

## What a Landscape Committee Accomplished

By J. E. MacCloskey

Longue Vue Club, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Until a short time ago, the public parks and cemeteries in the United States were about the only places where landscape work and planting were possible on a large, permanent scale. To be sure, there were some large, beautiful, private estates outside of New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, and other cities, and extensive summer estates in the Berkshires, in the Catskills, and in other summer places; and fortunately some of the *ante bellum* gardens and homes of the South have been preserved. However, in landscape work we could not compare with England with her dukeries and extensive private parks, landscaped and planted centuries ago, having mile-long avenues of oaks or beeches, four abreast, 200 or 300 years old; nor with France with her chateaus and palaces and hunting lodges built by Francis I and Louis XIV, landscaped by famous gardeners who have obtained immortality from their work. As we had few private estates in America, landscape work on a large scale up until about the beginning of the twentieth century had to be content with the public parks and cemeteries.

The grounds of our golf clubs in America furnish a splendid opportunity for the landscape worker to do his work permanently, under favorable conditions, and at a cost divided among many members. The grounds are generally far enough from the city to be comparatively free from its injurious dirt, smoke, and noises, and also far enough from the city so that it can be reasonably expected that an oak, an elm, or beech will be permitted to live until it reaches maturity or a beautiful size and symmetry and will not be chopped down within a few years of its planting to make way for a duplex or apartment house. The landscape artist is also bound to receive much encouragement in his work around the golf house from the wives and daughters of members, many of whom belong to the local garden clubs which are so prevalent all over the United States; and women love this work. I will also admit that some of the golfers themselves—dubs though they be—take as much delight in seeing a beautiful tree or shrub or bed of flowers, or a beautifully planted hillside, as they do in a long, sweet, straight drive or in sinking a long putt. "Keep your eye on the ball" applies only while you are swinging at the ball—not as you are driving into the golf grounds or sitting on the terrace or walking over the fairway between strokes. While, of course, absolutely nothing should be planted or done to interfere with the fairways or putting greens, nevertheless every golf club throughout the land should aim to make its grounds a beauty spot. Trees, shrubs, flowers, and bulbs should be planted in profusion. Every available space not needed for greens, fairways, practice ground, lawn, or vista should be planted. It may take three years or more before the beauty of the work is realized. An oak, beech, or elm may take 20 years before it begins to show its nobility, but the reward in the end is great. If some one could persuade all the golf clubs in America to plant trees, and more trees, and still more trees, his reward would be as great as that of John Evelyn, whose "Sylva" in 1662 and enthusiasm for beautifying estates were responsible for so much of the planting in England that now delights the American tourist.

"He that delights to plant and set  
Makes after ages in his debt."

So said George Wither, a contemporary of Evelyn; and I wish every golfer who has ever taken a divot and failed to replace it could be made to "plant and set" a tree on his course.

For the last five years or so the Longue Vue Club near Pittsburgh has had a landscape committee distinct from the green committee. The club has a beautiful setting on the high hills overlooking the Allegheny River, with long vistas up and down the river. The course winds around the hills, and some of the fairways were cut through rather densely wooded areas. The planting in the immediate vicinity of the club house was done by well-known landscape architects. The original planting in the immediate vicinity of the club was done at the time of building; since then the work has been extended by the landscape committee through the solicitation of funds from the members. Once a year a letter is sent out to each member suggesting a contribution to the landscape fund. While the club has not a large membership, over \$2,000 a year has been contributed during the last five years.



Longue Vue club house nearing completion. The terracing has already been finished under the direction of a landscape architect

We found some large 16-inch elms and some 10-inch maples on our grounds and transplanted some of these to the immediate vicinity of the club house. We planted over 100 large Norway maples, from 4 to 6 inches; and many red oaks, pin oaks, and purple beeches. We covered a whole hillside with 1,000 Norway spruces and various pines. On a sloping bank along the main entrance we put in 961 rambler roses, and we have planted literally hundreds of forsythias, spireas, lilacs, and thousands of barberries. Last year we concentrated our efforts on the construction of a herbaceous garden. The landscape architect happily suggested a situation along the driveway that was very conspicuous, and while our perennials, like the iris,

peony, delphinium, and phlox did not make a great show the first year, nevertheless the annuals that were planted produced a great riot of color, and even the golfers, who consider that a golf ground is for nothing but playing the game, were compelled to stop and look at the beauty of our garden.



