



Albert J. Wilder

It was in this picturesque section of Westchester county that he wrote such famous novels as "The Spy," "The Last of the Mohicans," "The Deer Slayer" and "Leatherstocking Tales."

The Fenimore course was reconstructed by A. W. Tillinghast in 1924 and since then has rapidly gained recognition as a championship course and now ranks among the six finest tests of shot-making in the Metropolitan Dis-

Fenimore

A Championship Course

By ALBERT J. WILDER, *Greenkeeper*

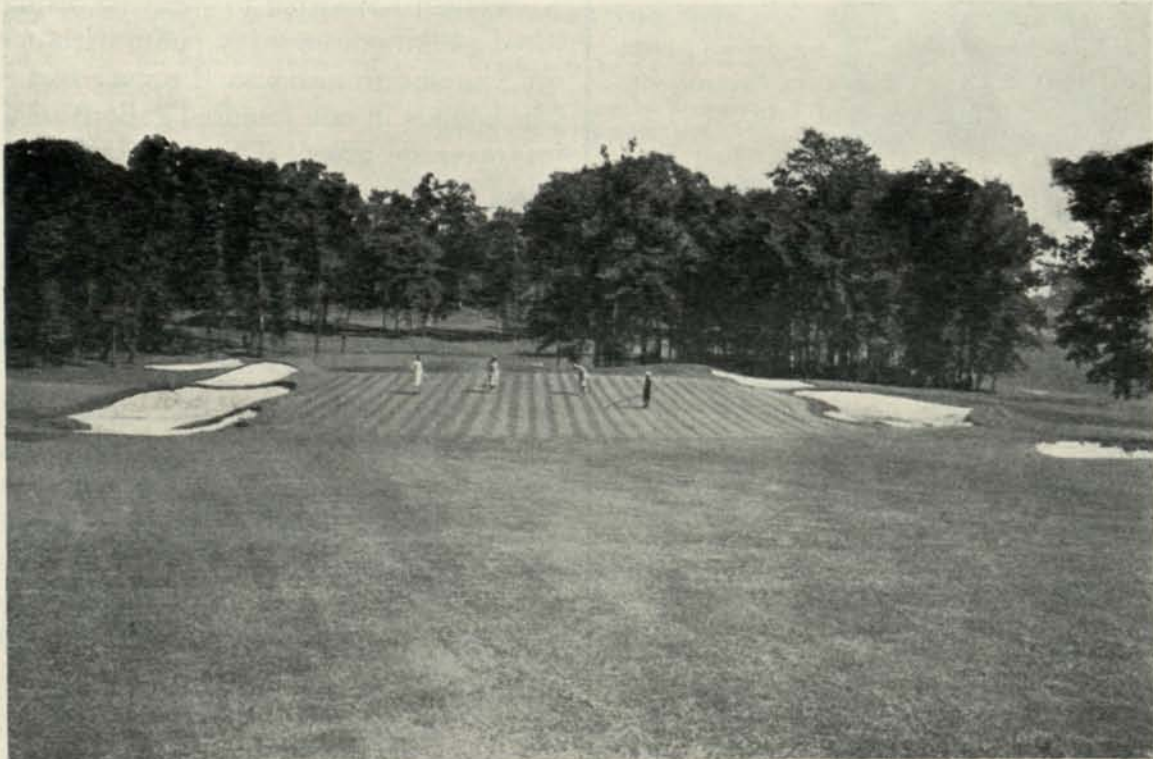
FENIMORE Country Club, 27 holes of golf, is situated 25 miles north of New York city near the old homestead of James Fenimore Cooper, the cele-

brated American novelist. Some of the recent tournaments held here have been the Metropolitan Junior Amateur, Westchester County Open, and Metropolitan Amateur Championship.

The length of the course from the back tees is 6729 yards, par being 72. The longest hole is No. 3 which is 543 yards and requires two well placed wooden shots and an approach shot to reach the green which is well elevated and trapped in the face and on the sides with four large traps. This green measures 14,000 square feet.

From the tee to the fairway is approximately a 175-yard carry with four bunkers ready to catch a drive that is off line. The second shot requires a good brassie or spoon to carry the nest of traps on the right of the fairway and a pull to the left will find the player out of bounds.

One of the most talked of holes in this district is the 300-yard 15th which is a slight dog-



View of 16th green. This is the green that has 80% Velvet Bent

leg to the left and calls for a well placed drive from the tee. Then you have a short pitch to a very small green measuring about 2500 square feet shaped like a figure eight, well trapped on both sides.

Nine Holes for Women

THE nine hole course, used by the women members, measures about 2000 yards, forming an interesting layout for women players and beginners.

