



ORGANIZE CENTRAL ILLINOIS SUPTS.' ASSOCIATION

Central Illinois supts. at Tilden Hall hotel, Bloomington, Ill., June 21, formed the Central Illinois Golf Course Superintendents' Assn. Potential membership in the area between Princeton on the north and Effingham on the south is between 40 and 50. A joint meeting with Indiana supts. was scheduled at Danville (Ill.) CC July 12. The 28 supts. present at the Central Illinois organization meeting elected officers who are, starting with second man in first row, L to R: Director Frank Sundy, Bloomington CC; Pres. James Brandt, Danville CC; Sec.-treas. Floyd Mendenhall, Decatur CC; Director Fred Sprenger, Newman CC, Peoria; VP Charles W. Jones, Champaign CC; Director Charles Carr, Mattoon CC. End man on right is Joe Kelly, George A. Davis, Inc., salesman who helped group organize. Sec. Agar Brown of national GCSA was present and steered organization procedure.

as a fair, interesting and stimulating test of ability in all departments of the game. If the architect fits his design to the terrain, altering it as little as possible and avoiding all unnecessary earthworks, economy is usually well served.

Balance Course Elements

The golf course is the whole property of the club. I would not say that all sections of it are of equal value, but each plays an important part in the final composition. The design and condition of the greens, hazards, fairways and tees are obviously essential details, but the rough, the apparently waste areas and the various service items play a vital role in establishing the excellence of the complete layout from the standpoints of beauty and usability, and as a fair sports battleground upon which to build up a better game.

In developing a golf course plan the architect draws on his extensive knowledge of many golf courses and adapts the features which have made other holes famous to the terrain at his disposal to create new combinations.

Proper Selection Very Important

If he is canny he does not attempt to slavishly copy his model but, understanding the subtle influences which have made it great, uses them in new but similar

situations where, if the gods smile upon him, he may exceed his fondest hopes.

The character of the property offered for any golf course development has a profound influence on the quality of the resulting golf course. A diversified warped terrain can produce a course which will demand of those who play it the ability to make strokes from all sorts of stances and lies, and to place their shots to allow for and take advantage of erratic bounces. Such conditions can only be created economically on an area which is naturally undulating; only on such terrain can difference in elevation play its proper role in the game.

A good testing golf course can be made on featureless property, but on a flat area only a two-dimensional layout can be created. There nature has not already built up through the centuries, without cost, features which do not have to be artificially constructed and which are there to use if the designer has vision and experience. On level land it is not only expensive to create interest and the illusion of surface variation, but difficult to preserve visibility; and the drainage problem is always acute.

To create a fair, attractive, uncongested, testing course an adequate area should be provided. Surplus acreage is

needed to preserve existing beauty, to give individual character to each hole, to permit proper utilization of terrain to minimize climbing, and to create a course which will challenge the expert and which can, at the same time, be enjoyed by the duffer.

The rougher and the more wooded the property, the greater the area demanded. The shape of the tract also has a great effect on the space required. While good 18 hole courses have been developed on as little as 60 acres, at times 200 acres can be scarcely sufficient.

Site Selection An Expert's Job

Many factors must be considered in selecting a golf course site. Among them are soil conditions, water supply, drainage, proximity and character of electric power, sufficient north and south yardage to eliminate sun holes, accessibility, natural beauty of the property itself and of its surroundings, severity of the surface warp, the probable trend of future neighborhood development, and the cost of purchase, of construction and of maintenance.

TURF MEETING CALENDAR

Aug. 3

Turf Field Day, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J. Dr. Ralph E. Engel.

Aug. 9

Texas Turfgrass Association Field Day, Cedar Crest Golf Course, Dallas, Tex. Grover Keeton.

Aug. 19, 20

Twenty-third Annual Turf Field Days, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R. I. Dr. J. A. DeFrance.

Sept. 8, 9

Turf Field Days, Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pa. Prof. H. B. Musser.

