

Pacific Coast Gossip

By ARTHUR LANGTON

AMONG recent arrivals on the Pacific Coast is that of James Aitchison, formerly greenkeeper on the course of the Ohio Wesleyan University. He is now living in Pasadena and intends to make his home in this territory.

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James S. Watson, golf architect and construction engineer and a member of the Southern California Greenkeepers' Association, has been awarded the task of executing the new work on the Humbolt Golf course, located in the Humbolt Bay area, one of the most beautiful sections of California. Plans for this work were made by H. Chandler Egan, American amateur titlist in 1904 and 1905.

It is of special interest that such a thing as a fine golf course should be established in this part of the state. The first white men to traverse the Humbolt forests were members of the Josiah Gregg expedition in 1850 who described the region as well-nigh unconquerable. At the cost of tremendous exertion this expedition was able to cut its way through trees, fallen timber, and brush at the rate of two miles a day.

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However, the most unlikely spots in California are those marked by the presence of golf courses. Typical

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examples are the mile-high courses at Big Bear and Arrowhead lakes and the below sea level courses in Death Valley and at Palm Springs.

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Homer Price has been appointed greenkeeper at the Santa Monica Municipal Golf course to succeed George S. "Pop" Merritt, who passed away recently. Price is a young man who has been working for the past few years as an assistant greenkeeper on the course where he is now in charge. In addition to working under Merritt for a time he was under the guiding hand of Clarence Hazlett, president of the Southern California Greenkeepers' association and superintendent of the beautiful Bel-Air club of Los Angeles.

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That part of Arizona adjacent to Needles and immediately to the west has been subjected to a property-destroying rainstorm which constituted the first natural moisture which had fallen on some parts of this area for twenty years. All of which was not so good for some of the hardpan golf courses of the state.

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In the opposite corner of the nation, the state of Washington received some severe drenchings late in July, some of the farmers estimating that losses due to soil erosion alone amounted to \$25 an acre.

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Southern California greenkeepers welcomed recently the first rain they had in August for three years. This is supposed to portend a wet winter and the local guardians of the green are looking to their flumes, arroyos, and washes to locate weak spots which might allow a flood to snatch away a tee, fairway or green. However, an above normal precipitation has been promised for the past several seasons, but it has failed to materialize.

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What may be just another coincidence is the fact that several Pacific Southwest golf courses not able to afford fertilizers owing to the economic depression have not been as badly attacked by brown patch during the current predominance of the grass ailment as some of the clubs more stable financially. But there are enough exceptions to this situation to make jumping at conclusions a very dangerous pastime.

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It may be a sign of the times or something, but one of the golf-driving ranges out here which has been enjoying a mild form of prosperity since the demise of the midget courses carries the following sign: "Damn the courses, men; sock 'em."



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