

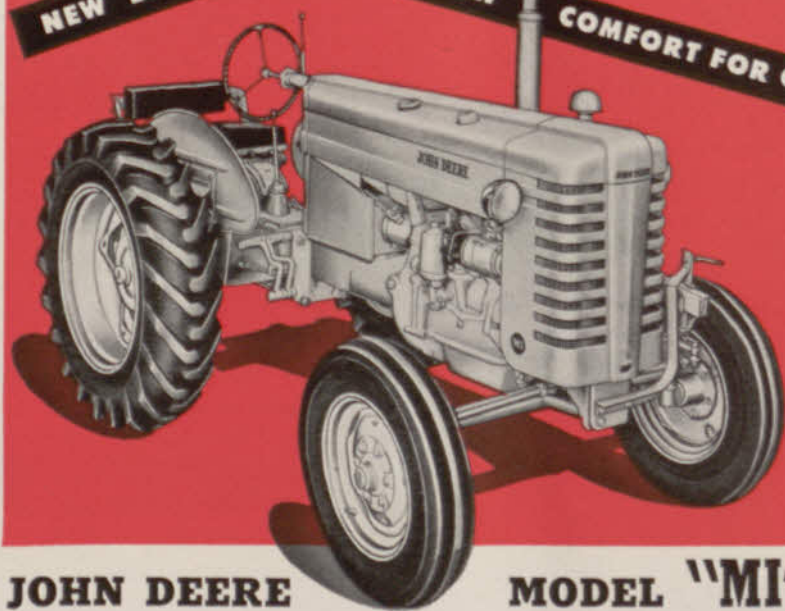
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# Twin Short Holes Feature Nassau County Course

By JOHN M. BRENNAN

Almost 23 years to the day that slim Charles Augustus Lindbergh lifted his monoplane, the Spirit of St. Louis, from nearby Roosevelt Field, less than a good brassie shot away, J. Russel Sprague, chief executive of sprawling Nassau County, snipped a tape at the first tee to officially open the new White course of Nassau County Park on the Salisbury Plains of Long Island.

Sprague conceived the idea of this vast three-course park area on what used to be the links empire of the late J. J. Lannin, former owner of the Boston Red Sox when Babe Ruth was a pitching and slugging sensation. As he cut the tape, Robert Trent Jones, widely known golf architect, smiled and with reason.

Jones, to the best knowledge of golf oracles, had introduced an innovation in building the White course of 6,378 yards, diagonally across from the swank Meadow Brook Club, where polo vies with golf.



Nassau Chief Executive J. Russel Sprague cuts the tape to mark opening of new White course featuring twin par-3 holes at Salisbury, L.I. Looking on are, left, Robert Trent Jones, architect and Nassau Public Works Commissioner, John C. Guibert.

The unique feature of the White course is exact duplicate short holes on all par threes. The purpose of these twin holes is to avoid congestion that occurs on short holes during weekends and heavy week day play.

"This innovation is quite apt to revolutionize golf course construction throughout the world," declared Sprague as he cut the ribbon for four Long Island pros—Pat Cici of the host club, Jack Mallon of Cold Springs CC, Willie Klein of Wheat-

ley Hills (and La Gorce, Fla., during the winter) and Al (Red) Brosch of Cherry Valley Club, the perennial district champion. An eagle three at the last hole by Mallon gave him and Klein a one-up victory. Mallon set a record of 68, with a glittering 32, four under, on the back nine. The first nine par is also 36, giving the layout a 72-stroke rating.

The colorful opening-day ceremonies, held at just about the spot where Lindbergh began gaining altitude on May 20, 1927, included a march to the first tee from the temporary clubhouse to the Scottish marches of a bagpipe played by John C. MacKenzie of the St. Andrews Society of New York. Public Works Commissioner John C. Guibert, who rules over the Nassau Park system, introduced Sprague, Robert Trent Jones and others.

## Twin Holes to Speed Play

Jones expressed the opinion that most municipal and public links of the future will incorporate the twin-hole idea on the short holes to eliminate traffic congestion.

"There will be no jamming of three and four foursomes at the tee of the par three holes of this White course," said Jones. "By having exact duplicate short holes, there is always an open or free hole to keep the flow of play progressing and since these duplicate holes are truly exact copies of each other, there is no choice between the two."

