

with populations of 6,000 and upward within a radius of 15 miles, will install golf courses. Many of the courses will be a part of public recreation centers, where young and older people will find attractive facilities for the enjoyment of their favorite sports. As to the golf courses, they will not cost nearly as much to build as the prewar layouts, and their design and construction will permit more economical maintenance. Many will utilize grassy mounds and cut-outs turfed with grass, instead of sand traps around the greens. These will be so contoured as to detract little, if anything from the accuracy and skill required from the player, yet will allow all mowing through the fairway up to the green to be handled with the fairway cutting outfit.

The pace at which new golf course development will proceed is going to depend largely upon modification of our architectural and construction ideas to achieve the greatest possible economy in year-after-year maintenance. This winter I will be engaged in laying out several new courses on which construction will proceed as soon as conditions are favorable. All of these courses will be planned to lend themselves to simple, low cost upkeep, yet offer a challenge to every shot in the bag. All but one of these new courses will be 9 hole layouts and every one of them will cost under \$15,000 to construct, including seeding and piping to the greens. When the war is over some marvelously efficient machinery will be available to help in materially cutting cost construction.

The most practical procedure to follow in trapping a new course is to await completion of the entire layout before placing them. The old idea of placing a trap around 200 yards from the tee is out. Placing traps on that basis hasn't worked out. At Oakmont we have taken out more than half of our traps and no one can say that Oakmont is a push-over as a result. Most of the off-the-tee traps were put in when 230 yards was considered a good shot. Now, they slap them 270 yards and the traps catch only the poorer, or less powerful players who have far less reason for being penalized. Wait—don't put the traps in until you are sure where they belong.

As to the length of a nine-hole course, I should say between 2,900 and 3,300 yards. If the space will permit, 3,500 yards would be still better. If the terrain is suitable, 50 to 60 acres should be adequate, but again, 70 acres would offer advantages. Every green should total at least 4,800 sq. ft.

Golf enjoyed tremendous expansion following World War I. The end of this war will bring even broader expansion and we must be prepared to guide it along lines that will speed and protect its advance.

## Social Activities Help Your Club

★ Directors of most country clubs during the present war emergency have come to realize that with the ladies and older men, and children of members, being the majority they have to cater to, social programs to induce use of the clubhouse would have to be enlarged and conducted more often than during peace times.

A number of such social activities, some novel, are herewith reported for consideration of other club managements:

Hold an annual **NEW MEMBERS PARTY**. Make it stag and see that everybody gets acquainted. Once the men get acquainted the family introductions seem to follow quickly, especially if encouraged by the following two activities:

**FAMILY NIGHT DINNER AND MOVIES**. Serve the meal family style.

**SUNDAY NIGHT BUFFET SUPPERS**. This also proves popular despite rationed foods.

**SWIMMING CARNIVAL** and exhibition. One club had 350 dinner guests to this type of party and 800 in the audience. Arrange contests for members children.

**STRING ENSEMBLE** for the cocktail lounge on Sunday afternoons. One club found this very popular. Call it the Musical Cocktail Hour.

**BOOK REVIEWS** by a well-known reader prove more popular than you would expect at a country club, another club reports.

**HI JINKS PARTY** can close your season for the men. Make this stag with nothing but a good time from morning until night.

Of course, practically all country clubs have conducted war bond sales, arranged challenge matches for the benefit of the Red Cross, bridge and children's parties. As usual, it is the management's ingenuity and enthusiasm that originates and puts over the social programs of clubs, only these days it takes more effort than in past years.

## Nelson Quits As Pro: Becomes Executive

★ Byron Nelson, leading 1944 money-winner with \$39,875 in war bonds from tournament play, and golf professional at the Inverness Country Club, Toledo, Ohio, since 1940, resigned on October 6. The 32-year old Texan has accepted a position as vice president of the Hass-Jordan Company, a Toledo umbrella manufacturing concern.

Nelson is reported to have stated that he will continue in tournament golf and retain his membership in the Inverness club.