

Complete Earth Moving Job on Burbank Project

By CHUCK CURTIS

The largest-scale earth moving job for golf construction in the memory of William F. Bell, West Coast course architect, is now being completed at Burbank, Calif., for a municipal course.

The land is the rugged Verdugo Hills, north and east of Burbank along the edge of San Fernando Valley. Joseph De Bell gave the city 100 acres with the proviso that it be used for golf and nothing else. So an 18-hole course will be constructed there although original surveys indicated it was totally unusable for this purpose.

A record 3,100,000 cu. yds. of earth is being moved, sliced off the tops and sides of hills and compacted into gulleys to provide fairway space. Part of the project has been construction or enlarging of check dams for flood control purposes and the preparation of open storm drains with large rocks grouted into place.

Contracts totalling \$1,100,000 were let to two grading companies, J. A. Payton of Riverside and Silva and Hill of L. A. Separate contracts will provide for the land-scaping and preparation of fairways. Total cost is still expected to be well below the value of the course in land-scarce San Fernando Valley.

Voters Approve Project

Construction is being financed under a \$10,000,000 capital improvement project which was approved by the voters. Thus the money will come from tax revenues rather than from bonds.

William S. Barrett, assistant city engineer for Burbank, prepared a plaster cast of the area before the course was designed. Then, following some original fairway designs by Architect Bell, he prepared another model of the visualized golf course.

City Engineer Clayton W. Paige, City Manager Arnold Bennett, and Ervin Spindel, senior civil engineer for Burbank who has been in charge of construction on the site, have been largely instrumental



Flood control areas (through center of picture), check dam, (rear), and carved hills mark site of De Bell GC being cut out of Verdugo Hills, Burbank, Calif.

in the project, which is expected to be open for play by July, 1958. Another who aided the plan was William H. (Bill) Johnson, the city of Los Angeles golf course designing and maintenance expert. Yardage of the course will be 6010.

Course Measuring Job for Engineering Students

If your club is in a college or university town you may be able to make arrangements with the engineering school to have course lengths and areas accurately measured. The measuring makes a good practical field exercise for students of surveying.

Few courses have areas of greens, tees, fairways, traps and rough measured for guidance of course supt., green chmn. and his committee.

In measuring distances of holes, be guided by USGA instructions covering "computation of par and bogey" which read: "Each hole should be measured horizontally from the middle of the tee area to be used to the center of the green, following the line of play planned by the architect in laying out the hole. Thus in a hole with a bend, the line at the elbow point should be centered in the fairway in accordance with the architect's intention."

October—Golfers' Month

This is a good time for Northern pros to remind their members that statistics for the last three years show that there are from 20 to 25 days in October that are excellent for golf.