While Nassau County is the first to bring the double short holes into play, the idea as a log-breaking of the traffic jam on public courses has taken hold and is now proposed for several municipal courses throughout the nation, among them being the new Marine Park course to be built by New York City near the Idlewild Airport on reclaimed ground; Columbus, Ohio, municipal course and the new municipal courses at Denver, Colo.

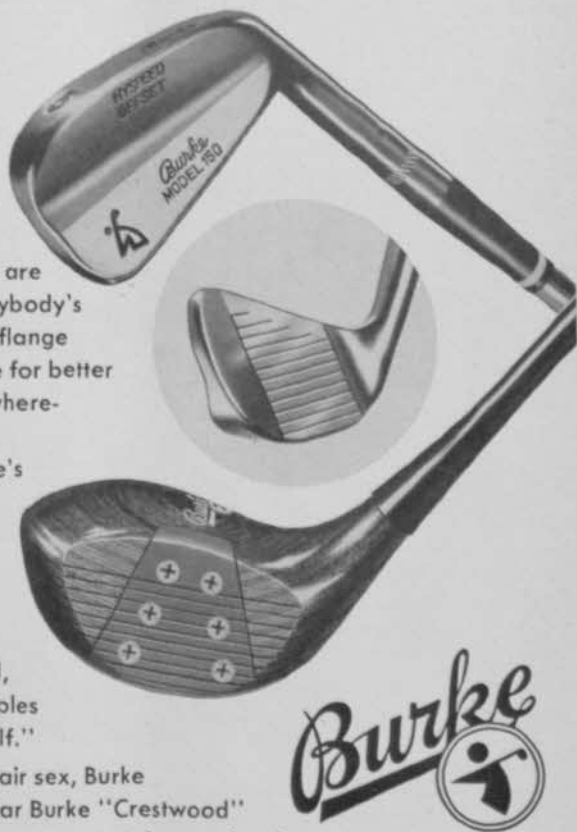
The White course gives the residents of Nassau County (non-residents are barred) three courses, one of which is temporary and will be abandoned when another, to be known as the Blue, is opened next autumn. The temporary course now being used is the old No. 1 of the Salisbury layout. The Blue layout will greatly resemble the White, with the double holes. The other course is the Red, which doesn't have the double holes on the par-threes.

