The water supply for the Park Ridge course is obtained from the city of Park Ridge which in turn gets it from Chicago. Peak demands sometime result in curtailed use for the course. Installation of complete facilities for watering tees, fairways and greens has helped prevent any serious damage during a period of limited supply.

At the turn of the century Park Ridge was hardly more than a whistle stop on the outskirts of Chicago and the land which now comprises the Park Ridge Country Club could not be considered as a good cow pasture. An energetic group of young men however were not to be denied the opportunity of enjoying the wholesome recreation of a game that was fast becoming popular in other nearby suburban communities and in 1906 organized the Park Ridge Country Club.

Today a large number who were members when the course first opened are still playing. Whether or not the zest for the game the original nucleus had accounts for the playing activity of the membership today, more than 90 per cent by actual count play golf regularly and at least 50 per cent of the members' wives play. It's the kind of membership that lends itself readily to the support of any program of course improvement and especially a long term program of permanent improvement.

The inroads of war made their mark at Park Ridge as in other clubs but an able Greens committee realizing the need for immediate attention to the problem of adequate course maintenance did not wait for the war to end to start a comprehensive improvement program. Steps were taken to set up a long range plan that would ultimately bring the course up to the standard desired and do it within the limitations of a wartime budget. Accordingly the Greens committee prepared an analysis of the grounds and greens problem and presented it to the membership in November 1944. This was not a casual analysis made from a few pencilled notes nor was it presented orally or haphazardly to an interested few. The committee had made a serious study of the club's needs and felt that every member should give the same serious consideration to the problem at hand, consequently the analysis and recommendations were put into printed form and placed in the hands of each member.

Briefly, the analysis was broken down into three sections: (1) The Standard Greens Program—presented so that any Greens chairman in future years might have a guide of minimum requirements necessary for the proper maintenance of the Park Ridge course; (2) The Rehabilitation Greens Program—to show the immediate problem of putting the course back in top playing condition; and (3) The Equipment Greens Program—a listing of needed equipment to be purchased as soon as funds and wartime conditions permitted.

How effective this presentation was is attested to by the results that have been obtained over a five year period—a five-
year program realized under the guidance of three different Greens chairmen but all members of the committee for a period of several years. F. Ray Bowen who was made president of the club after several years as chairman is credited with launching the long range program under which the Park Ridge course is maintained today. He was followed by George Semple who served two years as chairman after a long term on the committee. Today, George is president of the club and Leslie P. Aggerbeck is guiding the program as chairman of the committee.

Fred Grau, Director of the USGA Green Section recently made the statement that one of the worst practices in golf club management today was that of changing the Greens chairman every year. The long term membership on the Greens committee as practiced by the Park Ridge Club overcomes the fault Grau refers to and results in a more effective operation.

The rehabilitation program mentioned above was of prime concern in 1944 and the committee made a start in carrying out the recommendations outlined in the analysis presented to the members. First step was the resurfacing and reshaping of seven greens followed by reconditioning all sand traps — 93 altogether. Actually renovation of the sand traps had been started before the plan had been put into effect but transportation difficulties stalled the program. In 1945, 15 carloads of sand were purchased and about half of the work contemplated was completed.

Graham Johnson, well known greenkeeper, who had guided the maintenance operation at Park Ridge for many years passed away just as the major course improvement program was getting under way and further work was halted until the club was able to get whom they considered the right man. Club officials will tell you they have been fortunate in their selection of Bertram Rost, a comparative newcomer to the greenkeeping profession who got most of his training with Globe Machinery and Equipment Co. in Des Moines.

Soon after Bert came to Park Ridge the work program continued. Another 15 carloads of trap sand were purchased in 1946 to complete the job of rehabilitating the sand traps.

A weed eradication program, one of the first, due to the fact the course was used as a test plot for experimental work when 2, 4-D first came on the market, has been successful to the point where today the course is free of weeds.

