

# \$150,000 Improvement Program Underway On Clubhouse, Pool at Duncan Country Club

DUNCAN—Need for complete country club facilities for the whole family is responsible for Oklahoma's biggest golf improvement program of 1937. The Elks Golf and Country club is spending \$150,000 for a new clubhouse and swimming pool. The pool will be completed in time for membership use this summer and the contractor has promised to get the clubhouse ready for the annual Labor Day invitational tournament if the weatherman will co-operate.

Since June 27, 1922, Duncan has had a country club when a nine-hole sand greens course was first opened to play. Golf facilities were improved from time to time until there are now 18 fine holes with Seaside bent grass greens, excellent Bermuda tees and fairways that will come along once a program for watering and fertilization is put into effect.

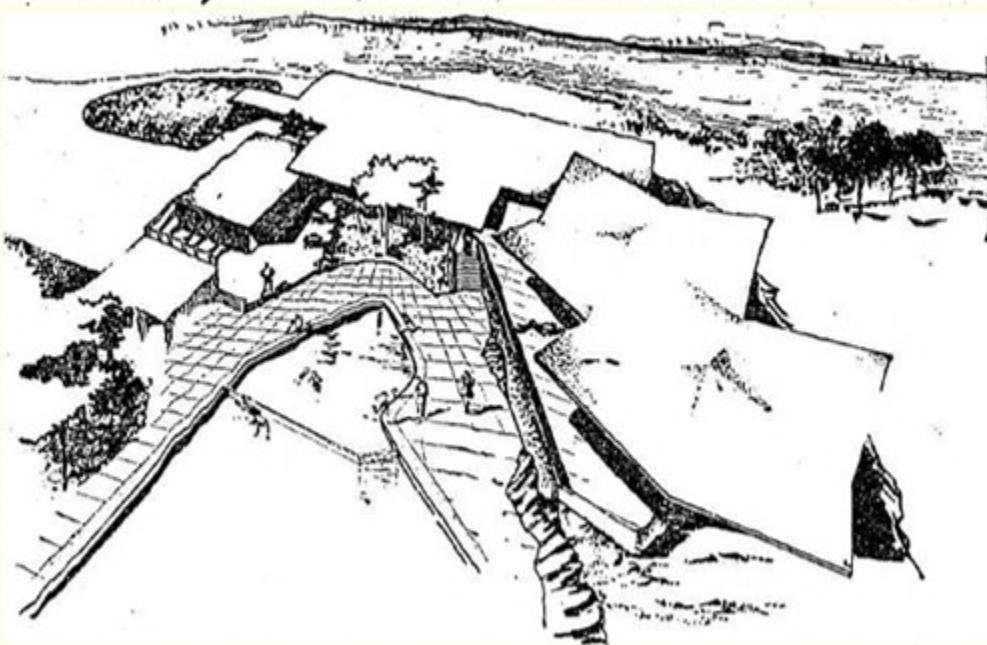
But during those 35 years clubhouse facilities have lagged behind developments on the golf course. The first clubhouse was not erected until a year after the first course was opened and this sufficed until 1933 when the country club merged with the local Elks club which had a fine big clubhouse downtown.

The late Perry Maxwell was brought to Duncan from Ardmore by Judge J. G. Clift, southern Oklahoma's senior golf statesman, to layout and build the initial course. It was the second golf course he ever designed. Judge Clift personally purchased the 110 acres of land upon which the course stands. He consigned it to the club when it was organized and within a week 75 persons bought shares of stock for \$100 each. The original course was built with this money and the clubhouse added a year later.

Today the land upon which the course is located is valued at \$250,000 by conservative estimates since it is located on the northern edge of the city and is flanked on three sides by exclusive housing developments.

In 1937 the original nine holes were converted to Bermuda grass greens. In 1949 the greens were changed over to Seaside bent and in 1951 Floyd Farley of Oklahoma City designed and built the back nine holes to stretch the layout to 18 holes.

It was not until 1949 that any major improvements were made on the clubhouse—when the greens were being converted from Bermuda. At that time about \$25,000 was expended to build locker rooms for both men and women and a new pro shop. Shortly afterward another \$5,000



Oklahoma's biggest clubhouse improvement program is now underway at Elks Golf and Country club in Duncan. Here is a sketch of the new clubhouse and swimming pool under construction at a cost of \$150,000. The swimming pool is located where the sixth green once set in the cradle of a small mountain.

provided splendid tiled shower rooms.

