

Dredging, Dumping, to Add Golf Courses in New York

By JOHN M. BRENNAN

It seems incredible that despite the tremendous residential building boom, Long Island, within another two years, will have at least 58 holes of golf that today are, oddly enough, not included on the map.

Curious too, is the fact that 27 of these holes to be acquired will augment the 180 holes now being maintained in New York City by the Department of Parks.

With the price of Long Island real estate pegged at fantastic levels, golf, being a cheap land game, is exploring new terrain—at least in that section of the country. Ingenious and forward-looking golf officials have successfully explored the possibility of adding to Long Island real estate by waterfront development along the south shore at spots from Coney Island to Great South Bay.

Vast strides have been made within the past few months in the creation, out of desolate marshland, of such spots as Marine Park, Brooklyn; Spring Creek Park, Queens; several hundred acres in the vicinity of Long Beach and at Great River, where famed Timber Point is located.

The most ambitious of the projects that will add at least 27 holes, if not 36, or perhaps 54 holes eventually, to the city's system, are the Marine Park and Spring Creek operations. The former will be a mammoth 2,000-acre development, while the latter will add 600 acres.

From Wasteland to Playland

Where countless fiddler crabs, muskrats and sundry marshland life once swarmed, a combination of garbage, refuse and dredged mulch and sand has built up useful and much-needed recreational areas.

Improved methods and techniques of landfill operations have largely eliminated citizens' complaints about offensive odors. Too, the improvement has eliminated mosquito breeding spots on the fringe of the world's largest city. Also, unsightly marshes are being wiped out to make room for golf courses and park facilities.

Into Marine Park, where a 27-hole golf course will be constructed, according to Commissioner Bob Moses, a total of 17,688,680 cubic yards of fill has been dumped since 1944. Marine Park lies between Sheepshead Bay, the fishing center, and Floyd Bennett airport.

Henry Liebman, director of operations of the Sanitation Department of New York

City, reports that stage II of the four-stage Marine Park development should be completed early this year. It is expected that the last of the landfill operation will be completed before the autumn.

The process of changing "worthless" marshland into valuable park property begins with the stockpiling of sand dredged from bays and inlets to bring the land up to mean high-tide level.

Then additional sand is dredged from out of the bays to cover the layers of refuse brought in by sanitation trucks. Dikes are constructed around the area and tide gates are built to prevent fill material from drifting back into the bay waters. In addition, wire fences are constructed to prevent lighter refuse from being swept by the winds into the water.

To avoid such complaints as resulted in a lawsuit against the big city several years ago, the landfill operations include frequent spraying of the debris with disinfectants, steady depositing of sand and the use of tidal waters to purify the materials. Bulldozers keep hammering down the fill.

In addition to the 27 or more holes to be added in the Marine Park development—that will give Brooklynites 45, an 18-hole layout being located in Bay Ridge at Dyker Beach Park—Long Island will have 18 holes of converted marshland at Oceanside, near Long Beach; nine at Timber Point and four at Woodmere GC, where the members of that club, anxious to add to the length of their course, purchased some land from the adjoining Rockaway Hunt Club. The addition to Woodmere gave the club four holes in what once was marshland.

Dredges Up 18 Holes

At Oceanside, the cozy Oceanside GC was faced with the problem of being wiped out or resorting to the system of dredging Lido Channel, a la New York City's project at Marine Park. The flourishing town of Oceanside, like most Long Island communities, found itself pressed for land necessary for a high school, the present building being inadequate. Condemnation proceedings to acquire the golf course as a future school site forced the golf club to embark on the dredging program, which was completed last summer, in time for the autumn seeding of 18 holes.

