

## Supt. Decides What He Doesn't Want - Then Orders Equipment Building

In one of the most unusual real estate transactions in golf history, Kansas City's Blue Hills CC traded its 117-acre location in the city's residential area for a 156-acre site south of the city about a year ago. Along with the city's longest golf course, Blue Hills received a handsome new clubhouse, an Olympic-size swimming pool, artificially cooled ice skating rink, tennis courts, and an indoor range.

Months before the 51-year-old club moved to its new suburban location, Jerry Elmer, supt., began thinking about the type of facilities he wanted to house the men and equipment needed to maintain the new 18-hole layout.

His ideas were born of quite extensive experience. His father, H. J. (Bud) Elmer, has been a supt. in Kansas City for nearly

four decades and young Jerry was born into the business. At 10, Jerry was caddy-ing and a year later he began spending the summers between school semesters working with his father. With the exception of a year at college and four years in the Air Force, Jerry has been on a golf course ever since. He became superintendent at the former Blue Hills course in 1960, moving with the club to the new location.

### What He Didn't Want

To begin with, Jerry knew what he *didn't* want. He didn't want scattered buildings—one holding fertilizer, one a shop, one for mower storage. He didn't want equipment standing out in the weather, detracting from the beauty of the course and tempting the neighborhood vandals. (He used to budget for pilferage at the old course, since a lean-to shed made tires, batteries, seats, etc. a target for pilferage.)

After considerable thought, Elmer recommended to the Blue Hills directors a 7,200 square foot building offered by Butler Manufacturing Co. Its baked on colored paneling is weather resistant, reducing upkeep for years, and is unusually attractive. Its size answered Elmer's needs.



Employee lunch room in new Blue Hills maintenance building has refrigerator, coin machines, tables and chairs. Next door is a shower room.

Supt. Bud Elmer and Blue Hills maintenance employee look over equipment that has been fitted for night mowing work.

The fact that it was prefabricated and mounted to steel framing assured him of quick, economical construction. The basic price (about \$15,000) helped him sell his preference to the board.

#### Has 7200 Square-Foot Area

Located well away from the clubhouse, the equipment shed occupies a convenient spot on the southeast corner of the course, near a paved street. It is 120 feet long and 60 feet wide. The south half (60 by 60) is devoted to equipment parking. Two 16-foot doors allow inside parking for such heavy stuff as the club's tractors, fertilizer spreaders, and even seven gang mowers without dismantling or even detaching the mowers from a tractor.

The equipment parking area contains more than enough room to keep all equipment inside every night. Lined up against one wall are greens mowers, apron mowers, three gang professional units for tees, and reel mowers with riding sulkies. There are wall racks for countless hand tools and grass catchers.

Next to the storage area is the workshop area, approximately 30 by 40 feet in dimension. Both this room and the storage area are illuminated by four overhead skylights, giving a daylight brightness that aids both efficiency and safety. The shop is connected to the storage area by a 12-foot interior sliding door, and contains a four-foot service station-type floor drain. This permits frequent steam cleaning of equipment, reducing replacement expenses. The steam is pulled through the roof by an overhead vent.

#### Miscellaneous Storage

Two 20- by 30-foot rooms are at the north end of the building. One is used for the storage of a spreader, fertilizer, smaller spreaders, and miscellaneous materials such as seed. The various sacks are kept on racks off the floor. The other room was originally planned for the storage of topdressing, but Jerry is currently using it to store spraying equipment.

