



Here is what the Derrick clubhouse and grounds will look like when completed.

## Population Bulges, So Edmonton Builds Another Course



Timing device for control of automatic irrigation system, which is diagrammed on panel at right.



Water is pumped more than 100 ft. uphill to this lake. Two bridges provide convenient access for golfers.

**D**ERRICK Golf and Winter Club, a \$1,250,000 venture, is now being completed in Edmonton, Alberta, the gateway to the north and actually the beginning of the great Alaska Highway.

Edmonton, capital city of the oil rich Alberta province, is a rapidly expanding metropolis of some 300,000 people. Its recreational facilities include some of Canada's finest golf courses, curling and skating rinks, but the influx of 12 to 14,000 residents a year have strained these to the limit.

Two years ago, realizing the need for additional golf and recreational sites, together with an urgent need for a large suburban residential development, an Edmonton realtor, Richard C. Legge organized a company to purchase and subdivide a lovely 465 acre tract of land close to the city's southwest limits. Legge divided the land into three nearly equal areas. One consisting of deep wooded ravines and picturesque valley land, was to remain as park land. A second portion was to be subdivided into half-acre residential sites and the remainder developed as a golf club.

At that time, a group of Edmonton oil executives got together with Legge and purchased the course property from his company for their newly planned club which they have since formed and named,

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What is reputed to be the largest green in the U. S. is this 26,000 sq. ft. putting surface at the recently completed Sapphire Valley (N.C.) GC. George Cobb designed the course.

"The Derrick Golf and Winter Club". W. H. (Bill) Brinkworth was asked to design and build the course. He agreed to take on the job and moved from his position as pro-mgr. of famous Jasper Park Lodge GC to Edmonton. Brinkworth got construction work underway last April.

It was agreed that the course be built to the most modern standards. Various water systems were studied and the one chosen for installation was designed by Lew Sparks of California Toro Co. This particular system specified aluminum pipe ranging in sizes from 8 ins. to 1½ ins., all welded, and wrapped with heavy plastic protective tape. Rainbird valves and sprinklers were used and installed at intervals of 100 ft. The system was designed to be semi-automatic with coverage to adequately irrigate fairways that averaged about 55 yards in width. Water comes from a small rather fast flowing creek that is pumped up an 110 foot incline into a man made lake that was primarily built as an irrigation reservoir. It provides a tricky hazard for four different holes and adds much beauty to the landscape.

Soil on the course property is a rich, heavy, clay-like loam that had been previously farmed. A mixture of Kentucky bluegrass and fescue was seeded into fairways and tees. Greens were seeded with Poly Cross bent. Putting surfaces average about 7200 sq. ft.

Arched bridges were built across the lake. They are wide enough to accommodate electric golf cars. About 20,000 trees are in the process of being planted. Because of climate there are many evergreens. There's also an abundance of spruce and pine interspersed among other deciduous trees such as clump and single birch, soft maples, poplars and aspens.

To expedite construction, quite a few

pieces of equipment had to be devised and manufactured on the job. Rollers, cultivators, drag-mats, and a special power seeder with airplane tires were some of the machines used to get the course built.

The last three holes were held up by delays in the water system installation and some re-seeding may be necessary this month. But apart from this, the whole 18 hole course and practice fairways were fully completed in a six month period. This feat is indeed a tribute to Bill Brinkworth, now in his 69th year, and still one of Canada's great golf figures.

### **Palm Springs Mayor Bids for GCSA Show**

At the joint meeting of the Hi-Lo Desert and Southern Calif. GCSAs, held Mar. 11 at the plush Western Hills CC, Palm Springs, Calif., Fred Bogert, mayor of Palm Springs, told the audience that he was going to do everything possible to bring the national GCSA turf show to that city at the earliest possible time.

Elmer Border, GCSA pres., who attended the meeting, advised Mayor Bogert to make immediate application since the GCSA board of directors is to meet this month and undoubtedly will take such a matter under advisement. The 1960 conference already has been scheduled for Houston.

Bogert said that during the last week in January, Palm Springs can accommodate 2,500 guests.

More than 150 persons attended the joint meeting of the GCSA organization. Warren McCleary was in charge of the field and equipment demonstrations, held at Indian Wells CC, and Fred V. Grau was the main speaker at the education session.