



These views show construction and operation of the Haines Tree Root Pruner. 1. Pruner attachment on hydraulic lift of Ford tractor. 2. Close-up of Tree Root Pruner knife made from an old plow share bolted to beam. 3. Cutting tree roots along edge of green with the Haines Pruner. 4. After cutting roots, slit made by pruner is pressed down and closed with rear tire of tractor. Note three lines of tire marks; one on green, a double mark on slit and one in the trap. 5. Using the Tree Root Pruner along edge of fairway to cut tree roots that ordinarily rob the turf of moisture and plant food.

Denver Greenkeeper Designs Tree Root Pruner

By O. J. NOER

The Denver Country Club as is true of a great many other golf clubs throughout the country is blessed with a great number of cottonwood and elm trees that surround greens and tees and are found in abundance in some of the rough adjoining the fairways. As beautiful as these trees may be and as necessary as they are in adding the proper symmetry to a well planned golf course both types of trees have many surface feeder roots which extend out into turf areas—far beyond the tips of the branches—which tend to rob the soil of moisture and plant food; surfaces become hard, grass turns brown

and thins out despite adequate watering.

The greenkeeper confronted with the problem of maintaining the best turf possible under such conditions has but one alternative at his disposal and that is the periodical cutting of these surface feeder roots. The established method used by many to counteract the robbing of surface soil by feeder roots is trenching. This involves considerable manpower as well as time.

Jim Haines, Denver greenkeeper, faced with treating not one but several turf areas that were showing the damaging effects of surface feeder roots from nearby trees and at the same time was handicapped by a lack of sufficient manpower and the necessary time to do an adequate job of trenching has designed and made an ingenious device called the

Haines Tree Root Pruner. Jim with his homemade pruner can now cut feeder roots to a depth of 16 inches and do it in the time it takes his tractor to travel along the border of any given turf area needing treatment.

The Haines Tree Root Pruner consists primarily of a cutting knife fastened to a beam which in turn is attached to the hydraulic lift of his tractor. The cutting knife is a plowshare of an old, discarded walking-type plow. It is fastened to part of the plow beam (taken from the same plow) with bolts and the beam is attached to the hydraulic lift of a Ford-Ferguson tractor. A sulky cultivator seat is mounted on the beam so a workman can ride above the cutting knife.

Traction according to Haines is important for successful operation. The best traction is obtained with the pull transmitted through the hydraulic lift to the tractor wheels. In order to cut to a full depth of 16 to 18 inches the soil must be damp or moist. After the cut has been made the rear tractor wheel is used to close the slit otherwise grass along the edge wilts and turns brown. To make doubly sure there is little or no scar left after the cutting operation Haines drives his tractor wheel over the slit twice.

A machine of this kind simplifies turf maintenance procedure along the edges of wooded fairways where feeder roots have noticeably affected turf and soil conditions by being able to prune tree roots without damage to playing surface.

A precautionary measure to be taken at all times to avoid damage to tile or pipe is the speed at which tractor is operated. Haines operates his tractor in second gear because he is the only man on the course who knows the location of all water pipes and tile.

CLUB MANAGERS ORGANIZE LONE STAR CHAPTER

Founded on June 7th at the River Crest CC, Ft. Worth at the inaugural meeting of 18 Texas Club Managers, the Lone Star Chapter of the Club Managers Assn. of America was presented with its charter on July 19th at the Houston CC, Houston by national pres., John J. Pomeroy, Red Run GC, Royal Oak, Mich., and national sec'y-treas., Fred Bernet, St. Louis, Mo.

Plans are already under way to have all eligible club managers throughout the state become affiliated with the new chapter and the national organization.

The following officers and directors were elected:

Page Curren, Pres., River Crest CC, Ft. Worth; E. L. Olsen, 1st VP, Houston Club, Houston; Sam Peters, 2nd VP, Abilene CC, Abilene; L. E. Harris, Sec'y-Treas., Colonial CC, Ft. Worth.

It's On The House

By TOM REAM

Mgr., Westmoreland CC

What is of more value to a club than that intangible asset—goodwill?

The only men who really know the club business are those who never stop trying to learn it.

The vacuum cleaner is the most effective weapon for prevention of vermin.

Preach and practice the gospel of good fellowship.

Put some hot stuff through your peeler drain occasionally. The accumulation is starch principally, and hot and cold water only congeal it.

The brand must live up to its reputation.

A certain amount of interference can be absorbed—beyond that, the whole place suffers and your statement shows poorly. On the other hand, if you have free sway, make sure you justify your responsibility.

Go to any part of your club and visualize a fire there. Would you be able to reach the alarm and extinguisher apparatus easily? The suggestion is to do this before the fire—you'll find out soon enough after it.

The club employee who knows his business never has to explain that fact.

To succeed in the business of club hospitality, one must be service-minded.

The name the club is given doesn't matter much. What counts is building up a good name for it.

O'Grady Dies

Bernard E. (Barney) O'Grady, mgr., Audubon CC, Louisville, Ky., died at Norton Memorial infirmary, Louisville, July 20 after a month's illness. O'Grady was one of the best known club managers and a man of great ability and warm friendship. He is survived by his widow, his mother and sister. O'Grady was pres., CMAA in 1933. His long service in the club management field included management of the Hamilton club in Chicago, Olympia Fields CC and Skycrest CC, prior to the Audubon job. During the war he was a captain in the Marine Corps, serving in the South Pacific. His strenuous service in the war was a factor accountable for his untimely demise.