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# Two greens are better than one

*Alternate greens on each hole allow maintenance work on one green, while play proceeds on the other.*

By WILLIAM TANLER

Ala Wai has been Hawaii's most popular golf course for many years, but not because of abundant rich turf or ideal playing conditions. In fact, locally, the most common non-technical description of conditions has been "terrible."

Ala Wai owes its popularity to its location, just four or five blocks from the Royal Hawaiian Hotel near downtown Honolulu, the fact that it is available for play 365 days a year and because golf in Hawaii, as it is everywhere, is booming. Under these circumstances, Ala Wai has been subjected to an average of 400 rounds a day that add up to about 140,000 rounds a year, pressure enough to wear out any golf course.

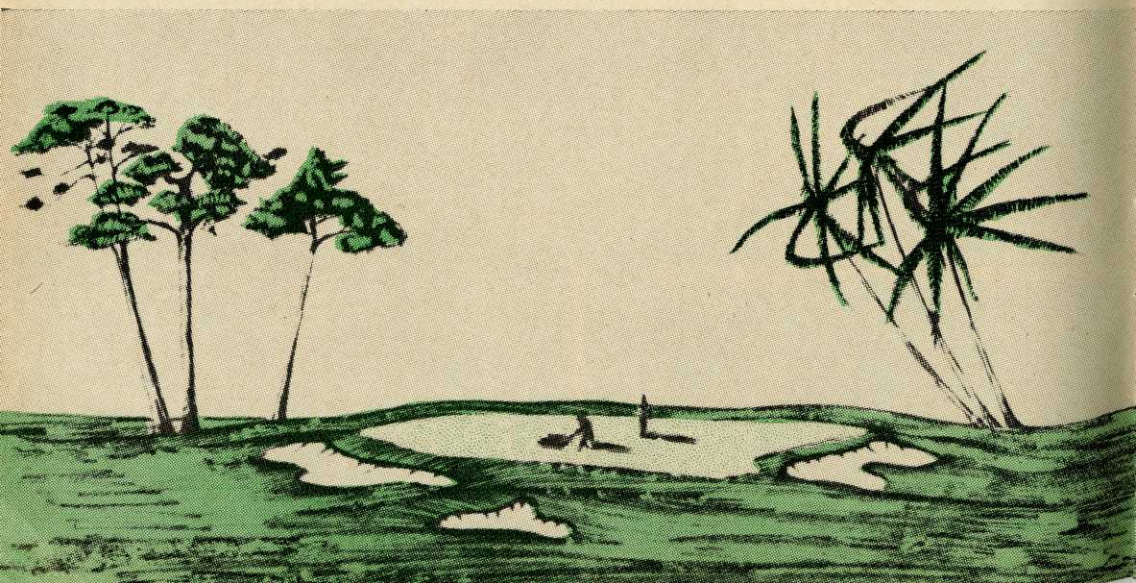
To make matters worse, course superintendent Henry O'Sullivan, responsible for maintaining Ala Wai for the parks and recreation department, was forced to depend largely on natural rain-

fall due to inadequate irrigation.

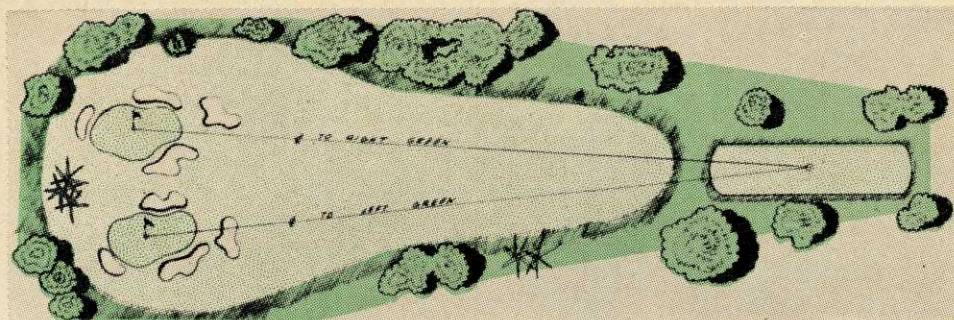
To the delight of Honolulu golfers, the city and county of Honolulu elected to take steps this year to give the 6,400-yard Ala Wai a face lifting. The first step was awarding a contract to Bob Baldock, a golf course architect from Fresno, California. The second step was approving Baldock's plans for Ala Wai, and the third step was the awarding of a contract that enabled reconstruction to begin in February of this year.

The key to Ala Wai's rejuvenation is Baldock's plan for easing pressure on the course by providing two greens for every hole on the 18-hole course. The concept of two greens on each hole is to enable the course crew to perform maintenance on the odd greens without slowing play and, incidentally, in less time.

