

COUNTRY'S OLDEST EQUIPMENT?



Peoria (Ill.) CC where some of the most modern course maintenance is used under the able supervision of Elmer Biggs, pro-supt., also claims to have the oldest operating golf course equipment in the country. The Peoria course is the second oldest in Illinois, having been originally built in 1897 under the direction of F. M. Birks who still is an active member of the club.

The two mules, Dink and Jack, are 37 and 35 years old respectively. They have been at work on the course since they were infant mules and still earn their keep mowing the rough on the hilly course.

Their jockey, Lije Alexander, shown at the helm in this picture, has been with the club for 28 years. He still is active as gardener on the clubhouse grounds except when the rough requires his attention and that of Dink and Jack. Principal item in the mules' maintenance is chewing tobacco, which is furnished by Lije out of his private stock.

In bygone days—before the employment of motorized fairway mowing equipment on the Peoria course, Dink and Jack hauled fairway mowers and developed such proficiency in ducking golf balls that even in their advanced years Biggs makes money betting that any sharpshooter can stand 150 yards away from either or both of these mules and drive balls at them without registering a hit. Lije maintains that neither of the mules has been hit by a ball during the 28 years he has been their pilot, although thousands of balls have whistled by so closely that the strain has begun to tell on Lije, who in his 72d year, complains that he has his moments when he feels like slowing up somewhat.

Lije was one of the astonished spectators who saw Harry Hampton, veteran Beverly professional, hole out a 65-yard approach from the brick sidewalk alongside the golf course for a deuce at the eighteenth during the Western Open. Hampton won a case of Hiram Walker whiskey for this eagle. When Lije was informed of the prize won by Hampton his comment was: "My goodness how I wish I had took up golf!"

The best test of a fertilizer is its ability to produce results over a period of years. The ratings that came from these gardens can not therefore be considered conclusive evidence as to what these fertilizers will do on the golf courses over a long period of years. In this connection it is interesting to compare the ratings of the sul-

phate of ammonia plot with one of the two plots above it. The sulphate of ammonia plot received a lower rating in the last two years than it did the first two. The two mixed complete fertilizers, on the other hand, even though they contained sulphate of ammonia, continued to give fairly uniform results over a 5-year period.