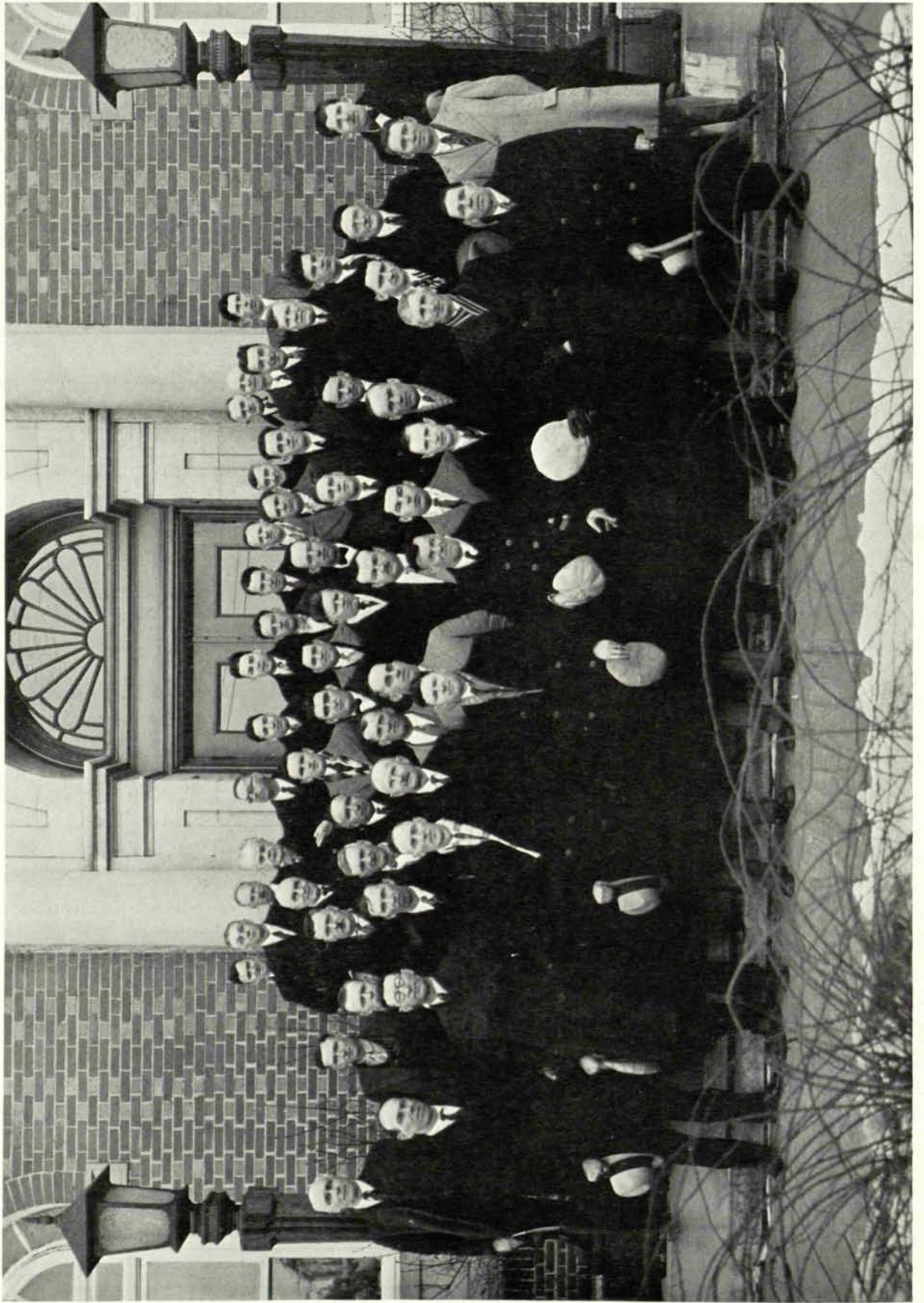


Greenkeepers' Class at the University of Wisconsin



Wisconsin Course in Greenkeeping

By HAZEL HANKINSON

A BETTER understanding of the fundamentals underlying the work on golf courses was the general theme of the second annual Greenkeepers' Short Course given by Wisconsin's College of Agriculture at Madison, February 9-13. Five states were represented, and sixty-two greenkeepers were enrolled.