Sept. 15

First Annual Rocky Mountain Turfgrass Conference, Colorado A. & M. College, Ft. Collins, Colo. Prof. A. M. Binkley.

Sept. 17

Utah Turfgrass Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah. A. R. Emery, 721 East, 3120 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Sept. 21, 22

Eighth Annual Regional Turf Conference, State College of Washington, Pullman, Wash. A. G. Law.

Sept. 27, 28

Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Field Days, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind. William H. Daniel.

Sept. 30

Northern California Turfgrass Conference, University of California, Davis, Cal. R. M. Hagan.

All in all, the selection of site is so important that a competent golf course architect should make it, and it is also vital that no hope of expediting construction or of saving money should induce the owners to go off half-cocked and do preliminary work of any character—clearing, cultivating, drainage, grading, anything at all—before the final plans are prepared and accepted, and without the architect's knowledge and approval.

A well designed layout is fitted to the terrain to give better and less laborious golf, to hold down construction costs, and can be improved from time to time and kept abreast of the development of the game without expensive rearrangement.

The cost of building golf courses varies widely, depending chiefly upon the nature of the property to be developed, local labor conditions, equipment, and the character of the course created.

The cost of executing any given plan is, for the most part, determined by the efficiency and quality of the work done. Though the cost of earthmoving, drainage, irrigation, soil preparation, planting, etc. may be arbitrarily controlled—it all depends on what you are shooting at and how intelligently the work is planned and carried out—the best assurance of economy is a sound design, unaltered without the consent of the architect, and competent construction management.

Ten-Week Turf Management Course Dates Set

UNIVERSITY of Massachusetts 1955 ten-weeks course in fine turf management again will be held at Amherst, under the direction of Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson, starting Jan. 3.

This course, established in 1927 as the first of its kind, is open to anyone having had practical connection with golf course turf management. It combines the business and cultural growth aspects of golf course maintenance. Students vary in age from 21 to 50 and come from all parts of the U. S. and Canada.

The course, with the exception of the war years 1943, '44, '45 and '46, has been an annual special course. Certificates indicating completion of the course with satisfactory rating have been awarded to 398 men.

Enrollment is limited. Further information and application blanks may be secured from Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson, Stockbridge Hall, U. of Mass., Amherst.

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Front view of Burkemo Sports Center building, from Jefferson 4-lane highway. Pro shop is to right of the restaurant center building, and the barbecue building is to the left. After this picture was taken a huge moving electric sign showing Burkemo putting was erected on main building at point indicated by the arrow. As the ball goes into the cup lettering "Burkemo Sports Center" lights.

Burkemo \$160,000 Super Range Draws Big Business

WALTER BURKEMO, 1953 PGA champion, and his associates have \$160,000 invested in the Burkemo Sports Center in Detroit, Mich., on an 18 acre tract with a new 4-lane Jefferson ave. superhighway running along the 700 ft. frontage and Lake St. Clair at the far end of the property.

The operation is declared by Wallie, his brother Victor who is gen. mgr. of the plant, and attorney George Francis who is another of the owners, to be "the finest sports center in the world."

It has 49 fully automatic tees and this is, says Wallie Burkemo, the largest installation of automatic tees in the world. The tees come up with a ball every six seconds and keep the customer fresh so he—or she—wants to hit more balls. To the left of the tee installation and close to the barbecue installation is an 18-hole putting course with each hole having as its hazards the equipment of various sports.

In this 19,000 sq. ft. area the miniature course has on its first hole skis as hazards, on the second hole baseball bats and balls are hazards, on the third are bowling pins and balls, and so on around the route. It makes an unique, interesting and testing layout and gets very heavy play. The sur-

face is goats' hair material on a rubberized base. It holds the ball well and dries quickly but wear and anchorage of the material are problems that so far seem to have yearly replacement as the only solution.

The Burkemo establishment, like other miniature course installations, is still seeking a more durable and entirely satisfactory surfacing material for outdoor putting courses and until such material is developed or discovered simply has to consider surface replacement as a maintenance expense to be paid with monotonous frequency.

