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 St. Paul 4, Minnesota



For More Detailed Information Write for Catalog

Construction Failures

(Continued from page 32)

of a more favorable site. Too often, these things are not sufficiently considered when a site is selected. When the final estimate comes in, the usual decision is, "We can't afford it, but let's go ahead and get the best we can with what is available." This creates an almost impossible situation for the architect and builder and results in a mediocre course that satisfies no one.

Changes Are Costly

There is another area where ignorance is sometimes responsible for the failure to achieve expected results. This is a lack of understanding of problems and costs of making major changes in design after construction is under way. It results from a lack of study and understanding of plans and specifications before they have been approved. Often changes are demanded which not only greatly increase costs but delay completion dates.

Increased costs, if recognized, can be provided for. But reconstruction that throws seeding schedules into unfavorable periods for germination and turf establishment can't be compensated for by in-

creased appropriations. When a contractor is pushed to complete the job he will take a chance. If the hazards are not thoroughly understood and he is not permitted to delay seeding or planting, a poor thin stand of grass usually is the penalty.

Often there is failure to apply even ordinary, simple business caution in consummating contracts as an assurance of acceptable performance. In what other construction undertaking of similar size is there found such a widespread disregard of the general practice of requiring an adequate performance bond as a prerequisite for acceptance of the contract bid? "Shake-hands" agreements may be okay for bets on golf scores but they have no place in the design and building of a course. When a bond is required it must not be forgotten that it protects only against failure to carry out the provisions of an accepted contract. It cannot be used, and rightly so, to force later changes in design or construction that would materially increase costs or throw the entire project off schedule. From this standpoint, it actually represents a two-way obligation and is a protection to both contracting parties.

Poor construction may be the result of



Introducing . . .

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PROFESSIONAL SPREADER

Scott's

The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a man operating a tractor with a large spreader attached, moving across a golf course. The background shows a line of trees under a clear sky. The text is arranged with 'Introducing . . .' in a cursive font at the top left, the product name in large bold letters at the bottom right, and the Scott's logo in an oval at the bottom left.



Ryan JR. SOD CUTTER... economical to buy, easy to operate

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- **Depth adjustable to 2 1/4"**

Use this economical sod cutter to strip old sod from greens and tees . . . to cut new sod from your sod nursery . . . to strip and move sod when you make fairway changes . . . to patch worn, winter-killed, or eroded areas . . . to strip and save sod when installing underground sprinkler systems so that sod can be re-laid as soon as work is done. The Ryan Jr. Sod Cutter cuts 100 ft. per minute, has self-propelled action. Call or write for specifications and a demonstration.



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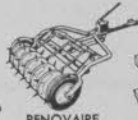
ROLLAIRE



SOD CUTTER



TRACAIRE



RENOVAIRE



MAT-A-WAY



REN-O-THIN

plain incompetence. This takes various forms. It may be due to inability of the contractor to accurately estimate construction costs. If his bid is too low, he will try to get "out from under" by cutting corners. To save time and labor, he may handle soil when too wet, operate seeding and fertilizing equipment too fast, or take other short cuts. It also may be the result of indifference or a lack of appreciation of the care required to do a job right.

Disregard of Specifications

An illustration is the failure to thoroughly mix the ingredients used for modifying the surface layer of soil on a green. Pockets of peat or sand invariably result in poor quality turf and playing conditions. The placing of tile lines that do not adequately drain wet areas on fairways is another example. Such illustrations can be endlessly multiplied. The "letter of the law" may be thoroughly understood, but carelessness in applying it can result only in disappointment with what has been produced.

It is difficult to judge the dishonesty factor as a cause of poor construction.

It exists, but where nature plays such an important role in the success or failure of a job, it sometimes is hard to define the line between honest errors and intentional acts that produce poor courses. Low bidding to "freeze out" competition is a factor. This can only happen when specs are so loosely drawn that cheap substitutes in materials can be used, or operating methods modified. Or, it may occur during the course of construction when unanticipated problems arise that require added expenditures that the contractor can't recover.

It may take the form of reduced operations of seedbed preparation or the cutting on quantities and quality of fertilizers, seed, and other materials. It may be due to burying of stones and trash under an inch or two of soil instead of following specifications for their removal. Almost invariably, the covering layer of soil settles or washes away within a short time, leaving a mess that can only be corrected by a major repair job. Dishonesty may occur in the installation of inferior drainage or irrigation equipment that will keep costs within bid figures.