Longue Vue club house and its setting after the landscape architect had completed his work

Planting for immediate effect is not as necessary in landscaping golf grounds as in a private estate. Nowadays when a man builds a country home he wants it landscaped extensively at once, so that he can immediately enjoy it; he is unwilling to wait 5, 10, or 20 years for the best effect; he wants immediate results. This is not necessarily true in beautifying golf grounds. We can afford to wait a few years for development; and if this plan is adopted and the material is bought in wholesale quantities, the cost is greatly reduced. The 1,000 spruces and pines which we planted two years ago averaged fully 4 feet in height. If purchased from a retail catalogue, they would have cost us at least \$5 apiece, but we bought them for about \$1 apiece, as we purchased such a large quantity and were satisfied to take some that, although not perfect specimens for foundation planting in the city, were thoroughly satisfactory for hillside planting. Norway maples 10 to 12 feet high and 2 inches in diameter can be purchased in large quantities for \$2 apiece, but if bought in small quantities the price would be two or three times this. A retail catalogue in front of me lists pin oaks 8 to 10 feet high at \$4 each; a wholesale catalogue, in hundred lots, \$2.75 each. The retail catalogue quotes such gladioli as Dr. Morton at \$7 a hundred, Mrs. King at \$5 a hundred, and Golden Measure at \$12 a hundred; while the wholesale price list before me gives the prices, respectively, \$2.50 a hundred, \$1.80 a hundred, and \$3 a hundred. The quality of the bulbs is the same. Small Judas trees or redbuds, 2 to 3 feet in height, suitable for naturalizing, can be bought for \$25 a hundred wholesale, and dogwood the same size for \$50 a hundred. Such shrubs as honeysuckle, 3 to 4 feet in height, mock orange, and spirea Van Houttei, can be purchased for \$20 a hundred wholesale; the retail

price would be two or three times as much. In a hardy garden, unless one desires to plant for immediate effect, it is not necessary to pay 20 to 25 cents for each plant. A package of seed of delphinium, hollyhock, coreopsis, gaillardia, sweet William, and others, if sown in the same place where the bent grass nursery is located and given the same attention as the nursery grass, will produce in a year's time all the flowers of these varieties that are desired; but one has to plan and wait a year to do it.

Our golf grounds can be made beautiful at little cost if we are satisfied to wait a few years for the growth of the trees and shrubs and flowers, and if some person, belonging to the club, is permitted and encouraged to do the work. They offer a unique opportunity for the preservation and enhancement of our native landscape within close range of our urban life. Beautifully planted golf grounds create not only pride among the members, but inspire other clubs to follow suit. Landscape beauty is contagious to a remarkable degree, and one good example of club pride spreads the charm over a wide area.

### Transplanting Trees at Mill Road Farm Golf Course

By C. A. Tregillus

In the completion of any landscape scheme, whether on the golf course or around the club house, it is often desirable to move trees of a fair size. This is not a difficult task; it can be managed by any greenkeeping crew with confidence provided conditions are right.



In moving large trees for transplanting a trailer made from an old truck chassis is an excellent carriage.

The simplest and easiest way to transplant a tree with more than a 3- or 4-inch trunk is with the root system frozen solidly in the ground. With a frozen ball the tree can be handled in a way not permitted when the earth can fall away from the roots. This convenience makes for much quicker work and also provides employment at a slack time of the year.

It is good management to prune the roots and to fertilize a season prior to transplanting. Though this is not always done it is a wise procedure, as it helps to overcome the check that is bound to be felt by any tree that loses a large proportion of its feeding roots. If time will permit it is good practice to prune the roots for two seasons. The