



—Larry Shafer, photo

REMINDER TO CHECK FIRE RISK

What's left after \$75,000 blaze gutted section of clubhouse of Kirtland CC (Cleveland dist.) last fall is a reminder that check-up on fire prevention, fire control and fire insurance is one of the important jobs to be done during time when golf clubhouse operations in central and northern states are in a lull. Increased building costs point to need of insurance revision upward. Manager and officials can use this time too in discussing operating practices to reduce fire risk when the season is on. Fire insurance fellows say "every country clubhouse burns once," and attribute high fire insurance rates in most cases to causes that can be eliminated without undue expense. Fire insurance men don't tell, however, how to fully control carelessness of members and help so fire risk will be reduced. That's one of the problems that make managers grey-headed.

ing balls into Jim's oats which was something that didn't improve anybody's disposition or pleasure.

While the changes were being made steadily and slowly I was studying books on golf architecture and with that basic training was questioning good architects and greenkeepers and pros, hoping that someday we would have license for bragging we had the best smalltown course in Western Iowa. But nobody ever wanted to discuss the merits of famous holes illustrated in the copy of *The Links* I often carried around with me.

A friend of mine from San Diego, Si Boysen, who knows the beginning and has seen the change in our course, said to me I was doing a \$5,000 job for the club. That was a pleasing shock to me but when I got over being built up to myself by the comment I got to thinking what the time I'd spent in 25 years on the course might be worth, even at mighty low wages an hour. Any earnest green-chairman who will do the same thing after serving his club for some years will be surprised at how the total will run up. But nobody will give a damn.

The average golf club member in any size or class of club just wants to have all possible pleasure at least possible expense and no work at all, so some conscientious nut has to do what the others won't. And, to tell the truth, I don't know where a fellow with the correct fit of persistence, patience, eagerness to learn and willingness to put up with indifference or criticism from the uninformed, can get any more satisfaction from ultimate achievement in a hobby than a green-chairman gets when he sees his course gradually develop into something that receives high approval from his fellow club members and their guests.

A rather amusing contradictory thing about the average golfer is he will come home with glowing accounts of playing an interesting hole on some neighboring course. But if you suggest building a green like it he will have seven kinds of a cat fit. Funny ain't he? A case in point with us is the No. 4 hole at Perry, Ia. Our No. 4 could be made to conform and be almost as interesting.

One very important thing that the chairman of the smaller club will learn is that for maintaining keen interest of players