

New Yakima Valley Golf and Gun Club

By GIBBONS CLARK

The new Yakima Valley Golf & Gun club at Sunnyside, Washington, is expected to be ready for play early next Spring.

Plans for the sporty 9-hole layout were first laid in Sunnyside around a year ago at which time a group of young sports enthusiasts believed that the time was ripe for a good combined 9-hole course and trap range, and it was then decided that the project should be financed by setting up a holding company which was to acquire the property and improve it.

The site was secured a few months ago and is located on a former 160-acre farm only a few yards off the main highway.

Following the organization meeting of a year ago the Lower Valley Golf and Gun club was incorporated with stock being sold for \$100 per share, and over \$25,000 was raised. Around 150 shares were sold in Sunnyside, and the balance sold in nearby Grandview and Prosser, Washington.

Plans call for a total investment of over \$40,000. Greens and fairways are to be of grass, and throughout is to be installed a pressure water system.

Plans also include a lighted trap shooting range, a completely modern clubhouse with shower facilities, lockers, and space for dancing, with kitchen installation at a later date when the new layout is about ready for play.

A playing club corporation is to be formed. No definite dues or initiation fees have yet been set but the purpose is to set

them low enough in order that all interested may belong and make use of the facilities.

The 9 greens already are in latter stages of construction. And in place is the irrigation system pump. A small lake on the property has been dug deeper, and will be used for a reservoir.

Committees on clubhouse, trap range, and other facilities are rapidly going ahead with their respective chores and, with needed materials already acquired, much of the work will be finished this fall.

Club directors feel that 100 additional shareholders, at \$100 a share, should now be taken in since \$10,000 acquired now would provide for many improvements and refinements which, if made during the original construction, would cost less than new work or remodeling undertaken at a later date. The holding corporation, accordingly, may be opened up, even though adequate funds now are available.

"We have been starved for recreation here," commented Lloyd Amundsen of Sunnyside, Washington, chairman of the board of the new layout, "and we are going to have not only a sporty 9-hole golf course, but a fine recreation center which will include trap and skeet shooting facilities, a badminton court, lawn bowling, an enclosed gymnasium and, later on, possibly stables for riding horses, and a bridle path through the grounds."

The three lower Yakima Valley com-

Hope, plus brains, plus the energy of the Yakima Valley Golf & Gun club members (and some of their money) will transform this view into a fine country club vista in a few years. Golf architect Francis James is making use of the creek-bed in the foreground in constructing testing and pleasant golf holes. The old barn and silo in the background will be torn down and material used in construction of the Yakima Valley clubhouse. The cattle will be chased off and the golfers and trap and skeet shooters will be turned loose to graze contentedly.





Trap shooting range at the new Yakima Valley Golf & Gun club. The skeet course will be at the right of the trap range. This installation will make the club a year-around establishment and draw into golf many sportsmen who've previously concentrated on shooting.

munities of Sunnyside, Grandview, and Prosser will share in the facilities of the new sports center. Lloyd states that many devotees of the scatter loads have joined, and will join, the center who never held a golf club in their hands but who, undoubtedly, will take to the fairways because they will naturally become interested in the game since they will see it being played constantly.

The lower Yakima Valley is one of the best pheasant hunting areas in the Northwest, and practically every farmer in the area is a hunter; he likes to shoot. The trap and skeet facilities incorporated in the sports center are like a magnet drawing these sportsmen into the center as shareholders in the holding corporation. If the center had offered only the golf course these many other members would have been lost to the organization.

This project is a shining example of the American pioneering spirit. Where now an abandoned barn and silo lean weakly into the winds playing over the site of this sports center, a 150-acre former ranch, the new clubhouse will be built nearby, and Lloyd says that there will be enough lumber salvaged from these structures to provide all the rough lumber necessary in the clubhouse construction.

And the idea behind the center being all-pitch-in-and-help, the members will provide most of the labor required for the center's construction, shareholders putting in their spare time, Sundays, etc.

Concrete walks, and a concrete house for the Western Flyer mechanism make up the trap range from which members are already busting the clay birds. The skeet range-to-be will be of similar construction with allowances for game differences.

A sportsman's paradise, the Yakima Valley usually has mild winters, but such that golf play is abandoned until Spring. But the trap and skeet layouts in this sports center will keep the fireplace glowing practically the year around in the clubhouse.

Even with some snowfall the shooting walks can be cleared and members can bust away at the whizzing targets long after golf play has been suspended for the season.

According to Lloyd the sum of \$4000 has been set aside for trap and skeet courses alone. The grounds are to be landscaped around the shooting ranges, as well as around the car parking area and a driveway into the area off the public road forming the east boundary of the sports center.

The sports center land is not of high agricultural value thus eliminating the possibility of using land which might otherwise have been put to more profitable use. And there are natural water hazards already provided within the golf course layout. Members need only perk these up a bit under competent golf architectural guidance and the hazard problem is solved.

Even with the entire 9 holes laid out there still remains for future recreational development the same amount of land as is covered by the golf course, ample room for all the vivid and energetic sports facilities plans of the sports-hungry folk in this Central Washington state area.

The golf course layout was designed by Francis James, golf course architect, University of Idaho. And credit is given I. N. Murphy, Sunnyside, for his work of fitting the plans to the ground contour. Amundsen gives credit to all center members for their excellent cooperation in helping to make the new sports center the great success it appears destined to be.

Southern Turf Research Program Is Started

"The type of turf we are seeking," stated Dr. Fred V. Grau, USGA Green Section at the recent meeting of the Southeastern Turf Advisory committee, "will give maximum surface density for maximum natural freedom from weeds."

The meeting, which took place at the Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment station, Tifton, Ga., was in cooperation with the station's staff, headed by its director, George H. King.

Dr. Grau continued, "We are seeking a turf that offers the greatest enjoyment and satisfaction for use, maximum root growth for relief from drought and soil displacement, and minimum requirements for supplemental fertilization and irrigation resulting in low-cost maintenance."

Well located to conduct a regional turf program, and admirably staffed by an interested personnel, the Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station has welcomed the Advisory Committee as a group to guide the station in practical aspects of its work. To assist the station in its research, the Southern Golf Assn., through the USGA Green Section, has made available