

ter turf at Pinehurst. Naturally operations vary at different courses and probably work better. However, these methods have worked well for us for quite a while, and although changes are needed and will be made from time to time, we believe we're doing the right things most of the time.

Well, it sounds simple enough when telling about it, doesn't it? And that's just what most people, including the majority of golfers, think it is. Simple, just sow your seed, fertilize and water it, and there's your grass! Only the fellows who are engaged in the production of turf know the headaches and worries that go with it.

Comfort of Non-Playing Guests Helps Driving Range Patronage

By Bob Hall

If you want to please today's driving range customer, you've got to give him what he wants.

That's why one of Southern California's popular Practice Fairways is the one the pros raved about during the winter tour at Lakewood. Manager Al Smith and his corps of four PGA instructing pros try to keep everyone happy.

For instance, if you're a family man, you likely have trouble getting out at night. So does your wife, if she wants to hit a few practice balls, too.

What does Smith do? He installs a Children's Playground on the northeast corner of the range, out of the way of the hitting area, and fully lighted. The playground includes a teeter-totter, three swings, a merry-go-round, plenty of lawn and it's all fenced.

Mama and papa come out to sharpen their game, the kids get a little exercise and plenty of fun — and everyone's happy.

Then there's the problem of comfort.

How many times have you taken a friend, who doesn't golf, but kinda likes to tag along, to the fairways while you hit a few before dinner or prior to the show, the dance or the double date?

Well, Lakewood Practice Fairways has answered that one too.

Your friend doesn't have to stand and watch. He can either sit in an easy chair right alongside your tee-set, or he can lean back in comfort in the porch swing or garden chairs in the patio of the range's clubhouse.

Speaking of the clubhouse, there's another item for the customer's convenience.

They've a full line of golf equipment — balls, bags, clubs, sweaters, shoes, gloves, tees and what nots.

For the golfer who doesn't like to be crowded when he's hitting 'em, the range

offers a 408-foot tee width, and a chair behind each set for the girl friend, wife or boy friend.

The tee area is 160 feet deep, allowing for a change of tee line three times a week.

There's an underground sprinkling system covering the entire area.

Six greens are maintained for those who like to practice pitching to the pins. Two of them are listed at 75 yards, and one each at 125-yards, 150-yards, 200-yards and 225-yards. All are slightly trapped to make the play more interesting.

The tee sets are so planned as to hit the long drives through a row of trees, beginning at about 200 yards from the front tee.

There are eight light standards, with six powerful globes on each standard, giving off in total 50,000 candle-power. A 250 yard drive can be seen from impact to fairway just as in daylight.

Another customer-convenience is the radio system between the driving range, the clubhouse and grill and the pro shop.

Anyone wishing to "hit a few" before teeing off on a busy day can be contacted immediately at the range from the pro shop or starter house that he's up in five minutes, or wanted on the tee at such and such a time.

It is estimated that an average of 12,000 balls are hit off the Lakewood Practice Fairways every day of the year.

The range is lighted until 10 p.m. about 9 months of the year, closing only during the three mid-winter months for night activity.

A neat little range "pro shop" is maintained, including a canopied patio in which soft chairs, soft drinks and soft radio music are available.

Instructors on the tee at present are Charles Koontz, Larry Gleason, Bob Tucker and Vic Baker, who is pro at the Lakewood Country Club, but gives many of his lessons on the range. Vic's assistants in the Lakewood shop, Vic Owen and Wendall Wilmot, also give their lessons on the range tees.

But, do you know, the factor that Manager Al Smith kept pointing to the most as something the customers liked, was that Children's Playground.

"You'd be surprised how many bring their youngsters along in the cool of an evening and hit a few while the kids have their fun, too," he'll tell you.

Maybe that's why the PGA clinic at the Long Beach Open at Lakewood in January was rated by George Schneider in his resume of the Winter Tour, as the most graciously received and one of the most successful.