

Improvement Committee Directs Old Club Modernization

By **WILLIE OGG**

(Albany (N. Y.) CC

Many of the fine older golf clubs are face-to-face with extensive jobs of modernization that no longer can be postponed.

The materials and labor required aren't available yet but the club that hasn't organization and plans for this required work are letting pass an opportunity for a revitalization that will protect it against serious slumps when the wave of new and improved courses begins to sweep toward its crest and a new generation of golfers that doesn't place high rating on venerability must supply the inevitable replacements of a golf club's membership.

The procedure at the Albany CC is proving so decidedly successful other distinguished older clubs may benefit from our experience.

The Albany CC was incorporated in 1897, and like most of the older clubs, its golf course is what might be termed old fashioned. Punch-bowl greens and elevated tees were much in favor during the early period of golf in this country and Albany had more than its share of this type of construction. In addition to this

there seemed to be a yen for blind shots and instead of using the valleys for the lay-outs the up and down hill route was taken.

As may be expected in construction of this type, there were many problems of upkeep. The punch-bowl greens would winter-kill and much hand labor had to be employed on the elevated tees. Hill top fairways would dry out rapidly and even with power equipment there was a mowing problem as well as a fertilization problem.

Our first consideration was to eliminate stiff climbs, the blind shots, the old fashioned bunkers and drain the punch-bowl greens. In time these greens will be remodeled so as to insure a more usable putting surface. We are planning to use the valleys as much as possible, and, where it was impossible to get around the hills, we created a valley with bulldozers.

The membership favors the elimination of blind shots and hill climbing more than other things that we have done. Our first hole used to have a high hill in front of

New Course at Marines' Largest Base

This is view, from alongside 6th tee of U. S. Marine Corps' recently opened course at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Calif, the world's largest Leatherneck base. Sierra Madre mountains are in background. Lt. Gen. Holland M. (Howlin' Mad) Smith, who led Marines in some of the toughest Pacific fighting, drove the first ball. Pfc. Chick Yarbrough is pro. Course is tough going but the gyrenes are used to that. The new course already is getting heavy play.