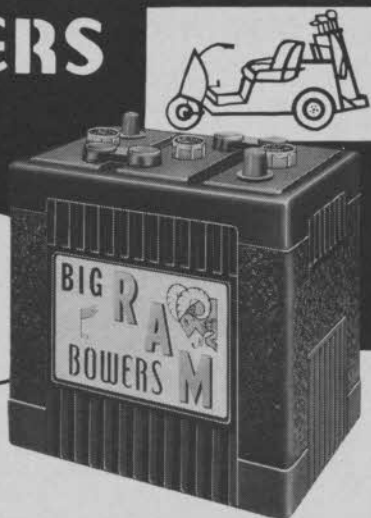
Poor or mediocre courses are not always

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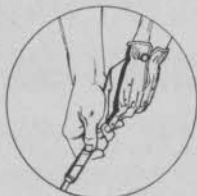
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Because —

GOLFING's circulation is 87% to country club golfers and their families. GOLFING is available by mail subscription ONLY — it is NOT sold on newsstands!

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of practical information

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A compilation of practical, current data and information on planning and organizing the private golf and country club which includes a Planning and Organizing Guide, national growth statistics, course planning and building information, excerpts from Excise Tax Laws outlining exemption from Club Dues Tax of certain payments for construction, architects, sample construction contract, suggested list of course maintenance equipment, course maintenance cost studies, suggestions for golf club by-laws, data on club memberships, dues and fees, details of successful membership campaigns, club financing plans, sample club brochure, a clubhouse planning and evaluation checklist, and a brief study on developing golf course subdivisions. \$7.50 each.

PLANNING THE GOLF CLUBHOUSE

This 96 page, 8½ x 11 inch (hard cover) book takes the guesswork out of golf clubhouse design with specific facts on various clubhouse facilities and the space they require, based on the size and type of membership to be accommodated. This data has been drawn from the practical operating experience of American golf clubs over many years through a study conducted by the Building Research and Development Corporation of Chicago. The only book of its kind. \$9.00 each.

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due to the items we have considered. In some instances sufficient funds have not been made available to build a first class layout. The chief concern here is that whoever undertakes the planning and construction job is obligated to explain the limitations and to be doubly alert to see to it that the buyers get the best possible return for their investment. If they are willing to go ahead on "half-a-loaf" basis they must accept the results. Courses of this class are not sources of most of the criticism and dissatisfaction over failures to meet expectations. The real problem arises in cases where courses have failed to come up to standard, even though there haven't been serious financial limitations.

Who's to Blame?

When this happens, we invariably look for someone on whom to place the blame. Usually, the architect or contractor, or both, are the targets. In many cases they must accept responsibility. But the trouble often goes much deeper than this. They may be only partly to blame for the final result, rather than the main cause. Who insisted that the course be built on a poor site: Who was responsible for approving a contract, often purely on a price basis, without a thorough

check on the competency of the individuals who were to do the job: Who okayed a set of plans specifications so loosely drawn that anything could happen? Who insisted on changes in design that threw construction programs off schedule? Who failed to require continuous and thorough supervision of operations?

Responsibility for shoddy results is not always a "one way street".

Reducing the Risk

It is obvious that risk of getting a poor course, due to avoidable mistakes, can be reduced. The principal requirement is the application of the same sound business principles and common sense that are inherent in any major construction project.

First of all, the selection of a site should be contingent upon the approval of someone (usually a competent architect) who understands the relation of the terrain and soil to the construction of a good course.

Just as important is insistence on the preparation of a detailed set of plans and specs which are so clear and specific as to leave no opportunity for misinterpretation. If there is any question about their content, they should be submitted

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There's a healthy profit potential in BRISTOL, the newest name in fine golf equipment! Sold only through pro shops, Bristol equipment is made to match tough professional standards. This means better quality, better performance, assured cus-

tomers satisfaction. And the BRISTOL name is backed by a top Advisory Staff, including top men and women golfers. Try the BRISTOL combination in your shop . . . it's the right combination for big, consistent sales — steady, dependable profits!



Here's a golfer's dream come true: Quality clubs, customized to your customers' specifications and your measurements!

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Bristol crafts Advisory "Custom" clubs to the right length, lie, and loft for top golfing performance. Sell this unusual service to your customers!