The old clubhouse has been completely removed but the 1949 addition is to be saved and made a part of the new structure now taking shape. Cost for the new clubhouse is estimated at \$115,000 while the cost of the new swimming pool of 4,000 square feet area, bath house and water purification system is about \$35,000.

The 1949 structure will take care of golfing needs at the course until the new structure is completed. Meanwhile the downtown clubhouse is available for social activity and special events.

Here's how the clubhouse venture came about:

A group of Duncanites called a meeting for the purpose of forming a new country club. Many in the group were members of the Elks club. After several sessions it was deemed advisable to convert the present property into such a club since a splendid golf course was already available.

The Elks club has about 500 members. Since the new clubhouse program was launched country club membership has swollen to 315 with about 200 of them active linksmen. Country club membership costs \$350 per share and monthly dues are \$6 per month. If you are also a golfer another \$72 per year is tacked on the dues.

To start the new clubhouse on its way the local group raised \$90,000 in less than two month's time. The Elks' grand lodge and proved the plan in early February of this year and a week

later a loan for the remaining \$60,000 was secured and work was underway.

Exalted ruler of the local lodge is Paul Hunnicutt and trustees for the golf course and country club are Carl Bentley, Morris Dulaney, Jack Harbin, F. F. "Fuzzy" Carter and Bill Tarwater. Don Hathorn is chairman of the building committee that is shouldering most of the load on the current project.

A large committee headed by Billy Dale Jones supervises the golf course and all of its activities including the huge Labor Day invitational tournament. Others on the committee are Mark Bolles, Les Dixon, Jim Radcliffe, Bus Talley, Grover Tate, J. D. Carter, Jerry Baker, Don Grantham, C. D. Crowe, Fayn Harper, Ed Coombs, Glen Slocum, Dulaney and Hathorn.

Club professional is Bill Shelton, former assistant at Oklahoma City Golf and Country club,

and the club manager is Conger Brown. Rufus Benson is the course superintendent.

There is an active ladies golf organization of more than 40 members. Heading this group is Mrs. Cecil March, president. Other officers are: Mrs. Marvin Rasher, vice-president; Mrs. Tom Brown, secretary; and Mrs. John Gilbert, treasurer. Mrs. Lester Dixon is handicap chairman while Mrs. Harry B. Ziegler heads the golf committee and Mrs. Bill Duncan the bridge committee.

The club has some distinguished links alumni that includes two former national champions. Walter Emery, now of Tulsa, went to the University of Oklahoma from Duncan and won the national intercollegiate title in 1934. Two years ago Billy "Cotton" Dunn, now a student at Oklahoma A&M, won the national junior crown.

Other topflight players who

graduated from the course include Charley Reasor, who was the youngest player at 17 ever to win the state amateur crown; club champion Bob March, who at 14 was runner up to former national amateur champion Charley Coe, then of Ardmore, for the state high school title in 1939; Jerry Hobbs, now a student at Hardin-Simmons, who finished seventh in the national junior chamber of commerce tournament two years ago; Bobby Richardson, a former state high school kingpin, and Buddy Babcock and Ronnie Moore, members of the University of Oklahoma links team with Richardson this spring.

Until last spring Duncan high school linksmen had won three straight state team golf championships.

Woman's handicap champion currently is Mrs. Ollie Askins while Cliff Wade and Bobby Cates are the Football rulers. The 1937 Football tourney teed off April 1.

In addition to appropriate lounges for both men and women, a huge dining room, grill, modern kitchen, rumpus room and several smaller rooms, the new clubhouse will have a separate wing for the teen-agers who are to have a grill of their own and plenty of room for jukebox dances, games and recreation.

These new additions, members believe, will provide full facilities for every member of the family.

While present emphasis is on the new clubhouse and pool, the golf course is not being forgotten. Last summer the first, second and eighth greens were removed and re-seeded to Seaside bent. All three are now in excellent playing condition.

The new pool is located where the sixth green once stood. That green has been moved north and west of the old site. The green has been completed and the seed bed is now ready for planting. To add yardage to the hole lost by the relocation of this green a new tee is being constructed that adds 100 yards of playing area. The 18th tee is being moved to a location just west of the 17th green to make room for this change which adds another 20 yards to the length of the course.