

## Sand and Water Boxes for Tees

NORMAN MACBETH

Little thought has been given by green committees to the design of tee-boxes, and as a consequence it is seldom that golfers find the supply of sand and water conveniently arranged for them. It is also seldom that the containers for these necessities are not ugly in appearance, detracting from the appearance of golf courses which in other respects are beautifully kept up.

From the average green committee it would be difficult to learn the origin of the design used in making its tee-boxes. The work was probably left to some carpenter, long deceased, but to whose memory there remain eighteen tributes even more unsightly than the standardized grave marker in the local cemetery. The position, arrangement, shape, and color of tee-boxes, each has its effect upon golfers, and I therefore feel justified in offering some opinions for the benefit of green committees.

### *Position of Tee-Box*

The placing of the sand-box in relation to tee-markers is quite important. Almost all golfers become fidgety on the tee if people are moving indiscriminately behind their backs or behind the line of play, but few are worried if other golfers and caddies are grouped beyond the marker at the right-hand side of the teeing ground. Most players are right-handed and the position of the tee-box should be decided in favor of this majority. As players and caddies waiting at a tee will gravitate towards and tend to be in a group around the box, its position in relation to the player can not be ignored. With the tee-box and all seats placed in front of the players on a tee, it is unlikely that anything will be done by caddies or bystanders to interfere with a stroke.

### *Arrangement of Tee-Box*

In giving my ideas as to the arrangement of the box I will presume that it is placed in accordance with the above suggestion, and that the player whose turn it is to tee off has walked up to the box. As he represents the vast majority of players, he wishes to use his right hand in making his tee. The sand should therefore be placed in the right-hand side of the box, and at a convenient height so as to avoid the necessity for stooping. The player will have a club in his other hand, so that it should not be necessary to raise a lid.

Whilst a player is making a tee his opponent or a caddie will probably be engaged in cleaning a ball, for which purpose water, a brush, and a towel will be used if the green committee has provided them. The water should therefore be so placed that anyone using it will not get in the way of a player wanting sand, and so that the cleaning of balls can go on without disturbance to a player in the act of making a stroke. Anyone using water, the brush, or the towel should be led to keep the box between himself and the player who is making a shot. If the box is a barrier between them the movements of the person cleaning a ball are not likely to distract the player's attention.

A great many tee-boxes are provided with lids which must be raised to get at the sand or water. Some protection from the sun, wind, and rain is necessary if the sand in the box is to be kept at an approximately even

state of dampness. But it should not be necessary for players to lift lids. If that is required it so frequently happens that they are left open; and it is a nuisance which can be avoided.

The boxes should be arranged so that both the sand and water can be removed without turning the box upside down. If water is held in a movable container made of galvanized iron, the tee-box will last much longer without repair and the container can be cleaned and filled with ease. If the container is not removable, then the dirt collecting from the continual washing of balls is seldom removed, and players must accustom themselves to having dirty water, dirty towels, and dirty hands.

### *Shape*

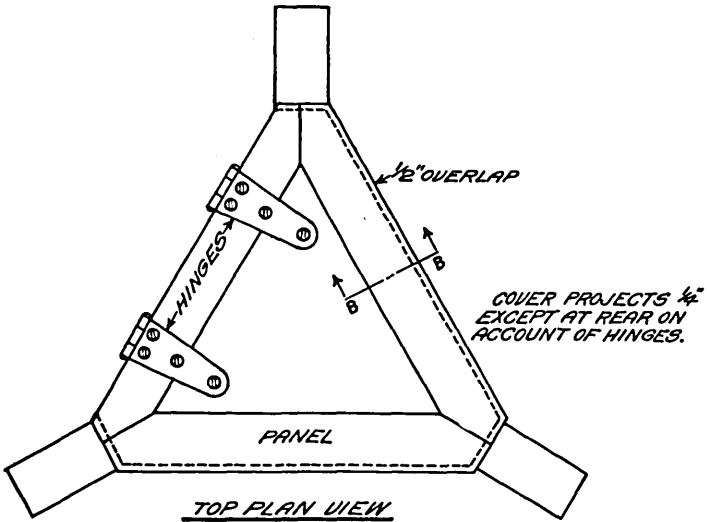
Most tee boxes are rectangular, and placed so that the longest side of the rectangle is parallel to the line of play. It would not be easy to make a



tee-box a thing of beauty which would be "a joy forever"; but most are far more abominable than need be.

