

# WORLD'S COSTLIEST GOLF COURSES ON CHICAGO'S LAKE FRONT

By BERT JAMES

ON ground reclaimed from Lake Michigan, Chicagoans can boast that the Waveland and Diversey golf courses in Lincoln Park are probably the world's most expensive golf courses.

Considering the cost of filling in the lake and the value of adjoining property, these public courses can base their claim to distinction as the most expensive golf facilities provided at low playing fees to the citizens of any country in the world. The cost of the actual course construction was comparatively moderate.

The Waveland course was designed and built by Edward B. Dearie, jr., for the Lincoln Park district. Al Espinosa was architectural consultant on the course. The course is built on 70 acres of ground reclaimed from the lake, with an inlet being left as the central feature of the 130-yard sixth hole. Construction of the course was started in 1929 and the course was dedicated June 15, 1932. The course is a 9-hole one; 3 295 yards long, with a par of 36. It has 48 traps.

The Diversey course, also of 9 holes, is an older one of the usual flat park type, built to handle considerable play.

## Annual Play Is Large

These two courses have handled as many as 72,000 rounds a season. The record day's play was 640 rounds. Frequent tournaments are held on the Waveland course, during which time the play at Diversey is especially heavy.

Although some reduction in maintenance procedure has been necessitated by the war, we have managed to keep the courses in good shape for a tremendous amount of play, much of which comes from people living in thickly populated district adjoining Lincoln Park. The courses are less than five miles from Chicago's Loop.

Notes on our normal maintenance practice may be of interest to other public course men. These notes follow.

We start at 5:30 a. m. Tending to the necessary work and finishing the day by breaking new men into watering the courses makes the day very long. It is about 10:30 when I leave for home.

In the event of rain the courses do not close. The greens are planted with Wash-

ington bent. Temporary greens are located just short of the regular greens, and off to one side. They are also used when the regular greens are being spiked, top-dressed and fertilized. Also when treated for brown-patch.

Topdressing is done every four weeks. During the latter part of June, July and August the greens are given a treatment of nitrate of soda every two weeks.

Greens are whipped and cut, starting at 6 a. m., and are finished by 11 a. m. The man who cuts them also does the weeding and fills holes with a little topdressing. Mowing is done by a power greens-mower and it leaves a fine smooth cut.

## Cups Kept Fresh

Cups are changed every morning and if the greens show signs of wear or scuffing they are changed again the same day.

Ball-washers are filled twice a day. Each tee is equipped with a ball washer, bag rack, bench and tee markers.

Fairways are cut twice a week, 12 hours being needed. Rough is only allowed to grow before a coming tournament. After it is over, the rough is cut down again. By doing this, the daily play moves along a little faster.

As there are thousands of divots taken and hardly any ever put back, the tractor driver mixes a little seed in some topdressing and puts it in the divots. This is done every two weeks.

Sprinkling the greens and fairways is done at night. The greens are never allowed to be over-watered. A soft green with 500 players walking over it soon would become lumpy and need frequent rolling and topdressing before it got back in shape.

Fertilizing the fairways is done during the fall, using about 400 pounds of 6-12-4 to the acre. Trees and bushes are fertilized every second year. The fertilizer is spread over the shrub bed and then it is cultivated and watered.

Holes are bored around the trees. Then these holes are filled with fertilizer mixed with soil.

Cutting the aprons, bunkers tees and around flower beds is done with a power

mower. As there is a lot of trimming and cutting, one man is kept busy at this job.

One man is needed to keep the tees, walks and terrace clean. After this, flower beds and rock gardens are watered. There is plenty of paper to be picked up; he also handles that.

Waveland has a creeping bent nursery. Here is where the sod for the greens is grown and is supplied to all the golf courses in the Chicago Park District. Any sod moved from the nursery is trans-

planted back with stolons from the plug patch. A section of 60 feet by 70 feet is used for an experimental garden. Here the public can see the various stages of growth. As various fertilizers are used every one is checked and a record kept. People who are interested in lawns frequent the nursery and test plots.

I have built new greens, tees, rain shelters, sea walls, flagstone terrace, compost shed, service yard, rock gardens, water falls, driving range and drainage systems.



Part of the field in the novel IBM tourney, in which players and non-players teamed together. The event was planned to introduce golf to persons who had never before tried the game.

## New Event Makes Golfers for Corporation Country Club

EDWARD T. KUHN, pro at the International Business Machine CC, Endicott, N. Y., introduced a new event at the club in staging the first player-non player tournament. And the way the IBM non golfing workers took to the event it is certain that the event registered as one of the most attractive ways devised for bringing new players into golf.

A field of 100 played in the tournament, half of whom hadn't played in a tournament before, and many of whom had not previously played golf. Notwithstanding the opinion that such an event wouldn't be particularly relished by the more experienced golfers, they found the tourney one of the most pleasant affairs in which they'd participated.

Details of this tournament, which is to be an annual event at the IBM course, are given by Kuhn.

He advised:

"We played this tournament as follows: Each foursome made one team composed of two male and two female golfers. Two balls were used for each foursome, playing alternate shots. The male player and non-player played together, the same with the female players of the foursome.

"The player members of the foursome drove from every tee.

"After the hole was completed the male team and the female team added their scores together for their grand total.

"At the completion of the Tournament the scores were all grouped. The low-8 foursomes made one group. The next