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course at Laramie to plans of Herb Lock-
wood, Cheyenne supt. . . . Wendell Ross
opens first 9 of Pequot GC at Westerly,
R. I., on site formerly occupied by town
farm for needy and aged . . . Ross, a pro
who is one of golf's very bright young
businessmen, is associated in the Pequot
deal with Burt Crowley and Bob Chat-
field . . . Course will be enlarged to 18
next year.

A dozen or so courses in small towns
have put 4, 5 or 6 holes of their eventual
9-hole courses in play this year . . . These
partial courses seem to be doing great as
nurseries . . . Archie Campbell heads
group planning to build private 9-hole
course for Negroes at Knoxville, Tenn.
. . . Campbell is confident that the club
will get 200 charter members and be able
to build and operate as an exhibit of Ne-
groes' capacity to establish a private club
of which they may be proud.

Albuquerque, N. Mex., planning to
build new city course . . . Springfield,
Mass., Area Development Corp. takes op-
tion on tract to be used for city golf
course . . . Royal Oak, Mich., considering
building 9-hole muny course . . . West

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and learn what clubs throughout the country have found out! *On every page* of this new folder you will see how clubs are benefitting by putting *proved* Quality 282 in pro shops, locker rooms, lounges . . . throughout! *Send for your copy now and see!*

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STOUGHTON, MASS.

Plains (Mo.) CC changing its 9 greens from sand to grass.

North Little Rock, Ark., open first 9 of eventual 18-hole course at Burns Park which will be turned over to City Park Commission for operation when 18 are completed . . . Jaycees have spent about \$6000 in cash and 3,500 man-hours of work on the project . . . Work and costs increased by vandalism . . . Wood River, Ill., considering building munny course at Belk park.

Bob Smith, Charlestown W. Va. Gazette golf writer, credits Mike Koenig, pro-supt. and John Kirk, mgr., with tremendous improvement in Meadowbrook GC . . . DuPont company financed improvements because much of play at Meadowbrook is by DuPont employees . . . Leona and Elmer Klausung building 9-hole course near Ottawa, O.

Lot of laughs during locker-room discussions of the case of the New York Met district golf club member who sued his club to raise his handicap from 29 to 34 in accordance with USGA handicapping system . . . New York State Supreme Court justice before whom the case was heard remarked that golf is a sport for gentlemen able to settle their disputes by

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lockerroom discussion . . . Theoretically golf is exclusively a gentleman's game but the handicap systems and rules show considerable authoritative study has been given to the protection and punishment of cheating . . . Golfer who went into court to retain higher handicap that club lowered because of "remarkable" play in tournaments, later called off suit.

Rolling Ridge CC building 18-hole course in suburban Cincinnati intends to have game preserve for hunting on its 700 acres . . . Mark Mahannah designed 18 holes for Honey Hill CC now being built at Carol City in Miami, Fla., area . . . Surprenant National G&CC, Bolton, Mass, which extends from 6,055 yds. to 8,005 yds. with 5 sets of tees, nears completion.

Thru July 27 the 5 public courses of Westchester County, N. Y., had recorded 131,492 rounds for 1958 . . . About 10,000 rounds ahead of corresponding period in 1957 . . . Washington, D. C. Park and Planning Commission talking of building course in park property near Indian Spring CC . . . Park commission Glenbrook and Sligo courses, both heavily played, will be used for road construction.

Bristol (Va.) CC to build new course and clubhouse and sell home sites bordering course . . . Many clubs regretting they didn't retain home sites they could have sold to pay for course property, building and much of clubhouse cost . . . Older clubs that are selling present property for real estate development and moving to new locations are getting enough land to finance construction by sale of home sites . . . Newer plans also have adequate and convenient practice facilities which older clubs often lack.

Stowe (Vt.) CC to enlarge from 9 to 18 holes with plans by Robert Trent Jones . . . Lake Region GC plans to build course between Winter Park and Haines City, Fla. . . . Talk about building 9-hole course as feature of resort in Porcupine State Park in Upper Peninsula of Michigan . . . Hiram Brown, owner of Beverly Hills course in Detroit district, is building 18-hole course at Romeo, Mich. . . . Lake County CC, Lakeview, Ore., being built on membership payment plan of \$120 and plus 25 hours labor.

Groups planning to build courses in several smaller towns have started by building practice ranges, often with lights . . . Ranges are effective in stirring up golf interest and selling memberships . . .

(Continued on page 59)



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Would Modernize Design

Architect Calls for Re-Examination of Golf Course Construction

By Charles B. Schalestock

Golf Course Architect, Washington, D. C.

THIS fall there again will be programs of mistakes conducted at courses in the hope of correcting previous mistakes in course design and building.

This past summer, as in previous summers, at least a third of the troubles in green and tee maintenance was the result of bad construction or design. The percentage of bad greens due to original sin in building probably was higher, but by conservative estimate a third of the trouble was due to improper building and the other two-thirds to errors in management, lack of money to do the required work properly at the right time, adverse weather and the mysterious, inevitable bad luck that happens in golf course maintenance as it does in playing golf.

That gives you the operating picture as it is at the better courses among the 5,700 in the United States.

This year there probably will be a slight increase over the maintenance costs of last year even though labor, in many districts, was easier to get.

