## Designs 3 and 5 Gang Unit

Photos by O. J. Noer











Chet Mendenhall, Mission Hills C.C., Kansas City, Mo., designed and built this three and five gang mowing unit using an Allis Chalmers tractor and Worthington mowers and frame. Two mowers are placed in front at the rear tractor wheels and the others are mounted behind the tractor. The accompanying pictures show the three and five gang unit and close-ups of construction.

1. The 3 gang unit. It is used to mow around greens, tees, etc. 2. Close-up showing how the mower is mounted ahead of the rear tractor wheels. 3. Close-up mounting of single rear unit for the three or five gang outfits. The center tube is part of the mechanism for the outside rear units of the five gang unit. 4. Chet Mendenhall shows the five gang unit to Tex Champion. 5. Chet demonstrates how the two rear outside units are attached to the tractor.

#### MASTERS' DEMONSTRATION SET IDEAL PATTERN

Pattern for a highly interesting and informative pro demonstration program was presented prior to the Masters' tournament at Augusta, Ga., when local school students were invited to the club to see the masters perform.

About 1000 youngsters, as well as many adults, attended and saw what was in the opinion of the participating pros, the best arranged shotmaking demonstration ever given. The program was prepared by Horton Smith and drew upon his extensive experience in staging demonstrations of the Spalding "traveling circus" of former years and upon his experience in conducting sports events for the Army.

Smith was master of ceremonies for the shotmaking demonstration and was middle-man for the lively question period which gave all in the audience an opportunity to ask questions about their own games and the technique of the masters.

Smith proposed an unique feature that other pro groups might well consider, in suggesting prizes for the youngsters who discovered "what's wrong with this golfer" when the exhibiting stars deliberately made mistakes in technique.

Ed Dudley, Augusta National pro, opened the show by introducing Robert T.

Jones, Jr., O. B. Keeler, players in the Masters' field and Smith.

Smith then took over as the following program was put on:

Progression of Power Demonstration by Lloyd Mangrum, National Open Champion. Slow Motion Illustration of Golf Swing

by Jimmy Thomson Grip by Lawson Little.

Stance, Address, Taking Aim, etc. by Dick Metz.

Shotmaking (Progression of Power Idea) by Ben Hogan, PGA Champion; George Fazio, Canadian Open Champion, and Sam Snead, British Open Champion.

Each man hit 3 balls each with  $\frac{1}{4}$  swing,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$  and full swing with Nos. 8, 5 and 2 irons, spoon and driver.

Topping and playing very close lies with wood clubs by J. Bulla.

Slicing—3 balls by Jug McSpaden. Hooking—3 balls by V. Ghezzi. Specialties by Jimmy Nichols. Sand Shots by John Revolta. Quiz.

Long Driving (measure)—Vines, Furgol, Little, Oliver, Middlecoff, Snead, Harbert, Thomson, Hogan and Metz.

Masters Champions on Parade—playing their favorite shot or club (8 or 10 balls ea.)—Sarazen, Wood, Guldahl, Picard, Smith, Demaret, Nelson, Keiser, Jones.

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June, 1947

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# Weather Forecast As Course Work Control

By Prof. LAWRENCE S. DICKINSON

(Massachusetts State College)

It seems a bit presumptuous to write about forecasting weather conditions when the majority of the readers will be golf course superintendents. Every superintendent is known as "the best weather prophet in the county" and is the fellow the golfers ask—"Will we have good weather for the tournament?" Yet when I think of my own experiences with the weather and realize how important a factor weather is in the growing of fine turf, I feel that a reminder that some of these "weather sharps" are not taking advantage of their knowledge, may be helpful.

Some 30 years ago, after losing out on 3 successive attempts to dry hay, I purchased a good barometer. A few days later the opportunity came to cut some more hay. The weather looked favorable as far as I could see. The barometer said rain was due,—having paid \$20 for its judgment, I did not mow. It rained within 10 hours. Then and thereafter the barometer has paid big dividends. A well made aneroid barometer correctly adjusted to its location can save many dollars of the course budget.

