



Sea Island's No. 2 green is charmingly located in a semi-tropical setting. The course's pro-greenkeeper appears at the left of the picture.

How Famed Sea Island Links Was Made a Model

By HUGH MOORE
Sea Island's Pro-Greenkeeper

ONE reads so much these days about how to do this and that and possibly someone will say after they read this article, "Just some more apple sauce" but, believe me the facts contained in this story are real facts gained from past experience which put wrinkles in my face and grey hairs on my head.

This story is more to help the south in building and maintaining golf courses than any other section. I was once asked by a visitor, "How do you keep Bermuda greens in such wonderful shape?" My answer was, "You must know how and when to act, therefore experience is what a man must have before he can make a success at construction work or as a greenskeeper. There is entirely too much guess work being done on golf courses these days.

Every greenkeeper should play golf. It will help him in his work. He will find out many things of great help to make him a more useful greenkeeper, and he can look at his own work from a golfer's stand-

point. If a greenkeeper is too busy or other things interfere to keep him from playing he should at least try putting on his own greens occasionally. Personally I have found many points of help in making my course better just from playing golf.

Green Building Method.

Twenty-eight months ago I came to Sea Island Beach, Georgia, and I have built what many proclaim one of the best golf courses in the south. I have built four greens of my own design and one from the blue print of Colt and Allison. Each one of these greens I have had no trouble with turf, and why? Because the soil on which these greens were built was the best of good woods mold one foot thick used for top-soil with stable manure one year old, 200 pounds of Milorganite, 50 pounds of phosphate with 35 pounds of lead arsenate to keep out the Porto Rican cricket moles. The fertilizer and poison were thoroughly disc harrowed into the green. Bermuda stolons were used and



No. 5 at Sea Island is 135 yards long with water at the back and on both sides.

were obtained from farmers who were glad to get rid of them. All weeds were picked out before using. By this method you can get a green very quick as I have obtained a good putting surface in five weeks after planting stolons. The hotter the weather the quicker the results with the proper fertilizing which is best suited for the soil. Plenty of water is applied at night with the proper rolling and top-dressing. Some greenkeepers may say that this field Bermuda is too coarse for putting greens, but it is not.

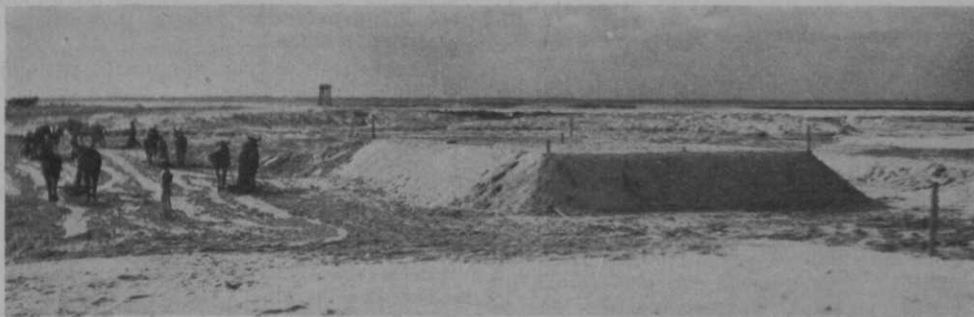
I have also put in eighteen fairways, thirty-eight tees and two practice greens using the stolon method with three inches of top-soil over the fairways fertilizing with Milorganite and phosphate. Bermuda greens should be top-dressed at least once a month with a little fertilizer at the same time. I am a great believer in top-dressing lightly. Personally I am a "nut" on sulphate of ammonia as it has certainly been a friend to me. It gives my greens a beautiful color also keeps out

weeds. To me it seems to keep the leaves tender. I would suggest that greenkeepers keep their mowers sharp and a little tight so that the reel is up against the cutter bar then they will cut and not chew or bruise the grass which will leave a smoother putting surface.

Peat Moss Helped Here.

If I were going to build a golf course in the southern coastal section or in sandy soil I would use peat moss. I have used it in two of my greens and I notice that they hold a pitch shot much better than the others and they also require less fertilizer. Why? Because the peat receives the fertilizer and holds it in suspension gradually feeding it back to the roots. Otherwise this same fertilizer after a heavy rain would go beyond the roots which would require fertilizing more often. These same facts apply in using peat moss on fairways.

