

## THE WAY IT WAS by Bill Stupple

This article might be better entitled "Some Highlights of 35 Years of Trials and Tribulations as a Greenkeeper".

The whole story started when I went to work on the course at Exmoor Country Club in the spring of 1924. That is, I went to work on a regular basis. In fact, I had worked on the course as far back as 1917 digging weeds out of the greens. Women had been employed on this job, but the ones they had at Exmoor must have been pretty hot stuff because the workmen got to fighting over them and the girls had to be fired and caddies were hired to do the weeding. As I remember we got 25 cents an hour for a 9 hour day 5 days a week and caddied on Saturday and Sunday. Not bad for a 14 year old kid in those days. I later worked as a locker room boy and also as assistant caddie master, working on the course in the off season, early spring, late fall and even during the winters.

After 4 years and some months I became the greenkeeper and then my troubles began. I was informed one morning that the job was mine. There was no mention of salary or any kind of a contract. During said 4 years my salary had increased from \$125.00 per month to \$175.00 per month. We were paid once a month for many years. When my first pay day as the boss rolled around I found that my pay was still the same as before. So I went to the Green Chairman and said "See here now, since I am the greenkeeper I have a lot of responsibilities and I think I should have more money". He said, "I think you are right, Bill" and the next paycheck was for \$200.00.

I was originally hired as a "mechanic", there being two motors on the course, a Worthington tractor with a Model T Ford motor and a big electric motor in the shop. I will say that I went to night school to learn about auto mechanics. However, there was other machinery to take care of, like a 5-gang Worthington fairway mower, a Townsend Glorious triplex horse drawn, 5 putting green mowers, hand of course, one 5 foot sickle bar, one tee mower, assorted hand mowers and assorted cutting tools like scythes, sickles, sod cutters, etc., and three horses.

This discourse is probably boring to the young superintendent, but there is more to follow in future issues if the Editor O.K.'s it.

### PROMPT TREATMENT CAN SAVE STORM-DAMAGED TREES

If storms cause any extensive damage to trees in your yard, prompt treatment could save them.

Some trees are so severely damaged that removal is the only solution.

Other trees which have repairable injuries should be treated immediately so that disease organisms and insects do not gain entrance to the tree.

Remove all broken branches and limbs and clean away all splintered bark and wood leaving a smooth clean wound. Paint wounds if you so desire.

Partly split trunks, crotches or limbs can often be mended by restoring them to their original position and fastening them there.

Split trunks can be pulled together with through bolts. First, clean out splintered bark and wood. Drill holes through the trunk at right angle to the split. Insert bolts with large washers at each end and tighten to pull the split together.

Split crotches and limbs require use of long toggle bolts or cables and turnbuckles. This can be a complicated procedure and may best be done by a licensed arborist trained in these methods.

Tree work can be dangerous. Aside from the obvious hazard of falling from a tree, tree limbs are extremely heavy. Do not try to remove large limbs unless they are properly roped and tied.

Do not attempt to use a chain saw in a tree unless you have been properly trained to do so.

Before working on a damaged tree, make sure no limbs are lying across power lines. If branches are in contact with lines, call your power company. They have crews trained to correct such situations.

Finally, do not attempt large scale repair work yourself. If you are in doubt as to whether you can handle the job, contact a local licensed commercial arborist. These people use proven repair methods so that the tree will have the best chance of survival, and they have the equipment to do the job properly and quickly.

Don't you become a casualty along with your tree.

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