The five baseball pitching machines at the right end of the golf tees are very good income producers. The archery range isn't.

Lakeside Short Course A Prospect

There is a 550 ft. channel from Lake St. Clair down part of the left side of the Burkemo property. Here fishing boats, outboard motors and cruisers can be rented. The harbor facilities will be tied into a sort of a miniature yacht club proposition with food and beverage service when plans for the complete development of the property are finished. These plans also include construction of a night-lighted short course along the lake.

Now there are two greens for practice from the automatic tees.

The restaurant part of the Burkemo establishment does big business with users of the golf range, the putting course and the batting net, and their friends. In addition to this food and beverage service in the "clubhouse" there is carhop service supplied mainly from a barbeque installation in a separate building on the clubhouse style of architecture and close to the clubhouse.

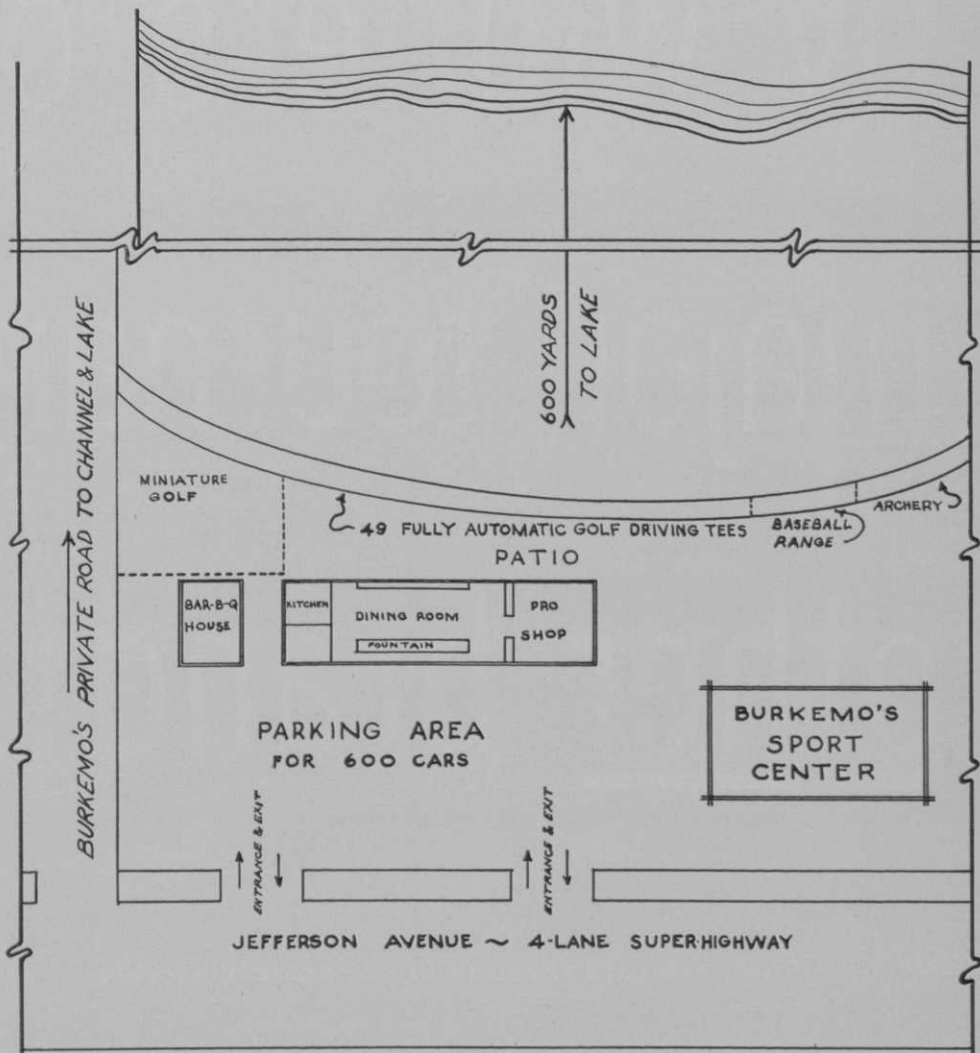
The parking lot will accommodate 600 cars and is very well surfaced.

