

Texas Club Introduces New Membership Plan

A new idea in the country club membership setup is going to be carried out at Lake Whitney CC in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. Construction of the course, designed by Ralph Plummer, is expected to start soon.

All memberships in the club will be company memberships. These will be transferable with the only stipulation being that Lake Whitney must approve the transferee.

A company membership may be held by any individual, company, firm or corporation. Subsidiary, related or wholly owned companies each will be required to take out separate memberships. After a



Architects drawing of Lake Whitney recreation area

firm has joined the club, it may designate as many of its executives as it so desires who are acceptable to the club as participating members. Cost of company memberships are on a sliding scale which is based on the number of persons it employs. Monthly dues will be scaled in the same manner.

Fees and Dues

Charter membership fees have been established in this manner: For 1 to 25 company employees — \$500; 26 to 100 — \$625; 101 to 500 — \$750; 501 or more — \$1,000. Monthly dues will range from \$18 to \$36 and will be based on the above employee figures. Lake Whitney's sponsors have emphasized that the fees and dues setup will in no way be determined by the number of participating members designated by a company. If, for example, a firm has only 20 employees but designates 10 participating members it will pay less in fees and dues than another company with 99 employees and only five participating members.

The Lake Whitney plan calls for the

participating member not to be responsible for fees or dues but only for his individual charges.

The thinking behind the Lake Whitney plan is predicated upon the belief that membership in a country club financed by a company promotes good employer-employee relations and is an important executive benefit. It also is pointed out that under present circumstances, budget limitations and tax policies prevent many firms from providing more than only a few club memberships for its key executives or employees.

Built by Army Engineers

Lake Whitney was created by the damming of the Brazos River and covers an area of about 25 sq. miles. It was completed by 1953 by the U. S. Corps of Engineers. The lake is located 76 miles from Dallas, 56 from Ft. Worth and 51 from Waco.

Present plans call for the country club to have in addition to the golf course a clubhouse, activities center, tennis courts, landing strip, small boat docks, boat launching, large boat and yacht docks, bridle paths and a sand beach.

Organizers of the club are Col. Henry R. Dutton, Ft. Worth; O. T. Smyth, Cleburne, Tex.; Ragsdale Stratton, Dallas; and Charles G. Murray, Whitney, Tex.

Employees Play Free at One of Four Company Courses

A survey of 107 company owned golf courses made by the National Industrial Recreation association in conjunction with the National Golf Foundation shows that play on about 25 per cent of these courses is free for employees. About half charge green fees, averaging \$1 on weekdays and \$2 on weekends, and the balance has a family membership arrangement averaging about \$33 per family.

Not all the courses are owned by large companies. Five are owned by industries with less than 500 employees and another four firms have from 500 to 1,000 employees. About 50 per cent of the industrial courses have been built in the post-war era and at the present time there are 15 more in construction or planning stages.

Most companies that have their own courses say there is a twofold reason: They want to keep present employees happy and golf courses are of great value in attracting competent newcomers.