Bob Stanley, supervising the Oceanside operation, reported that some of the exist-

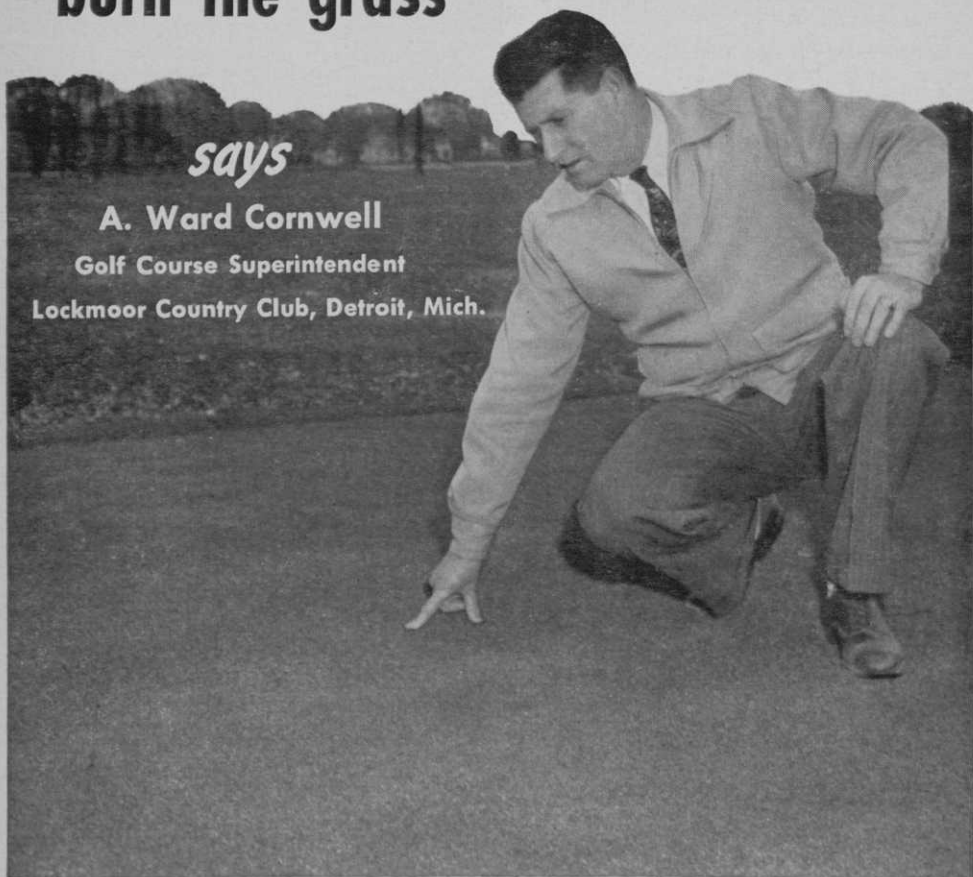
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This picture story is another in a series of “experience reports” from well-known golf courses, coast to coast



Greens are a delight to the golfer's eye at the beautiful Lockmoor course. "Tersan" keeps all the greens in fine shape. The photo above shows the 16th green.

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ing holes — or rather parts of them — will be integrated into the new scheme of things on the former marshlands.

Alfred H. Tull, veteran New York golf course architect, who designed the new Concord International course at Kiamesha Lake in the Catskills, was entrusted with the task of reshaping Oceanside. Tull also built the Woodmont CC in the nation's capital and has been active as a designer of courses in other parts of this country, Bermuda, the Bahamas and Cuba.

In designing the new Oceanside layout, which will be of championship length and a finer test than the existing course, Tull sought to create a full title test as well as a course which would afford enjoyment to the typical club golfer.

Replacing War Losses

Oceanside and Tull, from the start of blueprinting the new course had in mind the creation of a second Lido. The famed Lido course went out during World War II when the navy took possession and decided to use the course as a drillfield. It was located a short distance from Oceanside.

Oceanside's new course won't fringe the Atlantic, as did Lido's sporty layout, but it will have a number of gorgeous water holes and holes built along the bay, back of Lido.

Timber Point, which has been operated by the Suffolk County Republican Club for years, has been working on the reclamation of land to embellish the back nine holes which were abandoned during the war years.