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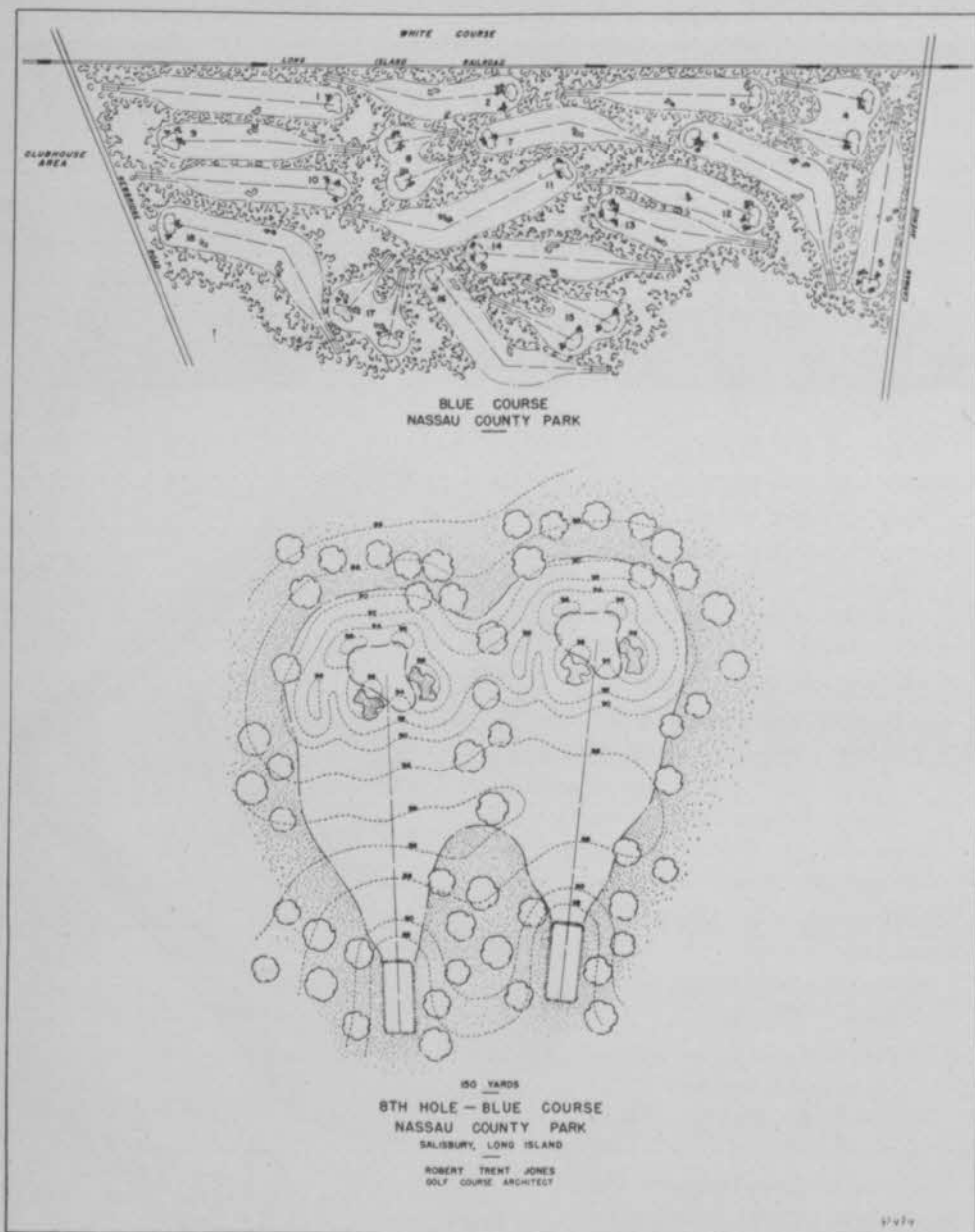
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That means that when completed, Nassau Park, with its double holes will have actually 54 holes, plus the eight double holes, or 62 in all. When Lannin operated the Salisbury tract in the pioneer days of golf on Long Island, he had five courses on the 950-acre layout. It was necessary to lease an additional 150 acres for the No. 5 course.

#### Residents Demand Fine Courses

Nassau County, the fastest growing section from a standpoint of population in the country, has maintained its policy of

building superior golf courses in a section thickly dotted with excellent private links. There are dozens of world-famous private links, including the Garden City GC, within a five-mile radius of the Salisbury site.

It was a challenge of a man-sized job that faced Jones when he signed to construct the three courses on the virtually abandoned Lannin empire. The table-top terrain had to be molded into a gently rolling, beautifully landscaped greensward. The county officials demanded



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courses designed so that they would be difficult for the high scorers, yet at the same time provide excellent tests for the low scoring players. This was accomplished by the strategic positions in which the traps have been placed, both in the fairways and at the generous-sized greens which average 10,000 square feet. The traps placed in the fairways are beyond the reach of the average golfer's normal range, therefore presenting no particular difficulty to him.

The greens have been plateaued and shaped in dune-like form with rolling contours. They are ample in size (the smallest is 7,000 square feet) to allow for frequent changing of the pins as well as to make adequate targets for the higher handicap players. As the low-handicap player is always playing for the pin, he must make an accurate shot to the pin position, or he will be faced with a cunning putt over the undulating green surface to get his par. The high-handicap player will have no difficulty getting one over par and is unlikely to have the higher scores that are normally produced on the penal type courses.

The fairways are wide, the average being 200 feet. They are cut from the tees to and around the greens, making the course one of park-like beauty.

The courses are all irrigated from wells dug at strategic positions, which means that tees, fairways and greens should always be lush in spite of the weather conditions.

#### **Landscaping is Feature**

In order to give Nassau County Park that third-dimension, officials recently awarded Erthal and Grand of Brooklyn a \$52,170 contract to landscape the new Blue course. This includes planting of 2,472 trees. These include 748 shade specimens such as oak, maple, beech, sassafras, redbud, cherry and dogwood; 932 evergreens. The planting is being done around tees, in the rough and along borders.

Henkels and McCoy of Philadelphia seeded the Blue course last autumn. The cold spell of March caused some bare spots and these recently have been reseeded.

