

Tree and shrub planting around tee at Monroe CC, Rochester, N.Y., dates from the middle 1920's.

Good landscaping is an asset

Golf architecture can create many "beauty spots" That add to the attraction of your course.

By GEOFFREY CORNISH and WILLIAM ROBINSON

Golf courses are among man's most beautiful landscape creations. Many of the most eye-appealing on this continent are in areas where natural scenery and distant vistas, though pleasing, are not spectacular in the sense that the Rockies or the West Coast are.

Among the truly beautiful long-established layouts, not widely known in the world of golf but still outstanding, are five in the Northeast and neighboring Ohio. These are Longmeadow Country Club near Springfield, Mass.; Ekwanok at Manchester, Vermont; Monroe Country Club near Rochester, N. Y.; The Country Club of Buffalo, and Portage in Akron, Ohio.

It is a great tribute to the architects and contractors who designed and built these five magnificent courses, as well as dedicated committees and highly qualified superintendents who have maintained and improved them down through the years, that their intrinsic aesthetic appeal of each is largely manmade.

In course architecture there are three major aspects: golf itself, maintenance, and beauty. Indeed, so closely interre-



Pond adds to playing interest of 4th green. North Course, Stow Acres, Mass.

lated are these three that they can be depicted as the sides of an equilateral triangle—in this case, a triangle of basic considerations. No course or any feature of it is a true success unless all sides of the equilateral triangle have been used.

Many a golfer realizes that there is more to a round than mastering the mechanics of the game. Immaculate grooming of the acreage and perfection of the greensward are two important contributions to eye appeal. Stately trees and flowering shrubs of many species, together with light and shade, can present an effect so striking that even the most absorbed golfer experiences a profound sense of well-being as he plays his round. This is one way golf appeals to high and low handicap men alike.

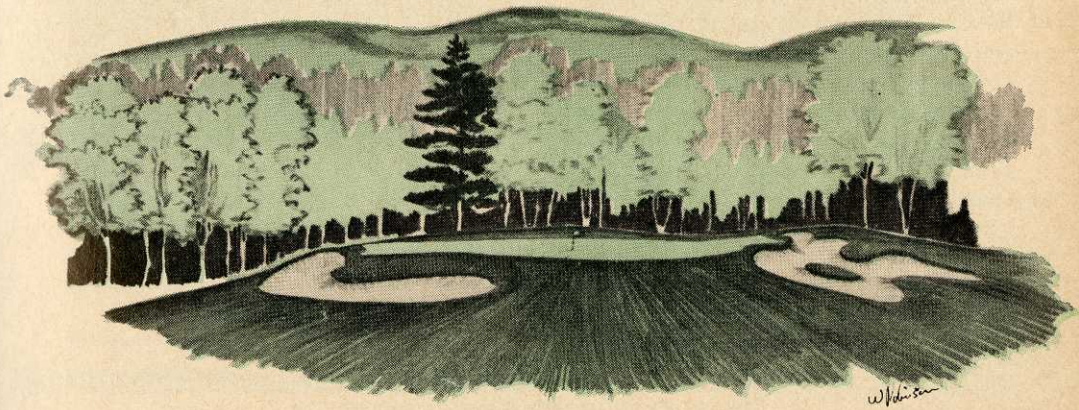
Beauty is further enhanced by artifically but dramatically created greens, bunkers and ponds. A green sculptured and raised above fairway level, set among trees and guarded by white sand and other hazards, is truly a magnificent sight.

