

Open in February, for salaries, and for upkeep of the course. For instance, the annual grass seed bill is \$1,000; the commercial fertilizer bill runs to about \$1,000 a year. Some amount of trouble has been encountered in upkeep of the greens because of the alkali content of the soil. This has added a \$600 yearly bill for chemicals.

The course installed its own water system at an initial cost of \$18,000, taken from its surplus earnings. The course borders on two 24-in. mains, both within a stone's throw of the water towers, and there is never any problem of getting all the water needed.

There is no charge for water, since the course is within the city limits, and this represents a saving of more than \$3,000 a year. The San Antonio CC course, only a short distance away, pays about \$4,000 a year for water, according to Brooks.

The golf course is not carried on the balance sheet with any sort of valuation figure, since it was a donation. Still, the clubhouse at Brackenridge, opened in 1923, represents an investment of \$75,000, and stands as a monument to the golf course.

#### No Watering in Winter

Last year at the Texas Open there was some discussion regarding dry greens on the course, but it was not entirely due to the extended drought Texas had been experiencing. Brooks has installed tropical grass on the entire course. During the winter the grass lies dormant, and it will deteriorate if watered.

The full length of the course is 6,500 yards. It has eight natural water hazards, occasioned by the San Antonio river. A feature facilitated by the natural setting at Brackenridge is a fine arrangement of holes. Since Brooks came to Brackenridge 16 years ago, 17 greens have been completely rebuilt, the water system installed, the clubhouse erected and fairways lengthened and improved.

At present there is a \$12,000 improvement program under way, in which rock houses will be built in several parts of the course, and rock bridges and walks in-

stalled. Since the new city administration in San Antonio took office last May 1 a tree surgeon has been put to work on the fine groves of the park.

The Texas Open, which will be played Feb. 9-12, is expected to draw 150 professionals again this year. Likewise, the event touches off the course's three busiest



Murray Brooks,  
Brackenridge's golf director

months, February, March and April. Last year, the expenses of the meet, including the \$5,000 purse, totalled about \$6,000. With a gallery of 10,000, a surplus profit of \$2,000 was chalked up.

The Texas Open, held first in 1920, was established with a \$5,000 purse at the outset, and at that time its purse was one of the very largest offered on any course in the entire world. There has been some talk in recent years of increasing the figure.

**New Orleans Set for Tourney**—Third Annual New Orleans \$10,000 Open golf tournament will be held February 22-25, just in between the close of the Mardi Gras and the opening of the spring Fiesta celebrations. The New Orleans Open has become one of the country's major sport events. The first and second tournaments were successful in every respect and the 1940 tournament is expected to draw record galleries because of the large number of visitors and tourists who will be in New Orleans at this time.

Robert S. Maestri, mayor of the city of New Orleans, is again donating the prize money of \$10,000, a tournament sum that is not topped by any purse in the South. As usual, no gallery fees will be charged the public. The event will take place at the municipally-owned City Park Golf Course No. 1, where the golfers will have the use of the new \$85,000 City Park clubhouse.

Tampa (Fla.) Golf Assn. has collected 48 sets of used clubs from cheerful givers at member clubs. The assembled sets were passed on to high school youngsters who repaired the clubs in their own high school manual training dept. Harry Root, Jr., president of the Tampa GA, organized the junior promotion work.