

How We Overcame the 1932 Depression

More information about the problems of golf course maintenance as expressed by the greenkeepers

Keller Club Has Gone Ahead

By H. E. STODOLA, *Greenkeeper*
Keller Golf Course, Saint Paul, Minn.



H. E. STODOLA

THESE are several things about this season that stand out in my mind. The first is that I have never heard Mr. Coates, county engineer in charge of this course, ever mention that horrid word that is on so many people's lips.

This spring we started with three less men, shortened the hours and raised our standard of work. We remodeled our tool-house and built a compost plant into it, whereby we can grind and mix the material and chemicals without touching the compost with a shovel from the time that it enters the mill until it is applied on the green.

The next thing we did was to move the U. S. G. A. plots from another course to ours and make a beautiful turf garden out of it. This was done when club interest in the garden was low. Then we built thirty-six more traps, which completes the construction on the course.

The course was groomed for the National P. G. A. in September. After the tournament we enlarged our nursery and built a new tee. We are propagating a beautiful strain of velvet bent and also started a tree nursery and a new compost pile eighty feet by twenty. Now we are enlarging and adding alternate tees so this public course will have grass to drive from all the time. We are making enough compost for the spring dressing which we can store in a part of our toolhouse.

This fall Mr. Coates is going to use his golf course crew to put in 101,000 square feet of Seaside bent for the City parks. After the weather permits no other work, we will take out dead trees on the course. So it has been a busy, pleasant year and we are proud to have a progressive man like Mr. Coates to work for.

Moundsville Pulls Through

By CHAS. S. KESSELRING, *Greenkeeper*
Moundsville Country Club, Moundsville, West Virginia

I HAVE been very busy and have neglected sending in my letter to regard to my trials and triumphs since the depression hit. Well, I guess I have had my day as well as all greenkeepers.

On January 3rd of this year our club house, in which I lived, burned to the ground. Not a thing was saved and without insurance on my goods, but the club stood by me and didn't give me a wage cut until September. They were only carrying a small insurance. We rebuilt a small but very comfortable clubhouse.

We made our old machinery tide us over and I had no help, only my son, sixteen years old, but we got through.

I read an article in the GREENKEEPER written by J. H. Evans of Toronto, which I wish to reply to regarding a way to rid greens of ants without injuring the grass. I had them on four of my greens, but Number 6 was the worst and I used Merck's carbon disulphite on them twice and I haven't had any more trouble with them and it didn't hurt the grass.

Select a long slender iron rod and pierce holes in the green from 6 to 12 inches deep. Take a small spouted oil can and drop a few drops in each hole. Close up the holes to hold gas in the ground. Pierce hole near or in the same place where the ants work.

Hope these few thoughts may help some greenkeeper who is troubled with ants.

Scioto Has Good Year

By ARTHUR HUGHES, *Greenkeeper*
Scioto Country Club, Columbus, Ohio

I WILL take time to write a short note about the Scioto club this summer. This has been my first year in charge at this club, but we have had a pretty good year. Have been very fortunate this summer as I have had all the help and material to keep the course in good condition.

We have not had as much brown patch this summer as we had in 1931. I water the greens early in the morning, not later than nine o'clock, and top-dress light once a month.

Light fertilizing in April, May, June, none in July and August. Will have enough fertilizer to go over all the fairways this fall. We have not had any webworms this summer. Had a few in 1931.

Hope everyone has a much better year in 1933—a bigger budget and less brown patch.

Winnipeg Speaks Up

By A. W. CREED, *Greenkeeper*

St. Charles Country Club, Winnipeg, Manitoba

TAKE a little time and write it your own way—who could refuse such a request from our Colonel?

Another golfing season has nearly gone and I can assure you it has been a very trying and difficult one. Saving here—saving there has made it hard for the greenkeeper and the last dollar has been made to count.

This year the wages of employees were reduced ten per cent. The working day was from ten hours to eight.

We changed our 5-unit Toro fairway machines of which we have two, into one 7-unit. Just had one man for tractor. The other three units were put on another tractor to cut banks, approaches and all tees possible, one of the greensmen doing this work in the afternoon. Our course has not suffered in consequence. We have kept on our staff of sixteen men. They have combined to help the club through these trying times.

Our nursery has shown a profit besides, moving 1800 feet of turf for possible new grass a year, also a large stock of stolons.

The club officials and myself undertook the building of two new greens for the Canoe club, Winnipeg, also the supervision of remodelling one green for the All-crest Country Club. We have also remodelled nine holes and laid out nine more holes for the Dominion government at Reding Mountain, Clear Lake, Manitoba. This is being built by one of my sons who is in charge of construction and when finished will be a very sporty course.

This year another 18-hole public golf course has been built at Tuxedo, Winnipeg.

Our own new 9-hole golf course was planted with stolons from our own nursery. This bent which originally came from Hiram Godwin, Detroit, has been commented upon by visitors from all over the world and the club is justly proud of it.

All in all we have had a fairly good year. No brown patch, no crab grass, no weeds in greens. It looked in the spring, under the shadow of depression, that we had a big hill to climb, but by perseverance, cooperation and strict attention to the work, we got over the hill and are just about to finish the course with a good covering of manure on the fairways and poison for the greens.

The club has 27 holes. All fairways are watered. The pumps are capable of throwing nine hundred gallons of water per minute, pressure one hundred pounds at tank. Each green is watered for one-half hour each morning

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and cut every morning to 3/16 of an inch with Toro hand mowers. Each man has three greens, tees and bunkers on the three fairways. He is made responsible for all this work. This being inspected every day by the foreman or myself.

Nine men for greens, three men for watering system, one man care of nursery and trees on course, one man for team for four acres of garden, two acres of nursery, polo stables, spreading manure and top dressing, one man for tractor for fairway mowing, one man as foreman changing cups, tee plates and other general work.

I might add in conclusion that the course here was never in better condition than this season. It is interesting to read in last month's GREENKEEPER of others in the same position.

Here's good luck to the pals in Detroit.

Pacific Coast Gossip

By ARTHUR LANGTON

SOMETHING unique in the way of meetings was held recently when greenkeepers of Southern California convened aboard a chartered fishing boat and voyaged out into the broad Pacific in pursuit of finny denizens of the deep. The ocean was choppy under the impact of a stiff breeze and inasmuch as some members of the party had never been on such an expedition before, complications ensued. Nevertheless enough fish were hooked and brought abroad to supply fertilizer for several greens and material for many a good yarn.

LYON WALKS INTO SAN JOAQUIN

JAMES A. LYON, formerly of the Hollywood Country Club, has been appointed as superintendent of the Sunnyside Country Club of Fresno, the raisin capital of the United States. The course is located in the heart of the San Joaquin section of California's great valley. This a geographical feature some 600 miles long containing over 500 different kinds of soils. The summer is rainless with the daytime temperature hovering around 100 degrees in the shade of the ice-house. With irrigation, practically anything may be grown in this valley. It is an ideal setting for the eighteen Bermuda grass greens, which have fallen to Jimmy Lyon's expert care.

Professor W. A. Rockie of the Pacific Northwest Soil Erosion experiment station has produced some more interesting figures in regard to his favorite topic. According to him, in the spring of this year the high waters