It was necessary to remove some 100,000 yards of sand from a nearby lake area, which will eventually become part of the grandiose park system that will become a virtual play paradise, with an amphitheater, section for model airplane enthusiasts, a picnic area, softball fields, etc. Some 20,000 yards of topsoil was also dug from the lake region.

The holes of the three permanent courses have been broken up in their design into such length and variety that every club in the bag will be used. The

sequence of holes has been so developed that variable lengths of holes follow each other.

Stanley Thompson, noted Canadian designer, collaborated with Jones in shaping the White and Blue courses. Frank Squires is the greenkeeper, Tom Mallon the superintendent of the park and Frank Hurley the manager of golf.

Last year, the handsome pro shop, one of the largest in the country, was officially opened. Pat Cici, who got his start with George Heron at Meadow Brook, is the head pro. His associate is Walter Kozak, a former Met PGA champion, who was at Pomonok CC, Flushing, for many years.

The golf shop, which was erected at a cost of \$100,000, was designed by the late Clifford C. Wendehack, who also blueprinted the vast clubhouse which will be erected in the near future.

A fulltime permit to play any of the Nassau Park courses sells for \$60. At least one of the courses will remain all year around. For weekend and holiday play, the permit costs \$50. For those who like week day play, the fee is \$25.

The green fee for weekends and holidays is \$2 and after 4 P.M. \$1. The week day fee is \$1 and after 4 P.M. 75 cents.

Officials said that more than 10,000 permits will be issued for 1950. Patronage, in spite of unfavorable weather, has increased over 20 per cent over last year's record figures.

Sprague fears that in spite of the twin par-three holes on two of the courses, plus the additional course facilities, there will be traffic jams on the fairways within another few years. That's because of the tremendous population increase and keen golf interest in that section of the country.

#### **Top Pro Stars Aid Jaycees In Junior Golf Promotion**

Transcriptions of five minute interviews with golf's top players are being made available to state and local Junior Chambers of Commerce in preparation for the state qualifying tournaments prior to the U. S. Jaycee National Junior Amateur Championship at Ames, Iowa in August. Interviews arranged by Hugh Egan, Director, Sports and Recreation Committee, USJCC, will make it possible for thousands of youngsters throughout the nation to hear the advice and encouragement offered by the game's top competitors. Interviews with the following are available from Egan's office, 209 South State St., Chicago 4, Ill., for radio broadcast: Skip Alexander, Clayton Heafner, Chick Harbert, Johnny Palmer, Ben Hogan, Jimmy Thomson, Sam Snead, Gene Sarazen, George Fazio, Jim Turnesa and golf writers O. B. Keeler of the Atlanta Journal, Larry Robinson, N.Y. World-Telegram and Sun and Bob Harlow, publisher of Golf World.

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# New Jersey's Turf Program Unites Research, Teaching<sup>\*</sup>

By RALPH E. ENGEL

Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, N. J.

The Turf Program in New Jersey has as one of its annual activities the one week turf course. It is held each year for the purpose of bringing ourselves up-to-date on recent developments that have occurred in the field of turf management.

The lectures are given by various individuals on the College of Agriculture staff and individuals from the field of turf management. We like to have greenkeepers on the program; this year Carlton Treat, Edward Casey, and Leonard Strong spoke to us. Attendance has been between 80 and 90 the past several years which is somewhat above average as compared to that for the years prior to the war. A number of the individuals who enrolled in the first courses still attend. This is evidence that indicates to us that the one week turf course has been an effective project.

Also, we have a ten week course that starts in late October. It has been given for three years. The purpose is to give the fundamentals of turf management such as pertain to fertilization and other factors. While this course does not provide the practical experience, we feel that it is an opportunity for the younger men to gain some fundamental theory before they find themselves confined on the job as the greenkeeper. G.I. benefits have been obtained for this course. The enrollment has been limited to 20 students.

## Display Results on Field Day

A third function that has become an annual feature is the Turf Field Day at which time the test plots and demonstrations are displayed. We like to have this event in July when the pressure is on the turf. While this is a strenuous season for the greenkeeper, it still works out quite well since our state is small and most greenkeepers do not have far to travel. We like to keep this meeting limited to a half-day so that no one needs to be away from his course all day.

