

WHAT IT COSTS

Interesting Golf Course Maintenance
Figures Give Details

Just as a coat must be cut according to the cloth, so must a golf club run its links in a manner within its assured income. It is interesting to compare the cost of the upkeep of eighteen holes at two clubs near New York, one having a gross income of about \$85,000, of which the house accounts produce \$37,000, and the second a gross income of some \$25,000, the house accounts, as it is a non-license club, only bringing in about \$6,000. Neither club holds an open or invitation tournament, but both give a one day invitation tournament for the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association. The upkeep of the course by the larger club was \$3,500 in round figures, to which must be added \$7,300 paid in wages to the professional and for labor on the course. At the club of smaller income where the green committee had only an allowance of \$3,900 to work on, by doing without a caddie master the upkeep was shaded to \$3,887.93 just \$12.07 under the appropriation.

The members put up with the discomforts of no caddie master, a statement being that "the caddies ran riot," to aid the directors to save money to take up a debt. This, through the income from golf and other sports, was achieved, and this season there will be a caddie master on duty. The detailed statement of the cost of the professional and labor on the course shows an outlay of \$2,111. Horses and harness, the former presumably rented, cost \$156, and the hay and feed \$456. These are the other items in round sums, and the perusal may make other green committees ponder as to how this club was able to figure so closely: mowers, \$216; grass seed, \$322; fertilizer, \$129; sand, \$46; repairs, \$21; small tools, &c., \$98; boots for horses, \$72; flags, cups, poles, &c., 28; horseshoeing, \$25; hose and sprinkler, \$40; paint, oil, grease, &c., \$85; express, carting, freight, &c., \$80.

The latter club expended nearly \$2,000 in piping the greens, which is a special charge and not included in the ordinary upkeep. The first named club must be well content with its course for the special charge, for improvements on it only amounted to \$180. It paid out nearly \$18,000, however, for an extension to the clubhouse. The figures, although no items are furnished in the report of the larger club, indicate how far the disbursements for golf benefits general trade and the workmen of a club's neighborhood, and this is but one item in the disbursements of a golf or country club.

The average between the outlay on golf by the two clubs under notice is \$7,350. If it is fair to take this as the grand average of the upkeep of clubs in the United States Golf Association the total would be, at 299 members, \$2,208,650. As possibly only 40 per cent. have only nine hole links, of which presumably the average cost would be but one-half the eighteen hole course average, or \$3,675, the estimate should be reduced proportionately. But no matter how much or how little it costs to keep up a golf course the money is well spent from every point of view.

Pinehurst Honors in England

Charles Evans, Jr., will bear in triumph to Prestwick the united North and South title in addition to his many prior honors. Golf players east and west will hope that his prowess there will give to us another look at the silver cup Travis brought back from Sandwich. It was in a sadly battered and dingy condition then, but a New York silversmith restored the cup to the proper lustre. Americans will do the same again should the opportunity be offered them.

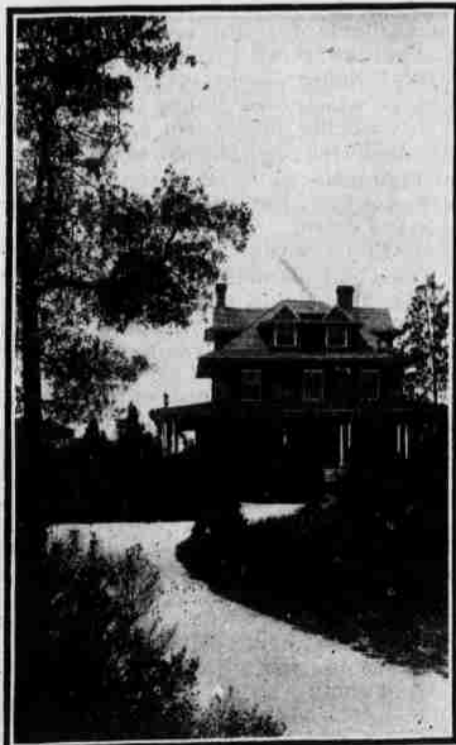
Evans' western open championship was won at match play after a qualifying round and to sticklers for precision does not class with the medal play performances of Travis, Douglas or Chandler Egan in gaining a place in the national open of seventy-two holes. Travis, too, won the South Florida Open at Palm Beach in 1906 at thirty-six holes when the field included the Britishers Sandy Herd, Kirkaldy and Rowland Jones.

Evans is now evidently as good as the greatest trio ever produced in our amateur golf in their best days, Chandler Egan, Travis and Travers, and he also has the true temperament for the test. With an ordinary share of good fortune Evans should do America credit in the British Amateur, yet it must be remembered that perhaps thirty of the sixty-four in the first round at Prestwick have the ability to win on what is known of their game. But one of the players can gain the title and as mishaps are more liable to occur to a visitor than a native, there will be no discredit to Evans whether he is beaten in the first or the final round; to reach the semi-final or final indeed would be a triumph. He stands in the enviable place of having everything to gain and nothing to lose—*New York Sun*

Mid-April Golf Tournament

Play in the annual mid-April golf tournament starts Wednesday and a good field assured.

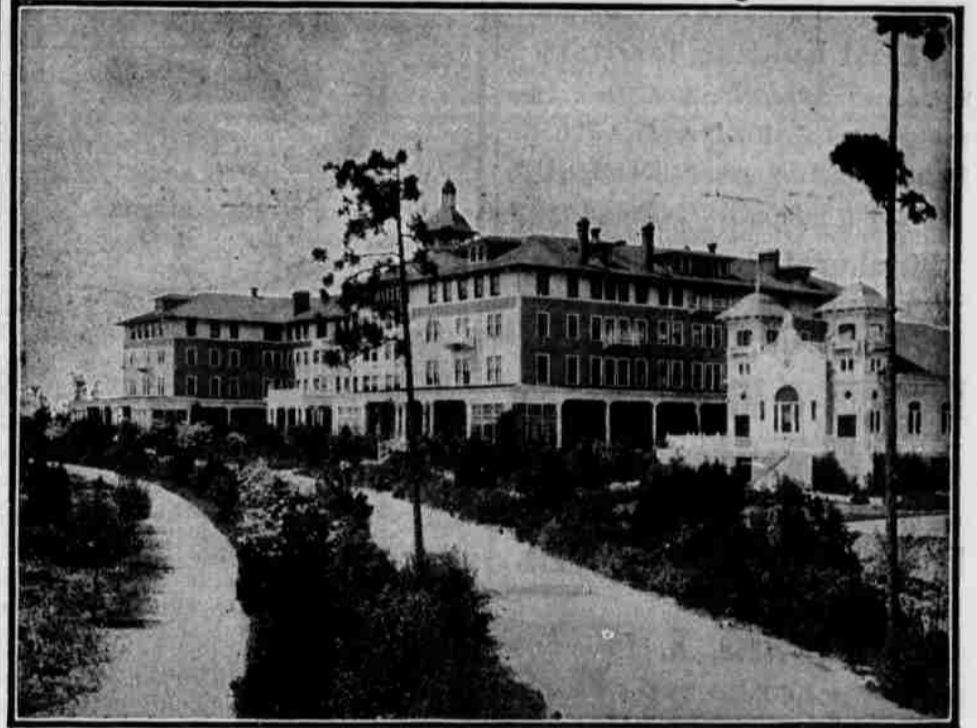
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