

Oaks Course Has Long Been Tops

TULSA, March 3—For more than a quarter-century Oaks Country club has been one of Oklahoma's best golf clubs with a course that provides a stern test for even scratch players and a friendly atmosphere that lends itself to leisure.

Built in 1920 by golf architect A. W. Tillinghast midway between downtown Tulsa and Sapulpa, it opened as Oakhurst Country club with membership about evenly divided between the two cities.

In 1936 the late Perry Maxwell remodeled the course by changing two holes. That is the way the course plays today.

The next year Marion Askew took over as club professional. This is his 20th year and he's still going strong. His assistants are popular Ben Dickson, the former Oklahoma A&M star, and Donald Spencer.

Les Snyder is the course superintendent and it is largely through his efforts that the course always has its best foot forward. Snyder is one of the state's top greenskeepers and

Oaks reflects his green thumb all the way from the first tee to the 18th green.

Right now Snyder is enlarging the first, 17th and 18th greens by cutting back the aprons.

Similar treatment may be accorded the ninth green.

Interesting is an experiment he is making with a new strain of fine leaf Bermuda grass developed at Oklahoma A&M that has been named Sunterf. It has just been released for use and Snyder is putting in an entire apron around the 15th green with it. It is believed that the new grass will not encroach on bent grass as rapidly as other strains of Bermuda.

All greens on the course are of Seaside bent, but Snyder is making the conversion to C-7 by plugging the stolanzed bent into the carpets. The plugs come from his own nursery on the course.

Course record for the layout is a 65 by both Jack and Frank Higgins. State amateur cham-

ONE of the big jobs now underway on the course is that of cleaning up the traps. There are 23 sand bunkers on the front nine and 24 on the back. New sand is being added and the fairway encroachment is being cut back before the spring growing season arrives.

All fairways will be aerified at least three times and fertilized this spring and a tree program is now underway. Snyder is putting out almost 100 honey locust trees to supplement the great

oaks and blackjacks that adorn the course in great profusion.

All tees and approaches to the greens will be given special attention this year with a continuing fertilization program designed to produce lush and abundant turf.

Pion Dale Fleming holds the women's record with a 72. She grew up on the course and plays it brilliantly.

Many state and regional tournaments have been held on the course. It was here at Oaks that Patty Berg, then a freckled schoolgirl, won the first of her Trans-Mississippi championships in 1939.

After many ups and downs during the depression and later in the war years, Oaks was purchased and converted into a full-fledged country club by its members in 1945. Since that time it has taken a responsible position in the social and sports life of the Oil City.

John Verdon, formerly an assistant at Southern Hills, is the club manager. He has one of the best rounded programs of activity to be found at any club in the southwest. Each Tuesday is Continental night while ladies day is Wednesday and Thursday is family night. Special dinners are served every Friday and each Saturday is a special event of one kind or another. Dinner dances are held each Sunday night.

THE clubhouse was completely remodeled and enlarged late last summer at a total cost of \$150,000. Additions included a new dining room, a bright and comfortable lounge and a teenage rumpus room. Locker rooms were enlarged and a completely new kitchen and grill was installed.

With Snyder's help, Verdon is landscaping the area around the enlarged clubhouse this spring.

The club has a beautiful big swimming pool and a picnic area will be laid out this year.

Verdon will institute a children's day camp this summer when school is out with the kiddies getting golf, swimming and other athletic activity along with training in crafts. Cost for the day camp is nominal for members.

The club now has almost 550 members. Shares of stock cost approximately \$1,000 and monthly dues are \$30 per member.

O. B. Pickett is club president with J. P. Garner vice-president, Charles Fellows secretary and Wade Detrick treasurer. Directors are George Reed, Ran Walker, Darrell McCullough, Rex Brooks and R. C. Casey. Committee chairman are Reed for greens, Casey for tournaments, McCullough for finance and Garner for house.

Mrs. Dana Huley is president of the large and active women's golf organization with Mrs. Homer Swift vice-president and Mrs. R. C. Casey secretary-treasurer.