There is a huge moving sign signalling traffic on the Jefferson superhighway into Burkemo's and the hickory-flavored fragrance of meat being barbecued in the

open pit also wafts out to be effective advertising to Jefferson traffic.

Clubhouse Operation Profitable

The clubhouse is 150 ft. by 50 ft. and at one end has a well stocked pro shop in which merchandise is attractively displayed. It does a substantial volume of golf business. The clubhouse is attractively furnished and has large picture windows. Operation of the clubhouse to draw a large volume of business and serve it swiftly and profitably in a way that makes steady patrons involved many problems that the Burkemo team solved after learning the hard way and making use of the smartest ideas in restaurant and clubhouse food and beverage management. Walter believes that they've worked out a



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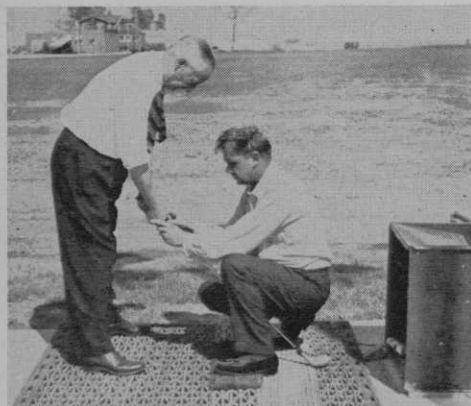


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system that can be profitably used in other and similar golf range establishments and is considering something along the lines of the Howard Johnson roadside



Burkemo's range is popular with local and visiting professional baseball and football players and other athletes and sportswriters and sportscasters in Detroit. Radio sports interviews frequently originate at the Burkemo Sports Center. Here Wallie Burkemo is instructing veteran sportscaster Ty Tyson.

restaurants as a possible leasing and supervising arrangement to be made available to golf installations.

The refrigeration facilities of the clubhouse have provisions for enlargement in the event that further study of earning potentialities of the plant warrants construction of an outdoor skating rink with ice kept in good condition by artificial freezing.

The outdoor lighting installation is the result of a great deal of research by illumination engineers and Wallie says that the installation cost has been fully justified by brilliant and virtually shadow-free illumination of all features of the outdoor plant.

Burkemo's Sports Center is located on the edge of an attractive rather new residential section in which homes mostly are owned by young people. They have taken to the Burkemo place as their own evening club and there are a lot of sleeping babies in carriages parked alongside young mothers on the patio back of the tees, while their daddies are hitting shots. And the fathers baby-sit with soft drinks on one side and the offspring on the other while the mothers hit golf balls. Baby parking in the sunshine back of the tees also accounted for a steady increase of young women's daytime patronage.

PGA Issues Summary of Dunedin Clinics

PGA sectional presidents and secretaries have received summaries of the PGA educational sessions conducted once a week at Dunedin last winter.

The material is an excellent round-up of valuable information on principles and methods of teaching, shop management including fundamentals of club cleaning and storage service, the pro's place in television programs and marketing.

Authorities collaborated in presenting the programs which were arranged by Emil Beck, chmn., PGA National Golf Club committee and co-chmn. Irv Schloss and conducted by Schloss. The project was assisted by money from the National Golf Fund. Sectional PGA officials are asked to circulate the copies of the session summaries among their members.

Beck and Schloss and their associates in the enterprise deserve a great deal of credit from pros for setting a pattern of short course pro educational sessions on the same sound and profitable basis golf course superintendents' associations conduct their business information conferences.