The concept of two greens on every hole will undoubtedly be watched close-







*The most notable feature of Ala Wai's current renovation program is providing two greens per hole. Above, a bird's eye view of one of the holes, below, as the golfer sees it. Having two greens allows play to proceed on one green, while regular maintenance proceeds on the other.*

ly by other course superintendents facing similar problems of heavy play and little maintenance time. But the solution to Ala Wai's problems may not solve all problems that develop at courses subjected to abnormal use.

"I would guess a course would have to have 100,000 to 150,000 rounds a year to make the investment in a second set of greens practical," Baldock said. "This would make it uneconomical for courses in the north and east where there's always a short playing season."

The idea of building two greens originated in Japan, Baldock said. In fact, the course used for the recent Canada Cup in Japan, the 1966 matches at Yomiuri Country Club in Tokyo, was

played on a course equipped with double greens. There is also a public course near Tokyo using the same plan.

"The idea of using two greens in Japan is different than the idea planned for Ala Wai," Baldock said. "In Japan, they use two greens because they generally employ poor maintenance techniques and they top-dress their greens frequently. At Ala Wai, the system of two greens is being used to give the crew adequate time to perform normal, regular maintenance."

As an example, Baldock explained that on one recent trip to Ala Wai, he watched one man take almost two hours to cut one green that should have been finished in 15 minutes. "He was able to make about two passes between each

*continued on next page*





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## **ALI WAI GREENS**

*continued from preceding page*

group of golfers." There was little choice, Baldock pointed out, because the course was in use not only daily, but from 12 to 14 hours every day.

The idea of using two separate greens on one hole has been tried in the United States before, Baldock said, "but as far as I know, it was only on par 3 holes. It saved time on the par 3's, but the players bunched up later. I think the Ala Wai course will be the first in the United States to have separate greens on all 18 holes."

Although specific plans have not been completed as to how play on the redesigned Ala Wai course will be regulated, there are a number of possibilities. One suggestion has been to adopt two separate score cards, possibly a red card for one set of greens and a blue card for the other set. Then, of course, a local ground rule will have to be adopted to permit a free drop off any wrong green on which a stray shot lands.

"At Ala Wai," Baldock said, "there won't be any hidden greens to complicate play. The purpose of the double green system is to provide a higher quality course for the public to use, not to make it a more difficult course. The parks people don't want to slow play."

The new Ala Wai, when completed, will play about the same regardless of which individual greens are used. "In Japan," Baldock noted, "the second set of greens can be used to make the course more difficult. The two greens on each hole at Ala Wai will be about the same distance off the tees."

The schedule for alternating greens will be determined largely by the type of maintenance being performed. For example, normal cutting may make it desirable to alternate greens every day. But if the greens are being aerified, they may want to give them three or four days to recover.

Although the double green system is the most unique of the changes planned

*continued on page 72*



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# Together we stand, divided...

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By G. V. MARLATT, CCM  
Manager, Northmoor CC, Highland Park, Ill.

## AUTHOR'S NOTE:

*Some one once said: "Let me talk with the employees, and I will know what kind of boss they have." So too, it could be said, "Let me talk with the golf professional, the golf course superintendent, and the club manager, and I can tell what kind of a club you belong to."*

A famed song of years gone by was "We Three", in which it referred to "my echo, my shadow, and me." We three; the golf course superintendent, the golf professional, and the club manager cannot adopt this same identity for it is the careful blending of the combined talents, capabilities, education and personalities of all three individuals which can make a club what it is, or, in some cases, isn't.

The mere hiring of three individuals, affixing the necessary titles, and introducing them to each other will not always result in a smooth running, efficient, member-satisfied club. It immediately becomes necessary for these three personalities to hire, train, and supervise the people necessary to operate that division of the club they directly control. All of these persons must then be blended into a well managed, efficiently operated, and financially sound institution.

After this union of "individuals" is accomplished, they must work, think, live, argue and produce together just as in a marriage. But like some marriages—as with Adam and Eve in the Utopian atmosphere of Eden—things do not always go right. Conflicts do emerge, rebellion can be present, and unity can become non-existent. The reason for this is simply that in both cases we are dealing with human beings.

I am fortunate to have worked almost 20 years with some of the finest golf course superintendents and golf professionals in the field, and I must say that these problems seldom existed or were present only for a short time in my past.

