

the raucous cheers of the spectators at this new game of Kittenball or Diamondball or whatever name you want to apply to this imitation baseball that us older fellows have sunk to, or they are shining down on some college football field, or even calmly lighting the yard of some service station where the most exciting thing they do is grease your car.

Now for the second guess or the hypothetical question which comes to us every little while. "If you had \$9,000 would you invest it in a night lighting plant, if you had a golf course"?

My answer is this: If I ever had \$9,000 again (Will this depression never lift) I might invest it in a night golf plant, but only under these conditions: The course would have to be in some magical South Sea Island, or some mythical Florida paradise or in some imaginary California Utopia where the nights are always soft and fair, where there is no dew from Heaven or Hell or wherever it comes from, where the women have dispositions of angels and urge the boys to go out and have a little fun while the night is still young, and where the boys do not have to work for a living so they can sleep as late as they like in the morning. Under those conditions, even considering the number of barrels of 3.2 beer \$9,000 will buy, I might take another flyer.

Come to think of it though, I do not believe I would. I believe I would let some one else do it and I would spend a part of the money with him. Every little while there comes a night when the air is soft and still and I get the urge to smack one on the nose and see it flaming through the night sky like a shooting star. And still oftener on Sunday morning when the putts are going haywire and will not get near the cup I long for those night lighted greens where the ball ran up like it was on wheels and dropped in the cup just as if it had the eyes of an owl. Yes sir, if some one will just light up that course in that enchanted spot I spoke of, if I ever get the money and if my wife will let me, I will spend a share of it with him.

Night golf is practical; the mechanics of it do not bother at all; the things you would naturally worry about are phantoms that do not exist. But north of the Mason and Dixon line, I fear it will not pay dividends. That is the second guess. And while the boys down at Washington are trying to find out ways and means to get riches for all of us I suggest that they just

pass a law giving us two guesses in business and I will promise not to ask for anything else.

That's the sad story mates, \$9,000 worth of it, and all of the details of how the criminal was detected and the heroine was saved will be furnished on receipt of your inquiry, but remember, return postage must be paid. Experience is a valuable teacher.

PUBLIC HOWLS

Chicago Public Park Golf Lease Stirs Protest Rally

AS FORECAST in a comment in *May GOLFDOM*, plenty of embarrassment was caused to West Park (Chicago) officials who had the brazen impudence to present an expense account to the public, of \$35,000 for the annual maintenance of the nine-hole public golf courses at Garfield and Columbus parks.

The deal was raw enough under the previous administration, as both courses could have been kept in better condition than they were for around \$5,000. This figure of \$5,000 may seem low, but you ought to see the courses. They are short, pool table affairs. Income of both courses was \$18,000 in 1932. The deficit could be accounted for quite accurately as the graft that burdens park course operation too frequently until some newspaper learns the popularity of an expose of the free-handed thievery that goes on at a public course.

In Chicago the *Evening American*, a Hearst paper, picked up this hot cause and banged it around with bold face type, printing the simple facts until 8,000 people turned out at a mass meeting to protest against the award of the golf concessions for \$5,000 to private operators by the present board. The boys who made the \$5,000 successful bid, which a statement at the mass meeting pronounced an inside deal and not the result of public bidding, can not be blamed. With an \$18,000 income coming in where the public was pushed around and petty larceny was practiced in allotting starting times, private operators certainly could develop enough more business to make a handsome profit, even with the kick-back that some people, who have a sort of a sacrilegious attitude toward Chi-

cago's political purity, have inferred must be a part of any deal given a private concessionaire.

The ingenuous remark of the present park board, in explaining the grant of public facilities to private operators, was that under the old regime of entirely political operation of the course it was impossible to eliminate graft or keep the payroll down to a reasonable basis. This probably is the classic run-out of the season. If you can present a more pitiful confession of incompetence and weakness you can have the whole board for a birthday present.

Ernest Heitkamp, golf editor of the *American*, built a fire under the situation and the whole deal is providing plenty of heat for those guilty of giving the taxpayers a neat and thorough gypping.

The Hearst paper has been giving a lot of space to golf lately. In addition to the expose of the West Park deal the *American* promoted a big \$5,000 driving and approaching contest within the walls of Soldier Field, Chicago, June 4, as part of A Century of Progress athletic program. A conflict with the concluding date of the St. Paul Open unavoidably prevented some of the big-time pro talent from competing in the *American's* event. Many of the pros signed up at St. Paul before they realized the dates of the St. Paul and Chicago events clashed and so went through with their St. Paul commitments because of the work St. Paul has done in putting on its annual golf events.

This conflict was especially regrettable because of the *American* event being the first big money newspaper event in this country. In England and Scotland the newspaper tournaments are the big money events and had the conflict on the June 4 date prevented, the *American* affair might have done much to encourage other U. S. newspapers to put up golf tournament money.

Rhode Island Greenkeepers Hold Fourth Annual Meeting

THE FOURTH Annual Greenkeepers' Field Day was held at Rhode Island State College and Experiment Station May 22nd. About 80 greenkeepers and other turf enthusiasts were present.

Greenkeepers visited the turf experiments at the experiment station under the guidance of T. E. Odland and H. F. A.

North. The season has been favorable and the grass plats were in good condition. Various fertilizer tests, variety tests, bent grass strains from different clubs, bent grass for seed production and many other experiments and tests are under way.

After luncheon the visitors were extended greetings from the college by President Raymond G. Bressler. Director Gilbert of the experiment station acted as chairman of the meeting and introduced a number of the greenkeepers and others present.

Chief address of the day was made by Dr. John Monteith, Jr., of the Green Section. His topic was "Turf Diseases and Their Control."

Following the dinner and talks, the annual business meeting of the Rhode Island Greenkeepers' Club was held. The following officers were elected:

President, Chas. B. Mulaney, Meshanticut G. C.

Vice Pres., Everett Pyle, Providence Municipal Links.

Treas., Martin Greene, Wannamoisett C. C.

Sec., Woodworth Bradley, Providence, R. I.

A number of firms were represented with various lines of equipment. Demonstrations of equipment occupied the time from 3 p. m. to well toward 6 o'clock. The exhibits included lawn and putting green mowers, sprinklers and sprinkler equipment, water pumps, seeds, fertilizers, and miscellaneous golf equipment.

BACK HOME WITH GLORY

THE SAND green article in May GOLF-DOM which was credited to *Golf Monthly* of Scotland, should have been credited to the USGA Green Section *Bulletin*.

It was the most practical sand green story we have been able to dig up anywhere, which opinion probably was shared by *Golf Monthly*, but which omitted giving credit to the Green Section.

The incident shows how the Section contributes widely to betterment of course maintenance and doesn't rule the little sand green courses out of the running simply because they aren't paying anything toward the Section's maintenance. Many of the larger courses are benefiting from the Section's work without kicking in, so the sand green courses don't need to blush.