## The National Greenkeeper

## Pacific Coast Gossip

## By ARTHUR LANGTON

A HAT the Pacific Northwest is productive of more than apples, timber, and scenery can be demonstrated readily by an examination of the number of contributions this area has made to the world of golf.

Containing as it does many beautiful golf courses and some of the best players in the nation, this should not be surprising. From the finest strains of bent to the latest gadget for washing golf balls, the Evergreen Empire has showered its products upon golfing America. And throughout all this productivenes the region has remained quietly calm in strange contrast to a sister state to the south.

A forerunner of what may be a part of many greens of the future is being developed at Washington State College. This is a method of heating soil by electricity to stimulate plant growth. Although the system is in an experimental stage as yet, the possibilities which it discloses are myriad. To mention only one, it may lead to the lengthening of the playing season on northern courses. It is strange that this work is being carried on in a region where golf can be played the year around.

The Southern California greenkeepers who decided to try several brown patch treatments on their courses in order to make a comparative check on their efficiency, have had a few opportunities to make observations already this year. There have been no heavy attacks as yet, nor will they be so heavy this year as last is the belief of one particular group of greensmen.

This group contends that heavy fertilizing tends to weaken the grass making it subject to the disease. Since few clubs can afford to apply fertilizers in any great amount this season, the argument is that there will be less brown patch. The end of the summer will see the truth or fallacy of this line of reasoning.



The May meeting of the Greenkeepers' Association of Southern California was held at the Los Angeles municipal golf courses at Griffith Park. Interested guests at the meeting were the Los Angeles superintendents of parks.

Greenkeeper Johnson of this course is conducting one experiment in which he has bought Seaside bent from several different dealers, has planted each kind in separate plots, and is giving each identical treatment. He is doing this to determine whether or not differences in the price of this one kind of seed are justified.

One old course in the southwestern corner of the United States is being kidded into two factions by a herd of goats. The situation is this. One fairway of the course runs parallel and adjacent to an orange orchard with no fence or hedge to divide one from the other. It is inevitable that many golf balls are driven among the citrus trees, but the proprietor of the orchard raises no objection to caddies and players entering his property to retrieve them.

This same orchardist has a flock of half a dozen goats which he is accustomed to tether on the club's grass hazards, but not in such a way to interfere with play. Many players have grown used to seeing the billies and the nannies placidly feeding and have developed a fondness for them. But there are others who believe that the animals ruin the perfection of the golfing picture and demand their immediate removal.

This puts the club management in a bad spot, because if the goats are removed the farmer undoubtedly will close his orchard to trespassers. The greenkeeper wonders why the objectors can't look the other way when they come near the goats.

