PAST YEARS' STUDY IS HELPING UPKEEP NOW

By WILL SMITH
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★ AFTER I HAD served four years apprenticeship under one of the greatest greenkeepers who ever trod a golf course, Peter W. Sees, I thought I knew all there was to know about golf course construction and maintenance. But after 30 years at this game, 25 of which have been spent at Red Run, I know there's been something new to learn almost every day.

There have been many changes in these years. Up into the early twenties greenkeeping was a secretive business and a greenkeeper kept his methods very much to himself, having learned most of them the hard way by trial and error—with plenty of error.

Prior to 1920 we did not hear much from the USGA Green Section and very little from the state agricultural colleges. It was about this time that Dr. Charles Piper was speaking and visiting in the Detroit District Golf assn. meetings and in other sections of the country. He was talking facts that had been positively proved by years of field and laboratory experiments. Then John Monteith and Kenneth Welton carried on the good work and gave us in black and white the results of years of expert study and experiments in control of scourges which threatened to all but destroy many of our courses.

We learned much from their work and their lectures and demonstrations on brown patch, snow mold, weed control, insect control and the isolation and propagation of bent strains, breeding the better strains of seed grasses, improved fertilizing methods, soil analysis and other factors of course maintenance.

At that point the state agricultural colleges began helping us greatly with their wonderful research and their practical applications of methods of turf work best suited to different sections of the country.

The schools did a tremendous job for golf and greenkeeping in bringing together the greenkeepers of various sections for the exchange of ideas that brought out the facts and developed a scientific manner of looking at the greenkeeper's problems. The colleges brought to our help facilities which gave sound scientific research to our problems and followed up points brought out in our discussions. There is no doubt of the solutions we have reached as the result of the greenkeeper-agricultural college team work having been of prime value in keeping golf courses on the map during the critical years of war.

While greenkeeping isn't officially regarded as an essential occupation, recreation is considered vital. Many a business executive would have cracked up long ago had he not been able to get on a golf course and relax. I bring this point out because I have seen it so often shown by the executives in Detroit territory who have done such a magnificent job in wartime management and production under unbelievably heavy pressure. The course superintendent who helps these men to bounce back from the load they're under is doing a valuable job. I also mention this phase of greenkeeping's service to show the

ROUGH BECOMES PATHWAY TO THE PANTRY

This Victory garden at Northmoor CC (Chicago dist.) where Supt. Frank Dinelli reclaimed wild shot territory for members and club use is typical of thousands of golf club vegetable gardens being farmed on an even larger scale than 1943's surprisingly extensive operations.
necessity of carrying on our research work
and giving the state colleges all possible
support in order that the standards which
have been built up by so much hard work
and grief won't be lowered.

There are many things that make the
going tough in golf course maintenance
now. There is the inability to replace
mowing equipment, the practically com-
plete lack of competent greensmen, and
the carelessness of caddies due to the diffi-
culty of obtaining adequate caddie train-
ing and supervision. There also is the
failure of some of the golfing public to
realize what wartime handicaps there are
in wartime maintenance. This, of course,
means that they are responsible for un-
necessary work on the course and work
that simply cannot be handled with the
limited manpower, equipment and ma-
terials available.

One of the urgent jobs for many club
presidents and green chairmen is that
of some straight-from-the-shoulder  talking
to members about the vast amount of work
and resourcefulness it takes to keep our
courses up to even a fairly decent stand-
ard these days. A lot of this has to be
done to the golfing public.

I sincerely hope that before long many
of our difficulties will be ironed out, other-
wise many a green chairman is going to
get fed up with adding a thankless job
to his regular wartime work and many a
greenkeeper will go looking for a five-and-
a-half day a week job.

It will have to be more forcibly brought
to the attention of golfers that a phenome-
nal job is being done in keeping courses
in reasonably good condition these days
and that this work requires the coopera-
tion and should have the enthusiastic com-
mandment of the golfers.

As we greenkeepers consider our many
problems we are well aware that if it
hadn't been for the short courses' help in
getting the facts established and reduc-
ing the guesswork in maintenance we
probably would not have nearly as much
wartime golf as we now have. The aver-
gage golfer doesn't realize that as he enjoys
the relief he manages to get on the course
these days. So all parts of the story
should be impressed on him now. If this
chance is missed golf maintenance will be-
come an even tougher job during the war
and courses to which we are praying mil-
lions of our men will return may be in
sorry and disappointing condition for the
boys when they do come back.

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Wartime Rules Recommended
to Chicago Golfers

CHICAGO DISTRICT GA recommendations
for 1944 are contained on a
lightweight paper slip suitable for enclos-
ing with bills to members of clubs belong-
ing to the association. The CDGA says
"adoption of these rules is primarily to
add more mileage to the present critical
supply of golf balls and the conservation
of manpower in course maintenance. Club
employees should be alerted to turn in
all balls found."

The CDGA rules and the "Do's and
Don'ts" printed on one side of the slip
are:

DO'S

Replace all divots.

Tee off between markers.

Repair ball hole injury resulting from
pitch shots with a tee before leaving
green.

Use tee peg on short holes.

Use a coin to mark your ball spot on
greens—not a tee or sharp object.

Signal the next match to come through
while looking for lost ball.

Smooth footprints in all sand traps and
don't scramble out through the face
of trap.

DON'TS

Don't toss flag on green.

Don't toss burning cigars or cigarettes
on greens or tees.

Don't practice on regular tees or to
regular greens.

Don't toss refuse, pop bottles or waste
paper on course.

Don't allow caddies or players to drop
bags on greens.

Don't kink hose—turn off sprinkler.

Don't leave caddie carts on course. They
make a wicked hazard for night man.

Don't tramp around the putting green
cups.

Don't drag or twist those spikes on the
greens.

Don't practice pitching from fairways.

Greens—⅛ inch.

Tees—No recommendations given be-
cause of different varieties of grasses used
in District.

Fairways—1½ inches.

Rough—2 inches.

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