



New grass fairways at the Midland (Tex.) CC take shape against background of mesquite brushland as thousands of gallons of water and miles of pipe convert desert wasteland into veritable oasis. Above photo was taken from atop 420,000 gallon storage tank which feeds irrigation system.

Midland Course Great Exhibit Modern Golf Turf Science

Texas, which is rumored to be a state slightly addicted to the use of superlatives, has ample justification for talking large about the new North course of the Midland CC. Midland is a city of about 15,000 in west Texas about half way between Fort Worth and El Paso. The trip of 274 miles south and west of Fort Worth to Midland is not much of a drive the way they regard distance in Texas.

Midland started in golf with a 9-hole sand green course which later got bent greens. Now there is being completed on a 583 acre tract bordering the city a course that will measure 7,353 yards from the back markers, have a par of 72 and if the best laid plans of turf experts don't gang a-gley the course will be an outstanding exhibit of modern golf turf science.

Course To Rate with Best

Fred Hogan, former mayor of Midland and prominent in Texas oil business, is the club member who has been given the responsibility of seeing that Midland gets a course that will rate with the best in the nation. Hogan knows his way around in golf and has been especially active in promotion of junior play.

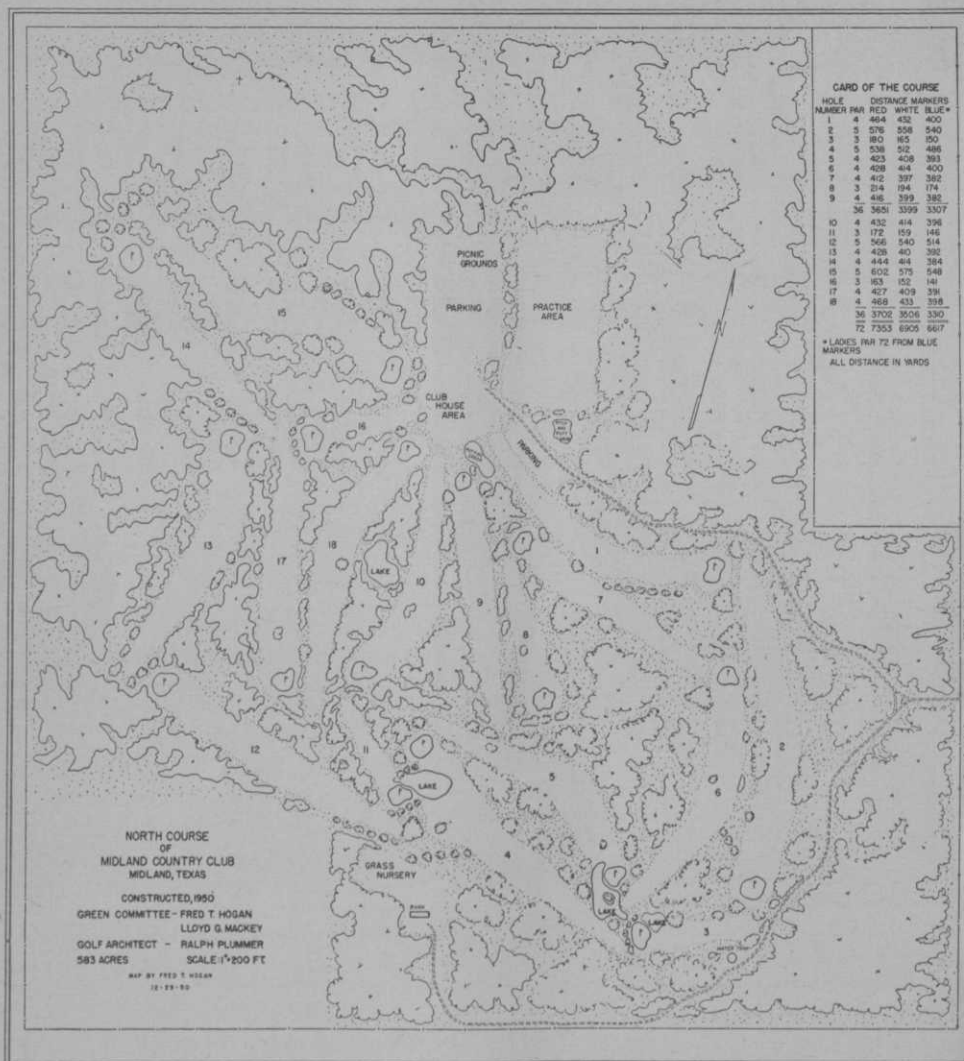
Ralph Plummer was given the architectural assignment. Plummer has been the architect on some excellent new and remodelling jobs on 18- and 9-hole layouts in the southwest, among them those at

Alice, Tex., Artesia, N.M., Alta, Okla., College Station, Tex., Temple, Tex., Dallas CC and Lakewood CC in Dallas, and River Crest CC at Fort Worth. He was given instructions to shoot the works on this job and come out with something that would be fun for the home folks and a great test



Closeup showing early stages of grass in one of the fairways on the new Midland course.

of golf that would get stars from all over the golfing universe praising the course if Midland ever wanted to put on a superstar affair. And Midland might. Those oil



guys spend money as though it's only money.

