



Developers of Wee-Ma-Tuk first saw the area (above left) as an abandoned strip mine. That was in 1957. Today it is a course characterized by lush rolling fairways and surrounded

by homes (above right). Larry Brickel, course superintendent (inset) has made plans for a new tee for the 4th hole.

## What Do You Do With A Used Strip Mine?

A STRIP MINE five miles north of Cuba, Illinois, served as evidence of the ugly scars our demand for natural resources can leave on the countryside when it was abandoned in 1957. Today, this same strip mine serves as evidence that man can live in harmony with nature.

In fact, the owners of Wee-Ma-Tuk Hills Golf Club and Development have made an all out effort to give nature a helping hand whenever possible.

To begin with, Wee-Ma-Tuk displays an eighteen hole golf course carefully sculptured between abandoned strip mine pits. The golf course alone makes it difficult to tell this was ever an eyesore. However, a conscientious conservation program which includes stocking the area with quail, pheasant and chukars, has further transformed Wee-Ma-Tuk into a pleasant retreat.

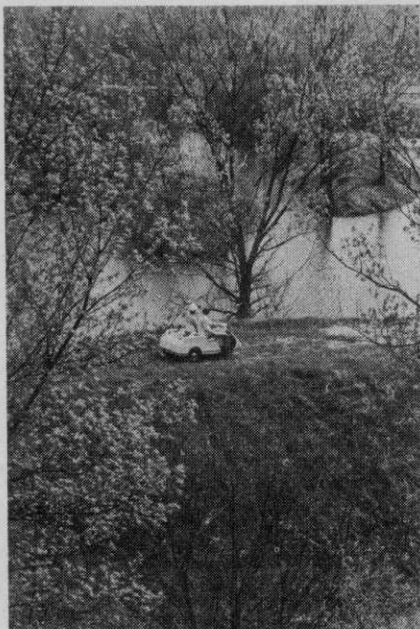
The progressive thinking that brought Wee-Ma-Tuk into being must be attributed to the men who invested their time and resources into its development. These men are currently officers in the Wee-Ma-Tuk Hill Corporation. However, credit for the beauty and condition of the golf course goes to Larry Brickel, course superintendent. Larry came to Wee-Ma-Tuk in February of this year and with him he brought not only his professional abilities as a golf course superintendent, but also a willingness to face a challenge.

One objective Larry has set for himself is to make an already attractive course even better. The varied terrain in and around the mine pits offers interesting possibilities.

"I'd like to use the surrounding contours to make the course even more aesthetic as well as challenging," relates Larry. "My present plans are to change number four fairway and put the tee up on a hill left from mine excavations. The hill is about 30 feet high and this would give our golfers an excellent chance to take a breather and view most of the course."

A "Brickel tour" around the course is all you need to see why this 26-year

*(continued on page 40)*



Larry Brinkel, superintendent, and inspect an area which has not yet been developed. Plans call for landscaping the area to conform to the natural terrain.



One of Larry Brickel's plans for the future calls for a driving range located on this spot overlooking the lake and clubhouse. Members will drive the balls into the lake. He plans to use floating golf balls and retrieve them when they float in to the bank.

## USED STRIP MINE?

(from page 10)

old superintendent from Mammoth Springs, Arkansas, is so enthused about his work.

"I'll eventually fill in this ravine and make a new green for number eighteen," he says. Over there we'll haul top soil in and make another new green for the number five hole."

"I also plan to put in a driving range beside the clubhouse." The driving range is probably the most unusual alteration Larry would like to make. The present range is at a far end of the course, not comfortably located for those who need to take a kink out of their back swing.

"We have an ideal location for a driving range right beside the clubhouse," explained Larry. "The members can drive the balls right into the lake."

"When asked about collecting the golf balls, "Brickel ingenuity" prevailed again. "That's the simple part. If we use floating golf balls, the wind will blow the balls right up to the bank; after that, it's a simple matter of netting them out. I figure this will be a service to the members and bring in additional revenue to the club as well."

Along with new construction, Wee-Ma-Tuk faces similar problems that affect most other courses. "Our disease problems are primarily leafspot and dollarspot, but by using a good spray program, we stay out of trouble. Our basic program is Daconil 2787 at a 3 oz. per 1,000 square feet rate every week if conditions favor disease. Sometimes I increase the rate to 4 oz. if conditions are severe," states Larry.

"The next problem I'll go after is

Poa Annua. I've had excellent results with Dacthal in controlling crabgrass and I plan to use a fall application for poa on all the tees."

Larry doesn't attribute the condition of the course only to the chemicals he uses or his supervision.

"I like to give credit where it's due, and my assistant, Andy Hamilton, is one of the best around," he says. "I can rely on him to take over when I can't, and believe me that makes a difference. Also, the grounds crew, managed by Gene Ford does a great job taking care of the roads and general areas. That's the first thing you see when you come to Wee-Ma-Tuk."

The next time you hear someone say, "Man doesn't know how to treat his environment," remember Wee-Ma-Tuk. Some people are changing our environment—for the better. □

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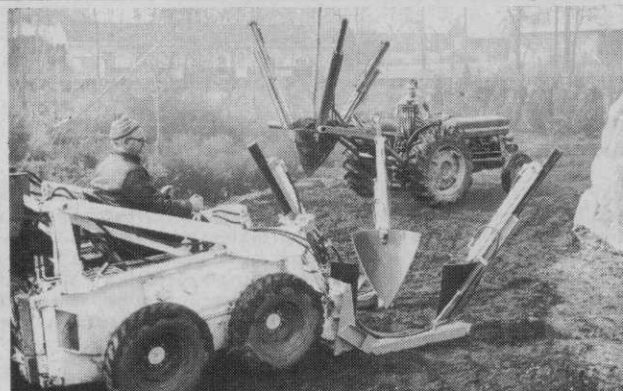
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