PAST YEARS' STUDY IS HELPING
UPKEEP NOW

By WILL SMITH
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★ AFTER I HAD served four years ap-
prenticeship 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 construc-
tion and maintenance. But after 30 years
at this game, 25 of which have been spent
at Red Run, I know there's been some-
thing new to learn almost every day.

There have been many changes in these
years. Up into the early twenties green-
keeping 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 col-
leges. It was about this time that Dr.
Charles Piper was speaking and visit-
ing in the Detroit District Golf assn.
meetings and in other sections of the coun-
try. 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 de-
stroy 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 col-
leges began helping us greatly with their
wonderful research and their practical ap-
lications 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 to-
gether the greenkeepers of various sec-
tions for the exchange of ideas that
brought out the facts and developed a
scientific manner of looking at the green-
keeper'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 keep-
ing golf courses on the map during the
critical years of war.

While greenkeeping isn't officially re-
garded as an essential occupation, recrea-
tion 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 unbe-
lievably heavy pressure. The course super-
intendent 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.