MEN'S RIGHT HAND ONLY

- AM 4W** Set of 4 Woods (1-2-3-4) **\$100.00**
- AM 3W** Set of 3 Woods (1-2-3 or 1-3-4) **\$ 75.00**
- AM 9I** Set of 9 Irons (2-9 & PW) **\$157.50**
- AM 8I** Set of 8 Irons (2-9) **\$140.00**

(Matching sand wedge, driving iron, and # 5 wood also available)

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Victoria PUTTERS

Satin black chrome-headed putters that eliminate annoying sun glare! Each putter features white informer grip, True Temper Pro-Fit shaft. All putters 35".



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| 1. VICTURA TEN | 16¼ oz. | \$10.00 |
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Feature padded slings, water-proof fabrics, molded rubber bottoms and handles with full steel stay construction.



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DELUXE SUNDAY MODELS

with all leather trim, umbrella holder.

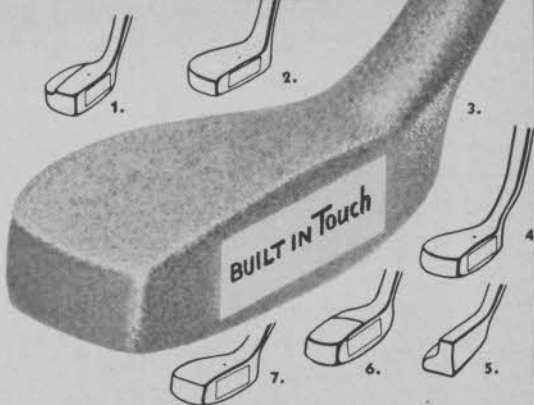
- 1. **PRO 350.** Black Durahyde vinyl. **\$12.00**
- 2. **PRO 300.** Heavy Duck. **\$ 9.00**
- 3. **PRO 360.** Brown Durahyde vinyl. **\$12.00**

DELUXE STEP DOWN KEYSTONE MODELS with all leather trim, sling harness, umbrella holder, detachable hood, double zipper ball pocket, full length locker pocket.

- 4. **PRO 700.** Brown Durahyde vinyl. **\$30.00**
- 5. **PRO 705.** Black Durahyde vinyl. **\$30.00**

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Sensational putters, designed and autographed by George Low, a product of 20 years as a golf pro. The Wizard Putter has a plastic face insert to provide a cushion on impact so that the ball does not fly off the face. All feature the specially designed Pro-Fluted shaft. There is a model to fit every stance and style of putting.



- WIZARD #200.** Offset mallet, square face line, rocker sole. Medium lie, Delrin face insert. 17½ oz., 35°. **\$15.50**
- WIZARD #250.** Straight neck mallet, medium flat lie. Delrin face insert. 17½ oz., 35°. **\$15.50**
- WIZARD #300.** Offset mallet, medium flat lie. Delrin face insert. 17½ oz., 35°. **\$15.50**
- WIZARD #500.** Offset mallet, medium upright lie, Delrin face insert. 17¼ oz., 35°. **\$15.50**

- WIZARD #600.** Offset blade, medium lie. No insert. Length 35", weight 17¼ oz. **\$15.50**
- WIZARD #800.** Offset mallet, medium lie. Delrin face insert. 17¼ oz., 35". **\$15.50**
- LADIES MODEL #500.** Offset mallet, similar to Wizard #500. Delrin face insert, pencil shaft, 16 oz., 33½". **\$15.50**

Bristol **Victura** PRO LINE QUALITY

Top quality clubs at a sensible price! Each VICTURA pro line club is precision-designed, then matched, registered, and swing-weighted. Golfers like the special Victura features, including True Temper Pro-Fit shafts and white fine line grips. Woods are top-select, built of a new 40-ply lamination, impregnated to control moisture. Irons feature square toe design, rigidly controlled lie and loft.



MEN'S VICTURA MODEL (Right Hand Only)

True Temper Pro-Fit shaft "R" Flex. White Fine Line Grip. Length #1 Wood 43", #2 Iron 38½", Swing Weight D-2, D-3, or D-4.

LADIES BRISTOL VICTURA (Right Hand Only)

True Temper Pro-Fit Shaft "L" Flex. White Chevron Grip. Length #1 Wood 41½", #2 Iron 37½". Swing Weight C-3, C-4, C-5.