The Horwath and Horwath figures of golf course and grounds maintenance costs in 1957, based on the accounting firm's studies of 52 clubs ranged from \$1887 per hole average at the small clubs to \$2767 at the large clubs. The ratio of gross maintenance cost of course and grounds to membership dues ranged from 40.5 per cent at the small clubs to 26.3 per cent at the large clubs.

How much of those costs were course and how much grounds, nobody knows. Superintendents themselves rarely have any close accounting division between course and grounds.

But the over-all figures show that golf costs a lot of money. That is a conclusion

the superintendent regrets to reach because he doesn't get any too much of what golf costs, although labor costs of maintenance of good courses range from 65 per cent to 75 per cent of the budget.

Golf also costs a lot of time. How much of the 4- and 5-hour rounds are due to bad habits of players and how much to defects in design is a subject for examination and argument. Certainly slow play is a factor in increasing the cost of golf.

Golf is due for an extensive and intensive self-examination.

Some of the answer such an examination would bring forth already are known to the experienced businessmen in golf. For instance; they know that the architectural revisions that will be made by Green committee chairmen and members this fall will be unsatisfactory and a waste of money about 4 times out of 5.

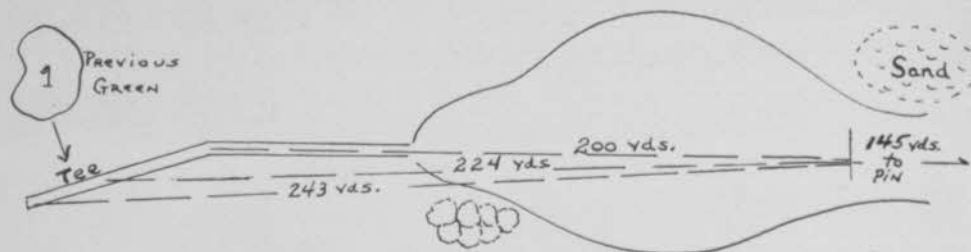
Penny Wise; Pound Foolish Clubs

They have seen innumerable cases of clubs whose officials have said they couldn't afford competent architects eventually spending many times the cost of a first-class architect's services in redoing a bad job.

These experienced golf businessmen have seen thousands of dollars spent in efforts to correct what could have been built properly at the cost of a few hundred dollars over the amount allotted.

The alteration and correction projects at golf courses also are handicapped by usually being capital improvement work added to the normal program of golf course maintenance.

Probably the policy and practice of course alterations will continue on the illogical and wasteful basis at the major-



Easier maintenance, yardage variation is provided for in this type of tee.

ity of clubs even though the better operated clubs are making use of expert and economical architectural service in their remodeling.

One sign of progress in golf business is seen in the power given architects in the planning of the new courses, especially those courses that are part of a real estate development project.

Architect's Many Responsibilities

The architect now has to be the artist primarily, then the engineer, builder, agronomist, management consultant and budget officer on the job. If he isn't the rare and versatile genius who is master of all these jobs he's got to have the cooperation of specialists and an over-all working knowledge of the various phases.

The truth is that the golf architect usually is hired and works under the control of enthusiastic but technically unqualified men in planning a golf course.

For that reason mainly there are comparatively few really outstanding golf courses in the country. I have heard of only one 9-hole course in the U. S. referred to as a fine exhibit of golf architecture. That was a course in Kansas which now has 18 holes.

The golf architect is the key man in a critical period in golf history. His artistry, his building talent, his ability as a market analyst and his capacity to psycho-analyze the golfers are going to determine, to a great extent, how far the game will grow and how fast.

There are some indications that golf architecture has been misguided to cater to the whims of the low handicap golfers who pay a very small percentage of club dues and to solicit the approval of tournament professionals who pay no club dues at all. How far that mistake has figured in making courses unduly long and tricky, hence slower to play, is something to consider in modernizing golf course design and construction on a soundly attractive and economical basis.

Something else that calls for paying more attention to the architect is the choice of a course site. The advice of a competent architect on property to be bought for a course can save many times the architect's fee. The way in which property lends itself to a fascinating test of all classes of golf, the nature of its soil, its drainage, its scenic character or possibilities and its possibilities for economical construction and maintenance are factors the competent architect appraises in his inspection of a prospective golf course site.

And then comes the sound planning. Inadequate and inaccurate drawings and specifications account for millions of dollars wasted in golf course construction.

The golf course architect makes thrifty use of construction and operation funds by his expert advise on location of all buildings, roads, parking lots, swimming pools, tennis courts, service areas, etc.

There are styles in golf architecture and in course adjuncts. How many of the great older clubs have had to devise makeshift practice areas because the style of golf architecture didn't include practice tees when the courses were designed?

Sounds architectural style is a development that contributes to more interesting golf and to economical maintenance and eventually becomes almost standard, subject, of course, to individual interpretations.

Schalestock Tees An Advance

As a course superintendent, course builder and architect I have figured in some of the developments that represent progress in design for pleasant and testing playability and thrifter maintenance. Possibly most immediately and widely useful is the diagonal tee design I used in altering course design to reduce danger to players.

This type of tee shown in the sketch keeps foot and machine traffic to a minimum, provides for a yardage varia-

(Continued on page 51)