

# Bismarck, N. D. Course Brings New Beauty To Its Area

First 9 holes of Bismarck (N.D.) CC new 18 hole course designed by Robert Bruce Harris recently completed represents a successful demonstration of converting an area into a beauty spot for the entire community's visual enjoyment as well as a pleasant and interesting course for members.

The course is further distinguished by plenty of ground being provided by the club. Of the 320 acres of club property about 200 is used for the golf layout. The course is built in a valley through which a creek meanders. Not only soil conditions but the high winds dictate use of the valley area. Only the first and tenth tees are built above the rich soil of the valley.

Location of the course in the valley presented a problem of placing greens where spring floods won't damage them. Most of the year the territory is very dry but by a dam in Apple creek which provides numerous natural hazards enough water will be retained to supply greens, fairways, tees and the 1834 trees which have been planted to transform a rather barren area into a garden spot.

Greens are quite large; the putting surfaces averaging 7000 sq. ft. Area of the

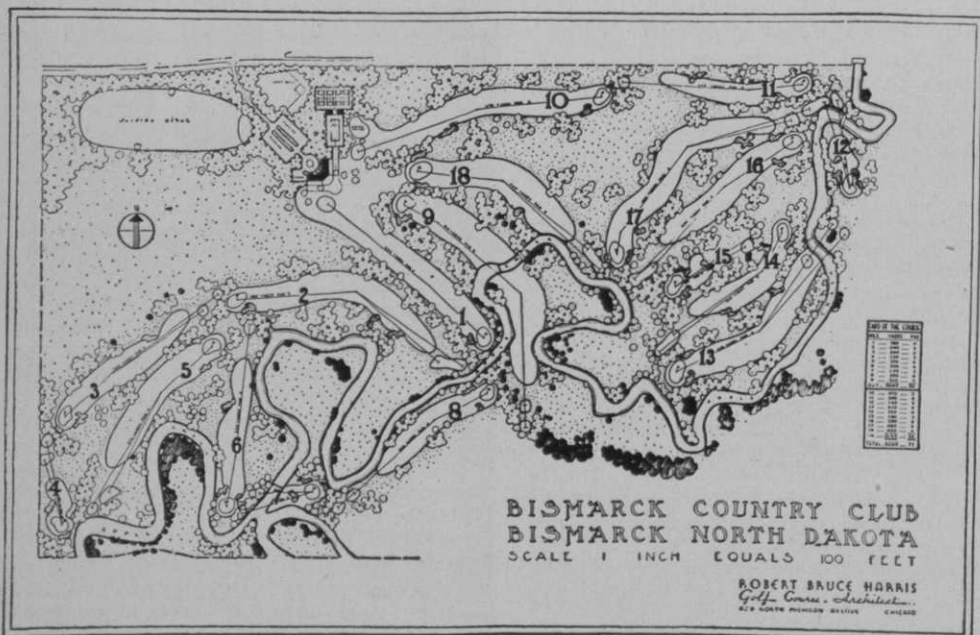
tees is almost equal to that of the greens. Length of the course is 6200 yds. normally but can be stretched to 6500 yds. Par is 72. Area of the tees permits changing of tee markers to give great variety to the tee shots.

The entire course was designed to eliminate practically all maintenance hand labor. All mowing will be done by power equipment and all areas except the greens can be mowed with fairway mowers.

Greens, tees and traps are of streamlined design with long, gentle slopes fitted into the natural topography of the course and facilitating use of fairway mowers. There are only 19 fairway traps on the course.

Drainage was a particular problem. Drainage design had to consider valley location but make sure that play wasn't curtailed by spring floods. The location and design of the dam and reservoir is a major factor in solving the problem.

Extensive study of soil samples and weather reports were made before preparing seeding and fertilizing plans. The tree and shrub selection and planting job was another subject of considerable research and study. Hot dry summers with heavy winds and severe winters provide extremes



of climate. Tree location was made rather irregular to look natural but was coordinated nicely into golf architecture.

A large and attractive practice range is located very handy to the clubhouse. Grounds architecture also provided for softball diamond and other recreation areas for caddies awaiting assignment.

Very interesting use has been made of the meandering Apple creek in presenting problems for the players and of alternate tee locations to require exacting shot placement for championship play or allow a lot of leeway for ordinary play.

### ROW RAGES ABOUT JERSEY COURSE PURCHASE

Opposition to proposed purchase of Essex County CC west 18 at West Orange, N.J. for \$237,000 and use as a public course has developed into biggest public course row of recent years. Course at present is being used as fee course.

Some taxpayers protest purchase by Essex County Park commission saying course at present provides golf facilities as a business and conflicts with non-business detail of zoning regulations. N.J. Publinc assn. does not favor the purchase although saying district is far short of needed golf facilities. Assn. maintains a new course could be built for less money.

Essex Parks GC, public course players, headed by John Martin, are active group and have been advertising in newspapers their protest against increased new rates asked at Hendricks Field and Weequahic. The Parks golfers claim old fees were adequate for maintenance. Their campaign has brought out that from 1914 to 1946 Essex County Park commission collected \$1,096,679 in golf fees.

Martin as head of N.J. State Publinc assn., together with other officers of the organization, also advertise asking that publinc golfers petition Gov. Alfred E. Driscoll requesting \$1,000,000 from race-track breakage to be distributed to 10 counties for public courses.

From Moultrie, Ga. comes news that a new nine-hole golf course described as "one of the most picturesque and interesting layouts in the country," has been opened to the public. . . Built under the supervision of Hugh Moore, pro-manager of the local Bowden Municipal Golf Course it has been under construction for more than two years. . . Hugh reports that this fine layout is not one of those easy affairs, but a real championship test, stretching 3,300 yards over a 200-acre tract of rolling land, situated on the Moultrie-Thomasville highway, three miles from Moultrie.

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