

Butte Golf Advances in Wartime

BUTTE (MONT.) GC with 57 of its 423 members in the armed forces, revived the Montana State tournament last year on its all-grass course which was opened in 1942. The tournament, which ran July 21-23, inclusive, included a men's 72-hole event, a 54-hole women's championship event and 18 holes were played each day by all contestants. Men's entry fee was \$5; women's, \$3.50; and junior boys' and girls', \$3.50. The entry fees included Friday and Saturday buffet dinner and dance Saturday night. War bonds and stamps were the prizes.

Before-the-war travellers who used to visit the Butte club and enjoy the glowing hospitality of Montanans which more than made up for the shortcomings of the old dirt course, wouldn't know the club now that it has its new all-grass course. It's now a testing course in good playing shape.

J. D. Murphy, Butte CC pres., tells how the members pitched in and brought the course to its present attractive shape. He says:

"The Butte club has been employing a rather unique method of getting its course in tip-top shape fast.

"We have had for the last three years what is known as "Clean-up Nights",

when about one hundred of the members don old clothes and bring picks, shovels, axes, rakes, etc., and put in four hours of work. The crews are arranged in ten squads, consisting of a captain and nine or ten other men who have definite planned work to do, such as cutting down dead trees and willows, planting new trees, cleaning up rough, burning of leaves, eliminating gophers by filling certain holes and putting hoses in others attached to the exhausts of trucks. This is an efficient method of eliminating rodents.

"Beer and soft drinks are served to the members working. After the evening work, all workers assemble in the club dining room and are served a Dutch lunch with refreshments. This is a great method of getting work done in a hurry, and affords the golfers a real opportunity to become acquainted.

"The Butte CC grass golf course in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, 5600 feet above sea level, is in perfect shape.

"When one considers that the Butte golfers played on dirt courses with sand greens for over 50 years and now have a complete grass course in a territory where the temperature gets down to more than 50 below zero some winters, it certainly is a great tribute to the efforts of W. A. O'Kelly and J. O. Peterson, co-green chairmen, two of the members largely responsible for the new course."

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