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## Rockford's Finely-Conditioned Courses Are Result of Careful Planning

By NORMAN W. GREGG

FAMOUS the world over for furniture, Rockford, Ill., also enjoys a national reputation for its parks and municipal golf courses which are part of a well planned park system. This busy industrial city on the Rock River has a population of over 100,000, and this population will assay as high in golfing fans as any community in the world, Earl F. Elliot, superintendent of parks, believes.

To make golf available at low cost to the workers in Rockford's many factories and shops, the park system maintains three excellent golf courses. Sinnissippi, the oldest of this trio of links, is located in Sinnissippi Park and serves golfers of the north and east sides. The course is 9 holes and the park has an area of 125

acres. Sandy Hollow is a 6,600 yard, 18-hole course in the southeastern part of Rockford. The park here has an area of 125 acres. Ingersoll, an 18-hole course, is on the west side of the town. Ingersoll Park, with 154 acres, is the city's largest recreation center.

"It is not by accident or chance that our courses have fine, fast greens and well turfed fairways," said Superintendent of Parks Elliot. "We maintain them carefully, in season and out, for with so many playing the courses really get a rough going over. Their splendid condition can be attributed in a large part to the soil conditioning they receive. During a year, the park system will use 350 tons of compost and 100 tons of sludge from our

municipal sewage treatment plant, and the major part of this goes on our golf courses."

Elliot explained that a Model "K" Royer compost mixer did the entire job of preparing their compost and sludge. Each course has a compost shed and the Royer is trucked from one location to the other as its services are needed.

"In the case of the sewage sludge, we haul it away from the treatment plant to the parks and permit it to age for a year before mixing it with the compost," Elliot went on. "Our compost has a large quantity of oak leaves and manure in its makeup, the latter being obtained from a local packing company. To this no basic chemicals are added; but when analysis of a selection or a green indicates a need for a particular element, a standard commercial fertilizer, high in that element, is mixed into the compost by the Royer. This is all done in one operation, two or more men shoveling compost and fertilizer into the machine hopper simultaneously.

#### Maintains Three Greenhouses

The park system maintains three greenhouses, each 25 ft. x 135 ft. in area, and supplies all the plants and shrubs for the park district. The Royer mixer also is employed to mix the soil used in the propagation of everything raised under glass. It is used, too, in mixing mulch with sewage sludge, a mixture they place around bases of trees to hold moisture. Elliot estimated that the Royer saved the parks some \$300 to \$400 annually in doing the work of one or more part-time laborers during the spring and summer months, besides doing the work more thoroughly and efficiently than it could be done by hand.

Compost not immediately used on the golf courses is used to nurture seedlings on lawns and around park buildings including the offices of the park board at 813 N. Main St. Rockford boasts a total park area of nearly 1,200 acres and this is divided into sixty-seven parcels of land of varying sizes. Large park areas, other than golf courses, in the district include Black Hawk Park, 91 acres, Levings Park, 133 acres, and Fair Grounds Park, an area of lawns, shrubbery, tennis courts and playgrounds close to the business center.

Earl F. Elliot has been in charge of the park district, as superintendent, since 1927 and has played an important part in the development of the system to its present high plane. He is an alumnus of the



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Iowa State College of Agriculture and is active in the American Institute of Park Executives, being a member of the standing committee on playground designing.

"Rockford is extremely golf-conscious, and it is therefore a genuine public service to provide these broad facilities for playing this popular game, at the same time offering them at a cost which is not prohibitive," explained Elliot. "I don't think you will find many cities of our size with the municipal golf set-up we have, and I know you will find few whose fees are so nominal. And, if you are looking for a test of skill, you will find our courses compare favorably with private courses anywhere."

## Iowa Greenkeepers' July Program Features USO Benefit

JULY meeting of the Iowa Greenkeepers Assn. will be held Tuesday, July 14, at the Waveland Municipal course, Des Moines. Program for the event, according to host greenkeeper T. E. Adams, includes a USO benefit show in the afternoon, featuring historical dates on the Waveland course calendar.

Foursomes in costume will play the first hole, each foursome representing some particular period in Waveland's history; i. e., the original opening date of the course; the occasion of the first women playing the course, etc.

The program is to be plenty 'on the record' inasmuch as the chief photographer of Des Moines' only daily newspaper is to be on hand with camera ready. At least 50 Iowa greensmen are expected to attend, according to Adams, who is also secy-treas. of the association.

Jimmy Crossan is Plane-maker—Jimmy Crossan, well known in pro circles, now is at one of the larger airplane plants in the west. Jimmy starts work at 4 P.M. and works until 4 A.M. He still gets some golf in before going to work. He says there are more than 1,000 golfers in the plant; some of them excellent players. Jimmy's father, who died a year ago, was pro at the Kirkenbright GC in Scotland for 55 years. Jimmy's mother died in Scotland a month ago and late in June his sister, a member of a British women's war corps, was killed in an air raid.