

DISTANCE AND TERRAIN FACTORS DETERMINE INTERESTING PAR

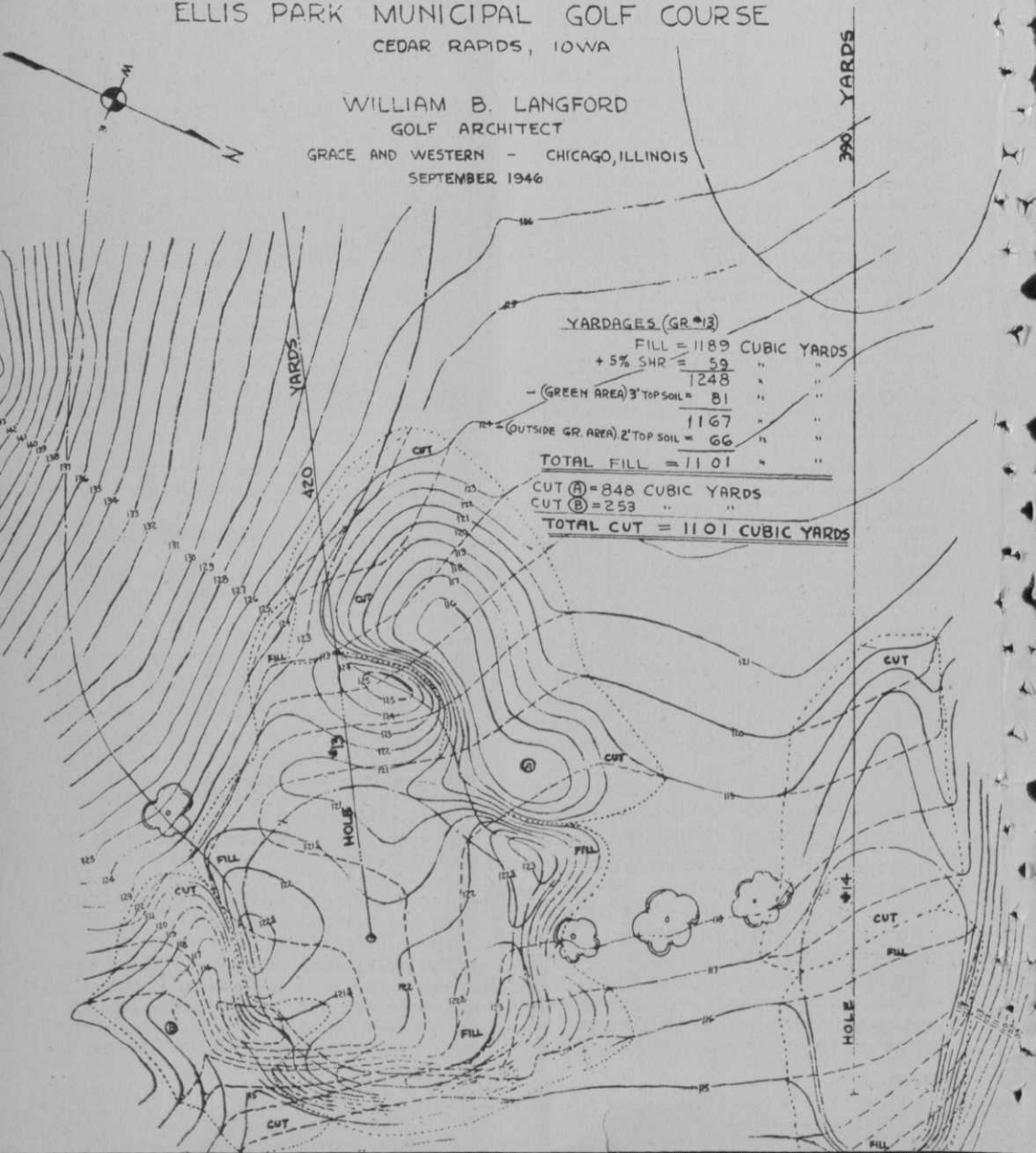
By W. L. LANGFORD

To avoid easy par holes and resulting low handicaps, many clubs do not build holes just over the par change distances, i.e., holes measuring from 445 to 465 yards or 300 to 330 yards. This is a mistake, as such holes frequently provide most interesting play and are inherently variable; a 450 yard hole should not be considered an

This contour map of a hole showing interesting problems in shot and stroke placement may be puzzling to you but it can be read and explained easily by any fellow who was an army combat officer during the war.

