

# Monroe County (N. Y.) Golf Dilemma Repeated Throughout U. S.

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Says Jean Giambrone of the Rochester (N. Y.) Times-Union: "Monroe County's growing golf problem can best be summed up in these words — too many golfers using too few facilities — Rochester area golf courses are bursting at the seams." According to Giambrone, almost every private club in the last five years has gradually increased its membership until all are now at the saturation point. In some instances there are unusually long waiting lists.

Monroe County (pop. 586,000) has 9 private clubs, 2 semi-private and 4 public courses or one course for every 39,000 people. Surveys show one course for every 28,099 persons, nationwide. That play is increasing greatly in Monroe County is illustrated by the remarks of Thos. E. Lunt, Jr., Lake Shore CC, a semi-private club, who says that in the last five years play at his club, has increased 35 per cent. He adds that most of the gains have been made in play during the week.

## Why So Many Golfers?

The Monroe County golf problem is similar to that in almost every populated area in the U. S. Why are so many people taking up golf? There are many theories: Private clubs have become "family recreation centers"; Swimming pools have drawn every member of the family to the club so the natural thing is to want to try the golf course next; Major golf tournaments and TV programs have had a strong influencing effect.

The greatest increase in golfers in the past 10 years has been among women — it amounts to 44 per cent. Likewise, there is an increasing Junior population. Women and Junior Golfers keep the courses busy on week days. Many older people are taking up the game thanks to the golf car. Many more schools and colleges are adding golf to their physical education programs.

## Increased Earning Power

With a higher standard of living and increased earning power, golf is within the financial reach of millions. The rush dur-



Latest to be honored by the new Port St. Lucie (Fla.) CC by having a hole — No. 5 — dedicated to him is Ben Hogan. Chick Harbert (l), golf dir. of General Development Corp., which built Port St. Lucie, is shown at the dedication festivities with Ben.

ing the week begins mainly at 4 p.m. when offices and factories close. Popularity and the growing enthusiasm for Par 3 play is influencing many folks to take up golf. The short courses tend to equalize competition in the game between the weak and the strong — the young and the aged. And, our immediate past president, Mr. Eisenhower, did not do the game any harm!

Planning of playing facilities for five times the number we have today calls for 30,000 courses by the year 2000. Compared with the development of facilities over the past 50 years, such a goal may well be on the conservative side. There are now about six times as many courses as there were 50 years ago.

## 600 Every Year

To plan and build courses that will keep pace with the demands of a growing population calls for an average addition of 600 new golf courses annually. This is a rate of growth almost three times greater than reported in the U. S. in 1960 when 225 new courses and additions were opened for play. Inflated land values, high taxes and increased construction costs have tended to hold in check a more rapid rate of course development. If golf is to take its rightful place in the current race for open space, some way must be found to cope with or temper these deterrents.

Latrobe CC, Melbourne, Australia, recently defeated Biltmore CC, Barrington, Ill., in a telegraphic match, 1123 to 1146.