

Midwest Floods Again Add to Superintendents Load

Floods that did multi-million dollar damage in the northern central section of the United States hit hard at some golf courses, although for the most part the courses that suffered worst were not undergoing the ordeal for the first time.

The Minnehaha CC, Sioux Falls, S. Dak., for instance, had its outgoing lower 9 flooded this spring as usual. Such courses as Tam O'Shanter, Glenview, Bob O'Link, Northwestern University and Forest Preserve layouts, which flank the north branch of the Chicago river, had acres submerged by a stream that in summer is a narrow, muddy trickle.

The Credit Island course at Davenport, Ia., was so badly flooded the \$15,000 Davenport Open was called off. Flood kept that course closed last year. Pro Jack Fleck's shop, on the highest point of the island, had 5 ft. of water in it. Some greens were under 12 ft. of water, which means supt. Henry (Hank) Hennings has a reconstruction job this year. Hennings had to move his furniture from his home. Fleck, not knowing when there'd be play again, among other emergency jobs got busy getting his assistant located elsewhere.

Other courses in the Davenport area weren't seriously affected but were concerned about the possible damage to water supply equipment.

Al Spiess, Davenport (Ia.) CC and his wife tried to drive out to see what they could do for the Hennings but the Spiess team couldn't get close on the submerged road.

Council Bluffs, Ia., courses were saved when the levee held, reports E. G. Todd, supt., Elks CC. George Holbrook, pro-supt., Clinton (Ia.) CC reports that he had one green under water for about 10 days. Part of two fairways also were under water. Holbrook says he doesn't expect that the damage will be worth mentioning after his staff's cleaning-up work.

No Repeat in Kansas City

Clarence Radtke, supt., St. Joseph (Mo.) CC says that due to St. Joseph's location on a high bluff, his club escaped damage and all the worries of course maintenance this year will be the normal ones. Farther down the Missouri, in the Kansas City area, Kelly Clark, supt. Swope Park municipal courses, reports that no noteworthy damage was done and this year's flood was nothing compared with the flood of July, 1951.

"At that time," says Clark, "every course in the area suffered; not from the flood water on courses but because one of the city's major pumping stations was flooded and for a week or 10 days few of the courses in the Kansas City area had water just when they needed it most, except what they could pump locally from ponds or streams.

"It took a lot of hauling and more work than golfers ever will realize for the superintendents around Kansas City to save their greens, but almost every superintendent managed to save all except the fringes of his greens.

"Our No. 2 course was possibly the most seriously affected directly by high water. The Blue River runs across the lower edge of the course and runs wild when we have heavy rains.

"Our No. 5 green and fairway were completely under water during the 1951 flood and for a while it looked as though we'd have to evacuate our equipment from the barns and clubhouse. But everything turned out O.K. and the green is in good shape again after flushing the silt off and aerifying.

"The courses in this district are in good condition now and golf is normal. All of the men who are responsible for golf course maintenance around here are reconciled to expecting abnormal conditions hitting their courses frequently but manage to do better than hold their own."

