



The Million dollar hole under construction.

—Walter S. Craig Photo

## Million Dollar Hole at Omaha Field Club

Undoubtedly the costliest tee and fairway is the Omaha Field Club's No. 1. This hole represents an investment of more than \$1,100,000.

This tee and fairway are on top of Omaha's recently completed 25-million gallon, underground water storage reservoir.

The new Field Club Reservoir is one of two serving the city. The Field Club site was selected by engineers because it fulfilled all the requirements of the new facility—it was approximately the same elevation as the other reservoir and in the best location from the standpoint of service to be rendered the Omaha water system. The selection of the Field Club site was actually made almost 25 years ago.

The Field Club's 18-hole, beautifully laid out and maintained golf course is situated on land leased from the county. The Metropolitan Utilities District, which operates Omaha's water utility, purchased the land needed for the reservoir from the county for \$35,000.

Through an agreement with the Utilities District, the Field Club has use of the ground on which the reservoir is built and maintains it as part of the golf course.

Construction of the Field Club Reservoir started in May, 1953. It was completed in June, 1954.

The No. 1 green, fortunately, was unaffected by the construction. During the time the tee and fairway were out of service, the summer of 1953 and early spring of 1954, Field Club officials re-routed play by doubling up on the No. 11 fairway which ran adjacent to No. 1. Both fairways were played in the same direction—north. With a temporary tee about 60 yds. west of the original tee, No. 1 became a dog-leg to the right around the northwest corner of the reservoir project. Par, which had been four on the original hole, remained the same.

Outside of a slight inconvenience on busy days, when it was necessary to ask the golfers to alternate in teeing off from Nos. 1 and 11 tees, play proceeded as usual and without interruption.

Some golfers feel that the playability of the No. 1 hole was improved with the installation of the reservoir because of the unusual nature of the man-made terrain. From the tee to a distance approximately 200-yds. the ground is perfectly flat. Then the fairway gradually slopes down. The green is approximately 170 yds. from the beginning of this down-slope. The green cannot be seen from the tee.

The original hole was 385 yards, par four. The new million dollar version shown below is about 15 yds. shorter and the hole is still a par four.

The new Field Club reservoir is 400 ft. long, 260 ft. wide and 35 ft. deep. The concrete roof is supported by 170 concrete columns 22-inches in diameter. The roof of the structure is covered with earth to a depth of 2½ ft. The entire cover was sodded in strips 15 in. wide and 7 ft. long. Stakes held the sod in place on the sloping sides until it could take root. The sod was watered nightly for two weeks and then the hole held out of play for another four weeks.

Approximately 300,000 sq. ft. of bluegrass sod was required to complete the job. It was all trucked in from Macedonia, Ia., about 70 miles from Omaha. The cost of the sodding was \$14,000.