"It is 2 hours before quitting time and what will I do with the men? If it doesn't rain tomorrow I want to topdress the greens, yet I don't want to screen the soil and have it get wet,—it looks as though it might rain". Similar uncertainties frequently occur at golf courses and the result is too often an ineffectual or even wasted 2 hours because of the lack of decision by the superintendent. The weather is the factor. Prophet or not why not take a look at the barometer and say, "We'll screen the topsoil, it's not going to rain". A good barometer correctly interpreted will seldom let you down.

#### **Fertilization Guide**

"Our superintendent applied a well known organic fertilizer to the greens 4 weeks ago. No results. Thinking the fertilizer was not good he applied a second dose 10 days later. Just a very little greening of the grass occurred. Still disgusted with the fertilizer and wishing to get rid of it, he made a third application 5 days ago. Today I had to send for an expert to come and look at the greens, they are awfully sick, yet growing faster than we can keep them cut." Well, from the time

of application until 4 days ago the weather forecast had been either fair and cool, or cloudy and cool. Then it changed to warm with showers. The wasted time, plant food, high blood pressure, unfavorable comments and prestige were very costly. Again the weather was the factor, but not at fault. Organic fertilizers must have warm weather and moisture to become effective. Incidentally it took 8 weeks for the greens to get over their spree.

'It has been the custom at the Hirum's Horrible Hump Club (new name just acquired) to mow the greens very short daily, except Sunday, throughout the season. The greens have always been rather poor in the fall but look at them now and it is only August 10th. They've fallen off in the last 10 days in spite of an application of nitrogen". Certainly the weather had some-thing to do with it, but it was not the cause. Omitting the factor of height of cut which was also governed by man, man failed to consider the weather as it came daily or was forecast. The last 6 days of the 10 were cloudy, 2 very cloudy. There were only a total of 21/2 hours sunshine. The radio, the newspaper predicted the cloudiness. The barometer would have forecast it if there had been one. Grass cannot grow blades that will function well without some sunlight. The less sunlight the more blade is necessary to even keep the "factory" in operation, with no production. Fourteen labor hours were required for each mowing of the greens. Evaluate the labor hour cost and production loss against the labor hour use to a better advantage, and the improvement in the health of the grass, had the mowings been omitted during some of the dull days. This accumulating loss becomes enormous at the end of a season.

"We've had 15 hours of hard rain and my number 12 and 18 greens are wet down only 2 inches. Smart, the superintendent at the club in the next town, says his greens are wet down 4 to 5 inches and they had less rain than we did. They have the same kind of grass as we do. I've told the committee we ought to re-build these greens." Regardless of the fact that the greens may need rebuilding, (there is doubt if they do) the superintendent could

(Continued on page 83)

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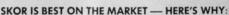


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Basketball

Football

#### Architect's Skill Shown on New Course of U. of Arizona

By C. S. Lanier

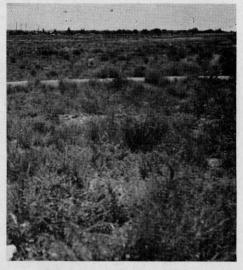
In 1941 when officials of the University of Arizona began planning a public golf course the site available and convenient was one that possibly left more to the imagination and presented less in inviting course prospects that any other location that ever became an attractive golf course. William H. Tucker was given an assignment that involved problems which seldom have confronted the architect and builder of a golf course.

But today on rolling terrain adjoining the campus a desert mesa has blossomed and a course that is a tremendous asset to the university and the entire community is getting heavy play.

To the east of the course tower the Sandia mountains and to the west is the Rio Grande valley. On what now is the course there wasn't a tree in 1941. The only vegetation was tumbleweeds, Russian thistle, cactus and sagebrush. Today there are 18 bent greens, Kentucky bluegrass fairways and yarrow tees. There now are more than 1700 trees on the course. Cottonwoods, Chinese elms, honey locust and evergreens which adorn the course all were transplanted.

The course is laid out over 150 acres. It has a yardage of 6603 (3230 out and 3373 in) with a par of 72. The greens are from 4500 sq. ft. to 7500 sq. ft. and have very interesting contours.

We believe that the University of New Mexico course gets more water pumped



The desert mesa on which U of Arizona course was built.