The floor plan allows for the comfort of the staff's ten fulltime employees and summer help. A special lunch room con-



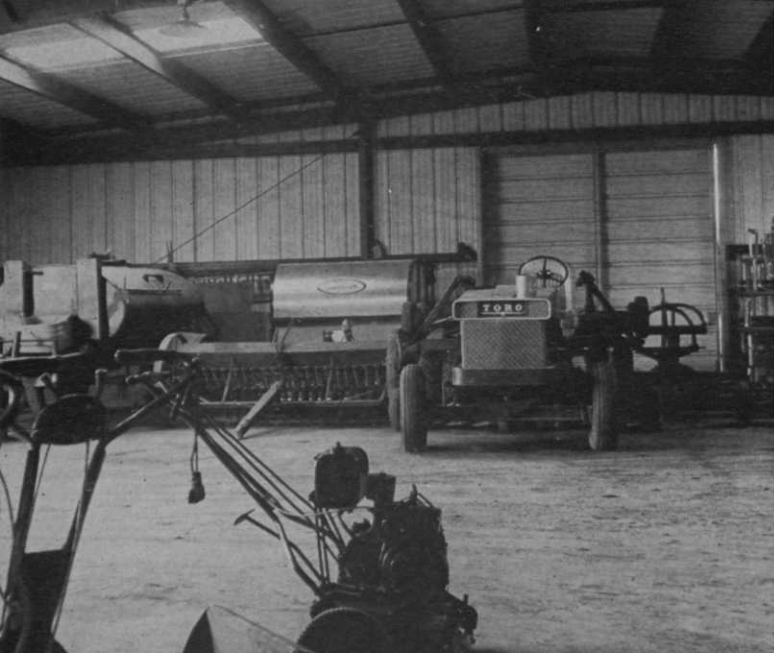
tains tables and chairs, and candy, soft drink and cigarette machines. There is also a refrigerator. Next to this room is a locker room with two shower stalls. Linens and clean Blue Hills uniforms are kept in this area.

Since the equipment building is near the path from the 12th green and the 13th tee, two rest rooms for golfers were included on the course side of the building. This facility is in addition to the Halfway House at the ninth green.

#### They Take Care of Jerry

Two other rooms are worth mentioning. Elmer's office, of comfortable size and featuring a convenient stand-up planning and work table, desk, and couch, is handsomely paneled and located near the front entrance. A parts room in which an amazing number of spare parts are stored is located adjacent to the workshop.

Though the building is an attractive one and located at the far end of the course,



View of the equipment storage garage section at Blue Hills CC.

it will soon be completely hidden from view by the 30 poplars planted between the building and the course. Black top walks, drives, and parking areas have yet to be laid around the building, but Elmer is hoping to have this done late this year. A 1,000 gallon gasoline tank has been buried near the front, the pump located between the street and the building.

### 3,000 Trees to Go In

The building is arranged and constructed for year-round use. A 240,000 BTU furnace heats the structure. The larger work and storage areas are insulated for winter comfort. Ductwork carries the heat into all rooms. Blue Hills kept nine full time men on Jerry's staff last winter. The overhauling of equipment, the various "get ready" tasks, and the large amount of care that had to be given to the new turf kept them all busy. More than 400 trees, largely pin oaks, maples, ash, sweet gums, and locusts, have already been planted, and eventually the beautiful course will boast 3,000 new trees. In addition, ornamental trees such as dogwood, flowering crabs, and red buds, have been set in.

With very good reason Jerry Elmer is proud of his equipment building. He planned it, sold the ideas to an under-

standing board, and manages it with great efficiency. In a day of rising costs, this one-unit operation has proved a good investment for the Kansas City club.

### Televising Masters Is A Spectacular Production

Covering a major sports event, such as the Masters, requires a lot of expensive equipment, many highly-paid technicians, and plenty of television knowhow. This being the ninth year that CBS has covered the Masters, it is in a position to know.

A total of 170 production and technical people were involved in televising the action on the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th holes at Augusta as well as in the clubhouse. More than a half-a-million dollars' worth of equipment, with a total weight of more than 40 tons, was used to bring the action to the livingroom gallery. That is enough equipment to outfit two complete television control rooms and one taping studio.

Fourteen cameras, both stationary and mobile, were used to cover the play on Augusta's final four holes. Four miles of cable, much of which runs through permanent underground installations, were used to tie the production together.