

Cloudburst Caused \$10,000 Damage at Winged Foot

By SHERWOOD MOORE

On page 23 of the July issue of GOLF-DOM, Sherwood Moore's task in getting Winged Foot ready for the Open was described. Ordinarily, after a tournament is played there remains only the rather routine task of cleaning up which takes about four or five days at most. But cloudburst and automobiles, in this case, were to give the supt. a prolonged, post-tournament headache, which is described below. — Editor.

On the evening of June 13th, following a cloudburst, you wouldn't have given two cents for the East course at Winged Foot. Much of it was a quagmire. Automobiles that brought spectators to the Open were parked on 14 of the 18 fairways and in adjoining roughs, and it took our four tractors plus two tow trucks



Tractors, two trucks and automobiles dug a wide roadway across the No. 1 fairway (center section of photo).

until 8:30 p.m. to pull them out. A few were still marooned the next morning.

I felt pretty sick when I went home that evening. There were all kinds of estimates on the damage done. I don't know if we'll ever be able to figure out exactly how much it is going to cost us to repair the course.

The most severe ruts and roadways were chewed out on the No. 1 and No. 2 fairways and the rest of the damage was



No. 2 fairway at Winged Foot was extensively damaged, with the three light areas, shown in photo, giving only a partial idea of how much the turf was chewed up on this hole.

pretty much confined to rough areas. Fortunately, not a single automobile crossed any of the greens or tees. Immediately after the Open was over, we started our repair work, confining most of it, at first to the fairways. We leveled the ruts, filled in with topsoil and re-seeded. By the end of the week the fairways were finished, play had been resumed and everyone was observing "summer rules."

More Work in Fall

Ruts in the rough then were repaired in the same way the fairways had been, but where there was deep and extensive damage, it was necessary to harrow, using a spring-tooth and a Scotch harrow. Then we seeded, harrowed again and rolled. Three weeks passed before we completed this work which actually was of a temporary nature since we'll have to go back next fall and complete the job.

This will consist of discing or rototilling and re-seeding to permanent grasses. By the time we are through, I imagine the total cost will be in the neighborhood of \$10,000.

As of mid-July there were still many scars visible, yet it is remarkable how things were healing over at that time.

Miniature Tournament

At least 35 winners of state and regional elimination contests are expected to take part in the International Miniature golf tournament, to be held in Atlantic City, N. J., Sept. 12-13. European contestants also are expected to compete, according to George Zuckerman, managing dir. of the tournament, whose headquarters is Convention Hall, Asbury Park, N. J.