

Architect's Skill Shown on New Course of U. of Arizona

By C. S. Lanier

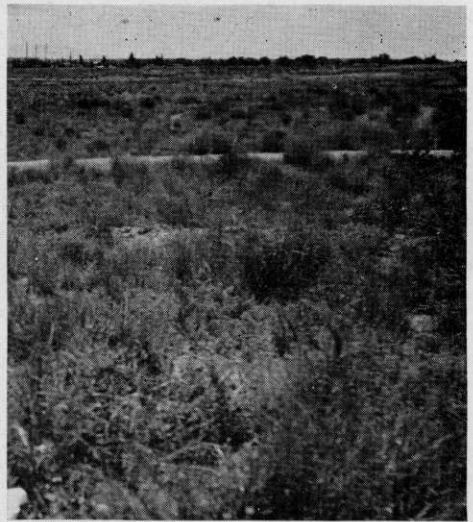
In 1941 when officials of the University of Arizona began planning a public golf course the site available and convenient was one that possibly left more to the imagination and presented less in inviting course prospects than any other location that ever became an attractive golf course. William H. Tucker was given an assignment that involved problems which seldom have confronted the architect and builder of a golf course.

But today on rolling terrain adjoining the campus a desert mesa has blossomed and a course that is a tremendous asset to the university and the entire community is getting heavy play.

To the east of the course tower the Sandia mountains and to the west is the Rio Grande valley. On what now is the course there wasn't a tree in 1941. The only vegetation was tumbleweeds, Russian thistle, cactus and sagebrush. Today there are 18 bent greens, Kentucky bluegrass fairways and yarrow tees. There now are more than 1700 trees on the course. Cottonwoods, Chinese elms, honey locust and evergreens which adorn the course all were transplanted.

The course is laid out over 150 acres. It has a yardage of 6603 (3230 out and 3373 in) with a par of 72. The greens are from 4500 sq. ft. to 7500 sq. ft. and have very interesting contours.

We believe that the University of New Mexico course gets more water pumped



The desert mesa on which U of Arizona course was built.

onto it than any other course in the world. The average annual rainfall at Albuquerque is only 8.27 in. Several months each year at this city of 5162 ft. altitude there is no rainfall.

To get and keep grass we had to have 2 wells. Each of them delivers 500 gals. per minute at pressure of from 65 to 85 lbs.

Night watering is started around May 1 and continued until November. It requires 4 men. Two are assigned to water 9 greens, 9 fairways and tees from 8 p.m. until 4 a.m. The other 2 commence at 4 a.m. watering the remainder of the course until noon.

Record Watering Schedule

This watering is a continuous performance all summer for 16 consecutive hours



Public golf course of University of Arizona at Albuquerque. No. 3 tee in foreground; back of it is No. 9 green. In the distance are the Sandia mountains.



No. 8 green at Arizona U's 18-hole course, built as a student and community asset out of the desert.

a day. From 750 to 850 gals. a minute is used. We really have a schedule that uses water!

This year an 8-hour per day watering schedule was begun in February. The main idea in watering from February to May is to take advantage of any light frosts which will maintain subsoil moisture. When we can get moisture to freeze in the soil it breaks the soil cohesion and provides ad-

ditional aeration which is a serious need on this course.

Not even one 24 hour period can be missed in our watering schedule because of the adobe soil. There was no topsoil at the site of this course; it had to be made.

Greens have an excellent subbase of cinders and manure. The fairways received 3000 tons of cinders put through a 1½ in. screen, and 2000 yds. of manure. The cin-



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This view shows how the site of the No. 3 tee and No. 9 green pictured on page 66 looked before the Arizona U course was built.

ders are essential in breaking up the cohesion of adobe and promoting capillary action that helps gets water to the grass roots.

Since the opening of the course in June, 1942, only one green had to have a temporary green substituted although the course gets year-around play. Last year the course was played 354 days. There were 39,000 rounds registered.

Course Equipment Storage Facilities Lacking

Golf club officials who have commented on farmers' failure to properly house and protect expensive equipment can see similar costly neglect at many golf courses, according to findings of a GOLFDOM investigation. With the trend for the past 9 years having been quite plainly toward machine maintenance of courses it is surprising that even many of the larger and wealthier clubs have not provided equipment storage and maintenance garages of adequate size and repair work facilities.

Naturally, the result of this lack of facilities has meant unnecessary emergency work and expense in course maintenance, undue depreciation, machine work that isn't up to best standard and heavy odds against efficient maintenance.

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