

In making up your club program for 1939, don't forget the caddie competitions and parties, suggests Wilbert M. Allen, pres. of Belmont Hills CC where the Wheeling Invitational tourney has been played for the last two years.

Proper publicity given caddie affairs from the start of the season reminds the youngsters that they have virtually a membership interest in the organization, hence helps to promote caddie performance and attendance.

ploughed under, 4 in. of topsoil spread, limed, fertilized and seeded to Kentucky blue, Chewings fescue, redbot and colonial bent. Some bad luck with the topsoil was encountered and now we are engaged in a battle with the 'Jersey Bent' which came with it. The course was closed for four normal playing months to give the new grass a chance, and we had to use wooden tees through the fairway for a while as a measure of protection from taking too much divot.

An underground watering system (with 77 heads) supplies water to the area on the south, which is also used as the parade ground. A five gang tractor mower raised to an inch and a half keeps the grass at a safe length.

The renovation of the fairways has been under the personal supervision of Col. Frank P. Lahm, chairman of the golf committee, and Lt. Col. W. C. White, post quartermaster, who handle all construction. All credit is due these two officers who have worked untiringly to see that the course is the best that the money and labor at their command could build.

### Top Soil Blown Away

The renovation last season was necessary because erosion through the years on this wind and rain-swept island had washed away the original top soil. This erosion, coupled with the Japanese beetle scourge, practically ruined the old course, but the renovating, together with a copious application of colloidal arsenate of lead, should present an almost perfect course within the next year and a half.

Greens are of seaside bent, small and tricky. As stated before, the Japanese beetle has been a particularly ruinous pest. Situated as the island is, near the Jersey shore on the west and Brooklyn on the east, these pests are blown here in swarms and have gone into the soil by the millions. One or two of the greens are badly infested but the same application of colloidal arsenate was applied, and it is hoped that the cycle will be interrupted during the entrance into the soil

of the adult to deposit its eggs, and in the subsequent stages.

Our watering schedule is from two in the morning until eight o'clock and it seems to have eliminated brown-patch from our worries. *Poa annua* gave us some trouble at the beginning of last July, but forking, topdressing and reseeding to seaside helped stop it. Beetles are our greatest worry but we feel we now have them whipped.

Maintenance of the course is handled by the Army, as it is an integral part of the parade ground. Equipment consists of a five-gang fairway mower, three greens-mowers and two lawn mowers for the tees and approaches. During excessive heat we cut the greens to five-sixteenths and have few complaints. During good weather we try to pull this down to three-sixteenths. There is not enough money available to follow the best fertilizing program, but notwithstanding, the greens are in fair shape. The early morning watering is an immense aid, for even with the excessive heat and high humidity all greens will hold pitches in a manner pleasing to players.

Caddies on this course are sons and daughters of personnel stationed here. There are about 30 of these boys and girls, and they stay with us until their parents are transferred; then others come in to take their places.

The course is ideally situated for the personnel of the Island, for all most of them have to do after work is done, is to step out their back door and start playing. The golf course is the ideal recreation center and most of the personnel avail themselves of the privilege. Members' guests are permitted to play on payment of a nominal greens fee.

My shop is well stocked with necessities and there the clubs are stored and repaired for members. Plans are being made to enlarge the shop and I look for increased business this year.

**Pierce Made Racing Official**—Harold Pierce, USGA official and former president of the Massachusetts GA and long prominent in New England golf, has been appointed a member of the Massachusetts State Racing commission by Governor Saltonstall. Pierce has been head of the Green Section of the USGA, and in that capacity has seen plenty of the difficulties of turf research although not as much as has been witnessed by some of the horse turf researchers who have tried to parlay \$2 into a fortune.