

News From The Southland

By MERLE ZWEIFEL

KENTUCKY



A. G. McKay
who has charge of the Cherokee
Golf course at Louisville.

FORTY-THREE thousand dollars is quite a bit of money for a municipal golf club to realize in revenue during the past year, especially when fee courses with cut price green fees cause the keenest kind of competition. But that is exactly what the city of Louisville took in on its municipal links last season and the fact that the increase was several thousand dollars over the previous year is something for public course operators to care-

fully note. And the man responsible for this is none other than Alex G. McKay, professional, architect, and greenkeeper at the Cherokee Golf Club in Louisville.

"Mac," as he is called—probably only known by his nom de links by the majority of Louisville's golfing public—has during the last five years built four golf courses at Louisville and one, the Shawnee Golf Course, has turned out to be a championship affair, the National Public Links Tournament being held there last July.

MCKAY TOOK CHARGE OF LOUISVILLE LINKS

MR. MCKAY took charge of the municipal courses for the city of Louisville five years ago and at that time they were in very poor condition. With limited finances he laid plans for conservative improvement of the courses and began work redesigning and rebuilding the entire layouts. The first year he completely remodeled the Cherokee Golf Course, building eight new greens and turfing them with a standard putting green grass.

The second year the city of Louisville purchased ground for a new course, which was to be the Shawnee links. Mr. McKay laid out and built the Shawnee Golf Course which is 6,419 yards long, and also built six more greens at the Cherokee Golf Club. The third year he built four more greens at Cherokee, giving them eighteen new greens. He also rebuilt Crescent Hill and changed the entire layout, including a large practice green near the club house. Crescent Hill is a nine-hole course and one of the most popular with the golfers of Louisville.

BENT GREENS IN PERFECT CONDITION

THE new bent greens have been in perfect condition at Cherokee Golf Club and Crescent Hill; they were not affected by brown patch nor web worms, however, at Shawnee Golf Club the greens were badly damaged by

brown patch. That disease was finally brought under control by the continued use of Calo Clor and Semesan. The greens suffered worst from webworms. Three greens were in a bad condition for nearly two months but arsenate of lead was used and the worms were checked on all greens but three. The greens are in good shape again now.

Mr. McKay believes in playing safe at all times. He has a large patching green which he keeps ready for any emergency that might arise. He also has a beautiful nursery of Washington Bent grass.

KANSAS

DURING the past five years a number of golf courses in the state of Kansas have changed putting surfaces from the old type sand green to the more modern Cocos bent grass. At the present time another change is rapidly being made and that is the transition of grass greens from Cocos bent to Seaside bent grass.

Apparently Seaside bent is becoming more popular every day and, although it has a slightly larger blade and can stand trampling well, it requires more water than the Cocos bent grass. Kansas is the first state in the southwest to add Seaside bent to the list of grass putting surfaces, successfully proven.

* * *

One of the newest golf courses in Kansas to plant Seaside bent grass is the West Links Golf club, Wichita's most popular public links, owned and operated by Walt Angles of that city. Mr. Angles seeded nine greens to Seaside bent last fall and they will be ready for play early next spring. And Bill More, greenkeeper at the Meadow Lark Country club brought his new Seaside bent greens through the summer in fine shape. In his opinion they were not as subject to brown patch and other diseases as Cocos bent.

MENDENHALL USED SEASIDE BENT

CHESTER MENDENHALL rebuilt No. 9 green at his Wichita Country Club and seeded it to Seaside bent grass last September. It is forming an excellent mat and will be ready for play at the first sign of spring.

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