

CARL'S COMMENTS

by Carl Schwartzkopf

Mid-Continent Agronomist USGA - Green Section

Over fifty years ago, January 25, 1923, Edgar A. Guest published a poem in the *Bulletin of the Green Section of the United States Golf Association*, entitled 'The Greens Keeper'. Since many of the comments he made over fifty years ago are still relevant today, it is worth reading for all the people involved in golf.

from 'Bulletin of the Green Section of the USGA',
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THE GREENS KEEPER

by Edgar A. Guest

He's on the job at break of day and when
the stars come out,
There's always trouble on the course for him
to fret about,
He starts the gang to work at dawn and follows
them around
Then listens to committeemen whose wisdom is
profound,
They talk of "bents" and "fescues" in a way that
makes him squirm
For they acquire much knowledge in one brief
official term.
His task is one that calls for tact, for lacking
that it means
Next year there'll be another man brought on
to keep the greens.

The members seldom know his name, or have
a smile for him,
They only wonder why it is the course is not
in trim.
They only rave and rage and rant while hunting
for a ball
And wonder why the greensman hasn't cut the
rough this fall,
And when they find a cuppy lie or footprints
in a trap
"The course is in a rotten shape" declares each
gloomy chap.
And yet my hat is off to him, now winter
intervenes,
I want to pay my tribute to the man who
keeps the greens.

He's on the job from dawn to dusk, a million
pests to fight,
'Tis his to see that every green is watered
well at night.
The weeds attack his finest work, the drought
destroys his grass,
The rain beats down the tender shoots, but
still the players pass
And still they play the game they love, a
happy golfing clan
Who never stop to count the odds against a
single man.
And so I wave my hand to him, who toils
in sturdy jeans,
The best old friend all golfers have —
the man who keeps the greens.

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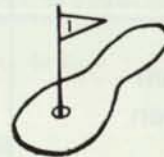
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