If a teeing-ground is rectangular in shape, and the lines of it are slightly diagonal to the line of play, many a golfer will complain that he can not drive straight because "the tee is crooked." Undoubtedly straight lines which catch a player's eye in addressing do affect his ability to hit away from them. I believe that a rectangular tee-box which is set somewhat diagonally to the line towards the hole, will affect a player in just the same way that he is affected by what is called a "crooked" tee. If a ball is teed near a rectangular sand-box the player may be affected by the angle at which the box is set, but is probably quite unconscious of it. I do not wish to exaggerate the importance of this, but think it a sufficient reason for avoiding rectangular boxes if it can be done without greater ugliness or expense.

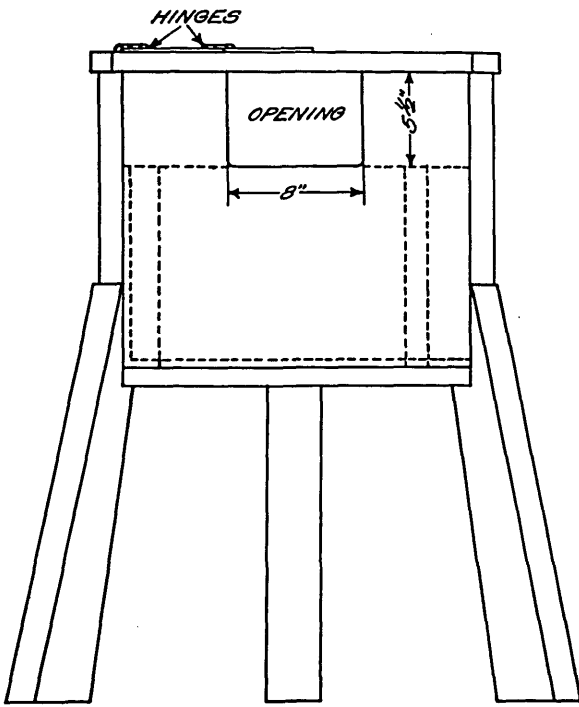
The shape of the box to a large extent decides the method of placing



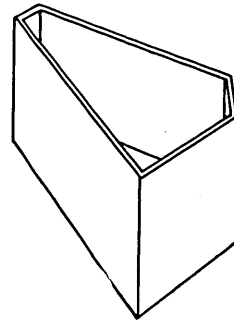
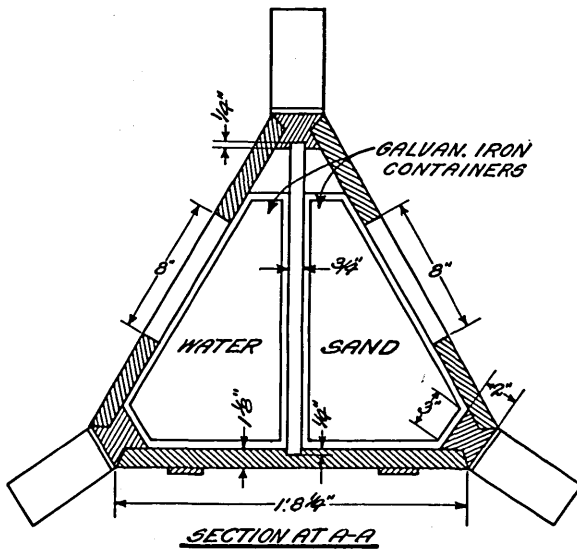
TOP PLAN VIEW