The turf research program at New Jersey had its origin from grass plantings made in 1925. The severe season of 1928 gave the work additional support and impetus. As a result, research contributions were produced in the '30s such as

the role of lime in turf culture, the rate of penetration of lime, the effect of different sources of organic matter in topsoil, and the factors affecting the growth of *poa annua*.

The turf research work was discontinued during the war years and a new series of tests were started in 1947. One phase of this present work that is of great interest to us is a series of tests that are designed to show the effects of the aerifier and other types of cultivation. I speak of the use of the aerifier as cultivation, because I believe the word aerifying is too limiting for the possible values.

We are using the aerifier in tests on both putting green turf and fairway turf. The experiments are designed so this machine is being used at different seasons and frequencies, and under different soil conditions. The effect of cultivation on the penetration of lime, fertilizer, and water into the soil are some of the problems that we in New Jersey would like to have answered by this study. As yet we do not have any information to give you; possibly we can supply you with some results in the next year or two.

## Study Time of Fertilizing

A second problem that we in New Jersey would like more information about is that of time of fertilization with regard to control of *poa annua* and clover. The thought is that we should be able to locate a particular season of the year when it is most advantageous to fertilize for the benefit of the turf grasses. The treatments that we are using are those of steady fertilization throughout the season, concentrating the fertilizer in the cool seasons, and the concentrating of fertilizer in the warmer season of the year.

Tests are established on both the putting green turf and fairway type of turf. Since this type of test is slow to show results, again we do not have any information to give at this time. Also, the time that is best for us will not be the same for your area if the climates are different. However, we shall be glad to pass on our results when they are available as they may reveal a philosophy that will indicate the proper time to fertilize in your particular location.

<sup>\*</sup>(NGSA convention paper)



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FIG. 3: For the operators of golf courses and schools. Note—no particular standing arrangement is suggested; place brush mat where best suited to players' use.

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A study of the companion grasses was run for the purpose of determining if there was any possibility of their use in seed mixture for golf courses. We were not able to find a place for a companion grass under golf course conditions where a good stand of permanent grasses is desired in a minimum of time.

It may be of interest to you that we found under our conditions that perennial rye grass and common rye grass were far more competitive than redtop. However, we did not like the performance of redtop in our area because it tended to die out quite suddenly and leave the turf discolored and unattractive. Neither of the grasses disappeared entirely in 2 years. In one part of the study, we seeded a mixture of 15% rye grass and 25% redtop. With higher rates of seeding, the stand became predominantly rye grass with a loss of Kentucky bluegrass and Colonial bent.

#### Chemicals As Weed Control Tool

When speaking about the use of chemicals for weed control I have the habit of emphasizing the importance of good maintenance practices. I have not been alone in suggesting that chemical weed control is not a "cure-all," but another tool. In 1947 the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station started a test in co-operation with the USGA Green Section and the U. S. Department of Agriculture to determine the value of 2, 4-D along with

fertilizer and seeding in renovation programs.

The use of 2, 4-D only gave very good control of broadleaved weeds for the first two seasons. However, after that a noticeable number began to reappear. Plots that were treated with both 2, 4-D and fertilizer showed far better control of the broadleaved weeds after two seasons. This gave us data to show that chemicals for weed control give the best results when they are tied into a well-balanced program of turf maintenance.

We have put out approximately 1000 plots on chemical crabgrass control in the past two seasons. Of the phenyl mercuries, the commercial preparations of C-Lect, Puraturf crabgrass killer, and Seltex were included both seasons. Also, the experimental materials, phenyl mercury acetate solubilized as prepared by the Gallowhur Chemical Co. and S-2000, an experimental phenyl mercury, were included. We have tested potassium cyanate and several of the Sowa chemicals such as S-1998 for two seasons. Several new materials were tested this year that have given us enough promise that we hope to study them further in the future. While we do not profess that the ideal chemical has been found, we feel that progress has been made and that with the tremendous amount of work being done on chemicals for weed control in crops, something even better may be found.

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## HOOSIER PROS FINISH DAY'S WORK



Annual spring meeting of Indiana Section PGA this year, as usual, had as its finale a dinner of pros, peddlers, club officials and sports writers. After six hours in intense business sessions the pros relax, tuck up their bibs, then listen to gossip and merriment.