"If Long Island is to add to its golfing facilities during the next few decades, courses most likely will have to be built on man-made land along the shore," O. M. (Pete) Lamberson, pres., Long Island Golf Assn., said in discussing the future of the sport at the last annual meeting held at Garden City. He added:

"It's a case of economics, with land being too valuable except for home developments. Golf is getting to be an expensive game with high taxes all around. The way for golf course expansion seems to be along the waterfront."

Pros Study Installment Buying Plans

Recent years' marked increase of potential buyers of top quality clubs and bags among younger players and office and factory workers has pros giving more attention to installment buying plans. The high general price level and high taxes take their cuts before the potential buyers can get around to buying sets of clubs. Unless easy-payment plans are offered

many a live prospect is shut out on buying the pro quality clubs desired.

Pro's own handling of the time payment deals has to consider how much of the credit he can afford to handle without freezing too much of his own capital and risking slump in his own credit rating and loss of discounts for prompt payment of his own accounts.

The credit rating of those who buy on payments is often delicate and difficult to determine, but essential information. In some cases, especially at private clubs, the pro can get into serious embarrassment trying to protect his interests when the buyer has missed payments. The fee course pro has to watch that buyers don't depart and leave no trace after making a few payments.

Due to these risks some pros prefer to let the installment buying collections be handled by a local bank or finance company, if the local outfits will handle this sort of transaction at a fee which won't unduly increase the total cost of the deal to the purchaser. The banks and finance companies are much tougher than the pros in credit examination and making collections. They make their profit on the loan of money which theoretically is what the pro should do on the time payment deals, although some pros maintain that they can move enough more sets of clubs and higher priced bags to make it worth while for them to risk the possibility of loss, expense of record-keeping and collecting without adding to the established price of the merchandise.

It's been the experience of some pros that the new sets of clubs mean more play and more buying of balls and apparel which increase over-all profit. In no cases that GOLFDOM has heard of do pros extend time payment plan to any merchandise other than clubs, and bags in connection with purchase of club sets.

Installment buying when pro collections are made by the club is touchy. In all cases of this sort, as far as GOLFDOM has learned, the pro has to assume full responsibility for the collections and very few members want fellow club members to know about the installment buying deal.

Pros who have been most successful with installment buying plans have worked out their plans after considerable discussion with their bankers. It's always advisable for the pro to talk over his financial problems with his banker. It helps get a good local credit rating established and provides valuable guidance. The banker, sometimes far more than the pro, realizes that a business which has to make a year's income in six months in a large part of the country is a test of anybody's financial acumen.

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Style Variations Make Golf Teaching A Difficult Art

By WM. C. JACKSON

Professional Camargo Club, Madeira, O.

The teaching of golf is difficult. The teaching of anything, whether it be mathematics, history or economy, is difficult. It calls for mental preparation far beyond the training of the average golf professional. The ability to play well naturally helps you understand the subject you are trying to teach but has no bearing whatever on your ability to teach. I know, because I attempted to teach calculus for a year after graduating from college with a very high mark in the subject. But at teaching calculus I was a fizzle. I knew calculus all right, but didn't have the first idea of how to teach it.

I think the young professional is handicapped before he starts because the clinics and books on golf cloud the subject of the fundamentals of the stroke. They tell you that grip, stance, straight left arm, head still, rotary pivot on a fixed axis, etc. are fundamentals. That is so much hog-wash. These things undoubtedly aid many pupils in acquiring the fundamentals but not always, by any means.

The art of teaching golf is particularly difficult because you have to know when to violate the platitudes and well worn phrases and apply the fundamentals to the individual characteristics of each pupil, realizing at the same time, that only about 15% of your pupils have any natural aptitude for the game.

There are only three fundamentals to a golf stroke —

1. It is a swing.
2. It is a swing on balance.
3. It is a swing on balance in the correct plane at impact.

Here are some interesting observations over the past 35 years of the stars of the golfing world who have violated everything but those three fundamentals: Jock Hutchison and Eddie Held grip the club with the left hand on top almost in a locked position and the right hand underneath the shaft. Chick Evans' hands are apart with no overlapping or interlocking. The back of Billy Burke's hands are almost parallel to the line of flight with the thumbs on top of the shaft.