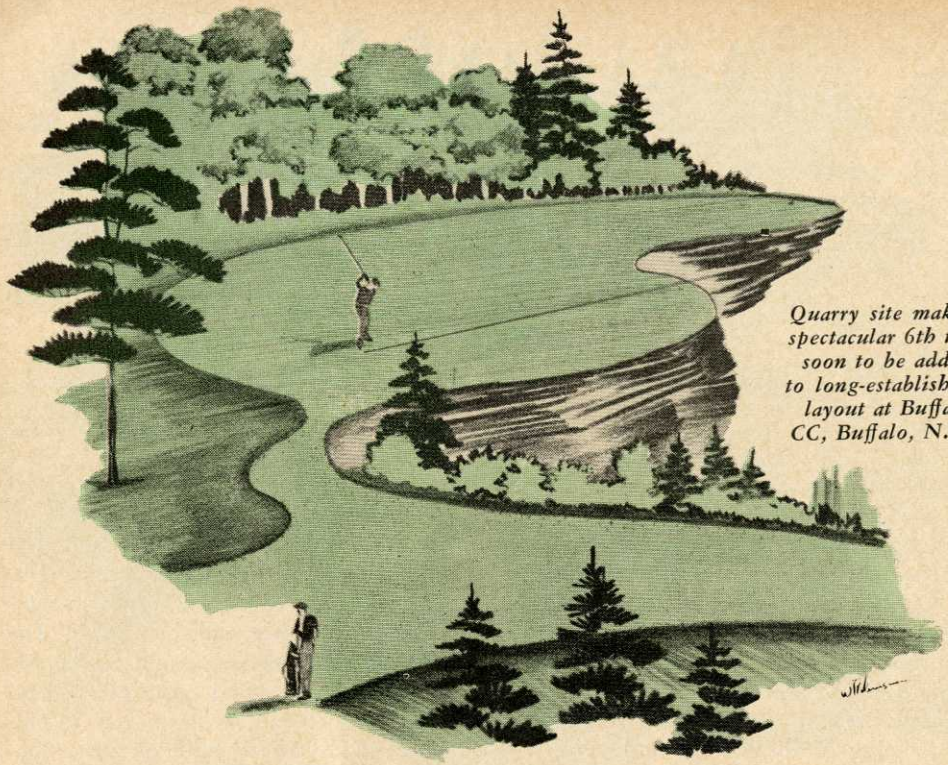
Greens provide infinite variety in their shapes, contouring and bunkering. The fact that these shapes are in accordance with the architectural principle, "form follows function," is in no way incompatible with the triangle of basic considerations. Hence, there are deep greens to accept long approach shots and shallow ones to accept wedge and short iron approaches. And there are greens where different pin positions call for different approach shots and may indeed alter the character of the entire hole. This immense variety in form as required by function also contributes its beauty.

Even the tees, for so long the most artificial part of a layout, are now de-

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The 6th hole at Ewanok CC, Manchester, Vt., is located in a truly magnificent mountain site, which is improved by trees and white sand hazards around green.





Quarry site makes spectacular 6th tee soon to be added to long-established layout at Buffalo CC, Buffalo, N.Y.

GOOD LANDSCAPING

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signed to blend into the landscape. As with greens, a variety of shapes adds to the landscape appeal of the layout. Similarly, an irregularly shaped pond with capes and bays contributes immeasurably to the beauty of a hole and also heightens its playing interest. This beauty is further increased when wild and domestic waterfowl are introduced.

Bunkers and sand traps are no longer holes in the ground. Raised above fairway level and clearly visible to the oncoming golfer, pattern and character are introduced into each with capes of turf and bays of sand. Invariably the most beautiful and appropriate bunkers resemble formations produced by wind, rain and animals on the venerable linksland of Scotland.