Standard fairway maintenance follows the pattern laid down in the original program. Work starts in spring with fairways and roughs, followed with fertilization pro-
| Equipment | Present | Acquired | Make | Model | Date | Expected Life (yr) | Cost
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Tractor-Toro-Short Coupled-Bullet</td>
<td>Fairways</td>
<td>Fairways</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1000</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Mower-Toro-7 Gang</td>
<td>Fairways</td>
<td>Fairways</td>
<td>1933</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tractor-Roseman-Dum-1925 Model</td>
<td>Tractor-Roseman-Jumpout-Dual tires</td>
<td>Rough</td>
<td>Rough</td>
<td>1925</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mower-Roseman-5-Blade-1925 Model</td>
<td>Mower-Roseman-5 Gang-4 Blades</td>
<td>Rough</td>
<td>Rough</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sycamore - Jarl - Power</td>
<td>Trees</td>
<td>Greens-Arrows</td>
<td>Greens-Arrows</td>
<td>1925</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mower-Locks - Power - 1937 Model</td>
<td>Mower-Toro-Professional</td>
<td>(Obsoleted - Held as Insurance)</td>
<td>Greens-Arrows</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Original inventory sheet showed equipment on hand, additional equipment needed for complete mechanization, date of purchase, age, life expectancy, estimated date of replacement, original cost, replacement cost and yearly amount to be budgeted for purchase at time of need—a valuable record of information and guide in budgetary planning.

Program in April, milorganite in July and mixture of fertilizer and organic in fall. The Aerifer is used in spring and fall along with this program.

Completion of the early rehabilitation program and carrying on the maintenance program led to the third step in the long range program, namely the setting up of a maintenance equipment inventory program. Bert and members of the committee prepared a table showing equipment on hand, date of purchase, age, life expectancy, depreciation, and date of replacement. A check of the inventory sheet could tell at a glance dates when replacement would have to be made. Using the table as a guide reserves to make equipment purchases could be planned over a period of years without disrupting a stable operating budget—an important item in any club operation. Equipment purchased since inventory was set up includes a Roto-tiller and an Aerifer.

The establishment of a tree nursery started in 1947. Approximately 160 trees were set out in the first planting to be used later in a program of replacement and improvement. Twenty-five new trees are to be added each year. It is anticipated that at the end of five years the nursery will be self sufficient, providing a constant source of trees for replacement use.

Snap valve sprinklers have been installed in the middle of each tee, pathways of heaviest traffic have been paved, some secondary bunkers raised and evergreens planted, traps reshaped, etc. in the continuing program of improvement.

The Greens committee of the Park Ridge
Country Club or any country club initiating a plan of permanent improvement and creating a program of work to follow in carrying out that plan makes a lasting contribution but doing the actual work, getting the job done, falls to the lot of another group, the greenkeeper and his ground crew. Too often these men are only a means to an end. It is therefore not surprising to learn that a committee that has been so thorough in its planning of a course improvement program would also be as concerned about the welfare of the men who are doing the work for them. The basic crew at Park Ridge consists of five men employed on a year round basis with three to five extra men being employed during the peak summer months. The conditions under which they work are best told in the following letter written by George Semple at the time he was chairman of the committee to the club president:

Dear Mr. Heckel:

Our permanent grounds crew consists of six men including the Greens Superintendent, Bert Rost, also our Mechanic Joe Wojciechowski. Other members and their duties are as follows:

Bill Guelzow, Tractors; Ed Schief, Trimmer; Paul Bloetner, Gardener; Ted Ody, Greens Mower and Night Sprinkler.

We wish to deal in this proposal with the importance of the crew other than the Superintendent and Mechanic. These men represent long years of service, Bill Guelzow having worked with us on our golf course for twenty years, Ed Schief seventeen years, Paul Bloetner thirteen years and Ted Ody one year minus. Over such long years of service these men have developed into duties of a highly specialized nature and this fact together with the long, loyal years of service plus economical advantages to our club, prompts me as Chairman of the Greens Committee to propose the following:

1. That we establish a vacation with pay for these old employees of one week. Time to be extended during the winter months and exact dates left to the discretion of the Greens Superintendent.  
2. It is also proposed that we establish one week sick leave and the time not consumed at such be applied to the vacation period during the following year.

Insofar as our present crew is concerned the above applies this year to only three men as Ody has not completed his first year service.

I would very much appreciate your giving the above matter such consideration as you deem advisable and notify.

Yours very truly, Geo. E. Semple

Members of the Park Ridge committee and Bert and his men take pride in what has been accomplished in a comparatively short time. It is an economical operation that gets maximum results from a comprehensive maintenance program that avoids a hit or miss policy with no goal.

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Parker "Springfield" fairway sweeper

A maintenance "must"—adds weeks to fall play and income. Economically collects and bails leaves, twigs, trash, etc. Promotes healthier, more abundant turf growth. Controls spread of dandelion, buckhorn, and other obnoxious weeds. Useful every month of the year. Write for details.

The Parker GREENS-GROOM

This triple-purpose unit affords efficient, quick means for giving putting greens a better appearance and playing surface with a minimum of time and labor.

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