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## Busy Surgeon Patches Together Course for His Neighbors

Turner Falls, Mass., is the 9-hole Thomas Memorial G & CC that is very popular, at thrifty New England rates, with the neighbors of the town's senior general surgeon, Warren Thomas. The course is named in honor of the doctor's parents. Dick McGahan of Hart Seed Co., says the Thomas course in a town of 4,917 population shows that one man with a strong community driving power and the friendship of his neighbors can pep up the entire area with a delightful golf layout.

Dr. Thomas got the late Warren Hatch, pioneer golf architect, to design the course. It was Hatch's last job. He laid out one permanent and eight temporary greens. The plan was to convert a temporary green into a permanent one each year, but that schedule was quickened when the course began to get some play. At first the temporary greens were merely mowed to approximately green height.

Dr. Thomas is an organizer. He has to be. His own time is scheduled rather tightly. He is chief of surgery at Farren Memorial hospital, Montague, Mass. and is active in an official capacity with the Franklin District Medical Society and Montague Board of Health. He is a member of the Mass. Medical Society, American Medical Assn., International College of Surgeons, American Legion, Rotary, Holy Name Society of St. Mary's church, Alumni Assn. of Turner Falls high school.

In getting the golf course project going Dr. Thomas extended the use of the swimming pool at his home to the club members' children and got his wife, Lenore, to supervise the kids' swimming. He persuaded his father-in-law, "Gramp" Murphy, retired supt. of the Montague water dept., to work on course construction. Murphy is a rugged 80 but set a brisk pace for much of the course work. Bill and Dan Thomas, the doctor's brothers, were shanghaied into the building and maintenance job. His son, Warren, Jr., a student at Wesleyan university, Middletown, Conn., spent time conditioning himself for varsity football by working on the course at no pay. Steve Gulow, Jr., a local high school athlete, also was brought onto the job by "Gramp" Murphy as a construction man and drew other high school students into the community enterprise.