MEN'S LADIES'

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---|----------------|
| VM 9I: | VL 9I: | Set of 9 Irons (2-9 and pitching wedge) | \$75.00 |
| VM 4W: | VL 4W: | Set of 4 Woods (1-2-3-4 or 1-3-4-5) | \$50.00 |

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---|----------------|
| VM 8I: | VL 8I: | Set of 8 Irons (2 through 9) | \$67.00 |
| VM 3W: | VL 3W: | Set of 3 Woods (1-2-3 or 1-3-4) | \$37.50 |
| VM D-7: | VL D-7: | Set of 5 Irons, 2 Woods (3-5-7-9, P, 1 & 3) | \$67.00 |

Individual Irons and Pitching Wedge, Open Stock, Each **\$ 9.00**
Individual Woods, Open Stock, Each **\$13.50**
Matching Sand Wedge*, Dual Wedge*, Approach and Driving Iron*, Each **\$10.00**

*(Not Available in Ladies Model)

Tommy Bolt Pro-maker Youth Set

Precision-designed to give young golfers the right start. Autographed by golf professional Tommy Bolt. True Temper "Starmaker" shafts; matched persimmon woods in dark walnut, faced with black fibre inserts; rubberized golf bag featuring molded bottom, steel-reinforced top. Right hand only. (38½" driver).



- 52B** 5 Irons, 2 Woods, Bag Set (3-4-7-9, P, 1 & 3 Woods) **\$41.00**
41B 4 Irons, 1 Wood, Bag Set (3-5-7, P, 1 Wood) **\$30.00**

Bristol Nylon JACKETS

Cut for comfort, designed for fashion. All nylon with full length zipper, knit cuffs, collar. Full-cut sizes, water-proof-windproof fabric assures golfing comfort.

N 500 Men's (white, navy, red, gray, tan) (S-M-L Extra Large) **\$8.00**

N 551 Ladies (white, yellow, lt. blue, tan) (S-M-L) **\$8.00**



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ADVISORY STAFF . . . Tommy Bolt, Bob Rosburg, George Low, Kathy Cornelius, Jo Ann Prentice.

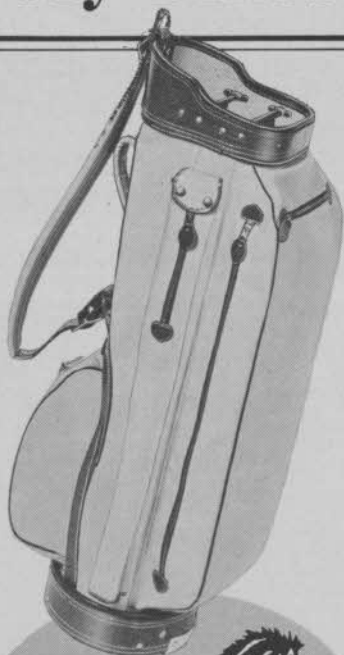
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Des Moines, Iowa

to a competent person for review.

The contractor should be chosen with care. He should be selected on the basis of his demonstrated ability and willingness to adhere strictly to the contract terms.

Continuous Supervision

Finally, there should be continuous supervision of the building operation through all its stages. If the architect can't do this, the alternative is for the owner or club to employ someone competent to do it, and give him the authority to see that the job is done in a workmanlike manner. This often is desirable even though there may be competent supervision by the architect. If an arrangement can be made with an individual so employed to assume management of the course after completion, he will be in a better position to do an efficient job.

If these relatively simple rules are followed, a great deal of the continued criticism of poor course construction can be avoided. There always will be some failures because of accidents of weather, and mistakes due to honest errors. Also, there are bound to be cases of poor management that will cause a course with a good potential to deteriorate. But these are not the principal causes of dissatisfaction. They can be accepted as the ordinary hazards in such undertakings.

Called in An Expert

A supt. and pro at an Illinois course were allowing golf car maintenance problems to ruin a fine friendship until they solved them by hiring a neighborhood mechanic to take charge in the evening after he got through with his garage job. Complaints and costs were reduced by the services of the mechanic who knows how to organize the job and handle it, using the simple procedures of automobile maintenance and repairs.

Crabgrass Control Idea

Emil Roewert, golf writer for the Shenandoah (Ia.) Sentinel, has contributed this idea in his column to crabgrass elimination research: "It's not necessary to replace your fairway divots if all are crabgrass instead of part bluegrass. In fact we should make it a rule not to replace divots of crabgrass. It would help get rid of some of that abnoxious turf that way." Emil may not be a turf scientist but he sure looks at the cheerful side.