There is a pest in the south known as the Porto Rican cricket mole. They are very hard to kill because they can fly. I



An idea of the construction job at Sea Island may be obtained from this construction view of the 17th tee looking from the fairway.

have seen many courses along the coast ruined by this insect. I get good results from lead arsenate as they do not like the taste of it. The best time to put it on is about the first of May using from 200 to 300 pounds per acre depending on how bad they are. For the greens I use carbon bisulphide with a skewer and funnel, putting about a thimbleful in the hole early in the morning. This mole works just like a field mole. They eat the joints of the grass and Oh Boy! how they can mulcher the soil. I have seen a fairway ruined in less than a month. It is either spend money to get rid of these pests or have no fairways. You can use the arsenate of lead as it is by broadcasting or use sand mixed with it. The sand will help to get it down by the roots.

There is one more point which I would like to bring out which I think is very important. Quite a bit of the greenkeeper's success depends on the chairman of the greens committee. There are entirely too many chairmen who do not know grasses, soil conditions and very little about a golf course. Under these conditions a greenkeeper is working at a disadvantage. The chairman of a green-committee should be a man with plenty of patience, one what would consider things and not fly off the handle at every complaint. He should also remember that if his greenkeeper hasn't the proper equipment, fertilizer, water pressure and labor that he or no other man can make a success in maintaining a golf course. It is hard enough under the best of conditions. There have been many greenkeepers blamed and discharged for no fault of theirs. Personally I have been fortunate in the last seven years. I have only had two chairmen and they have been men who were very considerate and have often looked at things from my viewpoint. A man of that caliber can be of great help to a greenkeeper.

Detroit's Park Golf Has Record Year

POPULARITY of municipal golf in Detroit is demonstrated by the figures for the calendar year ended December 31, 1929. The total number of rounds played on the five municipal courses during the year was 405,151. This exceeds the 1928 record by 117,201 rounds. The increase was due to the opening of the first nine holes at Chandler Park, which will be supplemented by an additional nine holes this year, and

the new nine hole course which was opened at Palmer Park in 1928.

Gross receipts were \$187,611.00. This figure was increased to \$226,963.00 by adding the amount of \$39,352.00 received from the golf course refectories. Net profits were as follows:

Palmer Park	\$13,217.00
Rouge Park	5,111.00
Rackham Park	14,913.00
Belle Isle Park	3,518.00

This gives a total of \$36,759.00, and after deducting the deficit of \$914.00 of the Chandler Park course, net profits from the municipal courses were \$35,845.00.

The Chandler Park deficit of \$914.00 was due to the installation of drainage and sewer mains. Net profits from the refectories operated at the various golf courses was \$8,392.00.

A detailed report of the operations at the various courses as supplied by George T. Lynch, secretary of Detroit Department of Parks and Boulevards, follows:

	Length,	Holes	Yards	Par	Opened
Belle Isle ..	9	2,043	29		May 24, 1922
Palmer* ..	18	5,950	71		Aug. 24, 1923
Rackham ..	18	6,445	71		May 20, 1925
Rouge	18	6,395	71		May 24, 1928
Chandler* ..	18	6,139	71		June 29, 1929

*Operated as two 9 hole courses. Second 9 holes at Chandler ready about 8/1/30.
Approximate operating cost (1929 calendar year):

	Operating	Main-
	tenance	
Belle Isle	\$ 9,774.26	\$10,200.99
Palmer	16,750.71	18,945.41
Rackham	20,919.70	17,928.38
Rouge	9,814.62	15,928.90
Chandler	5,476.90	10,887.19

PLAYING FEES.

Belle Isle—25c per round of 9 holes.
Palmer—25c per round of 9 holes. Purchase of 50c ticket, registered with both starters, provides for practically continuous play for 18 holes.

Rackham—1.00 per day until twilight. Twilight period (about 3½ hours prior to closing) 50c. Use of showers and locker included in playing fees at this course.

Rouge—75c per day. Twilight play 40c.
Chandler—25c per round of 9 holes with provision for 18 holes at 50c.

ROUNDS PLAYED—1929.

Belle Isle	68,315
Palmer—1st nine	93,221
2nd nine	70,085—164,306
Rackham	63,175
Rouge	55,366
Chandler—1st nine	53,989