

Notre Dame Has a GOLF COURSE, Too

By Herb Graffis

WHEN the University of Notre Dame is mentioned the public thinks of football. The riches of football tradition and reputation have been, in a way, an embarrassment to the Indiana institution for the reason that football has overshadowed the story of the institution as an educational establishment having a faculty of high attainments. However, as long as kids are kids you may be sure that none of them having any close or remote attachment to Notre Dame will be red-faced about the triumphs of Notre Dame's football.

Of recent years the scope of Notre Dame's athletic publicity has been extended by achievements in track, basketball and golf. This publicity has been effective in promoting a balanced sports program for the students, permitting the Notre Dame kids to lose a football game to the kids of other schools without the happening being regarded as a major disaster, and in reminding the general public that Notre Dame is fundamentally an educational, rather than sports, institution.

Golf Pushed by Layden

The balancing of sports interest has been a job successfully done by an athletic department headed by Elmer Layden, one of the famed Four Horsemen, and now a businessman golfer of better-than-average performance.

The school's athletic publicity balance of recent years has been aided by the presence of Walter Hagen, jr., as captain of the golf team, and Tom Sheehan,

medalist of the 1939 National Amateur championship, and one of the young golfers whose game and conduct glorifies golf.

Suddenly the public began to realize that Notre Dame has a golf course of its own. The course is an 18-hole layout on 128 acres presented to the school by the late Wm. J. Burke, one of the earlier manufacturers of golf equipment. Architecturally the course is not one of the nation's great plants, by a long way, but Chet Keeley, pro-supt. of the establishment, has it in fine condition on a modest budget and an army of students find an abundance of interest and testing golf in the course's 6,455 yards. The course was built in 1929-30.

Course in Fine Shape

Five of the fairways are watered. More will be when the money becomes available. In turf condition, and in such trimmings as home-made concrete tee benches, shelters, tee markers, tree and shrub planting, and other details that convert a pasture into a very pleasant course, Keeley has done a fine job. Rev. George L. Holderith, CSC, history professor who coaches the golf team, is in direct supervision of the golf activities. He has nursed golf at Notre Dame so the annual competition for representation on the William J. Burke silver trophy has become one of the major intramural athletic events at the school. On this trophy are the names of several Notre Dame alumni who have been active in extending the game since they graduated. Rev. Holderith, an excellent



How is this for an equipment and tool barn? Originally an old shed, Notre Dame spent \$3,000 to modernize it for maximum greenkeeping efficiency.

player himself, is very much of the opinion that golf's great value as a character developer and barometer makes it a major sport for students who will be in the game long after their school days have ended.

This writer has seen the Holderith policy demonstrate its value to the kids and to sports and society by the admirable manner in which the kids who learned their golf manners at Notre Dame conduct themselves as gentlemen sportsmen.

A contoured practice putting green,



ing the course. For special work, such as major weeding and trap raking and weeding jobs, Keeley hires students.

Among the numerous evidences of good course management noticeable at Notre Dame's Burke course are the greens clippings and hose-and-sprinkler boxes Keeley designed, constructed and installed. Clippings from greens are dumped into a metal receptacle which is contained in the combination unit. Contents of these boxes are collected and used on the green sods nursery. These clippings are weed-free,



These two views of the maintenance barn's interior give an idea of the structure's spaciousness.

16,000 sq. ft. in area, was built in front of the fieldhouse and adjacent to the first tee last year. The green is well lighted and attracts many youngsters for putting entertainment and practice in the evenings. A large practice tee and fairway is kept in first class condition.

Every year there is considerable new construction on the course as Keeley has a program for gradually modernizing and improving green design and construction without making a drain on the school's yearly athletic budget.

The course development program is aided by three nurseries; one for bent green sod, one for fairway sod, and one for trees and shrubs.

Approximately 35,000 rounds in the spring and autumn are played by the school's 3,100 students. The playing fee is 10 cents for 18 holes. The locker fee is 75 cents a year.

Ten men are used by Keeley in maintain-

ing the course. For special work, such as major weeding and trap raking and weeding jobs, Keeley hires students.

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high in fertilizer content, and by being held in the containers, retain moisture. A couple more of the ideas that Keeley uses to good advantage involve sections of chain link fencing. He drags 6 ft. sq. sections of fencing after seeding and gets excellent distribution of seed. Before dandelions seed fencing is dragged behind mowers.

The equipment and tool barn is one that most course superintendents will envy. It originally was an old shed which was rebuilt by Keeley's own force, at a cost of about \$3,000. Great use was made of materials made available by the university's constant building program. In the shed are marble shower stalls, outgrown by the university's athletic building requirements.

The barn is heated in the winter. It has overhead doors. Among the equipment are 2 tractors, a 7-gang fairway unit, 3 power green mowers, 2 hand mowers, and a mower sharpener. Boxes for parts and places for tools are handily and neatly arranged and maintained in battleship fashion.

By employing facilities of the course maintenance department the school's campus landscaping and maintenance work is conducted with thrift and a maximum of effectiveness.

Donald H. Rapelye, manager of the Wampanoag CC, West Hartford, Conn., uses a bright idea in covering his luncheon menus.

An exact reproduction of the Wampanoag scorecard is on the menu. It gives the golfers something to talk about when they're waiting for their food. Both the 60c and 85c luncheon menus are contained by the heavy cardboard cover.