

Philippines in Midst of Big Boom in Playing, Building

By Bill Sherman

Golf has come to the Philippines with the suddenness of thunder, the thoroughness of a heat wave, yet with all the freshness and sparkle of a rainbow. In a land that you associate only with coconuts, abaca and sugar beets, it seems strange that there are 42 golf courses of all shapes and descriptions. Not only that but word comes that four more golf-lands are under construction with one course adding 9 holes.

Most of the golf activity, for that matter, and all other commerce, can be spotted on the island of Luzon, in the North or Mindinao in the South. Of the other 7,081 islands comprising the Philippine network, only 466 can claim area larger than one square mile. Many of these are too sparsely settled or too hopelessly composed to yield golf courses.

Three New Ones for Manila

The Philippines capital, Manila, is a bright, brilliant metropolis whose latest population count exceeded 1,250,000 persons. Although there are only five golf courses currently serving this large populace, Manila ranks as the golf capitol of the Islands and may explain why three of the new courses are planned for this area.

Best-known of the old courses is the Manila G&CC whose professional, Ben Arda, played well enough in last winter's Lucky International Open in San Francisco to win some prize money. Another Philippine professional, Pastore Domingo, finished out of the money at San Francisco, but his voyage to the States paid off in the information concerning irrigation systems and other course construction tips that he picked up. The Veteran's Memorial Golf Club, where Domingo hangs his shop shingle, has already approved plans for another 9 holes at its present 9 hole site. Construction starts this summer.

The first new course to open in 1961 will not be near Manila, however, but some six hours away in Subic Bay. The U. S. Navy opens the Binictan GC late



At first glance it appears that Dale Andreason, pro at Palm Springs (Calif.) Riviera Hotel, is doing time on a rock pile. But since a publicity man will do anything for a picture, he is shown teeing off a building construction site at the hotel. The inevitable anatomical view is presented by Lee Steff and Joan Torrence.

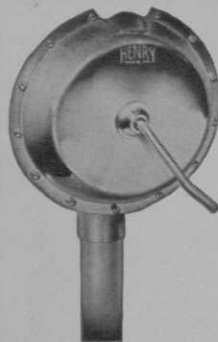
this summer. Binictan was designed by Honolulu's H. G. Wilkinson; it is the first course to be built exclusively for U.S. personnel and will offer 18 holes plus complete club facilities. In the Manila area, both the Valley GC and Philippine CC, designed by California's Bob Baldock, are hoping to be ready for an early fall opening.

By far the most ambitious development, however, is the enterprising plan drawn up by a syndicate called the International Sports Development Corp., engineers of the Capitol Hills CC, a two-site, 72-hole golf course complex that calls for 1,000 members in its preliminary specifications. This kind of development could even raise a craggy eyebrow in Texas, but in the banana-land area it rates a substantial whistle. President and chief stockholder of ISDC is Francisco D. Santana, a civil engineer and independent contractor who stands high on the Philippine economic ladder.

An M.I.T. graduate, Santana has proven himself to be a capable businessman with a flair for the spectacular. His interest in golf is closer to devotion than it is to commercial exploitation, but Santana and ISDC hope to tie together an attractive investment package that is fiscally sound.

The Capitol Hills site is located in Quezon City, three and a half miles northeast of downtown Manila. The first 36-hole development will be called Blara Fairways. It's located not more than a long wood shot from the 9-hole golf course owned by the University of the Philippines.

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Philippine Golf Boom

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The second 36 holes, La Mesa Fairways, is three miles off the road. Much of the course lies off the huge Novaliones Reservoir, from which water will be tapped in large amounts to help keep the Bermuda green and growing. La Mesa will not be quite as elaborate as its Blara counterpart.

Both parcels of land were leased from the Philippine government for 40 years, with a renewable option for the same length of time. Land rental is not a major cost, but ISDC will have its hands full in raising the 3,000,000 pesos (\$1½ million) committed to finishing its elaborate planning.

Santana, himself, is course designer and construction chief. The clubhouse designer is a woman, Mrs. Josefina Sabon Harris. Mrs. Harris seems to have some extraordinary ideas about exterior luxury, but comes up somewhat short on the utilitarian and functional dimensions needed by most American standards. The professional at Capitol Hills will be 28 year old

Augustin Coscolluela, a former P. I. amateur champion, whose last appearance in the U. S. was as a participant in last summer's World Amateur held at the Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, Pa.

Membership price to the 1000 subscribers is 3,000 pesos. Capitol Hills offers a plan that calls for 20 per cent down with the balance of 150 pesos per month if financing is needed. Monthly dues are pegged at 15 pesos.

Philadelphia's Aronimink to be Site of 1962 PGA Championship

The 1962 PGA Championship will be played at Aronimink GC, near Philadelphia. It is scheduled for July 19-22. This will be the second time in four years that the Championship has been played in the Philadelphia area. In 1958 it was staged at Llarnerch CC with Dow Finsterwald winning the laurels.

The 1962 Championship originally was scheduled to be played at Brentwood CC in Los Angeles. However, it was cancelled out when the PGA executive committee became embroiled with the California at-



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