



A gallery of more than 2,500 attended Celebrities Preview Day at Los Angeles' new Rancho municipal golf course on Sunday, July 3. Radio and screen comic Bob Hope, Walker Cup team members Johnny Dawson and Bruce McCormick, and George Von Elm, National Amateur champion in 1926 comprised the feature foursome. Rancho was host to the 24th annual U. S. Amateur Public Links Championship July 9-16.

LA Opens Rancho, Saying It's "World's Best" Muny Plant

Rancho Golf Course, newest 18 hole layout owned and operated by the City of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Board was presented to more than 4800 golfing Angelenos at ceremonies held July 3, featuring among other attractions a match between Bob Hope, Bruce McCormick, Johnny Dawson and George Von Elm.

Honors for the first rounds over the 7100 yard par 71 establishment went to the Hope, Dawson, McCormick and Von Elm foursome, none of whom played to

par, in a match to defray some of the expenses to be incurred during the USGA Public Links tournament played at Rancho July 11-16. Civic, business and local golfing officials gathered to be amazed by the conditions of the new course and to praise Bill Johnson, designer and builder of the 184 acre plant.

Aided in his efforts by Maurie Luxford, President of the Board of Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, who also mc'ed opening day festivities at Rancho, John-

son only nine months ago started seeding operations. Under his supervision, Rancho has developed what local golfing and turf experts claim to be some of the finest greens and fairways along the Pacific Coast.

More than 1,200,000 cubic yards of earth were moved in developing the course, which Angelenos hail as the finest muni plant in existence. Under the direction of Johnson, 67 acres of land were reclaimed by filling in previous useless land. The site of the Rancho playground contains, in addition to the championship golf course, six tennis courts, a baseball diamond, swimming pool, fly casting pool, two driving ranges, a pitch and putt course, basketball court, handball courts, a golf clubhouse and a community clubhouse.

Golf Pays Its Way

While the \$350,000 cost of building the community clubhouse and equipping the playground came out of a \$12,000,000 recreation and park bond issue recently voted by the citizens of L.A., the entire \$1,240,000 cost of constructing the course and the golf clubhouse bit the local gentry for not one penny, that entire fund having been obtained out of profits gathered at Griffith Park muni course, also under the supervision of Johnson.

The low, rambling Rancho clubhouse, constructed in California ranch architecture, is decorated throughout in modern style and contains, among other decorations, 12 paintings by local artists, valued at over \$1,000 apiece.

The kitchen, leased on a concession basis, contains over \$30,000 in the latest time and money saving devices.

Charlie Lacey's pro shop, situated between the men's lockerroom and the first tee, is completely paneled in bleached birch.

At present, the clubhouse contains 250 lockers for men; 75 for women.

With the opening of Rancho, the plea for a public course in the western sec-

tion of Los Angeles is finally met. Rancho will also relieve some of the traffic on Griffith Park course where fee-paying players often had to book starting time reservations two to three weeks in advance.

Simultaneous with the opening of Rancho, the Parks and Recreation Commissioners under Luxford are asking for, and will probably receive, permission from city authorities to establish a fund out of the pay-as-you-play proceeds at Rancho for the purchase and development of a 176 acre site in the Cheviot Hills district of southwest Los Angeles, thereby providing people in all districts of the city more adequate golfing facilities.

Among the unique features is a wire fencing 3½ stories high and more than 170 feet long, protecting traffic on Pico boulevard against out-of-bound hooks. The clubhouse and pro shop are built so expansion for increased traffic can be handled by enlarged construction in keeping with the key architectural plan. Facilities won't be increased until the plant has earned the required funds.

The new public course is on the site of the old Rancho private club which passed out of the picture years ago. It's one block west of Hillcrest CC.

Considerable significance is attached to the fact that Rancho turf was developed by a soil analysis, fertilizing and seeding program which the Southern California turf research work conducted at UCLA under the direction of Vern Stoutemeyer. This first demonstration of what could be done by working from scratch to the modern formulae determined by the research and operating team convinced southern California golfers and club officials that the program the greenkeepers have urged, and finally got going, is of tremendous value. Rancho's excellent turf, developed in record time, is considered virtually a miracle.

In every respect the Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation en-



The beautiful new clubhouse at Rancho municipal golf course in Los Angeles, host course to the 24th annual U. S. Amateur Public Links Championship July 9-16, is decorated throughout in modern style. Clubhouse as well as course construction was financed from golf revenue, not taxes.

deavored to make the new plant the model modern municipal golf course. The purchasing program was carried out according to the constructors' judgment of the best available and was kept remarkably free from political interference and pressure.

The fine hand of Wm. P. Bell is evident in Rancho design. Bell was architectural consultant on the course which may be extended from 6,283 yds. to 7,003. Par is 35-36-71. The tree and shrub planting is closely tied in with the architecture of the course and eventually will beautify the area which was virtually devoid of trees. Rancho represents a major job of earth moving in leveling hills and filling barancas.

In time Bermuda probably will be the fairway grass as it's native but the planting of bluegrass, meadow fescue, alta fescue, redtop and bent has provided surprisingly good fairways in about 11 months.

Cleveland Greenkeepers Prepare Outstanding Educational Exhibit

Greenkeepers of the Cleveland district have prepared an educational display showing in graphic detail cause and effect of the major elements that need to be known to carry on modern day course maintenance practices. The colorful exhibit was shown for the first time at a joint meeting recently of the greenkeepers and Cleveland District GA officials. It is convincing proof that the greenkeeper of today is a specialist and should be recognized as such by his co-workers, according to Fred Grau, Dir., USGA Green Section, who spoke before the group.

The display consists of several group-

ings with different color backgrounds. One grouping shows the elements necessary for grass growth. Below is shown chemicals and fertilizers used to supply these elements. Another grouping shows types of diseases that will attack grass plants. Below is shown chemicals used to control these diseases. Another grouping shows insects that will attack grass plants and below chemicals used to control these insects. Weeds and their control are shown in another grouping. Other groupings show soil builders, types of grass seed, vegetative grasses, major ingredients of soil, soil testing equipment, library for greenkeepers, profiles of putting green soils, and a display case of insects. Unusual interest was shown in the display by club officials as well as greenkeepers and as a result the exhibit is to be kept intact to be shown at other meetings to help educate members and officials in some of the problems of maintaining a golf course.

It is the type of display other regional groups may do well to pattern and use as an aid in educating their respective members and officials.

The meeting at which the display was shown was held at the Shaker Heights CC with 150 attending. A tournament held in conjunction with the meeting is to be made an annual affair with the Greenkeepers Assn. donating a plaque to the winners. Nelson Monical and his chairman Tom Sawyer won the trophies for the best greenkeeper-chairman team this year.

Grau in commenting on the value of the educational exhibit and the need for constant study on the part of the greenkeeper pointed out that one of the greatest mistakes in golf management today is the practice of changing the Green Committee chairman every year.



Cleveland Dist. greenkeepers' educational exhibit displayed for first time at recent meeting with Cleveland District GA officials received high praise from everyone attending. Exhibit will be kept intact and displayed at all meetings in the area.