

New England Notes

BY LLEWELLYN L. DERBY

Although at this stage of the season the aridity is still at least one standing jump behind last summer's record drouth, the fact remains that New England courses continue to be parched and dry and the arrival of moisture continues to be postponed.

Springfield, Mass. folks are still hopeful of easing the pressure on their one municipal course, Franconia, by adding another. Just now, however, the proposition has landed very much in the "rough" and it will take some skillful stroking to reach the "green."

This is the how of it. As we mentioned last month, Nathan D. Bill, who was largely responsible for Franconia, secured an option on a 120-acre tract with a purchase price of \$60,000 and started things off with a \$10,000 contribution. Since that time several other amounts have been pledged but still the total was far away and the option due to lapse soon.

At this juncture Mayor Winter in conference with the War Memorial Committee proposed that \$83,000 which is available as a war memorial fund be used to put through a memorial field and a golf course on the proposed tract.

Right here, though, is where the fur begins to fly. The proposal was put before the American Legion and unanimously indorsed as a means whereby the memorial funds might be used for a purpose beneficial to the community at large. But this is by no means the use to which the funds should be put, according to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They feel that a memorial building is more appropriate, feel that the majority of veterans feel the same way, and will conduct a straw vote of the 10,000 or more Springfield veterans to see which way the wind blows on the question. So, for the time being this Western Massachusetts city will have but one municipal course.

Due to a change in program the Greenkeepers Club of New England held their monthly meeting on the fourth at the Agawam Hunt Club, East Providence, R. I. instead of at Worcester as planned. Members of the recently organized Rhode Island club sat in for a very pleasant meeting.

John A. F. Graham, 69, greenkeeper of the Needham (Mass.) Golf Club, collapsed of heart trouble on the eighth green of this course he loved so well and died before he could be taken to a hospital. Well known and admired by hundreds of golfers, he had often expressed the wish to President George M. Pond of the Needham club that he would die on the course. He made the Needham course his life work and as President Pond stated, practically built the layout as it now is.

JUST OUT~

The Lawn

BY LAWRENCE S. DICKINSON

Ass't. Professor of Horticulture
Massachusetts Agricultural College

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Cleveland, Ohio

Greenkeeper George J. Rommell of the Charles River Country Club is beginning to think that there will be no divots to worry about on the fourth hole, at least when a certain miss is playing his course. Not long ago on two successive days Miss Eleanor La Bonte stepped up to the fourth tee and following a beautiful iron shot watched the ball trickle into the cup 153 yards away.

And speaking of divots, I wonder what percentage of those that are replaced ever catch on and live. Not too many, I guess. I suppose it would be revolutionary and radical and all that not to insist that our good friends put them back from whence they came, just for the morals of the thing, but it is interesting to pick up some of these dried clods and see how hard the grass is trying to grow in spite of them. Perhaps it is technique that is needed to make Nature's patchwork quilt look like new again, and sad to relate, perhaps our ardent friends are not more skilled in such matters than in the game they are going to such "depths" to master.

James J. Ferme, greenkeeper at the Myopia Hunt Club, finds that some players replace divots, or see that their caddies do it, in a very conscientious manner, while others do it perfunctorily and others neglect it completely. During weather which is as hot and dry as at present, the divot's chances of recovery are slim indeed. He feels, therefore, that the best way to heal divot marks is to fill them up with prepared soil and seed.

He takes about a yard of screened loam and mixes with it about 50 pounds of grass seed to suit the soil. A handful of this mixture is dropped into every divot mark noticed and pressed down with the foot. The most satisfactory way seems to be to send out two men with a cart up the center of the course with the men working away from it, one on either side. Carrying a quantity of soil in a bucket, they will cover a few fairways a day and it is incredible how quickly and thoroughly these scars can be healed if the work is done systematically.

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A considerable amount of grass webworm has made its appearance on courses in the Boston district.

With Tom Thumb courses springing into existence on almost every unoccupied corner lot and gas station, it is getting to the point where the man at the gas pump had best watch out lest he knock the elbow of some high-strung putter as he grinds out five gallons. There is a place for these small imitations of the real thing, and so far as the writer knows, there are none there.

Just the other day the story came out that golf had invaded the precincts of the New Hampshire State Prison at Concord. There is a demand for second hand clubs, both right and left and Warden Charles B. Clarke feels that the game is helpful and of good influence on his boarders. Here is a place where "out of bounds" means something, where it is

really necessary to play "peewee" golf.

The judiciary seem to feel that this abbreviated version of the game is not really golf. In ruling that a miniature course proposed for a White Plains, N. Y. residential district didn't come under the provision of the zoning laws which permitted a golf course in the section, Supreme Court Justice Witschief didn't say what it was but he said it wasn't golf that is being played on these miniature courses.

And out in Chicago Judge John H. Lyle says it isn't golf but it's disorderly conduct—playing on miniature golf courses in the early hours of the morning. The fine is \$200 and costs for a misdemeanor of this kind when the neighbors are trying to sleep.

But we have had the 18-day diet, sun tan, and now Tom Thumb golf. Next!



THE 15th TEE AT PINE VALLEY, CLEMENTON, N. J.
This is a three-shot hole and every shot must be hit on the nose.
Photo by H. Armstrong Roberts, Phila.