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GOLFDOM

SEPTEMBER • 1947

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GOLFDOM, The Business Journal of Golf. Published monthly, except November and December. Subscription rate—\$2.00 per year, Canadian and Foreign \$2.50. Herb Graffis, Editor; Joe Graffis, Advertising and Business Mgr.

Publication Offices—407 So. Dearborn St., Chicago 5; Phone Harrison 5941. Eastern Representative—Albro Gaylor, 20 Vesey St., New York 7; Phone, Cortland 7-1668. Pacific Coast Representatives—Roy M. McDonald & Co., 541 S. Spring St., Los Angeles; Phone Tucker 7981 . . . 564 Market St., San Francisco; Phone Garfield 8966 . . . Terminal Sales Bldg., Seattle, Wash. Printed in U.S.A.

S. CAL. SUPTS. VISIT NEW SAN DIEGO COURSE

By W. E. Langton

Forty members of the Golf Greenkeeping Superintendents Assn. of Southern California responded to the invitation to visit the new Mission Valley GC at San Diego, to commend or criticize the new layout. The course was designed and built by L. M. Hughes who had primarily in mind a course that would test a player's ability, speed playing conditions and eliminate waiting while a player is trying to extricate a ball from some deep sand trap. There are no sand traps on the whole course, but trees have been so planted that one will find enough trouble. I believe that our genial host who was the famous amateur, Johnny Dawson, kept his shrewd eye on the building of the course, and with all due respect to Hughes who did an excellent job, one can see a touch here and there of a master mind of outstanding ability in the game. The tests of shot placement one perceives could only have been thought out by a golfer like Johnny himself.

The tees are immense, giving plenty of room to place markers and making upkeep less costly than smaller tees.

Hughes did a fine job with the greens. They are beautifully placed for drainage and the contours are such that maintenance is easy. Putting surface is excellent and yet nothing destroys the beauty of design. The greens were planted last summer. For greens only 10 months old they seem fully matured. Hughes is a great believer in farm yard fertilizer and he evidently put plenty in the greens soil for on walking across a green one could feel a springy softness in texture which has the quality of holding a pitched shot. There is nothing more annoying to a good golfer than to have a fine executed shot go bouncing across the green. By inserting plenty of humus in the greens before seeding Hughes has given his customers a fine chance to really make pitch shots.

When two men get together, one an excellent business man, a superb golfer and a true sportsman, the other a practical, hard working, sound designer who understands the materials he called upon to work, who has learned his greenkeeping the hard way, there can be only one result: the building of a fine course. Such were the findings of the superintendents of Southern California.

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