

Sand! Sand! Sand!

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with Jimmy Hines and Dawson in Palm Springs, will be mgr. The head pro, already on the scene, is tall Bob Frainey, a former winter PGA circuit rider out of Glen Oaks Club, Great Neck, Long Island. J. D. Kilpatrick, formerly of Thunderbird, is supt.

As for the course proper, it's a beauty.

For grooming, it's matched in San Diego County only by De Anza Desert CC at Borrego Springs. The Pauma Valley greens right now are said to be as good as De Anza's, but the fairways, planted only seven months ago, have yet to equal De Anza fairways.

Designed by famed course architect Robert Trent Jones, the course is dotted with trees and the aforementioned 157 traps, 87 near the greens. The course plays 7,000 yards from the back markets, 6,367 regular and 5,755 for women. Tees are as long as 100 yards.

Course rating hasn't been established but may be 72 regular to a whopping 75 for the championship layout. Par is 36-35-71.

Grau's Roundup

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Light summer applications of liquid feeding are mentioned in several reports from supts., especially where the principal fertilization is done in spring and fall. Many of them speak of "controlled feeding" which can be interpreted in two ways; 1) frequent light applications of readily-available materials, or, 2) feeding two to four times a year with slowly-available materials which give controlled feeding through bacterial action.

Seedbed Feeding

Since DeFrance published results of high rates of fertilization in seedbeds before planting, there has been a gradual swing in that direction. The practice has not yet found full favor with architects and builders for the reason that any improvement in pre-planting practices tends to raise the initial cost. Supts. who have made tests endorse the practice.

At some new courses the supt. is hired by the club to supervise construction and then remain to maintain the course. This assures the club of having a course with low-cost maintenance built in, rather than a course with expensive built-in headaches. Some new courses, often without

proper supervision, are being built without drain tile simply to keep initial costs down with no thought being given to the spiralling costs of maintenance and future reconstruction.

Rebuilding is not unusual all across the country. Improper construction must be corrected before more good money is thrown after the bad already wasted in vain attempts to maintain turf under impossible soil and drainage conditions.

The Wage Situation

Salaries and wages still are too low but at least are trending upward. As much as they deserve a raise, most supts. do not complain about their own pay scale as much as they do about that of the working crew. Here is a sample from the east coast: ". . . wages are too low — we lose too many good men over the winter and new help has to be trained." In the West we hear: "Employee relations will never improve until the trend is to higher wages." From the Southwest: ". . . the faithful employees of the summer months deserve a year-around job and a chance to make a living so they don't have to starve during the winter." Another supt. in the Northeast says, "Shortage of qualified, competent supts. is resulting in a trend toward higher wages but too many incompetents are obtaining jobs because of the shortage."

There will be more golf cars, more rebuilding to accommodate them, more storage space needed, more prepared paths where cars may travel.

Course maintenance becomes more scientific and more predictable and dependable as the soil testing services of experiment stations, private laboratories and industrial concerns are utilized. Soil tests without proper interpretation are useless. Thus a premium is placed on recommendations that follow interpretations of tests.

Meetings Enlarged

There seems to be a swing toward inviting more professionals, mgrs. and green chmn. to be key speakers at supts' meetings. Not only is it good for public relations but it could be a welcome relief from technical subjects. The trend is warmly applauded and we hope it is expanded.

Woehrle Heads Midwest GCSA

Ted Woehrle, supt. of Beverly CC in Chicago, is the new pres. of the Midwest GCSA. Vps are Marvin Grueing and Ed Burke and sec.-treas. is Donald Gerber. Directors are Paul Voykin, Joe Canale, Bill Saielli, Don Stewart, John Ebel and Emil Cassier.