

Pacific Coast Gossip

By ARTHUR LANGTON

THERE is no telling what will happen when a group of greenkeepers get together.

A group of greenkeepers in southern California has decided that something should be done to mitigate the current economic embarrassment. In carrying out this idea they have decided to encourage trade in their particular field as much as possible by holding an exhibit of golf equipment during which time the latest in devices for maintaining golf courses will be shown and demonstrated.

That this will be advantageous to both greenkeepers and salesmen is obvious inasmuch as greenkeepers on the Pacific coast rarely are able to attend the national convention and exhibit. And because the local greenkeepers are scattered throughout many hundred thousand square miles of territory, manufacturers' representatives are not always able to arrange a demonstration for individual greenkeepers.

For the purpose of the exhibit which will be held on April 13, the Bel-Air Country club of Westwood Heights, Los Angeles, has graciously consented to grant the use of its scenic grounds.

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At the Annandale Country club, near Pasadena the attempt is being made to keep Bermuda grass green throughout the winter by the use of fertilizers, according to a report. Although the grass may be nice and green at the present time, it is difficult to determine whether or not this favorable condition is due to a period of warm days following closely upon the heels of heavy rain.

However, if the experiment proves a success and the much maligned Bermuda stays verdant the year round, a long step will have been taken towards the millennium as far as the greenkeepers in the Pacific Southwest are concerned. Many of the local guardians of turf and green insist that there is no better grass anywhere for fairways than Bermuda grass when it is green and tender, but when it is tough and stringy there is very little that could be worse.

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Getting back to the climate again—and who does not when speaking of California?—it has been responsible for a rather unusual condition on the southern greens. The protracted period of heavy rain followed by warm sunshiny days brought forth every player

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who could wield a club and could pay a green fee. In spite of the depression several courses set new high marks for the amount of play during February.

The combination of heat, damp soil, and heavy play has made the surface of the greens unusually hard for this region, so that even a well-played ball frequently goes over the green. To remedy this condition, discing, spiking, and the application of calcium carbonate are being tried, not always successfully because the heat and the heavy play are continuing.

One of the surest signs that the rainy season—where almost said winter—is over here is the fact that the fairway sprinklers have ceased their hibernation and are beginning their seven-month grind.

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Grover C. Vogt is building a course at Blaine, Washington, is the news that filters down from the north-westernmost state.



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