



DuPont employees point with pride to their new Country Club and its rambling new clubhouse located between two 18-hole courses. It represents an investment of \$2,600,000 serving a membership of 6,000 whose incomes run from \$25 weekly to \$100,000 yearly.

DuPont Club, Courses, Prize Exhibit of Employee's Golf

By JOSEPH W. DRAGONETTI

One of the most unusual golf courses in the United States is the company-owned, employee-operated DuPont Country Club at Wilmington, Delaware. Members of the club earn from \$25 weekly to \$100,000 yearly, but they all rub elbows in a spirit of good fellowship and cooperation.

No one probably knows that better than the head pro, Sterling (Terl) Johnson, who teaches at the club six days a week. There is no privilege for rank at this club and Johnson uses the utmost tact in pairing players of equal ability.

The club itself has undergone many changes since it was first conceived 30 years ago. Latest change was started in 1946 when a large adjoining farm to the original course was purchased and a new 18-hole course covering 6,700 yards was built that winter. Design was also started on a new clubhouse.

The new layout, representing a total investment of \$2,600,000 was opened on May 28, 1949, under the operating direction of L. E. (Larry) Therien, who became manager of the club near the end of the Second World War.

Georgian colonial in architecture, the rambling new clubhouse is located between "The Nemours" course and the new course which has been given the name of "The Du Pont." Nine holes of the original Du Pont course were salvaged, giving the club a total of 45 holes.

The development of this unique golf course goes back to the First World War when recreation facilities for the Du Pont Co. posed some problems.

One group of employees, which liked to bang away at flying clay targets, existed as the Du Pont Gun Club. Another group—partisans of the great American game of baseball—had the finest diamond and covered grandstand in the vicinity of Wilmington.

That group was known as the Du Pont Athletic Association. A group of chemists had built three tennis courts near the company's Experimental Station. Everyone wanted more room.

Good reasoning prevailed and first the employees got together, the various groups pooling their interests and facilities to form the Du Pont Country Club. Papers

of incorporation were drawn on May 14, 1920. Then an alert company management provided additional space, a tract of 41½ acres of rolling land overlooking the historic Brandywine Creek to the North of Wilmington.

The first clubhouse was a makeshift affair which had been contributed by the gun club group. In 1924, the company provided a magnificent new clubhouse at a cost of \$106,000.

Interest in shooting and baseball began to wane as golf became of growing impor-



Sterling (Terl) Johnson, professional, has a full time job scheduling matches and giving lessons to the DuPont club membership.

tance. A nine-hole course was built in 1923 and grew into 18 holes with the opening of the new clubhouse the following year.

In 1938, as the membership of the club grew, another 18-hole course was added. The original course was known as "The Du Pont," the second, as "The Nemours."

With golf came a professional in the personage of a colorful Scotsman named Tommy Fisher, who reported in 1923. A wood-jointer and club maker by trade, Fisher who was one of the nation's leading professional soccer players and coached the sport for a period at Haverford College, went to Du Pont by way of the Aronomink Country Club and Llanerch Country Club, both in the Philadelphia suburban area.

Fisher was retired in July, 1949, being succeeded by Sterling (Terl) Johnson, who shifted from the Plymouth Country Club at Norristown, Pa.

In 1920, when the Du Pont Club was organized, the membership totaled 600. By 1946, the number had increased to 3,250. The 1924 clubhouse had become outmoded and undersized.

The Du Pont Company had extensive plans for expanding its Experimental Station into a broadened research center. The 1924 clubhouse and a large section of the original Du Pont golf course fell within the range of the new research facilities.

Consequently, additional ground and facilities for the Du Pont Country Club, as it stands today, had to be provided.

The present clubhouse is one of the finest in America. Stately glass doors open into a foyer at the main entrance. Broad steps lead to the main floor and a lengthy, well-furnished hall, known as "Peacock Alley."

To the left along the main hall are the offices, ladies' lounge, and ladies' locker room. The hall to the right leads to the cocktail lounge and the main dining room, which accommodates 150 and overlooks the new Du Pont course. Private dining rooms, the pantry, and kitchen are also in this wing of the building.

A feature of the main floor is a combination ballroom and auditorium, with tall fanned window-doors opening onto a spacious porch, below which is a sundeck and the new golf course.

Forming a balcony for the ballroom is a broad mezzanine, which is suitable for small and private parties. Living quarters for resident personnel and storage space lead off the mezzanine and are also reached by direct stairways.

The ground floor, with entrances from both sides and both ends of the building, house the men's locker room, shops for golf and tennis professionals, and the mixed grille, where members may eat and drink with less formality than in the dining room and cocktail lounge. In the east wing of the building is a special game room for ping-pong, shuffle-board, and numerous other pastimes.

Two television sets, built-in public address system, which is as pliable as women's fashions; a refrigerated garbage room to eliminate insects and odors, and nylon furnishings, including rugs, are among the up-to-date features of the new clubhouse.

From its original membership of 600, the club has grown to almost 6,000, but the spirit of friendliness of its members have grown apace. The Du Pont Country Club is a monument to good management and employee relations.

N.Y.-Conn. Turf Men Elect Twombly

The N. Y.-Conn. Turf Improvement Assn. elected A. R. Twombly, Pelham CC, President and Lloyd Stott, Woodway CC, VP, at its annual meeting. Doug Rankin, Westchester CC is the new sec., and A. H. Maslin also of Westchester CC takes over as full time treasurer.

Elected to the Executive Committee were Edward Brady, N. Y. C. Parks; Joseph Flynn, Metropolis CC, and Frank Malara, Knollwood CC.

The December meeting was held at the very fine Woodway CC, Stamford, Conn. Henry B. Carpenter, Chairman, and Lloyd Stott, Supt., were hosts for a wonderful evening. Dr. John Schread, E. Larkin, Ralph Engle and Tony Mascaro all contributed to the evening's discussion.