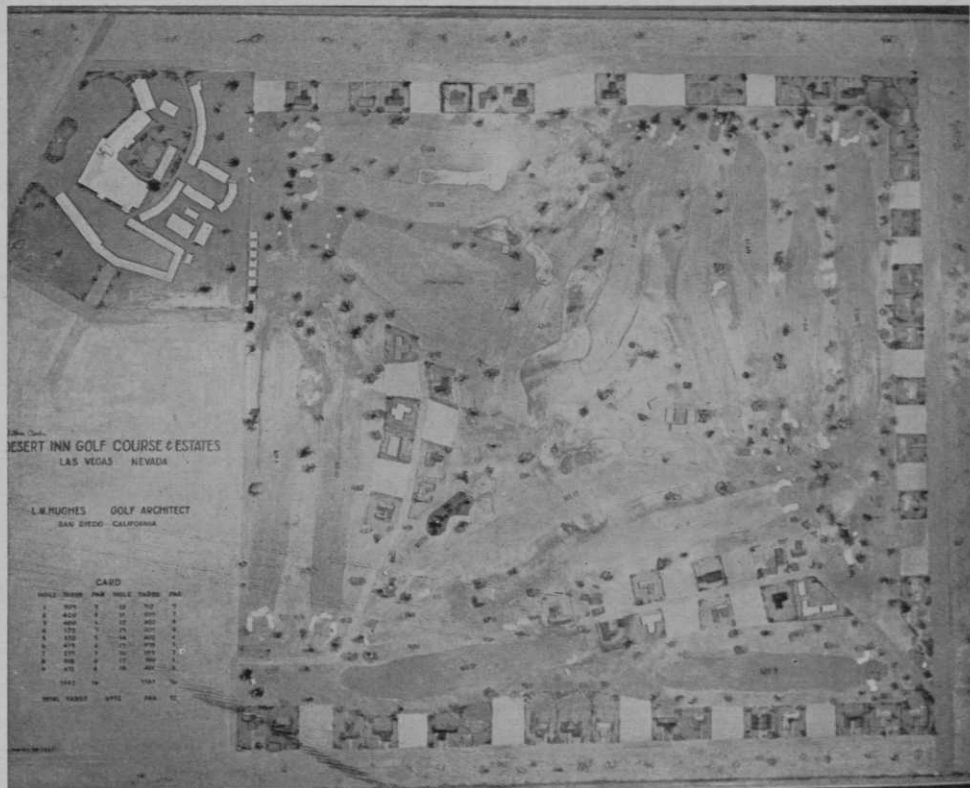
Bill Adams, veteran pro of the Sioux City (Ia.) Boat Club, reports that their course didn't suffer severe damage. "We kept the Missouri river off our course by allowing the Big Sioux to flood it. Maybe some of the silt deposit will help.

"But there was 30 inches of water in our locker-room and in our grill and in my shop water was deeper than 5 feet. Our directors are considering building a new clubhouse."

Canavan Loses Life's Savings

One major casualty of the flood was suffered by Jim Canavan who had bought the 9-hole South Ridge course at South Sioux City, Neb. The Missouri was 3 miles away, but it went raging and wiped out Canavan's course, the buildings, equipment and pro shop inventory, and the home which he'd built.

Jim had put his savings of 32 years as a pro supt. at some excellent clubs into that South Ridge plant. Now, without any futile complaining, he is starting all



\$2000 FOR COURSE MODEL

A 5 ft. by 7 ft. relief model of the 18 hole course under construction at the Desert Inn., Las Vegas, Nev., has been placed on display in the lobby of the hotel. The model cost \$2000. The Desert Inn course, designed by Lawrence Hughes, will be opened for play on or about July 1.

over, financially. He's looking for a golf club connection as pro, or assistant pro at a large club. He's a very competent man who has developed many fine men and women and junior players and he knows how to keep a course in good condition.

He prefers a job on high land.

Dale Harris, Acushnet salesman, tells of Bill Adams' ingenuity at Sioux City with details the modest Adams wouldn't volunteer. Adams' course is located at the juncture of the Missouri and Big Sioux. Bill deliberately broke the dike on the Big Sioux side so the comparatively clean water of that river flooded the course instead of having the muck of the Big Mo deposited on fairways and greens.

Green Section Opens West Coast Office

The West Coast gets its first Regional Green Section Office about June first. This decision was made at the spring meeting of the USGA Executive Committee at the National Golf Links of America.

Charles G. Wilson, Extension Agronomist for the Green Section, will head the affairs of the office, which will be at or near Davis, Calif. Wilson is known to many West Coast turf men because of his appearance at conferences and, more recently, during his survey to determine if a Regional Office on the West Coast is feasible and practicable.

For years the Green Section has been doing yeoman service in developing the National Coordinated Turf Program and in coordinating widely separated activities in turf management. With the main Green Section office located at Beltsville, Md., in cooperation with the U. S. Depart-

Need Supplies?

Use GOLFDOM'S BUYERS' SERVICE

See page 93