Small Town Chairman Does Big League Job

Casey Williams is green-chm., Indianola (la.) G&CC. What's been done with that course to bring it along to good playing condition with only a modest budget to operate with, will give many readers of GOLFDOM a tip of what's ahead in improvement of turf of the smaller town courses.

Indianola's course is one that in some respects stacks up very well alongside metropolitan courses. They can't do the job completely on their budget but what they have done reflects the great contribution metropolitan district expert greenkeepers and turf research men have done in raising the standard of golf playing conditions all over the country.

Williams' letter gives you a close-up. He wrote GOLFDOM:

"In case no one has written to say they have tried spotting dandelions and pepper grass on bent greens with 2, 4-D, here is our experience:

During 3 years that I have been green chairman we have continually improved our bent turf. We had almost none to start with. Now we have quite a bit. Our budget does not allow a real greenskeeper. Just a man who can and will do the mowing, topdressing and other jobs. Those things are greenkeeping if they are done according to experience and knowledge. Our man was new and none of us members knew any more.

"Now, after reading GOLFDOM, Experiment Station reports, Association reports, and asking a lot of questions of Dr. Noer, Harvey Lantz, professional greenkeepers, and attending meetings and a short course at Ames, I believe that in another 10 years I will qualify as a good green chairman.

"I tried Ammate on the greens 2 years ago. Applied dry to the weeds' crown in the fall the kill was beautiful. In the spring the spots were still too acid and it took lime in a dust gun to get them going again.

"That same fall our number 8 green was taken over by crabgrass. It appeared to have killed out all the bent and I followed a suggestion of Noer by dumping on 10 pounds of Milarsenite per 1000 square feet. This did a fair job, I took the same point of view as the little boy with the apples and did it again. This was 10 days after the first and was applied when the dew was on.

"Later the same day I had 5 pounds of hydrated lime per 1000 sq. ft. put on top. The next day it was dragged with a mat. Soon most all the grass of any kind was gone. I told the boys that the crabgrass and brown patch had played hell, and kept my fingers crossed.

"The next spring it was treated with the same fertilizers as the others. AND WHAT A BEAUTIFUL STAND OF BENT! I let the boys in on it then.

"Then we went back to cussing dandelions and writing Ames, Milwaukee, and Beltsville about 2, 4-D. I was tempted to try it on all the greens, but all told me not to do it.

"This year I decided some way would work so Weedone mixed to manufacturer's specifications has been put on individual plants on all greens with an oil can. About the time we started the weather cooled off and I feared that time and money had been wasted. They were not wasted. The effect was longer in taking but it has taken.

"The first application was made just after mowing. A week earlier the mower had been off 3 days and the weeds were big. As the kill began to show, new seedlings appeared from seed, and now there is application to each plant that is showing after Monday mowings.

"On some greens we have pepper grass that had become 2 to 4 inches in diameter. As fast as these begin to curl they, along with the larger dandelions, are cut with a knife and lifted. None have come back and the grass moves in that much quicker.

"I may have to tell the boys that the crabgrass and brown patch are at us again before long. I plan to give Paul Burdett's Lawn Sinox a whirl when the crabgrass germinates. I'll either be the Crown Prince or the other extreme. Paul and I think I'll be the Prince.

"For courses that do not have the equipment and/or the money to put 2, 4-D on their fairways, our system will help: put in shoulder tank spray and spray the fairways around each green about 60 to 80 feet out. This will keep some seed off the greens and save playing time by eliminating hunting 'too short,' approaches."

D'YA DRAW FLIES?—Chandler Chemical Corp., New York, has a new insect repellent called d-Ter, based on Repellent 448 which was developed by the Naval Medical Research institute for use in the tropics. The material is colorless, stainless and relatively odorless. It repels insects for as long as 36 hours in temperate climates. Chandler says it's great for golfing with comfort where mosquitoes and flies usually interfere with the pleasure of golf.