Fifteen of the greens on the main course are German Mixed Bent and the balance Washington Strain Creeping Bent. The greens on the ladies' course are all Washington Strain Creeping Bent. I have noticed that during the brown patch season the Washington Strain greens resist the brown patch better than the seeded greens but it would be unfair not to mention my 16th green which is 80 per cent Velvet Bent from seed. This green gives me very little trouble at any time during the year.

When I came here in 1926 I noticed a small

amount of Velvet Bent in this green and during the following season I made an effort to spread this velvet bent throughout the green. Taking plugs from the center of the piece of Velvet Bent and placing them in the center of the German Bent piece and replacing the Velvet with the German, I soon had plugs of Velvet Bent all over the green. The Velvet Bent is very slow in spreading but is positive.

In my experience on golf courses this is the most difficult season for combating fungus diseases. During the latter part of June and the first part of July we had three weeks of constant rain and humid weather followed by occasional rains and steady humidity, making repeated treatments for brown patch necessary.

How I Fought Brown Patch

IPERSONALLY believe that the fungus is in the soil and when the favorable weather conditions for brown patch arrive it will show up regardless of the location of the green. This year I top-dressed about the middle of June using a mecurial compound for a preventive, repeating this application the first of July. It was during this time that we had the constant rains thus reducing the action of the preventive used.

So then I resorted to spraying, using a hundred gallon power spray pump with one pound of Semesan to a thousand square feet or about six pounds in one hundred gallons of water to my average green. This application was used once on the eighteenth greens on the main course and the practice putting green and was followed up again the last week in July by another spraying using four pounds of Semesan in fifty gallons of water to the average green of 6000 square feet.

The first week in August another application was applied using three pounds of Semesan to a 6000 square foot green. This time we mixed nine pounds of Semesan with one-hundred gallons of water and sprayed three greens of approximately 18,000 square feet of putting surface. We used a very fine spray in applying.

To date the brown patch is in check. One of the greens that was attacked the hardest is No. 14 which is the highest point on the course with an elevated green and no trees around.

Was July Hot—Ouch!

Author's Note—After writing my article I read this piece in The New York Sun of August 4 and thought it interesting in connection with the mention of the weather conditions I had made in my article. The unnatural weather conditions and rainfall have been responsible for brown patch. Note the fact that we had only six days of sunshine during the whole month of July.

"July, 1928, was the hottest month New York has had in seven years and the wettest month in six years. The daily average temperature for the month was 75 degrees, 1.2 degrees above normal, and the total rainfall was 7.72 inches, 3.48 inches above normal.

"In the monthly report issued by the United States Weather Bureau in the Whitehall Building, the following recapitulation for July is given:

Clear days	6
Cloudy and partly cloudy	25
Rain (more than .25 inch)	10
Maximum (July 9)	92
Minimum (July 7)	61
Mean	75
Normal mean	73.8
Precipitation	7.72
Normal precipitation	4.24

—N. Y. Sun



for Fall Fertilizing

Every season's play on a golf course removes a certain percentage of the elements essential to plant growth. Thus it becomes necessary to replace such elements if satisfactory turf is to be expected the following year.

One of the easiest and surest ways of replenishment is to use Bestivall, Nature's Own Fertilizer.

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BESTIVALL MAKES A HARDY TURF FOR PUTTING GREENS, GIVING A DEEP, RICH, VELVETY, GREEN COLOR.

—(Unexcelled for fertilizing new seedings)—

open to ventilation on four sides. This disproves the theory that brown patch attacks only greens in low and congested air pockets at Fenimore.

Grubs in The Fairway

NOTING small brown spots in the fairways but giving them no attention due to the fact that I was busy with the brown patch on the greens, I later discovered that these same spots had grown considerably larger and was not characteristic to brown patch. After a close observation I found the Japanese Beetle Grub. Pulling up a piece of turf about eight inches in diameter I counted as many as 25 to 30 grubs. Knowing that in a short time considerable damage would be done I immediately referred to notes I had taken down during Mr. B. R. Leach's talks that I had the pleasure of listening to at meetings in the New York district. Arsenate of Lead was purchased and soon we were fighting the grubs, brown patch, and unnatural weather conditions.

We used 250 pounds of arsenate of lead to the acre mixing thoroughly with about 800 pounds of sand applying it with the ordinary lime spreader and a batter board on the bottom to distribute the mixture evenly. Bags were used around the lime spreader to prevent the dust from blowing about.

Following this application a chain harrow was drawn over to work it thoroughly into the ground. Within a week's time the grubs were disappearing. I might state that the places attacked the most were the approaches and the parts of the fairways nearest the greens. At this time I was shaking hands with myself for having grub-proofed the greens in the spring thus saving them from this treacherous little pest.

In my estimation the blackest nightmare a greenkeeper could have is brown patch and grubs in his greens at one time, but to have club members and his chairman stand with him at such a time is the biggest asset a greenkeeper could have.

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