



These 420 yards are under lights.

## Michigan Club Claims Longest Lighted Hole

A 420-yard, par-4 golf hole at Brandywine CC, Niles, Mich. is now staking claim to "world's longest illuminated golf hole." Due to the success of the installation, Brandywine officials feel that their entire course, or most any other regulation layout, could be lighted for night play.

To assess the feasibility of the new idea of night golf, Brandywine decided to "test light" one hole. The second hole was selected because it posed the greatest engineering challenge due to its length, rolling terrain, stream, sand traps, extensive rough and many trees.

Bill Orr, owner-developer of the new par-72, 6,700-yard course, says, "Players testing the second hole at night have no great difficulty following or locating any ball. They like the idea of night golf immensely and would look forward to playing a full nine or 18 at night — the only weekday time usually available for recreation."

Most of the members live in Orr's adjoining 350-lot Gold Medallion Gateway Home community where, included with the price of a home, is a reduced membership fee for the country club. Orr said that if the present sales rate for the homes continues, he will answer members' enthusiasm for night golf by

lighting the entire front nine immediately and then following with illumination for the back side late this summer.

Illuminating the 420-yard hole are 19 General Electric 1,500-watt incandescent floodlights. They are mounted on 40-foot poles located behind the tee and green and alongside the fairway. The resultant light levels are 10 footcandles on the tee and green and five footcandles on the fairway. Most main downtown streets boast less than one footcandle.

Since the 380-yard third hole borders the second, Orr decided to utilize the poles on the right side of number two for mounting additional floodlights which could be aimed at the third fairway. Other poles and luminaires behind the third's tee and green and on the opposite side of the fairway complete the lighting of this hole, thereby actually giving Brandywine two fully-lighted holes.

Lighting engineers report that while special engineering layouts and consultation is necessary, the basic principles for lighting long holes are the same as those applied in lighting Par-3 layouts.

Successful lighting, player enjoyment and good profits at these shorter courses have led to the new, but next logical step of considering illumination for the regulation-length course. This move is motivated by industry statistics which show that during the past five years the already-overcrowded game of golf has experienced a 30 percent increase in number of players. During the same period there's been only a 15 percent rise in number of facilities — probably due to the rising expense of purchasing additional land (if available) to build new layouts.