

Pacific Coast Gossip

By ARTHUR LANGTON

IMPROVEMENT of present layouts rather than construction of new greens, tees, and fairways, is the order of the day on the courses of the Pacific coast at the present time. During this season, which in past years has seen intense activity in the way of new work, there has been no sign of clubs opening their purses for anything but absolutely routine work.

The reason for this reticence is obvious; although the country may be on the way out of the current financial quagmire, people will not begin spending money on golf courses until their financial stability is assured.

While this situation in which club officials demand that expenditures be cut till it hurts, is fraught with difficulties for the greenkeepers, it must not be forgotten that there is no time like the present for a course superintendent to prove himself worthy of the name. A number of courses on the Coast have discharged their greenkeepers or are contemplating doing so in a last desperate attempt to keep going.

Although none of these courses were very firm economic institutions in the best of times, their actions will serve as a warning to greenkeepers to demonstrate to their employers that the cheapest method in the long run is to retain them.

Western economy is taking various forms on golf courses. Shrubs, trees, and plants do not receive the attention that they once did. Golfers are experiencing more difficulty in getting out of rough grass which has not been trimmed. Only the most essential portions of the courses are receiving attention from the irrigation crews.

Flags are not changed as often as formerly, nor does the woodwork receive as much paint. Courses which already have them are finding hoseless irrigation systems tremendous labor savers, in some cases enabling greenkeepers to find other work for their night irrigation gangs. Nature during the past few weeks has helped out handsomely by doing the unexpected and sending enough rain to approach normal and surpass the total of last year.

However, a certain amount of activity other than routine work is going on in the Pacific area as is evidenced by the fact that the Red Hill Golf Club of Uplands, California, is putting down nine new greens with all the attendant improvements. Everyone who has driven into or out of Hollywood by way of Ventura boulevard, and nearly everyone has done this or hopes to at some time or other, has passed the Hollywood Country club which has one side exposed to the highway.

Recently the club sold some of its property bordering upon the boulevard and as a consequence is building three new greens. A number of people have expressed the hope that the course still will be plainly visible because it acts as a landmark to those who approach the Promised Land of Hollywood after threading their way through the devious paths to the north.

This is the season when brown patch begins to get in its dirty work again. Jack Wilson at the Rio Hondo course near Los Angeles, reports that of eighteen bent greens, only the three planted with the Cocos variety remained immune.

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Mid-West Notes

By A. L. BRANDON, Secretary

THE May meeting of the Midwest Greenkeepers' Association will be held the 25th at the Chikaming Country Club, at Lakeside, Michigan.

A joint meeting of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee was called to consider the advisability of changing the name of this organization to some other name, which would perhaps better fit the type of work our membership is engaged in. Following lengthy discussions, the question was put to a vote. The officers attending this meeting were unanimous in recommending that the name Midwest Greenkeepers' Association be retained.

At the regular April meeting the membership also approved of continuing the use of the name Midwest

Greenkeepers' Association. Those answering roll call at the joint meeting at the Great Northern Hotel, Chicago, were:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Peter Stewart
Gus Graham
John MacGregor
Alex Binnie and Fred Ingwerson absent.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

M. L. Bezek
Alfred Buller
R. N. Johnson
Fred Kruger
A. L. Brandon.

It was the consensus of opinions at this meeting that the name greenkeeper covers our type of work more thoroughly than the terms: Groundskeeper, Grounds Superintendent, Golf Course Superintendent, Maintenance Superintendent, or any such other forms or combinations of terms. The term greenkeeper is more explicit and proper in describing our profession.

It was pointed out that clubs would still appoint Green Committees and Green Committee Chairmen; also the U. S. G. A. maintenance division is the Green Section.

The word greenkeeper has long been associated with golf maintenance work and its meaning is being better understood by the golfing public than ever before and it is the duty of each greenkeeper to further this understanding. Also the brevity of the word greenkeeper is beneficial.

It seems to the writer that the term Golf Course Superintendent would apply better to the Chairman of the Green Committee than the Greenkeeper.

Publicity in the April issue of THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER stated that the outdoor meets would be open to those interested directly or indirectly in golf maintenance work, this ruling has been withdrawn and the meets will continue as of the past years—Midwest members and their guests.

The officers at the joint meeting recommend that the initiation and annual dues be increased.

The weather of late has been unusually chilly, and warm weather will be needed to round courses in good condition.

New Jersey Notes

By JOHN ANDERSON, *Secretary*

THE Greenkeepers' Association of New Jersey held its regular monthly meeting at Damerest, New Jersey, on Monday, May 4. Fifteen greenkeepers met at New-

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ark and drove to the Aldecrest Golf and Country Club, where they were met by Mr. W. Bullock, one of the members of the association, who is in charge there.

Mr. Bullock showed us a real championship golf course. It reminded me of some of the courses in Scotland; all natural hazards and no sand traps. Mr. Bullock was in charge during the construction period and seeded his greens to Cocoos Bent, and they are a picture. It was the consensus of opinion that they were the best two-year-old greens the boys had seen.

The clubhouse at Aldecrest is not yet opened, so Mr. Bullock entertained the boys at dinner at a hotel in town at his club's expense, which was greatly appreciated by those present.

After the regular business was dispensed with, an article on Bacteria and their relationship to turf grasses was read by Frank Swehle of the Suburban Golf Club, Elizabeth, New Jersey. Mr. Swehle certainly knows his bacteria, and was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his paper.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 15, at the Experimental Station at New Brunswick, where we shall meet the members of the U. S. G. A. Green Section, to view the turf plots and afterwards a dinner at Hotel Woodrow Wilson, where a number of speakers will talk on turf problems.