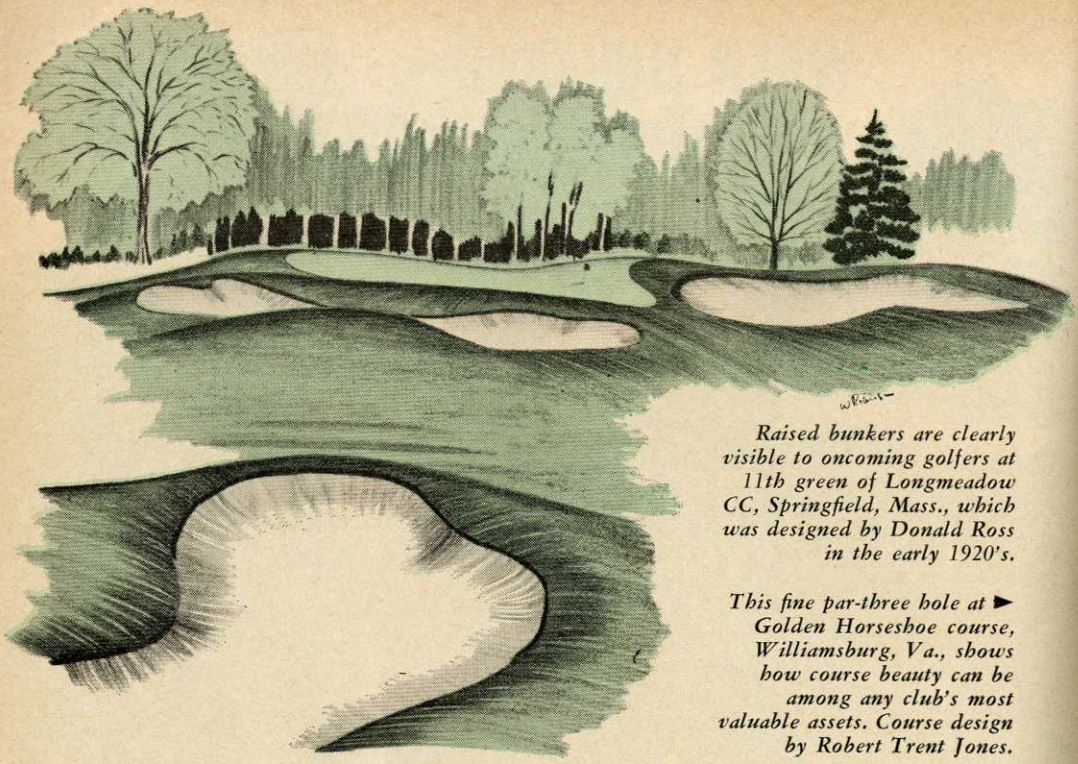
Contour or wavy mowing between fairways and roughs also produces an effect more pleasing to the eye than straight line mowing. Likewise, putting surfaces mowed in varying patterns contribute more to aesthetics than 18 circular or egg-shaped greens.

The most magnificent course is further enhanced by careful grooming. The high standards set by superintendents make today's courses sparkle. Familiar as all are with this manicuring the factors involved are worth repeating.

1) Trees and shrubs are trimmed and otherwise carefully tended while forested areas are cleaned of undergrowth and low branches, giving these areas the appearance of English parks.

2) Roughs adjoining fairways are maintained as roughs, but are mowed more frequently and closer than formerly and are fertilized, spot seeded and chemically treated for weeds and grubs. Swales, streams, pond edges and similar areas are kept free of long grass.

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Raised bunkers are clearly visible to oncoming golfers at 11th green of Longmeadow CC, Springfield, Mass., which was designed by Donald Ross in the early 1920's.

This fine par-three hole at ► Golden Horseshoe course, Williamsburg, Va., shows how course beauty can be among any club's most valuable assets. Course design by Robert Trent Jones.

GOOD LANDSCAPING

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3) Bunkers are edged, raked and kept replenished with white sand.

4) There is neatness around trees. Unsightly bare areas once so characteristic of all first tees and their surroundings are much less common.

5) Pathways are neat with clean-cut edges and are free of washouts.

6) Benches (other than rustic ones), ball washers, signs, shelters, bridges and other structures are painted and kept in good repair. Nowadays even mechanical equipment sparkles.

7) The yard of the equipment building is neat, or at least camouflaged.

8) Construction debris, topsoil piles, equipment not in use, and day to day litter are seldom visible.

The golf courses of this continent are indeed examples of man's work that complement rather than detract from Mother nature's handiwork.

Small, kidney-shaped traps guard 3rd green at Portage CC, Akron, Ohio, where variety in patterns of putting surfaces adds to beauty of course.



