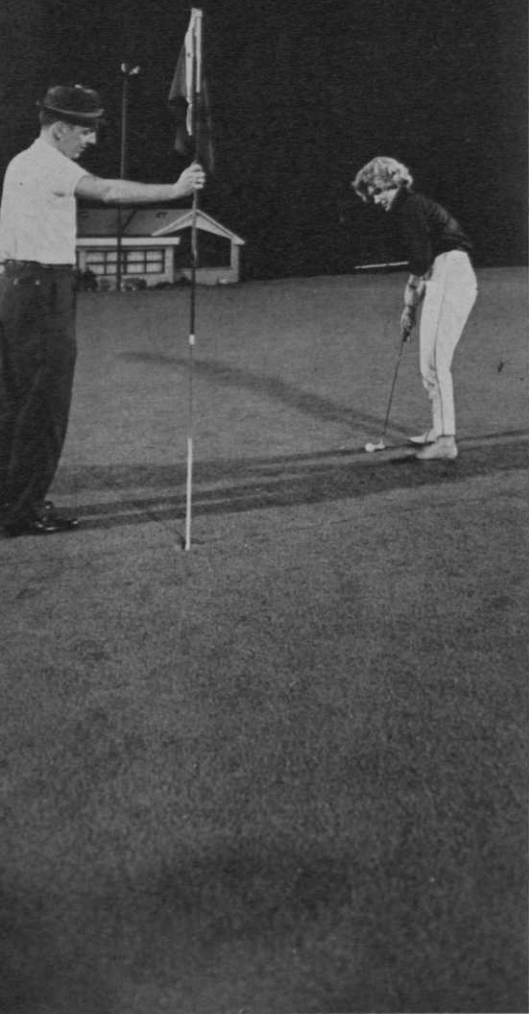


# LATE, LATE GOLF



Mrs. Zane Knauss putts as Gary Frye, Manor Valley's Course manager, tends the flags.

*Open only a few weeks, Manor Valley, near Pittsburgh, already has people inquiring about league play in the wee hours . . . Golfers will play around the clock if you have lights for them*

Western Pennsylvania had its first full-length illuminated golf course with the official opening of night play at the Manor Valley CC just outside Pittsburgh on Thursday, June 4. Nine of the 18-hole, par 72 course were lighted by Wide-Lite Corp. of Houston, Tex., a division of Esquire, Inc. The lighted course is only a short distance from the exclusive Westmoreland CC, which has no lights.

Manor Valley is owned by the enterprising Frye family of Westmoreland County. Wayne, George and Carl Frye operate three corporations. The lighted course is situated on 128 acres that once was the family farm. The mother of the three boys is a major stockholder in the enterprises and Wayne's son, Gary, is the manager of Manor Valley.

## Second Year of Operation

The public course was designed three years ago and daytime play began in May of 1963. A clubhouse, featuring a bar, lounge, pro shop, snack bar, and private and public dining rooms accommodating 200 persons, was opened at the same time. The parking lot holds 100 cars.

Two years ago — even before the daytime course was ready for play — the Frye brothers started getting notions about night golf. They traveled around the country looking at everything under lights and then began looking for the right illuminating equipment and the right people to plot the project and make the installation.

"We were looking for the best fixtures and the best engineering service," Wayne Frye said recently. "The Wide-Lite people came out here in the fall of 1963 and walked the course in the rain. We liked what they had to offer and Wide-Lite got the job."



One of the first groups to try out Manor Valley's new lighting system was composed of Gary Frye, Nancy Frye and Paul Joseph.

Under lights are holes 10 through 18. The back nine was first to be put in play last year. The front nine was opened this spring. The course is 6,327 yards long, with the back nine comprising 3,069 yards. Par is 36 on each nine.

The Manor Valley CC is lighted from 57 steel standards that range in height from 35 to 40 feet. Each standard is placed in such a way so as not to present a hazard to regular play. The flight of a ball driven from the tee can be followed until the ball drops down the fairway. Total illumination has been placed at 100,000 watts. Eight miles of underground wiring carry the current.

Initial cost was \$60,000 to \$65,000, a relatively small investment compared to the cost of a new nine. Long range costs of the lighting system will be moderate. The lamps in the floodlighting fixtures are rated to burn 16,000 hours, an equivalent of 10 years of regular play.

### 25 Miles from Golden Triangle

The new lighted course is situated just 25 miles from Pittsburgh's famed Golden Triangle. It is expected that players from the heavily industrial Monongahela Valley also will patronize the course. The move from that direction already is under way.

"We had a fellow call here the other night who wanted to know if we could handle his 'golf league,'" Gary Frye re-

cently said. "The group wants to tee off starting at 12:30 a.m. once a week. Of course we can handle them," Gary continued, "and we figure to get a lot of steel workers who are in the mills until 11:00 p.m."

Gary is not whistling alone under the lights. The Pittsburgh district has a number of lighted Par 3 courses, but there never has been a course in the area under lights that can boast holes as long as 540 yards. Manor Valley expects to operate seven days a week during the spring, summer and fall.

"We'll open as early in the year as we can," Gary says, "and we'll stay open until the snow comes. And knowing that these nine holes under the lights will be successful, we're already thinking about the rest of the course."

### Festivities at Opening

Official opening of the lighted course was celebrated with a dinner attended by city, township and state officials. Before the official opening, Manor Valley drew a surprise visitor from Indonesia. Muljono Surjopramono, supervisor of culture and director of art education in East Java, was brought to the course by his U.S. hosts during a 3-month tour of this country's museums, art galleries and other cultural institutions.

The "boom" in night golf for both Par 3 and regulation courses got under way only four years ago when Wide-Lite began showing golf course management that its fixtures are ideal for lighting fairways and greens. The combination of mercury vapor lamps and a wide, uniform pattern of light overcame the economic limitations inherent in incandescent floodlights.

Wide-Lite estimates that lighting extends the use of a course by as much as 40 per cent without increasing maintenance costs. In addition to income from green fees, revenue from such money-makers as car rentals, pro shop merchandise and food also goes up. As a result, the cost of lighting existing courses can be recovered in three to five years.

By contrast, it takes 10 to 14 years to recover the cost of a new, unlighted course, according to some authorities.