Harry Vardon's left arm was bent like a bow in his back swing. Furgol has a crippled left arm and strokes with his right. Nichols has his right arm cut off

below the shoulder and plays in the low 70's only with his left, playing from a right-handed stance.

Dutch Harrison and Chick Evans swing away on the outside and loop in coming down. Bobby Jones and Bobby Locke swing back inside and loop out coming down. Jim Ferrier picks the clubs almost straight up from the ball and dips coming down to compensate.

Paul Runyan, a mite of 130 pounds, sways his head and body, almost a foot to the right on the back swing, yet he beat Snead 8 & 7 at Shawnee for the 1938 PGA title and finished 6th in last year's Open on the exacting and treacherous Oakland Hills. Walter Hagen followed the club back for about 6 inches with his head.

Snead's left arm is almost straight up in the air above his head at the top of the back swing. Henry Cotton's left arm doesn't get much above his right hip at the top of his.

Abe Mitchell, in his day considered one of the world's longest drivers, had a follow-through that ended at his left hip. Hogan's follow-through wrapped around his neck.

You hear a lot about keeping the bridge of the arms close on the back swing. Porky Oliver's two arms spread like an eagle's wings.

Johnny Fischer's swing is lightning fast. Bob Kepler swings so slow you think he will never get back to the ball.

One might counter that these are the exceptions that prove the rule, Tommy rot. These golfers simply applied their individual characteristics to those three fundamentals and all of them were swinging on balance in the correct plane at impact.

Pro Can't Choose Pupils

A coach in football, baseball, rowing, or any other sport discards all pupils who have no natural aptitude. The golf instructor has no choice. He must take on all who come — fat, thin, short, tall, weak, muscle bound, neurotic and placid, and know when to violate the precepts laid down by the books and clinics, and give them command, the best he can, of the three fundamentals.

To do this requires a real knowledge of

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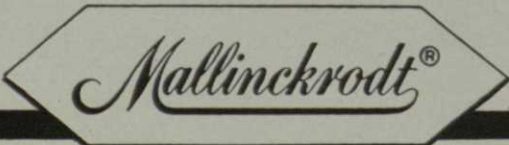
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the fundamentals and a hundred different ways of explaining them. It requires patience to the Nth degree. It requires an ability to dig deep into the realms of psychology, with a masterful command of English.

If one aspired to national fame as a golf instructor he might digress, as some do, from those three fundamentals and offer some new quirk or innovation which will at once reach "the end of the rainbow". The gullible dufer greedily swallows this. But your conscience should forbid. In its simplest form it is too difficult a subject as it stands, without introducing Einstein.

Ball Situation Now Nearly Normal — Slot Loss Hurts

Reports of pros at Seniors tournament at Dunedin indicated stocks got nearly normal late last season, after previous year's war scare buying. Pros and salesmen expressed opinion that in about 2/3 of the shops ball stocks were normal last July; in about 2/3 of the remaining shops the excess investment wasn't enough to worry about and the rest of the fellows were overloaded—in some instances with the scare buying having been done on the advice of club officials and with the club holding the bag on the surplus investment.

Salesmen in Florida during January have begun to wonder whether the Florida winter business is going to forecast the year's business in central and northern states. This winter the Florida pro shop business has been mild although winter vacation trend is strong. Salesmen are inclined to believe this is because home club pros farther north have kept a watch on who's going on winter vacations and have sold these players adequate supplies, even 1952 sets of clubs.

Pronounced increase in pro shop Christmas gift selling undoubtedly has had an effect on southern pro shop winter sales. A number of pros have told GOLFDOM that December has become the second or third biggest month in pro shop volume. The smart boys are working the Christmas trade hard.

There has been some talk among pros and salesmen about the possibility of Christmas sales eventually boosting up delivery dates of following years' models or clubs.

