

GOLF ARCHITECT'S JOB IS EXPLAINED

NEW construction and alteration of golf courses these days requires that officials of proposed and existing clubs know more about the work of the golf course architect.

A. H. Tull, architect of a number of famed American courses outlined some high points of the architect's work for a club in a letter from which we quote:

"A golf course architect usually charges a flat fee (corresponding roughly to 10% of the estimated cost of the course) for design and supervision of construction. He usually supplies a construction superintendent who is paid by the club. He supplies a plan of general layout, working plans of each green, a plan of the watering system and complete specifications. He passes on bids if construction by contract is contemplated. He or his assistant visit the work about once a week during construction to check on the progress of the work and to direct the contouring of greens and bunkering. He personally stakes out tee, green, and bunker locations.

"Sometimes, when the club has available a competent construction man or contractor, the club's own committee supervises the work to the extent of seeing that the plans and specifications are followed. In this case, the golf course architect makes three or four visits to develop the design of the course during construction, and in this case, his fee is less.

"In some cases the construction work can be carried out by the club's own superintendent or by a contractor, in which case the golf course architect usually supplies an expert to contour greens and bunkers near the end of the construction period.

"If the golf course architect supervises the entire operation of building the

course, he supplies his own superintendent paid by the club. This superintendent would carry on the work by "force account" by which is meant that the club meets the payroll and pays for the materials, or he acts as the Club's agent in dealing with contractors who do the work by lump sum contract.

"Some golf course architects combine the functions of designer and contractor.

"Just as houses are designed for people of varying desires and pocket-books, so are golf courses. As a yard-stick, it is my opinion that a fine 18-hole golf course can be constructed for \$50,000.00, when labor is paid \$.75 per hour. To this would be added an amount necessary to cover the cost of drainage, rock removal and land-clearing if such were necessary. Passably good courses have been constructed for \$1,000.00 a hole, and many courses have cost ten times as much.

"Where there is no land clearing, drainage, or rock-removal, a course can be constructed at the rate of one or two holes a week, but I wouldn't advise it, even tho' I have, at times, to make such speed myself. No designer can make the best of his opportunities under such pressure. The many details of design go to make the perfect hole, and these details are developed as the construction work progresses.

"Fill placed in greens and tees should be allowed to settle and weather before being topsoiled. Flat surfaces such as roadways can be mechanically compacted, but such methods do not work on contoured fill or on fill which is finally to be a base for growing turf.

"Generally speaking, construction should start in the spring, seeding should be done the following fall, and the course opened for play the spring following, in the north; or as soon as the turf is sufficiently developed, in the south."

Greenkeepers National Meet; Cleveland, Jan. 29-Feb. 1

★ GREENKEEPING SUPTS. ASSN. will renew its national convention and equipment exhibit, held annually before the war. Dates set for the affair are Jan. 29 through Feb. 1, 1946. The convention sessions and exhibits are to be at Carter hotel, Cleveland, O.

The event will be the 17th of the greenkeepers' national conventions, and the first held since Feb. 1942. Other war-

time national sessions were called off because of the government's request to eliminate non-essential travel. Officers of the organization, headed by Harold Stodola, pres., were retained for duration of the war by mail vote of the members.

An attendance of more than 600 is expected at the GSA first postwar meeting, hence the advisability of making hotel reservations early. Exhibit space reservations should be made of the GSA sec., A. L. Brandon, St. Charles, Ill. Frank Ermer of Cleveland again will be the exhibition floor manager for the association.