

When completed, the Nassau County Park development will be one of the outstanding 72-hole tracts in this country. In addition to golf, there will be facilities for other sports and outings.

### Bethpage Sets Records

Bethpage, where two of the four courses were virtually closed during the war years, is once again booming with the Black course, rated by some oracles as one of the toughest in the world, back in operation. Joe Berbeck, who operates Bethpage for the Long Island State Parkway Commissioner, was responsible for "softening" the Black course when it was revived at the start of the 1947 season. Some of the yawning traps and bunkers were removed, especially those in the fairways. Bethpage, with the Red, Green, Blue and Black courses again operating, has been setting attendance records, thanks to a cooperating Weather Man.

Timber Point, another seaside course, located at Great River, shut down nine of its 18 exquisite holes during the war, but these are being reconditioned and will be ready for play in 1948. With 12 water holes, Timber Point is one of the real treacherous courses of the East, especially if the fickle winds start emanating from nearby Great South Bay.

Another Suffolk course recently revived is Island Hills in Sayville, where Charlie Mayes is responsible for the near-miracle of reproducing a fine course.

Fred Grieve, who used to work for Willis Anderson and later became pro and greenkeeper at Leewood in Westchester, prevailed upon a syndicate of Sound View Golf Club members at Great Neck to purchase the abandoned Women's National layout. Grieve, upon acquisition of the property, immediately hired some 30 greensmen to recondition the course, which was sadly neglected. The first balls since the war were hit off the tees on reasonably good fairways last month, a magnificent tribute to Grieve's wizardry as a greenkeeper.

Both Fresh Meadow CC at what formerly was the Lakeville GC plant in Great Neck and the nearby Glen Oaks Golf Club in Little Neck are completing their post-war programs costing nearly a half million dollars.

Fresh Meadow, after moving from Flushing to Great Neck, spent lavishly to streamline the former Lakeville layout, which originally cost \$2,500,000, into one of the finest of the East. Glen Oaks, following a three-year tenure at Lakeville, during which time its clubhouse was used by the Army and Navy, was compelled to transform its clubhouse from a war factory to a sumptuous layout of prewar days.

Glen Oaks' clubhouse is the largest of Long Island.

There is talk of constructing several new courses in the Garden City region, which already is thickly populated with gorgeous courses, including Garden City Golf, Cherry Valley, Garden City County, Wheatley Hills and Hempstead.

Golf is definitely on the upswing in the New York suburbs where real estate values are at a lofty peak. With club memberships at the saturation points, the majority have lengthy waiting lists. Long Island, in the opinion of conservative officials, can use at least another dozen 18-hole courses to accommodate the players now congesting private and public courses from Queensboro Bridge to Montauk Point.

### Pre-Season Letter Brings Business for Sprogel

Frank Sprogel, pro at Blytheville CC (Detroit dist.), like most other live pros, sends out a pre-season letter to his members. This one Frank sent out before the season opened brought more of a buying response than any Frank used in previous seasons.

This letter reads:

Dear Member:

#### BEAUTIFUL BLYTHEVILLE BECKONS YOU!

*At last the days are warm and sunny—the long cold winter has departed. I know of no better tonic for the tired businessman than a combination of sunshine, fresh air, and relaxation—and a pleasant game of golf.*

*With your best interests at heart, I have attended several golf clinics where the foremost professionals discussed teaching and present day methods of swinging and shot making. I will be only too glad to pass these latest tips on to you. Whatever your score is, now is your chance to cut strokes from your game; if you are a beginner, there is no better time to learn to play.*

*For the convenience of all who would like to practice, I have purchased hundreds of live rubber golf balls—an ample supply of which will be on the practice tee at all times. Just hit them out and leave them, as arrangements have been made to collect them each evening. There will be a small charge for the use of the balls.*

*Of interest to all is the fact that we now have the best assortment of post war golf equipment available. We not only have the finest golf equipment, we also have smart sport shirts and every other related accessory.*

*A wonderful golfing season is at hand—don't miss any of it. Come out soon—I'll be looking for you.*

Golfdom