

Halloran Course is Exhibit of Famous Short Holes

THE COURSE at Halloran General Hospital, outside New York city, is one of the many courses at veterans' hospitals financed by pro and amateur organizations as a result of the nationwide drive begun by Leo Diegel and other pros of the Philadelphia section PGA and Philadelphia greenkeepers associated with that initial venture at Valley Forge General Hospital.

Of all the courses installed as a result of this work by the PGA, the greenkeepers and their amateur collaborators, the Halloran course probably is the one that will receive greatest publicity from a golfing viewpoint as each of its nine holes is patterned after one of the great short holes of the world.

About \$21,000 of money the Met PGA raised has been spent on the course so far. John Inglis, pres., Metropolitan section PGA, advises that the water supply lines have been installed for fairway and green watering, and the course will be open for play next May. There is good growth of grass on greens, tees and fairways.

The course was designed by Robert Trent Jones, golf architect of New York, and built under his supervision. In charge of the construction is James W. Webster.

In commenting on the design of this unique course Jones says:

"The thrill holes of golf are most often the little ones. It is in the short hole category that we find the greatest number of golf's famous holes. Therefore, when I was asked to design the PGA golf course at Halloran General Hospital, Staten Island, New York, I thought that it would make an unique and interesting course if we adapted in principle and designed to the site some of the world's greatest short holes. The reason I designed nine short holes was because the land allotted to the golf course at Halloran was but 23 acres.

Not Exact Copies

"These holes are not copies as copies always fall short of the original in that they do not fit the site. But the principle of the trapping and some of the features that made the original holes great have been adapted in principle.

"It is the terror features that give great holes their drama. But terror features alone do not make great golf holes. Anyone could surround a green with an ugly maze of traps. In truly great golf holes there must be an adroit blending of features, natural and artificial. Therefore,

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Halloran's Famous Golf Holes

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a hole should be planned so that a shot is punished according to its merit. There should be a subtle cloaking of guile in well planned green contours.

"At the eleventh hole at St. Andrews there is the 10 foot "hill bunker" that guards the green. At the renowned Redan at North Berwick there is an avaricious trap over one's head which guards the green placed on a diagonal. The traps at Winged Foot's tenth hole are sufficiently deep to best be played with a hand mashie.

"It would hardly be appropriate to have traps as deep as these for the wounded veterans of Halloran who may not be able through physical disability to negotiate them.

"The first hole at Halloran is the Redan at North Berwick. The shape and position of the green and the position of the trap are comparable to the famous original which perhaps has been copied more than any other great hole in the world. The hole here is played from an elevated tee which is not true of the Redan, and the trap guarding the green is shallow as compared to the one of the Redan.

"The second hole is patterned after Moortown's eighth, the famous Gibraltar hole. The shape and position of the trapping is the same, although the traps at Halloran are not as large, and the green surface is not as big.

"The third hole at Halloran is patterned after the fifteenth at Cypress Point, primarily in the principle that allows the hole to be tightened or eased according to the position of the pin.

"The fourth hole is patterned after the famous tenth hole at Winged Foot in the penal quality of its trapping. The hole

differs in that it is played slightly uphill while the original at Winged Foot has the tee and green on approximately the same elevation with a depression between.

"The fifth hole at Halloran is patterned after the eleventh hole at St. Andrews, although somewhat shorter and with modified depths of traps and green contours.

"The sixth hole at Halloran is a modification of the ninth hole of the Number Two course at Pinehurst. The playing value of the holes is very similar in that the tee of each is slightly elevated above the green surface. The position of the trapping and the shape and character of the green are also very similar.

"The seventh hole at Halloran is patterned after the sixteenth at Augusta National, which has a creek cutting across the green at a diagonal and the slope of the green is quite sharp toward the creek. As there was no water at Halloran, a trap has taken the place of the creek in the original hole. The contours of the green and the trap behind the green are of the same principle.

"The eighth hole at Halloran is patterned after the famous eighteenth at Garden City Golf Club in the relative positions of its key traps and in the shape of its green. The master trap of the Garden City hole is the one directly in front of the green, and the master trap at Halloran is also directly in front of the green. This hole plays slightly uphill at Halloran, while at Garden City the tee and the green are on about the same level.

"The ninth hole at Halloran is patterned after the third hole of the Philadelphia CC Spring Mill course. The holes are approximately the same length, the trapping guarding the greens is in the same position, and the two holes play from a lower tee to a green which is at the crest of a hill."

Course Supts. Organize at St. Louis Meeting

★ GOLF COURSE maintenance men organized the Mississippi Valley Golf Supts.' Assn. at a recent session in St. Louis. Sam Lyle, Norwood Hills CC, is pres.; Oscar W. Bowman, Algonquin GC, is vp; and D. R. Niederlander, 9 Parkland Pl., St. Louis (12) Mo. is sec.-treas., of the new organization.

Purposes of the MVGSA are "to improve conditions in golf course maintenance by investigation of modern methods, cooperation with each other in appraising practices and views concerning methods, equipment and supplies, and all

other subjects relating to betterment of golf courses."

Monthly meetings will be held. Territory of the new organization is a radius of 200 miles from St. Louis.

★ GIs ASK GREENKEEPING STUDY — Letters from soldiers and sailors received by GOLFDOM ask for information on golf course maintenance schooling available under GI "Bill of Rights" education help sections. Inquiries of returning servicemen and interest of greenkeepers confronted with many problems of post-war improvements, rehabilitation and changes of methods point to considerable revival of greenkeeping short courses.