

Florida Course Building As "Show" Job of New Methods

By FERMAN WILSON

One of the most interesting jobs of golf course construction now in progress is that of the Plantation Homes course, 4 miles west of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. There Robert F. (Red) Lawrence has begun to demonstrate that ingenious and effective use of latest earth-moving machinery and full employment of construction ideas for quick development and thrifty maintenance of finest turf will produce a great course in record time despite the labor situation, and at a cost that even at today's prices of materials will compare favorably with outstanding construction jobs of previous years.

The operation is being watched by golf architects, greenkeepers and club officials as an example of course construction in which every possible up-to-the-minute method and considerable modern machinery are being used by one of the masters of golf course building.

Lawrence, a member of the American Society of Golf Architects, recently resigned after 17 years as gen. supt. of Boca Raton (Fla.) club, to devote himself to golf architecture and building. His first job in course building was a remodeling job in 1927 on the now abandoned Albert D. Lasker course, north of Chicago, one of the finest golfing layouts in the coun-

try. He's been on about 50 course building jobs since then, among them the Country club of Cleveland and Pepper Pike CC (Cleveland dist.) and in Florida: Boca Raton, Indian Creek, Miami Shores and alteration of La Gorce.

Design Features of Job

Of the Plantation Homes course job Lawrence says:

"The site is in one of Florida's most fertile soil areas and because of a water control system the ground water table throughout can be kept at required elevation. Water can be pumped on or off, as desired.

"Golf holes on this course are so arranged that any part of a hole is within a few hundred feet of a canal or lake, but there are only three actual water hazards, each of a different variety.

"The ninth hole (392 yards) water hazard is on the second shot. The 14th hole (358 yards) is the diagonal carry type on tee shots. The long player can bite off all he wants across a lake. A canal crosses the fairway, but fairway areas are so designed that they take care of any length tee shots accurately placed.

"The 17th hole (170 yards) has water on a direct line and to the right thereof



Chauncey R. Clark (center) and Stewart E. Clark (R) who head up Plantation Homes, Inc., listen as Robt. F. "Red" Lawrence points to outline of fairway under construction on new golf course. Latest earth-moving machinery shown in the background will help make it possible to complete construction in record time.

from tee to green. This is plenty of fairway area to the left of the lake for short players.

"There are four starting tees at the clubhouse, 1, 6, 10 and 15. Players can start at either tee and during rush periods the course could be filled with players in very short time. This feature alone is such that many more golfers can play the course during a rush time than on any other golf course.



A pleasant interlude takes Robert F. "Red" Lawrence, architect of the new Plantation Homes 18-hole golf course five miles west of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., away from his supervisory job for a moment as he helps Miss Eula Packer aboard for better view of preliminary clearing and earth moving work.

"There is an Indian mound of tropical trees located on the course. It is used as a background for 7 and 11 greens, Tees 8 and 2 are at this natural beauty spot.

"There are not any two holes the same. The holes are so designed that each are different, even though the distances on some vary only slightly.

"The land of this course is considered flat. However, it will be made slightly undulating. All trees, greens and bunkers will be built up to various heights from materials excavated from lakes and waterways.

"The winding fairways will be an added attraction calling for the placement of shots, regardless of the length of shots.

"The practice field is more than 300 yards long. This field has a very wide tee. There are two other fields for practice, each containing a green for iron shots practice. The length varies from pitch shots to full iron shots.

"The tees on the course will be large, creating considerable variation in length. From the front of the tees the course will be about 6,000 yards, and from the back of the tees it will be about 6,900 yards.

"Another added feature is that the holes are widely separated."

Willie Macfarlane is to be pro at the new club which will be opened early in 1949.

The clubhouse, a rambling structure of unique design, is at one end of the village's landscaped business street with the village hall at the opposite end. Adjoining the clubhouse there is a swimming pool in a tropical setting. There are tennis courts east of the clubhouse. Along the northern boundary of the course has been reserved for homes.

There are practice areas near the clubhouse on both sides of the entrance drive, and a large practice field between the fifth and sixth holes and nearby is the superintendent's house, service building and pro shop and caddy house, and practice green.

Pals Give a Hand to Scotty Chisholm

D. Scott (Scotty) Chisholm, veteran golf writer, photographer and tournament announcer, who's been making his headquarters at Ojai, Calif., for the past several years, is to have an operation for cataracts on both eyes. As Scotty's devoted his 71 years to making friends instead of money, the friends are seeing to it that the colorful and kindly gentleman doesn't learn this late that his accent on helpfulness and kindness has been a hell of a mistake.

Amateur and pro golfers, golf writers and broadcasters are joining together in establishing a fund that will bring Scotty successfully through his operation with the best of cares and no worries about the tab. Maurie Luxford started the fund and the California golfers and publicists gave Maurie the job of being treasurer. Make your check out to "The Scotty Chisholm fund," and mail it right away to Maurie Luxford, 10136 Riverside drive, North Hollywood, Calif. All contributions will be acknowledged and there'll be no deductions for any expenses involved in raising or acknowledging the fund.

The many, many thousands in golf who know Scotty send him their cheers, happy recollections and good wishes along with cash to see that the merry Scot gets the best breaks in his tough spot.

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