

Minnesota Gossip

By H. E. STODOLA, Secretary



H. E. STODOLA
Secretary, Minnesota
Association of Golf
Course Superintendents.

THE June meeting was held at Woodhill Club, where Leo Feser is superintendent. Here is one man that is really a superintendent. Greenkeeping is just one part of his duties. He also has charge of an eighty-acre farm that belongs to the club. There are four horses, one hundred and twenty sheep and what not that require his attention. On top of all this each year he holds the most fashionable horse show in the Northwest. So when I say, Leo is a superintendent, I can prove it because he has charge of a golf course, farm, bridle paths and tree nurseries.

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In addition, Leo Feser is an active Director of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America and vice-president of the Minnesota Association. He is also a founder and honorary member of the newly-formed Iowa Association.

Leo first showed us his tree nursery of ten thousand trees. He has blue-spruce, arbor vitae, Chinese elm, maples, Austrian pines and other trees that he transplanted on his course. He has thirteen greens either Woodhill or Metropolitan bent and they make a perfect putting surface. Woodhill seems to be a strain of Metropolitan. It has a healthy blue-green color, shows up well early in the spring, withstands brown patch, thrives on close cutting and stays green after frost.

Some of his greens he stolonized, some he plugged, and some he dibbed in, that is forced in solons here and there. He has a fine root growth and real soil texture. His greens have a spring to them and hold the ball. Leo has been rewarded with fine greens and certainly deserves it after his trying times with the ill-fated Columbia bent. Woodhill is a fine kept-up course and reflects its keeper's care.

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FESER OWNS HIS OWN COURSE

Feser is one of the few greenkeepers I know, in fact the only one I know, who owns a course of his own. It is



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Orono Orchards, a sporty nine-hole layout with Metropolitan greens. His greenkeeper is Frank Anderson, a hard worker and a very pleasant fellow. We went to Woodhill to see the course and came away remembering our pal Leo.

Before closing, let me say that Woodhill has the finest compost I have ever seen. The next meeting, Monday, July 11, will be held at the Town and Country Club, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Oklahoma News

By MERLE ZWEIFEL

THE worst cloudburst and rainstorm in the history of the state tore through the capitol city during the first week of June, tearing homes from their foundations, flooding downtown business houses and receding waters revealed more than a score of persons killed and injured and property damage close to two million dollars

Oklahoma City golf courses came in for their share of the damage. Four of the city's larger courses, Lincoln Park, Twin Hills, Edgemere, and Lakeside were flooded with Lincoln Park Municipal course suffering worst. At the east end of the lake at Lincoln Park the water broke over the dam and flooded the golf course, seriously damaging four bent grass greens and leaving rubbish and silt over most of the new greens in the low land.

The greens badly damaged were Nos. 3, 13, 18, and also the 18th hole on the north side and reports were that one green was completely ripped out leaving in the place a ravine running to Northeast Lake. On the east side of the course all bridges were washed out and the new fairways were badly washed in places. Greenkeeper Tom Gullane began cleaning the rubbish off the fairways and greens immediately after the storm and it is expected he will have the course ready for play within a few days.

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Although three of the grass greens at the Lakeside Golf and Country Club, eight miles west of the city, were still under several feet of water at the time of this writing, it was believed that no serious damage was done as the main body of water was moving slowly and there was little danger of washing.

Greenkeeper Edward Meadows of Lakeside will set to work rebuilding bridges and repairing damaged greens in an attempt to land the qualifying round of the Trans-



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Mississippi tournament. Incidentally this is Lakeside's first season with Edward in charge of course maintenance and visitors from that club say he is going over in a big way.

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But as the old saying goes, it is an ill wind that blows nobody good. And that was especially true of the rain-storm which drenched Oklahoma City. Before the deluge soaked the courses in that district the fairways were suffering seriously from lack of water and it was evident that they would never last through the hot weather, but forty-eight hours after the rain the fairways were greener and indications are that they will go through the summer in good shape.

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TOO MUCH WATER HURTS GREENS

Too much water is detrimental to bent greens in Oklahoma, especially those that are not tiled, says Ted McCasling, greenkeeper at the Muskogee Town and Country Club, of Muskogee, Oklahoma. Certain members of that club howl to the high heavens when he refuses to soak his greens until a pitch shot will bury itself in the turf and there are a few cranks that expect a golf ball to stop dead the instant it touches the green—regardless of how the shot was played. But Ted gives his greens the necessary amount of water to keep them in good condition and today he has some of the best putting greens in the eastern part of the state.

A dwindling membership caused the directors to meet last spring and slash the budget in two, however, Ted has always managed to keep the course in excellent playing condition and even make some necessary improvements that looked impossible several months ago.

Pacific Coast Gossip

By ARTHUR LANGTON

EMULATING their contemporaries to the south, the greenkeepers of northern California, particularly those in the vicinity of the San Francisco bay district have organized themselves into a greenkeepers' association. The first meeting was held at the San Francisco Country club recently. Fourteen greenkeepers were present and many more, some from as far south as Fresno, have promised to attend the next meeting.

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The last meeting of the Southern California Greenkeepers' Association was held at the Montebello Public



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Golf course on June 13. Armin Thurnher, superintendent of parks in the beautiful city of San Marino, was the speaker with an address on fertilizing grass through sprinkling systems by the use of a Venturi tube. This device permits a flow of water from the main line to pass through a tank containing soluble fertilizer, carrying it to the irrigation outlets.

Thurnher suggested that this system could be used on fairways with beneficial results. The magnificence of the San Marino lawns testifies to the practicability of the tube method.

The speaker, an Austrian, received his botanical training in continental Europe. As a cavalry officer during the late war, he was captured by the Russians and sent to Siberia, where he planted his first lawn. One of the Russian officers wanted a garden building and put Thurnher on the job. His only tool was a shovel which he turned into a plow by attaching a rope to it and having somebody pull while he held it into the ground. Nevertheless, he completed the job.

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Depression or presidential year to the contrary notwithstanding, greenkeeper Charles Cavanaugh of the Los Angeles Country Club, is superintending the building of eighteen new greens on his South course. This is a real job with two or three feet of fresh soil being used on each green in the reconstruction.

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Kenneth MacLean, formerly superintendent of the Del Mar course in California, has been appointed in the same capacity at the Humbolt Country club in the other end of the state. Having moved from a region of slight rainfall into the "Evergreen Empire," he is astonished by the fact that even as late as June he had found no necessity for irrigation. In the region around Los Angeles just now water bills on eighteen-hole golf courses are amounting to over \$800 a month.

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Bobbie Jones's recent article in the U. S. G. A. greens bulletin has aroused considerable favorable comment among course superintendents on the Pacific Coast. The statement of the world's greatest golfer that greens kept soggy for the purpose of holding pitch shots are a detriment to both the game and the putting surface met with a loud and heartfelt "Amen" that went sailing out o'er the Pacific's rolling waters, particularly in the south where greensmen are battling to keep the water bills down and the quality of the playing surfaces up.

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