The program covered nearly all phases of golf grounds care and management, including soils, drainage, fertilizers, kinds of grasses, diseases and other pests of turf, mowing, and landscape problems. All instruction was practical and was applied to golf greens in a detailed rather than in a general way.

One speaker who appeared on each day's program was John Monteith, specialist in grasses from the green section of the United States Golf Association at Washington, D. C. He discussed the kinds of grasses to select for various sections and locations, the relation of grass mowing to the care of greens and to the game, and the principles which help to maintain a well-kept course. He emphasized the advantages of using various kinds of grasses and grass mixtures for fairways, tees, and rough and gave reasons for the differences.

Further emphasis on proper mowing and its relation to the health of grass was brought out during the course by L. A. Graber of the College of Agriculture's agronomy department. G. W. Mortimer of the same department spoke on grass development; and some time was given to hearing the experiences of various ones who had grown bent grasses. F. W. Duffee, professor in agricultural engineering, explained what a good mower should possess.

Fungus diseases which attack greens were given special attention on the program. How to detect and control snow mold and large and small brown patch, so difficult to avoid in the northern states, were clearly explained by Arnold S. Dahl, disease specialist of the United States Golf Association. In experimental work which is being carried out along that line, he said that the cause is first determined, then conditions which encourage the diseases are studied, and finally control measures are applied.

Other nuisances of greens, such as insect pests and weeds were also discussed. C. L. Fluke, entomologist in the College of Agriculture, pointed out means of controlling that enemy of grass roots, the white grub; and the matter of weeds and their extermination was covered by A. L. Stone, seed specialist in the agronomy department.

The subjects of soils and fertilizers were given the place on the program which their importance merits. They were ably handled by C. J. Chapman of the soils department of the College, and by O. J. Noer, formerly of the same department. G. W. Mortimer also spoke on fertilizers in their relation to fairways.

One of the special features on this year's program was a discussion of traps by Kenneth Welton of the United States Golf Association. "No trap should be built unless there is a good reason for it," Mr. Welton stated. "There is a place only for those that improve and add strategy to the game. Ordinarily they should not be out at the side where good players never go, and where poor players get plenty of obstacles in the rough."

Mr. Welton also touched upon the desirability of good drainage in connection with traps because players like to get out on the course as quickly as possible after heavy rains in spring. In another talk he explained the relation of topography to drainage and to play on the green.

General instruction in drainage on greens was handled by E. R. Jones of the Agricultural engineering department; and J. G. Dickson, plant pathologist in the College, told how the orientation of a green affects the snow problem.

Another topic which was taken up for the first time was the matter of greenkeepers' records. F. H. Elwell, professor of accounting in the University and secretary of one of Madison's golf clubs, spoke of the importance of keeping a well-ordered budget. He illustrated his talk with a model "Distribution of Service" record. He gave as his reasons for stressing the subject his belief that greenkeepers should be able to substantiate with figures every statement as to how money is to be spent or how it has been spent. It gives a greenkeeper a

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record of what funds he ought to have, Mr. Elwell said, and it enables him to receive better cooperation from the club members.

Many points brought out in lectures were made more vivid by means of lantern slides and movies. This was especially true of the talk by F. A. Aust, associate professor of landscape design at Wisconsin, who urged the use of native trees and shrubs and the planting of flowers for beautifying golf courses. By means of moving pictures he showed also an excellent method of tiling around trees for the purpose of sub-irrigation.

Laboratory sessions every afternoon gave each greenkeeper opportunities to witness practical demonstrations in the detection of weed seeds among grass seeds, to compare various makes and kinds of mowers, to discuss in detail problems of land drainage, and to study various kinds of soils and the fertilizers to use on them. Discussions were entered into freely by the greenkeepers themselves, worthwhile ideas and experiences were exchanged among them, and their splendid attitude toward the course and its faculty was shown in the earnest questioning of the members.



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