

# Women Show Keen Interest in Greenkeepers' Work

By BETTY BURTON

**B**OB DUGUID, greenkeeper of Evanston (Ill.) G. C. is nominated by his members as the best greenkeeper in the country. He is not the phantom that exists at some clubs, where the members never see their greenkeeper.

Bob is out on the job where the members can see him and make any suggestions they have in mind. He knows how to handle the members. He knows the whims of them all, he says, and could call them all by name, until the last few years when the membership has changed so greatly. As we talked at the first tee, which he was enlarging, some players passed by and called out, "Hello Bob." He responded in his happy way, then said to me, "I know their faces, but I can't recall their names."

The first tee, formerly about 20 ft. deep by 65 ft. wide, was too shallow to allow much changing of the tee plates. There is a green and white iron railing around three sides of this tee and that fact made the usable space even smaller as there was the possibility of hitting the rail on the back swing, he explained. Then, too, it was a mental hazard to the players, for even though their clubs did not hit the rail they had to stand so near it that they could see it out of the corner of their eyes when addressing their balls. Now that tee is being made 60 ft. deep.

He is very proud of his greens which are all of the same texture. They have a good body and are slow. "Most of the ladies seem to like them slow, so they can hit the ball," he said. "They find the down hill, side hill putts on fast greens are very difficult to hole."

## Ladies' Day at Bad Time.

When the playing season officially opens Bob changes the holes every day. He knows what is going on; he has a schedule of the men's and women's events. When the ladies play on Tuesday he does not place the cups at the near edge of the green, but does put them on some level spot. Like most greenkeepers he

topdresses his greens on Monday, and by Tuesday they are not quite in the condition he would like to have them for the ladies to play on. He has suggested that they change their regular weekly Ladies' Day to Wednesday, and then the greens would be in perfect condition. He also says that on Wednesday there are not so many men playing the course. The ladies have considered this, but as yet have not made the change.

He has two sets of tee plates; one set ahead of the other. Since the majority of players are high handicappers and they maintain the course, they should be considered. The older ladies "dandle around in front," he says. They are permitted to use the forward tee plates in their friendly play during the week, but in competing in events on Ladies' Day they must play from the men's tees, Mrs. H. D. Raymond, of Evanston G. C. and first V. P. of women's Western Golf Assn., reports.

Mr. H. D. Raymond, new chairman of Evanston's green-committee, is planning to have rough in front of all the tees except the first one.

Bob has his course in good condition and members have been playing on the regular greens all through the winter. He also has his job well in hand and there seems to be perfect co-operation between him and the men and women players. This is his ninth year at Evanston. A member was waiting to talk with him so he excused himself.

I turned and saw a fine approach shot sail up to the eighteenth green and the putt was holed. As Mrs. R. L. Wetzel, an 8 handicapper, picked up her ball out of the cup she was asked how she liked their greens. "They are the finest around here," she said. "They are slow, but true. I like our greens but I notice a difference when I play at other clubs where the greens are faster." In regard to the tee plates she said: "When playing a match, and giving strokes to a poorer player, the back tees should be used, so the good play-

er, with her longer drive, will not have an advantage. When they reach the green the poorer player has the same chance and frequently is the better putter."

### No Women on Green-Committee.

Mrs. Raymond was questioned as to the advisability of having a woman—one who knows golf and what the woman golfer wants for her course—on the green-committee. Her answer was one that all the greenkeepers, no doubt, will highly approve of. She was not in favor of it in the least. "It is bad enough to have cranky men on the green-committee without having a woman also," she said. "If you have a capable greenkeeper it is best to give him plenty of leeway and let him work unhampered. Of course the women should be permitted to make suggestions. Often their ideas are adopted."

Mrs. Eliot Evans, chairman of Chicago District Women's golf team, and one of Evanston's leading women golfers says she prefers to have the tee plates at the back of the tees, but that she thinks perhaps the majority of women like them placed at the forward end.

The idea of mowing a path for 50 yards

in front of the tees where there is rough, so the poorer players might not get lost in the rough, struck Mrs. Evans as being particularly funny. "The poorer players could not always hit the path, anyway," she said. "But a path should be there so the players will not have to walk through the rough if it is very high."

She does not like the holes placed at the near edge of the greens nor does she think they should be in too absurdly difficult spots either. The slow greens at Evanston are what most of the women favor, she believes.

Mrs. Helen Hepburn, new president of the Chicago Women's District Golf Assn. says her course—Skokie—is always kept in good condition.

She does not know the greenkeeper, Fred Boye, who has been there only two years, but when any special event is scheduled the women just let the green-committee know in time. In Mrs. Hepburn's words, "The course is combed for us and clean towels are put at every tee box."

The course is watered at night and the women are not bothered with sprinklers.



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Their Ladies' Day is Friday—consequently Monday topdressings are no source of worry to them. Traps are raked early Saturday morning in order to be ready for the week-end play.

Again quoting Mrs. Hepburn: "Our greens are just medium, possibly on the slow side, and we like them. We are just scared to death when we go to Indian Hill where the greens are so fast."

"Skokie's ninth hole has a long water carry. The tee plates are left where the men play from, but some of the women players go forward to shoot. "However," continued Mrs. Hepburn, "we advise against it as they will never play a good game if they always baby their shots."

"Cash" Easton, who grew up with Briergate, is serving his eleventh consecutive year as greenkeeper there. His course is in fine condition and is ready for members now. All the greens are mowed, the fairways cut, and the tees neatly trimmed. Plenty of barbering done on that course, but he asked to be excused for the rough on his face which he hadn't had time to drag the scythe over.