In most instances I have had the pleasure of working in the air of mutual understanding, toward common goals, in a trouble-free atmosphere. Perhaps this may have been without effort on their part, but I, as a manager must admit that I have had to "work at it." To say that conflicts never arose, problems did not develop, or differences of opinion did not exist would be to lie. But never did I meet a man in any of these positions whom *I could not, or did not work with.*

For what it is worth, let me relate some of the things I have found which help to create an atmosphere of willingness to get along. This with the expressed hope that if such a condition exists at your club it might be helped.

**Know Your Job**—This does not mean food and beverage, grounds and greens, or sports and pastimes; it is hoped that you knew these things before you were hired. So too, before a man is hired, he should have a well defined contract or agreement stating his area of responsibility, duties, privileges, restrictions, benefits and remuneration. Then, all of these other than salary can be contained in an operations manual for all to see. Knowing, and understanding what your job is in relation to the entire club's operation can be the first step toward creating harmony in any club.

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GOLFDOM

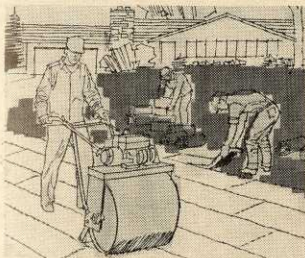




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## TOGETHER WE STAND

*continued from page 46*

**Treat the Other Fellow as You Like to be Treated Yourself**—This is not the "Golden Rule," for if I accidentally step on your toes, it does not mean you retaliate the first opportunity you get. It does not mean total agreement or subservience on anyone's part. Nor can it mean that any individual is *always* right.

It should mean that, if conflicts emerge, you can, and will, sit down and discuss it. It also means there are two, and sometimes three, sides to all disagreements or you would not be disagreeing. It might mean that you have to be willing, and able, to say "I was wrong," if you were wrong. Further it means that you must have a knowledge and understanding of the problems of others, as you hold no monopolies in this department.

Rising costs are much a factor in golf balls as they are in top soil or wild rice. Good help is just as hard to secure in

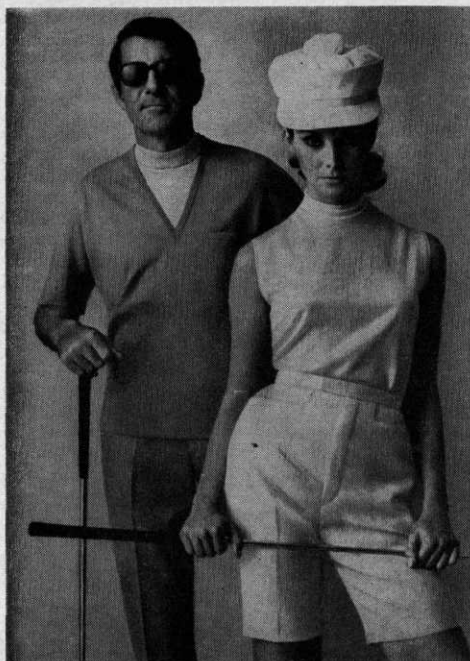
the area of greens mowers as it is in securing second cooks or assistant pros. Accidents and inefficiency are not limited to club houses, pro shops, or tool sheds. Budgets are made which contain sand, scorecards, and bath towels; and recognition for the needs of others, for the successful operation of the club, is as necessary to the preparation of a budget as staying within its confines.

It has been my experience that board and members are more interested in how well the *club* did, budgetwise, than in who was "over" and who was "under" budget. For in the final analysis, if these persons are satisfied, all can benefit by dealing with happier members and fellow workers.

**Share and Share Alike**—While it is true that a screwdriver or hammer can be used in practically every department, what if each department had a tractor, a battery charger, or a rug shampooer? The pooling of labor, equipment, and ideas should be-

*continued on page 76*

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# Pennies from heaven

Look to rainwear to boost profits

By  
**VINCENT PASTENA**  
Golf/Goldom Fashion Editor

If there is anything that can make a golfer fly into a rage—it's rain. But—thanks to modern chemistry—he no longer has to be robbed of those precious moments on the course. A variety of water-repellent finishes and coated fabrics has opened the door for the manufacture of rainwear that offers the maximum in protection and comfort while permitting imaginative design. Here is an array of handsome rainwear that will be prized by your customers.



His 'Billy Casper' jacket by Fox-Knapp (\$15) and Ben Hogan slacks by Biltwell (\$14) both treated with Zepel to repel water and stains, Arnold Palmer' hat with Syl mer finish by Hal Joseph, Champion glove. Her jacket of Zepel-treated stretch fabric (\$19), matching pleated kilt (\$19) and coordinated plaid blouse (\$9) all by Evan-Picone; "rain or shine" hat by Brighton of California, Edmont-Hill glove. Umbrella by American Umbrella for Green Tee.