

Off the Georgia Coast

By HUGH C. MOORE, Greenkeeper
St. Simon's Island Golf Club, Georgia

MY course is on St. Simon's Island, Georgia. It is very beautiful and in time will be a wonderful course. I think it is the last one that Walter J. Travis laid out, and I must say his last work was his best.

We have some very fine oak trees all along the fairways, and one of the loveliest bridle paths of oaks in the country running down beside the golf course. One nine is cut through woods, and the other is on the water front. There are many water holes.

Greenkeeper Should Help Construct Course

I wish that every greenkeeper could be on the job when the work first starts. I am sure that he could save many dollars for his employer, and a greenkeeper should pick out his own equipment, as a practical man knows which is best.

Controlling Ants and Moles

I have plenty of ants and moles here. I did not think there could be so many. For the ants I am using carbon disulphate, applying with funnels and skewer. I get at the ants early in the morning, before they come out of the holes, as I think that is the best time to kill them. It is a little slow work, but I get good results.

For the moles I am trapping them, also using Mo-lo. Moles are very smart and hard to trap, but I get good results from Mo-lo.

Planting New Course

I am planting Bermuda and Poa Bulbosa on the greens. I keep them well cut and top dressed, also use

plenty of water. On bunkers I am putting in Bermuda stolons. I am also giving them a light top dressing with woods mold, using plenty of water and you can bet they will take hold at once if this method is followed.

A very good way to put in stolons is to use a spade. Take up a spade of soil about one and one half inches deep on a slant, put your stolons in so that the roots are in the middle with the runners extending out from both sides. Keep it in straight rows and very close together, and keep the new planting watered well.

After they get a start, roll them well, and then give them a light top dressing. Then watch them grow. Be sure not to wash them out by watering in one place too long. Water by hand, and keep your sprinkler moving at all times. You can also put in greens the same way. I have one put in now just as I have explained and it is coming beautifully. Do not seed your bunkers and any places that are down hill, as they will all wash to the bottom. That is, as I find it. I believe that the best way to use fertilizer is to put it in your top dressing. I get better results in this way.

Labor and Equipment Problems

Good men are always needed to work on greens and tees. Men that can be trusted. I find that married men are the best. They pay attention to what you are telling them, more so than the single men. Pay them well, then you can expect good service. Keeping equipment in out of bad weather when not in use, all bolts tightened up and all lost bolts replaced means much longer and more

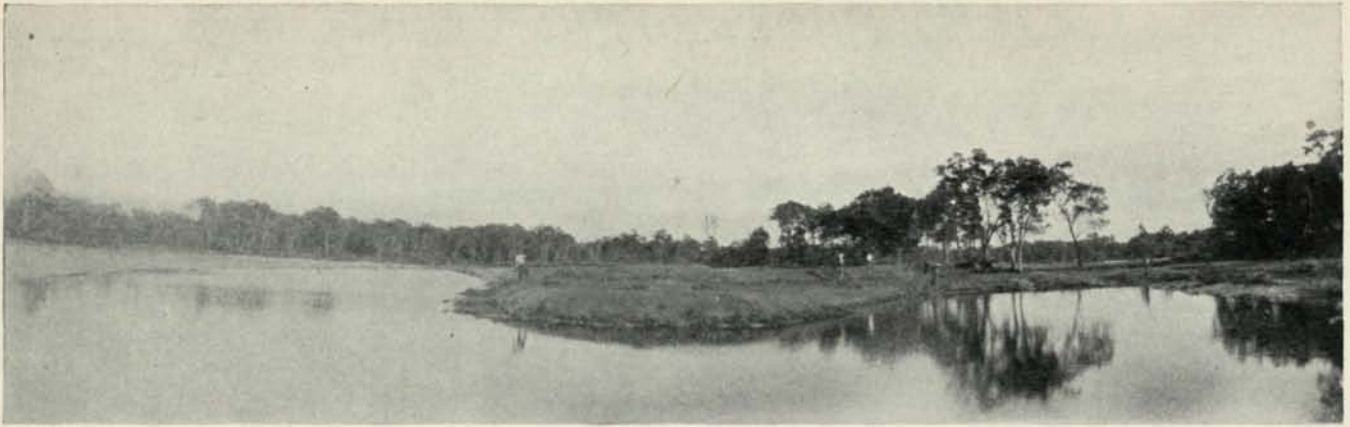
WALTER J. TRAVIS



One of the last pictures ever taken of this "grand old man" of golf course architecture, looking over the lay-out of the St. Simon's Island course, near Brunswick, Georgia



Numbers four and six fairways, along the lake on the St. Simon's Island course



Number five hole on the new St. Simon's Island course. This is a one-shotter, 185 yards across the water to the green shown in the foreground

satisfactory service. I have seen greenkeepers use wire instead of bolts for quick repair. That's a "down at the heel" farmer's repair job.

Shake Hands with John Morley at Detroit

If any of my brother greenkeepers have any dope on ants and moles I would be glad to hear from them.

I think that our association is a life-saver for the greenkeeper, and I feel that it is doing a world of good.

I know that the money each member is spending for his dues, sick and death benefits, could not be spent for a better cause. I shall always be a member whether I am a greenkeeper or not. Down here in Georgia it is some long trail to Detroit, but I'm going to attend the annual convention where I will have my first opportunity to get acquainted with our members, and I want to shake hands with John Morley. He must be worth knowing.

Houses the Martins Call Home

APARTMENTS de luxe for our little feathered friends, the martins, are a specialty with Fred A. Burkhardt, greenkeeper at Westwood Country Club, Cleveland.

Every winter he builds some of these houses, and he knows how to build the kind of house that the most discriminating martin is proud to call "home."

"One of the most important jobs is spring house cleaning," says Mr. Burkhardt. "You can't keep the sparrows out after the martins migrate south, and a martin will

not use a house left just as the sparrows vacated it. I always thoroughly clean and disinfect my martin houses along in February every year, then cover them closely to prevent the sparrows re-entering."

Sparrows will take possession of martin houses earlier than the martins arrive on the scene here in this climate, Mr. Burkhardt explains. By covering the houses tightly with burlap as soon as they are cleaned, the sparrows will be kept out. Then as soon as the first martins appear in the spring is time enough to take the covers off.

Martins seem to know which houses belong to them, and they will fight for possession, while a sparrow takes for granted a "Welcome" sign over every door. Mr. Burkhardt has often remarked that the same families return to his martin houses every spring, and there is an immediate disturbance noted if sparrows have encroached on their domain.

"Martin houses should be divided into rooms six by six or eight inches, and the lower sills of the doors should always be cut one and a half inches above the floor of the room," Mr. Burkhardt advises. "I can't say why this should be so, but I have experimented in many ways with these little birds, and find that they like to jump down into their home, and not walk straight into it."

Three coats of white lead and oil applied to a new bird house will insure its fresh appearance for three seasons.



One of the Burkhardt Martin Houses