In some places, ruling out ball sales through slot machines has been a tough blow to pros. One of the sound pro businessmen tells his experience:

"In 1950 I sold \$16,573.80 worth of balls. This represented 31.3% of my total sales. In 1951 the sales dropped to \$9,112.95 or 21.6% of shop volume.

"The difference of the two years, \$7,460.85, was a drop of 45% from the 1950 ball sales. The war scare buying in August, 1950, partially accounted for the lower figure in 1951, but my analysis shows that taking out the ball slot machines was the main cause of the slump.

"During the time my machine was in operation I never had a month when the machine didn't sell more than 500 balls, and some months as many as 1600. The machine was set to give a ball for every 96 cents. The player got his money's worth.

"The machine averaged about 900 balls a month. I know of some shops that had even greater sales through the slot machines. Just imagine what the state lost in sales tax by outlawing the machines. The federal tax of \$150 per machine also added up to a goodly amount."

Billy Bell Heads Golf Architects' Society

William P. Bell, Pasadena, Calif., was elected pres., American Society of Golf Architects at the organization's 1952 annual meeting held Jan. 14-16 at Bellevue-Biltmore Hotel, Belleaire, Fla.

William Diddle, Indianapolis, Ind., was elected sec.-treas., and William F. Gordon, Doylestown, Pa., vp., by the architects.

In addition to many informative discussions on design and construction from angles of playing interest and tests, construction economy and speed, and ease and economy of maintenance, the architects devoted considerable time to comparing remodeling problems. Among points in this work are remodeling to eliminate arduous climbs, reduce maintenance costs and provide convenient practice areas.

Material shortages and restrictions, use of substitute materials and economical earth-moving equipment and methods received considerable attention.

There was interesting comment on military golf courses at the meeting. The architects brought out that most of the military golf courses were built with funds from Post Exchange profits and slot machines in officers' and enlisted men's clubs and not with public funds. Maintenance of some of the military courses was financed by nominal green fees and sometimes done by labor doing light time for minor military offenses. Overall picture of military golf installations as the architects have studied it shows economy unusual in military operations, extensive utilization by officers and men, and the decided advantage of keeping military personnel keenly interested in a participating outdoor pastime that keeps personnel on the grounds.



Flexibility of plastic pipe makes installation for watering system comparatively simple operation.

Plastic Pipe Is Feature of Hot Springs (Ark.) Job

Between Hot Springs and Little Rock, Ark., the Belvedere casino was the scene of high rolling gambling in the old days before the federal government clamped down.

A group of citizens in Hot Springs got together and purchased the property of 618 acres. The club now has over 400 family memberships. The property consists of 21 buildings. The main clubhouse dining room can seat 400 diners and another room the same size, fully carpeted, is provided for conventions, cocktail parties, receptions, etc.

The club also has built a championship swimming pool and a championship skeet and target range, complete riding stable facilities and provision to maintain horses for members and all of the facilities of the club are open to some 400,000 visitors a year, who visit Hot Spring National Park, Arkansas.

The golf course was laid out by the veteran, H. C. Hackbarth, of Little Rock CC and is one of the only golf courses that was laid out and operated for over a year with grass greens without water lines provided to irrigate the greens. Enough rain fell to maintain growth during that period.

With a growing feeling that luck was favoring them and that the risk was too great, the club decided to install a water-

ing system. It made arrangements with D. B. Bell & Son, Inc. of Kansas City to install water and this is the first club in the middle-west area that has employed Carlon plastic pipe for water lines to tees and greens over an 18-hole course.

