

Gives Guidance on "Do-It-Yourself" Projects

Linkogel Designs, Builds "Poor Man's" Courses

Since late 1940, Al Linkogel's Link's Nursery, Inc., St. Louis, Mo., has specialized in the design, construction, and management of golf courses in Missouri and Illinois. Through the years Link's Nursery has shown a gradual increase in business as the only complete golf course supply house in St. Louis. This growth is largely attributed to the new courses Al has developed.

In the last six years, Al has designed and supervised construction of more than 30 golf courses. Most of these have been 9-hole layouts since there is some demand in the Central-Midwest area for low-cost 9and 18-hole courses that meet minimum maintenance standards. For example, one course in southern Missouri was built to meet the need of the community. It had one 9-hole course with a closed membership. Business men in the area, who weren't members of this club, wanted a course that would be open to them. The first contact with these people indicated they had much inaccurate information about the cost of constructing and maintaining a course. They looked over several properties that were available at a price they could pay. When this was done the properties were checked and the most desirable one was purchased. This was a dairy farm, all in pasture with fairly good turf.

100 Men Volunteer

A sketch was made of a proposed layout, including a lake for water supply. When plans for the course were completed the members asked for volunteers to work evenings and weekends in building the course under Linkogel's supervision. They had as many as 100 men ready to work when construction began. Greens and tees were staked out and the lake area located. A local contractor donated equipment to dig the lake. The greens were planted in Sept. and the course opened in May of the following year. A maintenance program was developed with the advice of Link's nursery.

The new course was built for only \$11,000.00 Word of the low-cost, do-ityourself project got around and four more

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courses were soon built within a 40 mile radius. The five courses wouldn't have been built at the high cost figures quoted in the beginning.

Two courses handled by Linkogel in 1962 were redesigned and changed from sand to grass greens. Another 9-hole course was rebuilt from its original layout and another nine was added. Two 18-hole courses and three 9-hole courses have been designed by Linkogel so far in 1963.

Freeborg Is Associate

In recent months Al has expanded his staff to include an associate, Raymond Freeborg. The latter has been working with Al in the St. Louis Turf Research Foundation program since 1957. In 1962, Ray worked quite closely with Al on the design, construction, and management of several courses.

Since 1957, Freeborg has been developing the St. Louis turf research program during the summer, and attending Purdue University in the winter, studying turf management under Bill Daniel. In 1959 Ray received his BS in agronomy from Purdue and then moved to St. Louis to continue his university training at Washington University. A fellowship was made Comfort Smoothest Ride On any Golf Course Today

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available at Washington U. by the local turf research foundation to support Ray's graduate work at the university. Today, Freeborg is executive secretary of the foundation.

Program Expanded

The research program continued to expand until 1961 when the Missouri botanical garden became interested in it. Laboratory and greenhouse facilities of the botanical garden were made available to the turf research foundation and basic research was started under the direction of F. W. Went, director of the garden. This was confined to the more technical problems related to growing fine turf. Freeborg presently is studying for a PhD in plant physiology.

Missouri Turf Conference

The fourth annual lawn and turf conference of the University of Missouri (Columbia) will be held Sept. 18-19, according to D. D. Hemphill, chairman of the planning committee. Sessions will be held in the Student Union and at the University course.