Bring In Experts

Plummer and Hogan began getting experts in the act right from the start. Jim R. Watson, agronomist of Texas A&M College and sec. treas. of the Texas Turf Assn. and Fred Grau, director of the USGA Green Section, laid out a soil conditioning program for converting the rugged mesquite brushland and dunes into a finely-turfed golf course. The Goldthwaite's Texas Toro Co. was put on the job for irrigation and equipment.

The irrigation that's changing the wasteland into a beautiful oasis starts with five wells that pump into a 420,000 gal. steel tank. There are nine miles of pipe on the course. You can guess from this refer-

ence to steel storage and pipe there won't be anything like the Midland course built in the U.S. for years, until the government restrictions, put into effect after Midland construction, are lifted.

There is no out of bounds on the Midland course. One of its features is a large night-lighted practice range such as GOLFDOM has been urging for club installation for several years. As far as we've learned this is the first one to be installed on a new job.

The course was planted to winter rye, greatly to the delight and nutrition of Texas rabbits which even on their normal austerity diet are so big they have to be shot with elephant guns. Later the Bermuda was sprigged in for fairways.

Twelve carloads of peat moss and 18 carloads of sand and 18 carloads of gravel

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expert help in choosing equipment from someone who knows their game and their golf habits. They buy from a merchant who is interested in selling them what they need and want, and holding them as customers; because their golf game as well as their golf equipment is his business. That's why the club hired a pro and built him a golf shop.

The pro is boss foreman to the hundred odd caddies in his charge. The caddie master may be directly responsible but the smooth operation of the caddie system goes back to the pro. The club chose him for his ability to handle the men and boys in his charge. He is a labor chief at the club. That's how he got the job as pro.

The club officials and members may not be aware of all the reasons why they hired a pro or the pro may not clearly realize what's expected of him. But when something goes wrong, then the pro learns what's expected of him. It's plenty.

MIDLAND COURSE

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were brought in for green construction. There's been an extensive program of soil preparation followed in preparing greens, fairways and tees. Surface- and sub-drainage has been carefully planned and double-checked.

Artificial lakes and meandering draws have been designed into the layout so they look like nature made them.

The landscaping program started by making golf architectural use of largest of the mesquite trees native to the land and has been expanded into installation of 682 elms, cottonwoods and poplars fitted into the golf architecture and scenic planning.

Grau and Watson recently went on an inspection tour of the Midland job with Plummer and Fred Hogan and Jay Floyd of the club and the turf authorities are satisfied that this job already has made golf construction history in showing that recommendations of turf scientists effect the quick establishment of first grade golf

turf on what appears to be forbidding territory, and that the ultimate economy in cash has a long, long margin over the trial and error methods.

Another historic aspect of the Midland development is that three presidents and three boards have been in office since the project was begun yet there have been few alterations in the basic planning and the boys haven't drawn 6-guns on each other in labor-pain arguments. Roy Minear and Percy F. Bridgewater preceded the present president, Don Johnson, in office. Through the three administrations building has steadily progressed.

The club intended to construct a \$500,000 clubhouse but government building restrictions have forced indefinite postponement to that work.

SHAW LAWN EQUIPT. CO. HOST TO PHOENIX AREA SUPTS.



Alva Shaw and missus of the Shaw Lawn Mowing Equipment Co., Phoenix, Ariz., entertain the golf course superintendents and wives of the Phoenix area at annual dinner party. Guests of the Shaws for this occasion were Mr. and Mrs. Phil Hanson, Phoenix CC, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Perow, Mesa G&CC, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Stanley, ass't. at Phoenix CC, Mr. and Mrs. J. Woodward, Arizona CC, Preston Childers, Phoenix Muny Course and Cecil Watkins, Wigwam Course, Litchfield Park.

WILLIAM F. GORDON

Golf Course Architect

Member

American Society of Golf Course Architects

Doylestown,
Pennsylvania

ALFRED H. TULL

Golf Course Architect

209 E. 49th Street
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.