

TIPS FROM A SUPERINTENDENT

#2 IN A SERIES

Progress report on the beautiful new Playboy Club-Hotel Course in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

BY ART MUELLER,

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The official groundbreaking ceremony took place in August of 1966, complete with Hugh Hefner and his Bunnies. The grubbing and staking began in September. By October of 1967, one year later, we were turning green and getting in shape for our projected June, 1968, opening day. By this time we had moved perhaps a million yards of material.

The Club-Hotel complex includes 300 rooms, a variety of restaurants and bars (a la Playboy Club), two 18-hole golf courses (one designed by Jack Nicklaus and Pete Dye, the other by Robert Bruce Harris), two swimming pools (indoor and outdoor), stables, skiing, skeet and trapshooting and a landing strip for private aircraft. All in all, some 900 acres.

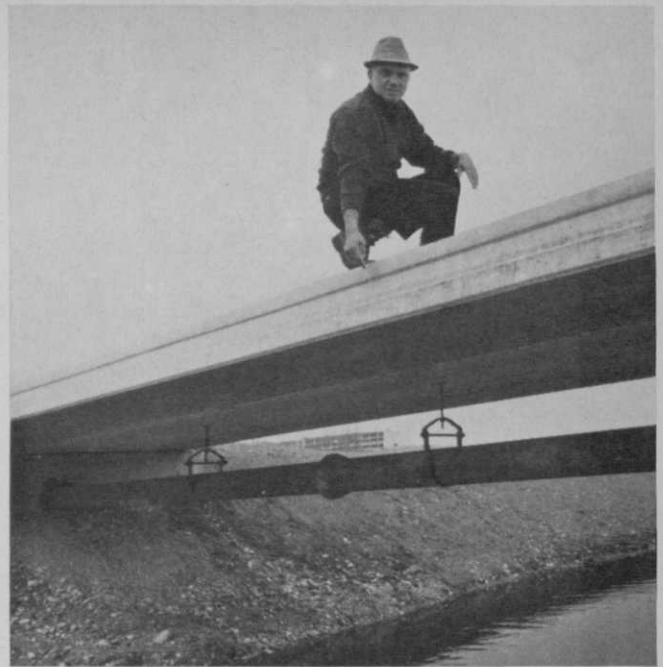
We have six ponds or lakes, including a 20-acre lake. These are stocked with trout and large-mouth bass. These lakes supply the water for our sprinkling system.

Because of the stony subsoil, we chose cast iron pipe for all our water mains. We felt that its strength, plus its ability to take the ground heaving during frost, made it a must for our courses.

The grasses we have are a combination. C15 Toronto for the greens, and what will be creeping bent on the fairways. Right now, we're using a combination of blue, fescue and bent until the ground is conditioned. For the roughs, we're using rye, fescue and blue, but by opening day, it will be mainly blue and fescue.

The countryside here at Lake Geneva is absolutely ideal for a golf course. Hilly, woody terrain with a small river, spring-fed lakes and a natural amphitheater at the eighteenth green. Our first course was designed to take advantage of the actual lay of the land.

This barn lies behind the 10th green, just off the 11th tee. Management may leave it up to retain rural flavor.



This 8-inch cast iron pipe main supplies all the water for the course. Extending from the pumphouse beyond the bridge, it connects to the 6- and 4-inch cast iron tributaries.

No gimmicks of any kind. This is definitely a championship course, and management plans national tournaments here. You'll be seeing a Playboy Open on network TV someday! Our second course will open in June, 1969.

I don't think there's any question that we'll be ready for opening day next June, as long as the weather holds as nicely as it has. One thing my friends ask me all the time: Will the caddies be Bunnies? All I can tell them is, come on up next June and find out for yourself!

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