



This clubhouse at Pauls Valley combines attractive, neat facilities for the golfers and an airport administration building. The building was remodelled and finished from a gift from Army Surplus.

Course, Airport and Erosion Projects Thriftily United

A little money, a lot of help and a whole lot of determination, co-operation and ingenuity brought forth a first class golf course for Pauls Valley, Okla., a city of 7,000.

The fact that the golf course converted a big liability to the city and a source of major expense, into an asset with revenue coming into the city till, is just part of the story.

The tale begins back in World War II, when the U.S. Navy built an airport, then two miles from Pauls Valley, but which now virtually adjoins part of the city. The airport was never used by the Navy and when the war was over it was ceded to the city under the supervision of the C.A.A. Part of the contract under which the airport was turned over, was an agreement on the part of the city to maintain the vast area. Part of this required maintenance was the control of erosion on some 400 acres of thin upland.

Actual use of the airport could not, in the foreseeable future, provide sufficient revenue to pay for the endless task of filling gullies and shaping the earth to keep it from washing into a waste of ravines.

Then golfers got into the act. Some of them were on the Board of Airport Managers who were charged with responsibility for the half million dollar facility.

The Board of Managers with C. T.

Loftin, local insurance man, as chairman; Meaders Jones, golf enthusiast supreme; Dr. J. S. Swinney, optometrist; Ex-Mayor Jack Livingston and theatre owner L. E. Brewer as members began to talk of a golf course on some of the eroding land.

T. R. McCasling, city manager, who had previously worked at the Muskogee (Okla.) CC and at Hillcrest in Oklahoma City, was called into consultation. McCasling assured the board members that he could build a golf course if enough money was provided.

The outlook wasn't good. The land was poor, neglected and getting worse. There was no clubhouse, no administration building for the airport, no money. In fact all there was, was ground, which seemed to serve only to hold the earth together at that point.

Now, a year and a half later, a 9-hole golf course is in play with 35,000 sq. ft. of Seaside bent grass greens. The fairways are flourishing and erosion is checked. A nice lake provides a water hazard for two holes and is stocked with fish for anyone who cares to throw in a hook.

A combination clubhouse and administration building, complete with men's and ladies' lockers, showers, toilet facilities, waiting room, modernistic restaurant, ticket office and managers office, is ready

for a grand opening and show off April 1st.

Every day the weather permits there are golfers going around the course and providing the revenue to employ a full time golf pro who doubles as a manager of the airport.

Seeding the fairways was topped off by planting shrubbery in strategic places to make the erstwhile barren hill begin to bloom and grow verdant.

The facts and figures tell an inspiring story by themselves. Cash donations from golfers and prospective golfers came to \$4500. The City of Pauls Valley used men and equipment for a total value of \$2,000. The administration building was a gift from Army Surplus and was moved, remodeled, refinished and completed at a cost of \$22,000 of which \$12,000 was provided by the Civil Aeronautics Authority.

Beyond those figures is the hard and persistent work of Manager McCasling and the members of the Board of Airport Managers. The C.A.A., who heartily endorse and promote anything that will bring people and care to airports, gave their full cooperation and blessing to the project.

Dozens of citizens, golfers and non-golfers donated time, machinery and material. One man sent a bulldozer to scoop out the lake and build the dam.

Financing Without Strain

City Manager McCasling got Bob Dunning of Tulsa to help him lay out a course that would be an adequate initial project. They wanted something that would develop golf interest and keep the construction and operating costs so low that the 9-hole course would be a financially sound job for golf in the community.

McCasling says, "You learn to appreciate the expert talents of an experienced golf architect when you have the prob-

lems of trying to get interesting golf holes and place greens where there will be plenty of circulation of air as well as good drainage.

"We realized how vitally important proper drainage and aeration are to getting and keeping satisfactory bent greens in this part of Oklahoma. Bent has to be given every encouragement around here.

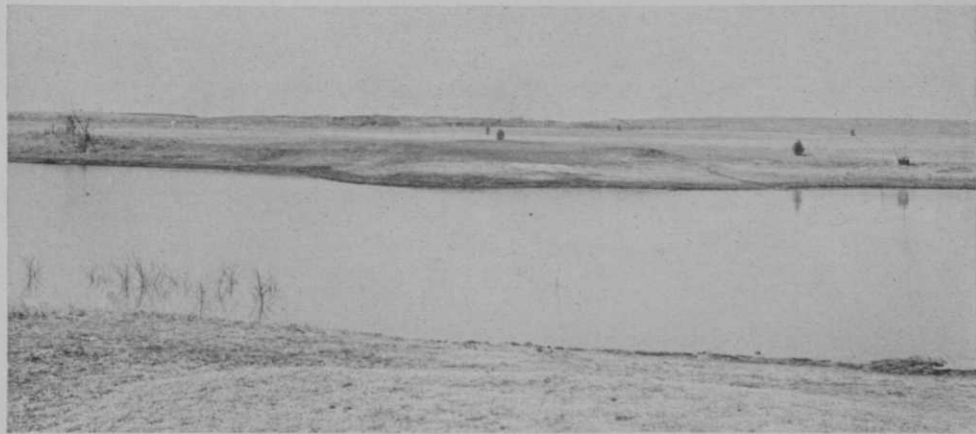
"The sites chosen for the greens were where surface water drained away and in this rather flat country that meant drainage engineering compelled us to select locations that had some promise of interesting green design.

"This factor of necessity also helped cut our costs. Very little manual labor was used in course construction other than sowing greens. Machinery did the work quickly and inexpensively.

"We first prepared the base for the greens with a bulldozer, then made the contours with a small grader. The location of our greens was such that it wasn't necessary to use drain tile.

"Our next step was to place a 4 in. layer of crushed rock on each green, spreading it with a small grader. We then hauled our sand and loam. Test was then made to determine how much coarse sand and peat we might need to obtain the right mixture. We satisfied ourselves as to the amount of peat, sand and soil to mix in order to obtain the correct mixture to top each green with a 12 in. layer. We prepared this mixture by dumping our dirt, sand and peat together in a long row using a heavy grader to mix and a front loader to get the soil on the truck, then to the green where we spread the same with a small grader, using a harrow and drags to surface the green for seeding.

"The total length of the course is 3,077 yds. Par 35. Four of the holes are dog-legs."



This water hole (the 6th) at Pauls Valley, Okla., is not to be confused with a waterhole at Saucon Valley or Pine Valley, but what do you expect when a 3,077 yd. 9-hole bent green tee course is built for \$6500 to supply a lot of pleasant golf, some fishing and prevent airport erosion in a town of 7000?