

# OAKWOODS



## 5 Years Later

*Are you planning to build a course in the \$100,000 class? If so, reading this may enable you to copy many things they did at a North Carolina club — and avoid a couple mistakes they made*

**O**AKWOODS CC, North Wilkesboro, N. C., now in its fifth year of operation, is an excellent case history in the organization, financing and construction of a golf club. For groups that can see their way to invest about \$100,000 in a course, a study of how Oakwoods came into existence may offer a convenient solution to the detailed and often complicated matter of getting an undertaking such as this off the ground. Or, at least, it should do away with false starts.

The Oakwoods story starts in 1952 when a group of golfers, weary of travelling nearly 50 miles to get in a round, got together and decided that all this travel-time was not only taking the sharp edge off their games but their enthusiasm. Among the group were two or three bankers who devised a couple obvious but easily overlooked schemes for raising money to get the club started.

First of all, the bankers suggested that persons who wanted to join the club could borrow the initiation fee and dues and pay them back just as any other personal loan. Secondly, these men had enough influence with their colleagues to persuade them that their bank could donate a rather large sum to the Oakwoods project and charge

it off as advertising expense. Later, it was agreed, that fees and dues did not have to be collected in their entirety at the time a person joined the club, but could be paid off under a kind of subscription arrangement. A call for these funds went out only when construction costs caught up with what was left in the treasury. In the estimation of one North Wilkesboro citizen who had belonged to other clubs in his day, the Oakwoods' system of extracting fees and dues was the most painless one he had ever run into.

Oakwoods' investment in 148 acres of rolling land cost \$11,000. Pat Williams, Sr., who sold the property to the golf group, later gave the club 27 additional acres so there would be plenty of space in which to get in 18 regulation holes when Oakwoods is ready to build its second 9. Pat's recompense for this generous gesture came within two years. His son, Pat, Jr., scored two aces at Oakwoods, one in 1953 and the other in 1954.

### Hamm Designed Course

Arthur Hamm, one of those venerable Scot architects, designed the Oakwoods course. There was some opposition at first to Hamm's rather individualistic methods of stripping in traps and contouring greens,



Oakwoods' well stocked pro shop, located in clubhouse wing, is 30 ft. wide, 14 ft. deep. In photo is Newell Baker, pro-supt., who has been with the club since it was organized.

but today Oakwoods members are thankful that Art's opinions on design prevailed. There is no lack of beauty in the North Wilkesboro course because what nature hadn't provided, the architect supplied.

According to Pro-Supt. Newell E. Baker, Jr., who came on the Oakwoods scene during the organization stage, one rather costly mistake was made in constructing the course. Every fairway, with the exception of two, had to be cleared of trees. Local contractors would have handled this without charge in exchange for the lumber, but the course construction contractor under-

took the job himself. It cost Oakwoods about \$4,000 or \$5,000 to learn the startling facts of tree removal. Oakwoods officials also are not completely satisfied with their watering system. It is a low pressure type that caused the original growth of grass on some fairways to be retarded and hasn't proved to be completely adequate during prolonged dry spells. An additional initial investment of \$1,500 in a more efficient system would have been a wiser, and in the long run, a less expensive choice.

*(Continued on page 108)*

Oakwoods is a succession of interesting holes. Ninth green is at left; first tee is on edge of hill in center of picture; No. 4 hole is in valley, has pine tree background. It's 520 yards long.



# STOP BALL MARKS ON GREENS



ACTUAL SIZE

Provide your golfers with this inexpensive tool and have 200 to 400 men and women help maintain those beautiful and expensive greens.

Our many repeat orders prove that this little tool has a definite place on all golf courses. This tool can be used as a shoe horn—to clean dirt from spikes and upper soles of shoes; also clean scoring from club heads.

Prices: for nickel plated, plain or imprinted as shown—  
F.O.B. Des Moines, Ia.:

1000 — \$65

500 — \$35

250 — \$20

Ten percent of order in small individual envelopes with printed directions.  
Extra envelopes one cent each.

Ten dollars for imprinting name of firm or club. Limit of 26 letters and spaces for upper; 29 for lower line. Imprinting on one side only.

## WOODSIDE GOLF & PARK SUPPLY CO.

Des Moines 13, Iowa

### Oakwoods: 5 Years Later

(Continued from page 86)

The Oakwoods builders, though, made all their dollars work when it came to building a clubhouse. The main structure is 110 x 32 ft. with a wing, 50 x 32 ft. It houses clubhouse facilities, a small pro shop and the pro-supt's four-room living quarters. Constructed of cinder block on a cement slab, it is the brainchild of a local furniture designer who had the help of three or four members with an architectural flair. The contractor erected the structure on a cost plus basis, then cut his fee in half and took part of it in stock. Several local manufacturers donated the furniture and an appliance dealer outfitted the kitchen free of charge. All took legal tax deductions for doing so.