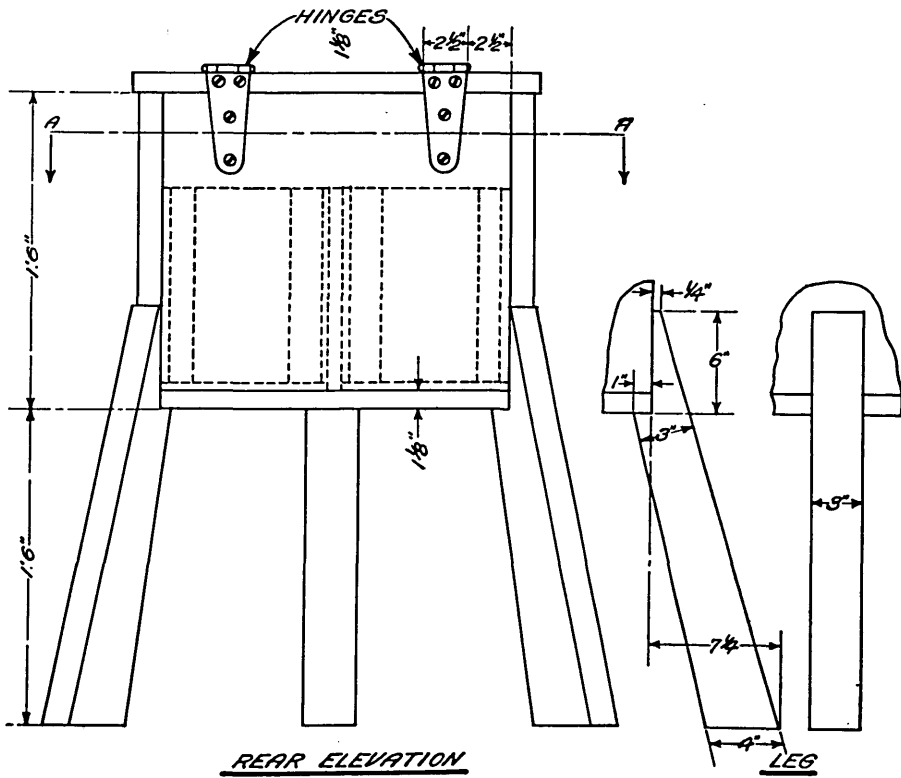
SECTION OF COVER AT B-B



2 SIDE ELEVATIONS SIMILAR



PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF ONE OF THE CONTAINERS



REAR ELEVATION

LEG

it at the tee. If the box is rectangular most people will attempt to place it with the larger sides paralleling the line of play. This means that care must be taken every time the box is moved. If it is round or triangular not nearly the same care need be exercised. A rectangular box nearly always has four legs, whereas a round or triangular design can be made with only three. It is much easier to get a three-legged box settled firmly on the



ground; and stabilizing is essential unless the boxes are made of great weight.

The boxes should be easy to move, otherwise greenkeepers will neglect to change them every time the tee-markers are moved. If they are stationary or fixed into the ground, as on a great many courses, not only do golfers have to walk out of their way to get sand, etc., but the ground around the boxes becomes worn and untidy.

The illustration on page 250 shows a triangular tee-box placed as recommended—that is, just beyond the tee-marker (the white ball) which is in front of a right-handed player when on the tee. If you will imagine yourself on the tee, you will see that the opening in the right-hand side of the box contains sand, convenient to your right hand. You will see that the left-hand opening contains water, that there is a brush attached to the box

just below the opening, and that the person standing there is using a towel, also attached to the box. The man is in such a position that he does not interfere if you want sand, and he is in a correct position to avoid interfering with you when you are driving. Note that whilst the box has a lid, players do not need to open it. Note that the box has tripod legs and is easily moved so as always to be kept in correct relation to the white ball used as a tee-marker. Note the figure showing the length of the hole, painted on the box in such a position as to be seen when you stand on the tee or approach the box. Note the convenient height of openings, brush, and towel.

From the illustration on page 247 it will be seen that the tee-box has no lines which the player might consider parallel to the line of play. If the box were somewhat twisted out of position there would still be no lines to confuse the player.

On pages 248 and 249 are drawings containing detailed plans for the construction of such a tee-box.

#### *Color*

Most boxes are painted white. There is no necessity for this, and it has the disadvantage of making ugly things more obvious. It shows up more plainly the scratches, pencil writings, and carvings of caddies. To my mind, tee-boxes should be painted a color which suits their surroundings, and for the average course an olive-green is perhaps most suitable; it looks well whether the paint is fresh or faded.

### **A Labor-Saving Device for Screening Top-Dressings**

E. J. MARSHALL

It seems to be the consensus of opinion of the best qualified green-keepers that nothing is so beneficial to greens as frequent top-dressings. Everyone top-dresses spring and fall and many top-dress once a month or more frequently during the season, the amount and kind of material to be used depending upon conditions. In no other way can greens be kept true. Rolling will never do it any more than rolling can compress Pikes Peak to the level of the Great Plains. It has been proved that frequent top-dressings are beneficial in the restraint of brown-patch and that a heavy weeding should always be followed by a dressing. It is desirable also to top-dress tees and approaches and the spots on fairways where the wear and tear is heaviest.

To prepare and screen material for all this work is next to an impossibility and is entirely too expensive to be practical if it must be done by the old-fashioned method of working the material through screens by hand. There are on the market a number of small motor-operated riddles commonly used in foundries by means of which the screening can be done quickly and at a minimum cost. The illustration shows a gyratory type which is operated by a half-horsepower

