

public dumping ground, a 9-hole golf course was constructed after 30 acres of scrub willows had been cleared and grubbed, 35 acres of dump area graded and the swamp land filled with material from the graded acreage.

Baker, Oregon, until recently struggled with a municipal golf course situated on an alkali bed which could not be drained satisfactorily, and upon which grass could not be grown. A tract of 55 acres near the city reservoir was provided by the city and with the aid of the WPA a 9-hole course was constructed, the only turfed course in the county.

At West Seattle, Washington, work is nearing completion on an extension to the existing golf course as part of a large recreation area being developed from a 208-acre former cut-over tract and garbage dump. The course will be ready for use this spring.

Completion of two new public courses

late in 1939 and improvement of three others has provided additional facilities for Philadelphia's public linksmen.

One of the first of the courses to be rehabilitated by the WPA was the Pelham Bay links in Greater New York. That course, which originally measured less than 6,000 yards, with the greens the only places closely mowed, was completely rebuilt. It now measures 6,600 yards, has been landscaped throughout with trees and shrubs, has fine draining and irrigation systems, and, as is generally the case in WPA-built courses, has an attractive clubhouse. During the first year of its use, 1937, a total of 48,000 rounds of golf were played over its fairways. In the construction and improvement of these hundreds of public courses, the WPA has sought the expert advice of recreation authorities and, particularly, golfing experts.

'Panhandle' Gets Grass Greens Course

By George May

THE City of Amarillo (Texas) set out to build an 18-hole grass green golf course with \$40,000, and almost did it. On March 1, when the course was put on a maintenance basis, the costs were tabulated at \$41,929.28.

The work included a complete high pressure watering system for the fairways, greens, and tees, a new clubhouse, 1,600 trees, 18 big greens and the work done on the fairways and tees. Cost of the clubhouse alone was \$17,500.

Amarillo's city commission, headed by a golfing mayor, Ross D. Rogers, has

accomplished something remarkable, but they don't believe they have done anything other golf-conscious cities can't do. Amarillo had one big advantage in that it had a 640-acre park almost wholly undeveloped. Mayor Rogers, after careful study of the entire park area, selected 225 acres of high rolling ground as the location of the links. The course is laid out along four low hills. When construction started the land was fairly well covered with native grasses.

From the city street department the course borrowed a large piece of road



Amarillo's new clubhouse for many course golfers, which has just been completed, provides ample shower and locker facilities, plus plenty of lounging space; cost was \$17,500.

For the first time in the 35 years of the NY Metropolitan GA Open championship, the final has been scheduled for Sunday. Dates: May 24-26; at Forest Hill Field club, Bloomfield, N. J. It's an effort to restore NY sectional championships as gallery attractions.

machinery, and from the water department it got a ditching machine. The grader, doing the work of about 10 teams, built the greens and tees, each with from 5,000 to 7,000 sq. ft. of surface, within a few days.

Experienced crews dug the ditches and laid the pipe to the tees, greens, and along the fairways at remarkably low costs. Nevertheless the use of machinery, labor, and materials all were charged against the course. The only chiseling on other departments was in the matter of trees. From the parks' nursery the course got 1,600 4-year-old trees without cost, but the city commission believed this was justified since the course has been made part of the parks system. To plant the trees, the city sponsored a WPA project, which represents the only relief work done on the course. All other work was done without government help.

The greens were seeded last summer with cocoos bent grass. W. A. McConnell, veteran Texas and Kansas professional, reports a fine stand of grass in spite of the rather severe winter. The fairways have been cultivated in preparation for the Bermuda grass seeding. However, care was taken not to destroy the native grasses, which will protect the Bermuda until it gets a good stand.

The result of the \$41,929.28 expenditure is a truly fine course—declare golfers who have been on the ground. It is 6,426 yards long, par 71. It will be remembered that this part of Texas not many years ago was dubbed a "dust bowl," and there were certain individuals who suggested its depopulation. Nothing of the sort has happened, of course. Amarillo in the last five years has gained more than 10% in population, and the trade territory surrounding it has done at least as well.

Mayor Rogers and the other commission members have dedicated the course to the people of the entire Panhandle area. They announced 50 cent week-day green fees, with a 75 cent charge for Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

There are some new ideas embodied in the course construction. One instance of this is that trees serve as windbreaks,

as well as to outline the fairways, greens, and tees. Another example is that the course has no sand traps. The builders reasoned that since the winds whip sand out of the traps as fast as it can be carted in, they would get along without them. Sandless traps, they said, are unfair hazards. Instead, the course has grassy hollows, grassed embankments, and tree hazards.

This is all in the area long believed golf's great American desert. Nevertheless the Amarillo municipal course isn't the pioneer grass course in this section. Amarillo Country Club's grass course, also built by Mr. McConnell, is 12 years old. The city can claim, though, the only public 18-hole grass course in the Texas Panhandle, the only one between Wichita Falls, Texas, and Denver, Colo. It pioneers an entirely new field for grass green golf for public course players.

Amarillo public course players, in appreciation of the mayor's interest in the links, have named the new Amarillo munny the Ross Rogers Golf Course.

New "Golf in Schools" Book Emphasizes Pro Instruction

"GOLF in Schools" for 1940 has just been released by the National Golf Foundation. This booklet, containing useful information on extending golf participation in schools, was mailed all golf professionals as well as to the physical education departments of all high schools and colleges in the United States.

The book emphasizes the need of competent golf professionals in school instruction work and contains among other interesting informative articles, one by Ray Hall, chairman of the PGA committee on college and high school golf, outlining the methods successfully employed in teaching high school and college classes fundamentals of the game.

Space is also given to the Pasadena plan of coordinating schools and municipal courses, and an article by Tom Walsh, PGA president, points out the part professionals in America are taking in the national program of increasing participation in golf by the student bodies of schools and colleges throughout the country.

Any pro who has not received a copy of "Golf in Schools" may obtain same by addressing the National Golf Foundation, 14 E. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, enclosing 5c to cover cost of mailing and handling.