#### Members Bought Lockers

Floors in the clubhouse are covered with asphalt tile and those in the pro shop and locker rooms with rubber runners. Lockers were bought and given to the club by members who received five-years rent in payment. With these various contributions, it was possible to build and furnish the

handsome clubhouse complex for only \$30,000.

Greens at Oakwoods were originally planted to Bermuda, but this year Newell Baker experimented with C-1 and C-19 mixed bent stolons and had such wonderful results that all greens soon will be converted to this mixture. In the winter months, Seaside, Astoria and Highland bents have been substituted for the original rye and are a big improvement. Putting greens at Oakwoods are said to compare favorably with any in North Carolina.

The cost of establishing Oakwoods has been compiled by Baker as follows:

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Property               | \$11,000 |
| Grading*               | 26,200   |
| Water System           | 3,200    |
| Equipment-Machinery    | 5,600    |
| Labor                  | 18,000   |
| Clubhouse construction | 30,000   |
| Clubhouse water system | 2,500    |
|                        | \$96,500 |

\* Includes seed, fertilizer, etc.

After five years, the Oakwoods club is not only debt free but is built on such a solid foundation that there is no need for any wide scale improvements. About the

with this handy  
TOOL

No need for Green Chairmen or Golf Course Superintendents to continually shoulder the blame for greens having those ugly ball marks.

only contemplated major expenditure is for a swimming pool which probably will be built next year. Construction of the second 9 probably is three or more years away, but the land will be there with clear title when Oakwoods officials are ready to move. Since the club has around 160 members, about the same number with which it started, there is no pressing need for building any additions to the clubhouse. The course, into which most of the club funds have been poured since the initial outlay, is one of North Carolina's beauty spots and certainly doesn't offer any traffic problems with a membership of this size.

Judging by Newell Baker's handicap records, Oakwoods gets plenty of play, probably more than almost any club of comparable size in the country. About 135 of the 160 members play golf. Of this number, more than 40 players are grouped in the 4-12 handicap bracket.

### Green Section to Meet Prior to USGA Session

At a meeting of the USGA Green Section held at Country Club of Brookline,

Sept. 12, during the National Amateur, tentative plans were made for a meeting of the Green Section the day prior to the USGA annual meeting in Chicago in Jan. 1958.

Green Section chmn., William C. Chapin, said that favorable comment on the Green Section meeting prior to the 1957, suggested that a similar meeting next year would bring more green chmn. and other club officials into discussions of course maintenance problems.

Allen Brown, Montclair (N. J.) GC official expressed the conviction that clubs would have to make more research into course maintenance costs and that this work might be brought into focus at the Chicago meeting. Paul Weiss, GCSA pres., agreed with the Brown statement concerning the urgency of maintenance cost studies.

Green Section committee members spent several hours at the University of Rhode Island turf plots, with Dr. J. A. DeFrance inspecting bentgrass putting green strains, Merion bluegrass mixture plots, herbicide tests for clover and crabgrass control and urea-formaldehyde experimental areas.

## ESHELMAN GOLF CARS      Your Choice of Both! ELECTRIC OR GASOLINE POWER!



Charles Bassler,  
Golf Pro, Says:  
"An easy way to  
a good score!"

#### ELECTRIC POWER

- four 12 v. heavy duty "Auto-lite" batteries (so much further, need less recharging)
- General Electric 1½ H.P. 24 v. electric motor. (field tested by G.E. engineers and found far superior to any for golf car use)
- Speed up to 10 miles per hour. This car likes hills.

#### GASOLINE POWER

- Briggs and Stratton air-cooled 7 H.P. engine.
- 12 v. electric starter and generator.
- Quiet sound-proofed dependable performance.
- Speed up to 14 miles per hour.
- More power for the hills.

- Has 4 large wheels.
- No tipping or sliding on steep hills.
- Given 36 holes per gallon or electric charge.
- Holds two adults.
- Holds three golf bags.
- Thick foam rubber upholstery.
- Automatic clutch.
- Reverse gear.
- Height 39 inches.
- Width 38 inches.
- Length 86 inches.
- Weight 630 lbs. (gas); 693 lbs. (electric).
- Write today for lowest prices and details.

#### MORE PROFIT FOR CLUBS AND PROS.

Eshelman Golf Cars provide new source of revenue. It costs only pennies a day to operate. They speed up each round. Lets players get in more late afternoon play. Solves caddy shortage.

**FREE!**

Free literature.  
Write us today or  
phone Saratoga 7-0922

**ESHELMAN COMPANY**

109 Light Street

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Shipping Points: Chicago - Baltimore - Los Angeles

You pay freight only from shipping point nearest you.

Patented