

## Shows What Small Town Can Do in Course Building

**W**EST UNION, Ia., has a population of 2200.

It now has a 9-hole golf course and clubhouse that compares favorably with country clubs in much larger communities.

The club now has almost 200 members, keenly interested and active and the entire community now has the golf "itch."

The present course is an outgrowth of the sand green course on rented land that was opened in 1923. First president of the club was James D. Cooney, now president of Wilson & Co. Judge Cooney's connection with golf expanded tremendously from the West Union days to the present with the Wilson Sporting Goods Co. being a substantial factor in the Wilson operations.

The original course was laid out by Bob Elderkin, then pro at Decorah, Ia., and now at Independence, Ia.

The present course was opened in 1930 as a sand green layout, on land bought in 1929 from the city. The site is 55 acres and the purchase price was \$5,500.

When the club decided to convert to grass greens and modernize the course co-chairman C. W. Grimes and L. E. Schotz, appointed by the club directorate, consulted Prof. Lantz of Iowa State College on how to build grass greens. Lantz advised them to get the expert services of a competent golf course supt. and John Bockus, supt. of the Dubuque (Ia.) G&CC was called in for consultation.

Getting Bockus to plan and direct the work was a lucky and very thrifty break for the small and ambitious club. He got the job planned and supervised so that many hours of volunteer labor and donated truck and tractor service were effectively used.

In about five weeks after the co-chairmen accepted their appointment the greens were shaped, mixed with peat, pea-size gravel and the rich soil already on the green sites and planted with C-2 Old Orchard bent.

The greens are properly built and are large. Most of the tees were rebuilt, enlarged and sodded. The fairways are ideal for the course, being of heavy bluegrass. The course is rolling and makes interesting golf architectural use of a creek that winds through it.

Everyone in the golf business knows how costs apply to just one case, so the West Union costs naturally wouldn't ap-

ply to a case of a de-luxe 9-hole course that was built from scratch. But the West Union costs do show what can be done when the work is well planned and a great deal of the labor is contributed by men who are determined to get a satisfactory golf course.

The exact cost of the West Union job:	
Supervision and labor .....	\$1,084.55
240 bu. C-52 Old Orchard stolons .....	1,080.00
Commercial peat, including	
topdressing .....	828.75
Fertilizer and chemicals .....	177.42
Water system (inc. pump,	
cable and wiring) .....	1,400.55
Pea gravel and sand .....	600.00
Grading, bulldozing .....	85.00
Misc. expense .....	327.27
Greensmower .....	386.20
Fertilizer and chemical spreader .....	50.00
Topdressing spreader .....	175.00
Royer, Jr., topdressing machine .....	450.00
Hose, sprinklers, etc. ....	150.00

**\$6,794.74**

## BOYS WILL BE.....?



Here is shown one of the greens at Agawam Hunt Club, Riverside, R. I., damaged by vandals in a series of night raids.

Charles W. Parker, Agawam supt., one morning discovered his 6th green ripped up by 30 slashes, apparently with a golf club. The green was further damaged a month later and the flagpole was broken and stuck into rain-soaked turf.

The above pictured green, Agawam's 7th, was damaged by huge divots and by ripping up of sod.

Parker and his crew patched up the damage, seeded and topdressed, and repaired damage done in July and August by the vandalism. The Board of Governors of the club took special recognition of the repair jobs in commending Parker for his course maintenance.

Vandalism that can be pretty accurately traced to neighborhood kids and caddies has been steadily increasing as an expense in course maintenance. Police and club officials don't bother the kids much, hence the nation-wide growth of the damage.