Corcoran's "Service Station" At First Tee

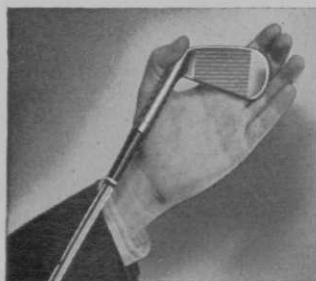
GEORGE CORCORAN, pro at Starmount GC, Greensboro, N. C., calls attention to the great extent of free service club members and guests get from good business pros at the first tees.

At Starmount's first tee there are scorecards, pencils, wooden tees, Band-aids, salt tablets, aspirin, matches and instruction tips, all free.

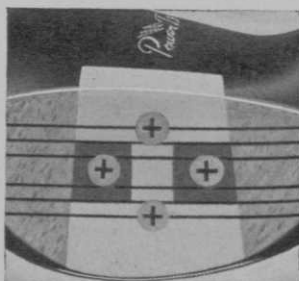
George has another free service that's paying off. Instead of the battered rental sets supplied at many shops George has several first class new sets. He says old rental sets are bad advertising for a pro. His new sets get visitors talking, pleased with the treatment at the club and thanking their hosts for being supplied with fine clubs.

Corcoran also has been doing very well selling members who travel a lot on business extra sets to keep in their cars. The Starmount pro says that since the buyers' markets have returned and the salesmen are busy on the road there's a big increase in 9 holes of twilight golf by salesmen and many of them relate they've made profitable business contacts with this golf.

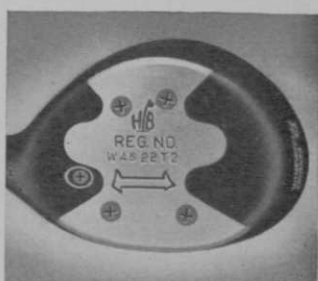
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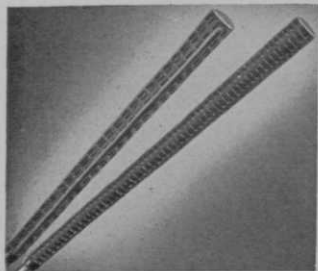
New Iron Head models — represent the most modern styling in iron head design.



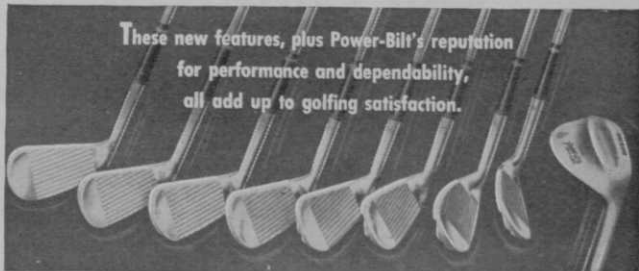
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Supt. Bill Martin treats soil from his "soil storehouse" area with a chemical conditioner. Later this treated soil is used as topdressing on aerified greens. Conditioner is applied to soil's surface in this plot, then rototilled in 3 to 6 ins. On the green it is dragged or rubbed into holes left by aerification device.

Soil Conditioner Solves Compaction Problem

By **WILLIAM H. MARTIN, SR.**

Owner and Supt., Forest Hills Golf and Country Club, Cornelius, Wash.

SINCE the development of chemical soil conditioners was announced in December, 1951, golf course superintendents have watched cautiously to see how—and if—these materials might be used effectively in their own operations.

It has not been easy to obtain accurate, unbiased information about the new conditioners. Because many manufacturers of these materials used the home garden or agricultural markets as their chief targets, information with specific reference to golf course turf improvement has been sometimes fragmentary, sometimes contradictory. I have talked to many superintendents and club officials who were interested in the possibility of improving

their courses through use of chemical soil conditioners, but I have talked to very few who were willing to experiment with conditioners on the basis of present evidence—and present cost.

This is a first-hand report of how a chemical conditioner—in this case Krilium—performed at the Forest Hills G&CC, Cornelius, Ore.

This account does not imply that a conditioner will perform identically on any course in the country; rather, it suggests that when turf and maintenance problems exist similar to those encountered on our course the superintendent may well consider the use of a conditioner on a dollars-and-results basis.