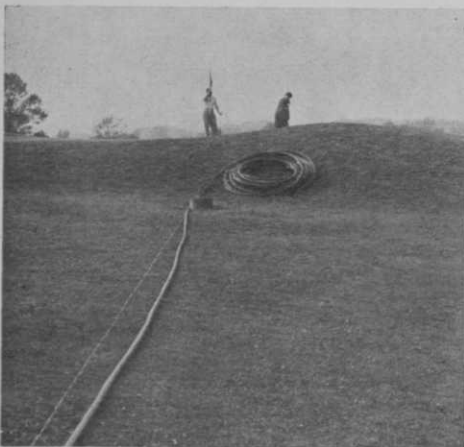
This plastic pipe lends itself to this project as Belvedere is built over rocky rough and hilly terrain, and the cost of ditching for hard pipe would be a tremendous cost for this new club composed of many members of modest income. This pipe can be laid shallow under the sod and can be maneuvered around the many trees and rock projections over the property where otherwise there would be tremendous amount of blasting and rock excavation to accommodate metallic pipe lines, resulting in a much lower cost installation than would have been possible with metal pipe.

Pipe Installing

Turning up one furrow with a plow prepared a trench sufficiently deep to accommodate Nelson quick-coupling valves wherever required for sprinkling of greens and fairways or for making connections to drinking fountains. Long lengths of Carlon "EF" pipe were laid in the trenches and coupled by means of plastic fittings incorporating standard I.P.T. The sod was then laid back in the furrow and rolled down to permit immediate use

of the golf course. The entire installation of 10,000 ft. of piping was completed quickly by the course maintenance force working under the direction of the grounds superintendent.

Because the coefficient of expansion of the flexible pipe exceeds that of water converted to ice, precautions against frost



Degree of contraction and expansion of plastic pipe eliminates danger of frost damage or bursting from freezing.

damage or freezing were not required. Extruded from pure plastics containing no toxic ingredients, the pipe is suitable for transmitting drinking water as well as liquids for other uses. It possesses complete immunity to rot, rust and electrolytic corrosion, and is unaffected by the chemical action of corrosive waters and



Plastic fittings used as couplings help speed installation. Shallow trench in which pipe is laid is made by turning up furrow with plow. Pipe can be covered and trench filled without use of special equipment.

soils. It is extremely light in weight and can be installed easily without the use of special materials handling equipment.

The tractor is a Worthington Mighty-

Midget Model G, which is being successfully used on the job.

D. M. Bell says: "The architects will find that pressures are adequate in the standard grade EF pipe up to and including the 4 in. size as on this size pipe the burst pressure is 150 lbs. and the normal working recommendation is 90 lbs. and on the EX extra heavy wall pipe the burst pressure is 250 lbs. and the normal working pressure is 150 lbs., and on the 6 in. and the ATX heavy wall grade the burst pressure remains the same and the working pressure 150 lbs. with plenty of safety factor in the balance.

"And even if going to the EX heavier pipe or the two larger sizes required on a job, the additional cost which might be over hard pipe would be easily justified due to the extreme difference in the cost of installation, shipping costs, etc. The difference in installation costs are in favor of Carlon pipe. I will be glad when we can get even a small part of the pipe we could sell if we went out after it. It is still on an allocation basis."

Pete Fleming has the job as professional at the Belvedere club and has done a very fine job of organization with the new membership composed largely of citizens who had never belonged to a country club as none had heretofore been provided in the Hot Springs National Park area. The only course formerly provided was owned outright by the Arlington Hotel and was not of a resident country club nature.

General Shoe Men Start Club at Nashville, Tenn.

Bluegrass Club, formed by supervisory executives of General Shoe Co., has bought two estates near Nashville, Tenn., on one of which will be an 18-hole course designed by Robert Bruce Harris. On an adjoining tract which borders Old Hickory Lake will be headquarters for fishing, boating and other aquatic sports.

Membership includes 350 General Shoe executives and the full complement of non-company members, 150. The company executives and not the company will own and operate the club. Lee Brown, pres., Bluegrass Club and asst. director of industrial relations for General Shoe said the club plan originated in the desire of the company's supervisory executives to know each other better and to have better recreation facilities.

General Shoe executives' action, following the announcement by Chick Allyn that National Cash Register is beginning a big recreation plant for employees at Dayton, O., including 27 holes of golf designed by Dick Wilson, plainly indicates how industrial golf is growing as a big area of golf development.