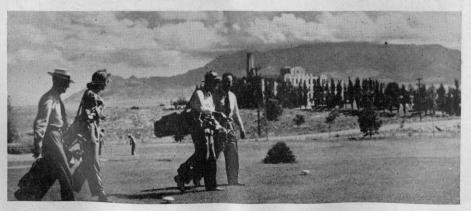
onto it than any other course in the world. The average annual rainfall at Albuquerque is only 8.27 in. Several months each year at this city of 5162 ft. altitude there is no rainfall.

To get and keep grass we had to have 2 wells. Each of them delivers 500 gals. per minute at pressure of from 65 to 85 lbs.

Night watering is started around May 1 and continued until November. It requires 4 men. Two are assigned to water 9 greens, 9 fairways and tees from 8 p.m. until 4 a.m. The other 2 commence at 4 a.m. watering the remainder of the course until noon.

#### Record Watering Schedule

This watering is a continuous performance all summer for 16 consecutive hours



Public golf course of University of Arizona at Albuquerque. No. 3 tee in foreground; back of it is No. 9 green. In the distance are the Sandia mountains.



Port Huron, Michigan



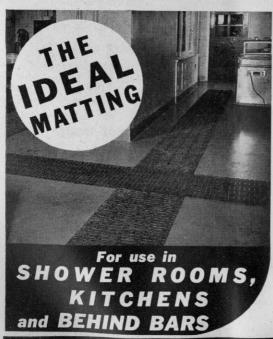
No. 8 green at Arizona U's 18-hole course, built as a student and community asset out of the desert.

a day. From 750 to 850 gals. a minute is used. We really have a schedule that uses water!

This year an 8-hour per day watering schedule was begun in February. The main idea in watering from February to May is to take advantage of any light frosts which will maintain subsoil moisture. When we can get moisture to freeze in the soil it breaks the soil cohesion and provides additional aeration which is a serious need on this course.

Not even one 24 hour period can be missed in our watering schedule because of the adobe soil. There was no topsoil at the site of this course; it had to be made.

Greens have an excellent subbase of cinders and manure. The fairways received 3000 tons of cinders put through a 11/2 in. screen, and 2000 yds. of manure. The cin-



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This view shows how the site of the No. 3 tee and No. 9 green pictured on page 66 looked before the Arizona U course was built.

ders are essential in breaking up the cohesion of adobe and promoting capillary action that helps gets water to the grass roots

Since the opening of the course in June, 1942, only one green had to have a temporary green substituted although the course gets year-around play. Last year the course was played 354 days. There were 39,000 rounds registered.

#### Course Equipment Storage Facilities Lacking

Golf club officials who have commented on farmers' failure to properly house and protect expensive equipment can see similar costly neglect at many golf courses, according to findings of a GOLFDOM investigation. With the trend for the past 9 years having been quite plainly toward machine maintenance of courses it is surprising that even many of the larger and wealthier clubs have not provided equipment storage and maintenance garages of adequate size and repair work facilities.

Naturally, the result of this lack of facilities has meant unnecessary emergency work and expense in course maintenance, undue depreciation, machine work that isn't up to best standard and heavy odds against efficient maintenance.

A hundred letters sent by GOLFDOM to course supts. asking for information concerning satisfactory course equipment barns built within the past 10 years



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brought fewer responses of helpful material than any other query GOLFDOM ever has made in its endeavors to secure information requested by supts. and chairmen. Majority of the replies advised that the clubs hadn't much more than a makeshift shed for equipment and supplies storage and equipment conditioning and repairing.

However, many letters expressed keen desire to learn of whatever installations, other than those described in previous GOLFDOM articles, are considered good practical service buildings. Typical of these replies were those of Lawrence Huber, supt., Brookside CC, Worthington, O., and Jimmy Smart of Dutchess G&CC, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Huber says the Brookside board is considering such a building to bring course maintenance facilities up to date, and Smart tells that Dutchess officials also hope to remedy the club's lack of adequate maintenance machinery storage and conditioning facilities soon although at present Jimmy has had difficulty in buying enough lumber to build a 12 x 12 pumphouse.

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