Greenkeepers Visit Bunker Hill

By Robert E. Power

Not many greenkeepers own the golf course they take care of, but Walter I. Kennedy of Bunker Hill, near Cleveland, has that distinction.

Mr. Kennedy entertained the Cleveland District Association of Greenkeepers at his picturesque place August 6, and proved himself a magnificent host. The boys must have known what was coming for twenty-five members turned out in the intense heat to visit Bunker Hill, some of them driving sixty miles to get there.

After a gorgeous chicken dinner at noon the big table was cleared and President Fred A. Burkhardt introduced Mr. James A. Smith of London, Ohio as the speaker of the day. Mr. Smith is a soil and turf expert of national reputation and life-long experience, and an enthusiastic member of the National association as greenkeeper of the London Country Club.

Speaking clearly and slowly he traced the history of soil formations, the beginnings of plant life and the reasons why certain soils are better than others for turf growth.

"The time will come when we will build our putting greens in such a way that fine healthy turf will grow naturally and be almost free from disease," said Mr. Smith, "and we will not have to force it by artificial means as we do today.

"We must provide good drainage, and a fertile porous seed bed where the nitrifying bacteria can live and do their work. Then brown-patch will be forgotten."

Following Mr. Smith's splendid talk the secretary, Frank Ermer, read a preliminary draft of the new constitution and by-laws and members made suggestions.

It was voted to hold the next meeting at Pine Ridge on August 27. Also to invite the Detroit and Pittsburgh greenkeepers to visit Cleveland in September, as guests of the local association.

Inspection of the beautiful nine-hole course concluded the day's outing. Readers of the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER remember the troubles Mr. Kennedy had in building this course last year. His story entitled, "Canada Thistles for Putting Greens" appeared in the June number. The course is coming along in good shape and another nine holes will probably be added next year.

Among the unexpected, but welcome guests were Hiram F. Godwin, well-known greenkeeper and bent grass expert of Detroit, Gail T. Abbott head of the Barrett Company office in Cleveland, and Harry H. Bandy, secretary of the Cleveland District Golf Association.

The roll call was as follows:

Fred Burkhardt, Westwood Country Club, Rocky River, Ohio; Frank W. Ermer, Ridgewood Golf Club, Cleveland, Ohio; L. M. Latta, Braeburn Golf Club, Ghent, Ohio; A. Duncan, Rosemont Golf Club, Montrose, Ohio; R. F. Zechman, Ashland Country Club, Ashland, Ohio; J. D. Poole, Berea Country Club, Berea, Ohio; Wright McCallip, London Country Club, London, Ohio; S. M. Aldrich, Madison Golf Lakelands, Madison, Ohio; F. M. Dunlap,
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Gentlemen:
Two years ago I had the pleasure of visiting the Chicago G.C. Club, Wheaton, Ill., and I was deeply impressed with the methods used in getting the soils for top-dressing worked into the turf, by the use of a compost brush.

Having used several devices for working the compost into the turf, which have not given me good results, I tried out the MacGregor brushes, and I feel, owing to the good results which I have received from them, I should acknowledge my appreciation to you for the service that the two brushes which we received from you have given.

Yours truly, (Signed) John Morley, Greenkeeper.
Youngstown Country Club, Youngstown, Ohio

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The Greenkeepers of the Northwest have felt the need of a Local organization and on July 24, 1928, organized the Pacific Northwest Greenkeepers Association. This is indeed a fine thing to do and the members will get many very good things out of it for the little they will have to put in. A local association in every district will keep the greenkeepers in touch with all current subjects and problems and they will benefit by it.

Don't forget, February 13-16, 1929.
Place, Hotel Statler, Buffalo, N. Y.
What's doing—National Convention and Golf Show.

New application blanks will be mailed out shortly. Slight changes in the by-laws make this necessary. Any one who wrote in about application for membership will be taken care of very soon.

Pittsburgh is establishing two Experimental Stations in the Western Pennsylvania District to work in conjunction with the Green Section at Washington. One will be at The Oakmont Country Club where they have a clay soil and one at Allegheny Country Club where shale is the main part of the soil. With Emil Loeffler and John Pressler conducting these plots many interesting and instructive experiments will undoubtedly be tried for the benefit of those interested.

Lewis Evans of Cedarbrook is writing songs since the brown patch hit Philadelphia. His latest musical number is "The Golf Course Blues." The boys in and around Philly have had quite a time with fungus this year and several greens have been practically destroyed with little hopes of recovery.

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