfers. All greens have Washington bent grass and are designed to provide drainage in at least two and sometimes three directions. Some of the greens have shallow sand traps which fit well into the contour of the course. There are no traps on the fairways, but the woods and rough provide stiff penalties for one who slices. Rustic benches,

direction signs and standards for ball washers have been constructed from the native oak and walnut removed from the course. All gates leading into the area are of large natural logs.

With good turf now growing on all fairways, there is little indication of the vast amount of work that was necessary to create the new layout. Entire hills have been removed to eliminate climbing, hill-sides were torn away, tons of soil were moved, four thousand trees were cut down and 5,000 others planted in more advantageous locations. Last summer, 800 truck-loads of sod were placed on the hills which were eroding.

No major tournaments are planned for the current season, but Veenker has indicated that an invitation will be extended the Big Six conference to hold its 1939 tournament on the course. "One of the most remarkable things about this course was the comparatively small amount of money needed to construct it, as compared with similar courses throughout the country," Veenker says. "Without the assistance and cooperation of the WPA, Iowa State College would today not have this fine recreational area."

Arrow Brook Club Becomes NYC's Summer City Hall

THE old Arrow Brook Country Club will house New York City's city hall this summer, according to a recent announcement by city officials. Negotiations for purchase of the property have been going on for several months, and was decided on because of its proximity to the grounds for the New York World's Fair next year.

The building, a three-story wood and stucco structure built nine years ago, stands on a rim of a bluff with a view of the entire fair grounds and Cedar Grove cemetery. An 18-hole golf course adjoining the building will later be graded and added to the World's Fair parking space.

The grounds and golf course occupy 100 acres in area, with a 3,600-foot frontage on the fair grounds. The Mayor's office and a room for the Board of Estimate meetings will be located on the second floor, and the ground floor, which is now chiefly a large locker-room, will be set up as a reserve police precinct.

The Arrow Brook Country Club was a private club started twelve years ago. Six months ago it was acquired by real estate operators and the course thrown open to the public. The course will remain open until the Mayor moves in July 1.

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The Junior Four-ball league has been revived in Boston. Teams of players 18 years and under have entered from Oakley, Winchester, Wellesley, Bear Hill, Sandy Burr and Charles River. The schedule ends June 11, as at that time the youngsters begin to depart for vacations. Competition is for the Dr. Horace Paine Stevens trophy.