GREEN #13 ELLIS PARK MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

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GRACE AND WESTERN - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
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easy par 5, but should be truly judged a very uncertain 4. The variation of score, not the average score, is the real measure of a hole's difficulty and interest.

Courses which have concentrated their hole lengths in an attempt to jockey par often not only eliminate fine natural holes, but by creating a round on which some one hole length predominates, offer its players a layout best suited to the abilities of one particular class; for instance, a course which hitters will eat up, and shorter and possibly more accurate golfers will play at a disadvantage. Such a course is a poor test of all-around golfing ability, tiring and monotonous.

Length is the principal factor which determines the average number of strokes taken on a hole. Terrain and hazards cause most of the variations in score, thus make a hole of any length hard or easy; but, since well hit shots surmount most obstacles, length plays the principal role in fixing score.

The total length of a course does not alone measure the probable score, the distribution of length is the final determinant. It is obvious that a course consisting of 18, 360 yard holes, measuring 6480 yards, is easier than one having 9, 460 yard holes and 9, 260 yard holes with the same total yardage, but a 9 stroke higher par.

Hence, it is important from both interest and difficulty standpoints that a golf course should contain examples of all practical length holes, that there should be no duplication of length in any instances—unless terrain or hazards make similar length holes definitely dissimilar in play. If an opportunity comes along to create an interesting hole, grab it, and forget the par schedule. Remember the scorer's pencil records the number of strokes taken, but says nothing about the way they were played, or of the fun he had.

The length distribution on any layout can be best studied by listing the holes in order of yardage. This table will bring out duplications which should be adjusted. In preparing the table, actual length of holes should be corrected where slope or ground speed materially affects obtainable distance.

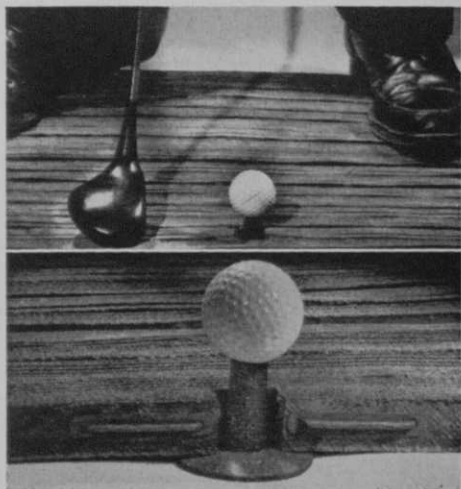
OREGON CHAMPS DRAW 1500—Oregon's "champion of champions" tournament bringing together private, public and fee course champions of the state for 18 hole play at Lloyd's course, Portland, drew a gallery of 1500. Seven golf associations cooperated in staging the event. A shot-making demonstration by pros was put on for the gallery. Joe Mozel, operator of Lloyd's course, had colored film made of the tournament which with sound will be available for instruction and entertainment.

April, 1947

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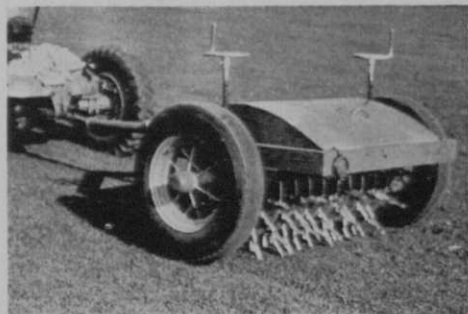
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