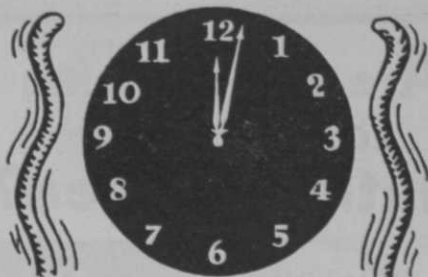
### Topdressing Bothers Women.

He seldom has any complaints about the condition of the course. The main trouble he says is after topdressing on Monday the greens haven't had time to get into perfect condition by Tuesday, which is Ladies' Day there. He brushes the dressing in as well as possible. He topdresses only every 6 weeks during the summer so it is not often that there is a complaint. It isn't the better players who complain, he says.

Minor things, like a tractor mowing in an adjoining fairway, worry some of the temperamental players, and once a woman golfer asked to have a mower two fairways away shut off! Another "kind soul" had her caddie open the door to the sparrow cage in which six vicious little vagrants were awaiting disposition by "Cash."

On Ladies' Day instead of locating the cups in a strategic place the kindly "Cash" puts them in the center of the greens. There is rough in front of some of the tees, but a path 15 or 20 ft. wide is mowed for the players' convenience. There are no cock-eyed tee plates at Briergate; the keen-eyed Mr. Easton always places them at right angles to the line of play, thus saving the player any unnecessary thinking when lining up his ball.

Water pressure was not strong enough during the hot months of July and August



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last year so Mr. Easton had to use the sprinklers day and night. About August the turf on the greens becomes slightly dormant, so he raises the blade of the mower for higher cutting, which slows up the greens, but also saves them. The players do not know all the little tricks he uses to keep the course in condition and to keep them happy. He seems to accomplish both these things.

"There have been plenty of assessments and they have something coming to them," says this conscientious greenkeeper.

Fred Kruger, veteran greenkeeper of Olympia Fields, doesn't try to know the players, but he certainly knows his greens. Last year he had three assistant superintendents to help him see that the four courses were in good condition. This year he is three-in-one. Those assistants were released and Fred buzzes about from course to course in his Ford. Three dozen workmen assist him. An improved arrangement is now in effect. Each workman is restricted to a certain number of holes. In this way one man does not cross another man's work.

The topdressing is done when there is the least play and when the weather is most favorable. Ladies' Day is Thursday, a good day for a club that has only one course, but with Olympia Fields' four courses and the girls playing a different course each week, they are not annoyed with topdressing. "But I don't know who could build a flock of courses like these now," said the genial Mr. Kruger.

Most of the tees are long, but for Ladies' Day the plates are usually placed in the middle, and the cups in the middle of the greens. Cups are changed about every other day. The last few years the greens have been kept longer.

## For Fast Play.

One doesn't often find rough in front of the tees nowadays, it was suggested. "It slows up the course. You have to keep the players moving to keep them happy, and they can't afford to lose the balls nowadays," said Fred.

Asked about a woman on the green-committee, he smiled and answered: "It would be just some one else to argue with.

"Every day clean towels are put at the 72 tees, but they don't remain clean long when those little Polish caddies begin wiping their hands on them."

The line-up at Oak Park C. C. this year

presages a happy season of golf for both its men and women. Mrs. George C. Davis, re-elected chairman of women's events, is competent, tactful and knows the game of golf. She says, "The course last year was in bad condition. Several of our greens went out, but of course last year was a terror on all courses. Edward Dearie is our greenkeeper this year and we are delighted with the progress he has already made. It has not been the greenkeeper that worried us. We have always had trouble in making the men on the golf committee allow us enough for our prizes and running the tournaments. But this year we are happy to have LeRoy C. Towle, a former director, as our president. He understands that the women play a great deal of golf and with their entertainments and parties bring revenue into the club. He is being quite generous with us and we are anticipating a fine year of golf. Then too, you know, we have Horton Smith as our pro. The girls' hearts all go pitter-patter over having him with us."

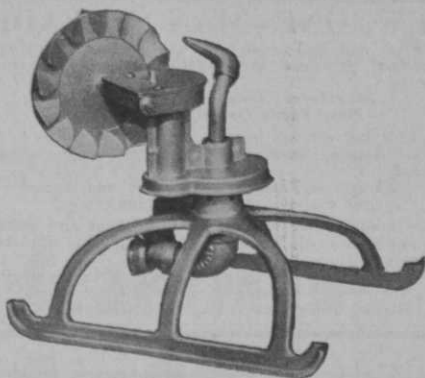
It was suggested that the state would not be very conducive to good golf. "Oh! they will have to get under control before they reach the first tee," she replied.

From the first tee to the eighteenth green it is the greenkeeper's job to keep the players happy, and Edward B. Dearie, Jr., is quite capable of doing that. For a great many years he worked with Donald Ross, one of America's foremost golf architects. In the last few years Dearie has been remodeling courses in and around Chicago. He re-vamped Edgewood Valley, was consultant on work done at Ridgemoor and Bryn Mawr. He designed Sportsman's and his most recent creation is the new north Lincoln Park course which will open May first. Oak Park under his supervision should be in excellent condition.

"We have had two abnormal years, with almost tropical conditions. These greens can't survive that more than 100 degree temperature," he says.

"The aprons to the greens are being considered more nowadays. They should be kept smooth so a pitch and run shot will not bounce off at an angle. It is hard to keep them in condition when the soil beneath is clayey. It should be black soil so that the apron could be used for temporary greens in the fall and winter."

Monday is his day for topdressing, but he thinks a light topdressing is best for summer time and that after it is sprinkled it will not interfere with play on Tuesday.



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