



It took skill, patience and lots of work, but these benches show results of Peckham's ambition to make his course fit into the local scene naturally.

# This Team "Made" Us

## — Right Methods and Mother Nature

By R. WALLACE PECKHAM  
Pro. and Supt. Sachuest Golf Club

**I**N building one of our greens last year we tried working into the top three inches of soil 20 pounds of arsenate of lead to each 1,000 square feet, and completely eliminated the worms except those that crawl on after a rain. Then I used five lbs. to the 1,000 square feet in all topdressing on the other greens with very satisfactory results. Also after every heavy rain I pick off all worms that come to the surface or crawl on.

In preparing topdressing I am using a large rotary screen run with a belt to the Fordson tractor; the finest goes to the green; the coarser to the tees.

### Labor Practice

Some greenkeepers give each laborer three greens to care for, and give some premium for competitive excellence. I don't fancy seeing the men trailing off across the fairways with putting green mowers, and leaving heaps of cutting to bleach bare spots in the rough.

I have an excellent foreman who helped me to construct the course and he uses great care in adjusting the mowers, and judgment in cutting the greens with no turning marks or oil spots.

In addition to the foreman, I have two assistants. I send all three out with the Fordson tractor dump cart and 3 section

light wooden rollers behind the cart. One man drags a "welcome" mat over the greens leveling any worm casts, and picking up mouse-eared chickweed. The foreman and assistant, follow with two super Pennsylvania green mowers followed by the light wooden rollers, which leaves the swollen bent greens plenty fast. All clippings are dumped into the waiting cart and taken finally to the compost heap. These clippings are mixed with earth or they make a black, unmanageable glue.

Then they move on to green No. 2 and give it the same treatment. Ordinarily they can finish three greens in a forenoon and all greens get the same careful care. Every other morning a lawn mower is taken along and the driver mows the edges of the green. In this way the green mowers are not dragged across the fairways by hand, but ride rapidly from green to green and do not require readjusting. Tees receive the same treatment only not so often. I am rapidly changing them to stolon bent tees.

Wherever possible on 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9 greens, we have constructed these greens so we can run the fairway mowers right around the greens; on Nos. 3 and 7 right up to the green and right around the back of bunkers on the others, saving

an enormous amount of scythe work that increases labor costs very rapidly.

The only scythe work is among the blueberry bushes where the course skirts the swamp, and on the side of tees where visibility necessitates raised tees.

### Making Course Look Good

About bettering conditions of the looks of the course, here the architect can so adapt his course to the face of nature that there is as little artificiality as possible.

Here I was most fortunate as Mr. Van Buren spent a great deal of time, thought and comparative study in planning the layout and it was only necessary to build two deliberately artificial bunkers on the home hole, the rest fit into the natural scenery in a way that Robert Hunter and George Thomas approve of.

I was able to make an added lake on No. 2 and juggle the brook in and out among brakes and bayberry bushes.

Our hastily improvised green wooden benches blew over and were eyesores, so after the season I scouted around in the rocky swamp and unearthed and split out eight great stone settees, one weighing four tons for the hole in front of the clubhouse. They are rustic, solid and permanent, and look comfortable and natural.

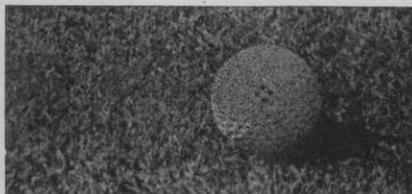
I dig out brakes, clematis and wild geraniums to put in cosy but conspicuous corners where they please the artistic eye.

A word about bunkers.

On a certain course I know of, an architect excavated immense, obscure quarries, wide, deep and invisible at any distance; some square across the fairway, some just right to penalize a good drive and most of them as much a hidden danger as the sunken roads in France. Having played over, around, in and out of these atrocities, I did not put any such archaic errors on our course. Ours are built to obscure a cemetery, guide the play and are made in natural places generally as like sand dunes as possible and sweeping up with the prevailing wind. After reading Robert Hunter's excellent book, "The Links," I sand flashed them as high as possible, making them visible at 200 yards. When in the sweep of the wind, long bunkers were divided, to avoid losing sand. We were careful to cut up the inside edge with a sweep so the ball would roll back to playable tee, particularly in deep bunkers; this also decreased, say, the work and weeding in the inside of bunkers.

### Gets Natural Look

Wherever in bunkers guarding greens



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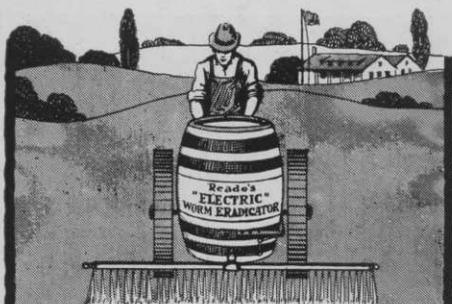
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the lines were too symmetrical, I made the sodding break down over the edge in jagged points, blocks of sod and irregularly picturesque effects with ragged lines that set off the green wonderfully.

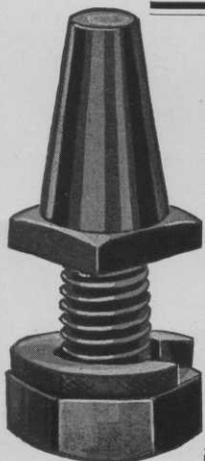
Short posts with ball washers with the yardage on their sides and located at the end of the stone settees eliminate sand boxes, etc., in these days when patented tees are almost invariably used, and make for a great improvement in the appearance of our large tees.

### Work on Rough

We are trying to eliminate clover in the rough bordering the fairways, where balls go out most often, by removing the sod on strips 20 yards wide from 125 yards to 225 yards from the tees. This sod is dumped in a long flat pile three feet deep, then covered with several loads of cow manure, poultry manure, seaweed and 20 tons of sand, with seaweed to keep the sand from blowing off. This immense compost heap can be pulverized with the Fordson tractor and double disc harrow. This saves a large part of the manual labor of forking it over. These de-sodded strips have been seeded with sheep fescue so that the sparse, wiry grass will not hide a ball. The success of this experiment will have to be reported later.

## Pittsburgh Has New Golf Equipment Dealer

GOLF Equipment Co., House Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa., has been organized by A. H. Krigger and associates to carry a full line of golf course equipment and supplies. The company has a repair shop at 2428 West Liberty ave.



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