

# Golfdom

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## TEXAS FINDS BENT IS OK

**G**OLF club officials and operating executives who have visited the Southwest recently pay respectful tributes to the great comeback golf interests of this section of the country have made in general club status and especially in developing successful methods of maintenance to cope with extreme weather conditions.

One of the standouts in the Southwest's golf development is the new Colonial GC at Forth Worth, an establishment that in many respects exhibits the new note in golf business. Claude Whalen is general manager and professional. Even in Whalen's title there is something to stir thought in many places in the golf field. Especially interesting and probably the forerunner of considerable other greens work in the Southwest,

is the work done with bent greens at Colonial.

Whalen tells the Colonial story briefly:

The first dirt work was started on the course May, 1935, with John Bredemus of San Antonio and Perry Maxwell of Tulsa, collaborating as architects.

The course has Bermuda fairways, the first seed having been planted in July, 1935. The accompanying picture of our

This 18th fairway at Colonial was photographed only a year after planting with Bermuda. It was formerly a ravine ten feet deep.



18th fairway gives some idea of the density of the turf, one year after planting. I might say that all our fairways are the equal or better than the one shown in the picture due to the fact that the 18th fairway was formerly a ravine, some 10 ft. deep, and required a great deal of filling and leveling to make it playable.

It was decided to give bent grass a thorough tryout in this section and after much research work a special selected type of Seaside bent was decided on.

The topsoil of the greens was composed of about 50% dairy loam, 50% fine sand, known as blow-sand in this section, to which about one bale of peat moss per 1,000 sq. ft. was added. Two plantings of seed were made; one in late September and one in late November. In each instance, about 3 lbs of seed per 1,000 sq. ft. were used.

#### Turf Resists Weather Extremes

As far as the weather was concerned, the grass came through an unusual year in grand style. We had one of the coldest winters and hottest summer on record, yet these extremes did not seem to affect the bent in the least.

We did have some trouble with webworms and cut worms and several greens were damaged before we were able to determine definitely the cause of the damage. An article appearing in March, 1936, GOLFDOM, on sod webworm control was of great assistance in helping us determine just what these pests were and helped us decide on a method of control.

We have had practically no brownpatch and have had no dollar-patch at all. However, we have taken every precaution and treated our greens regularly, in order that we might keep the brown-patch to a minimum, owing to the fact that we did not establish a nursery.

The greens recovered nicely from the worm damage and are growing vigorously. They are creating a great deal of interest in Texas and I feel sure that within the next few years courses without bent grass greens in this part of the country will be just as obsolete as courses with sand greens are at the present.

We are most fortunate in having a river which affords ample water to take care of our fairways and greens. The hoseless system is used in the fairways and about four miles of pipe is used as feeders. We have a pumping plant capable of putting out more than 1,000,000

gal. of water in 24 hours, so our plant is never taxed very heavily to keep the turf in good condition.

The course was open for play on February 1, 1936, and was in unusually good condition from the first, owing to our desire to have it in as nearly perfect condition as possible before opening.

#### Kidd Heads Committee Planning Annual PGA Seniors Event

**C**ONTRIBUTIONS of \$1,500 from Alfred K. Bourne for a trophy to be played for annually at a PGA Seniors' championship carries along the plans for this interesting event. The seniors' tournament, being planned by a PGA committee headed by Willie Kidd, contemplates an annual tournament for PGA members over 50 years of age who have been pros for 25 years or longer.

A feature of the event that Kidd and his associates are considering is a pro-amateur affair bringing in members of the senior amateur associations in the United States.

The PGA senior championship should prove to be one of the finest sporting events of the year. One sponsor offered to present a trophy and a minimum of \$7,000 a year toward defraying the expenses of the event.

#### Nan O'Reilly, Veteran Golf Reporter, Is Dead

**N**AN O'REILLY, golf editor of the New York Journal, died in the New York hospital Feb. 28 of an intestinal ailment complicated by a heart condition. Death followed an illness of two days.

Miss O'Reilly has been a newspaperwoman for 27 years, starting at the age of 14 by contributing a real-estate article to the New York Tribune. When she was 19 she went with the New York Post as a golf writer. After 10 years there she joined the sports staff of the New York Telegram. In 1929 she shifted to the Journal. She was the only woman covering golf for a metropolitan newspaper.

In 1930 Miss O'Reilly married Silas Newton, an oil operator and well known amateur golfer.

Miss O'Reilly wrote lively coverage of golf and called all the shots as she saw them. She was a hard, courageous and able worker and was widely known in both pro and amateur golf.