

THEY KEEP BUSY

GOLFDOM recently asked several prominent greenkeepers what their work routine consists of in the winter months, particularly during January, February and March, and their replies, practically alike as far as kinds and amount of work are concerned, build up a strong case against those clubs who fail to see the logic of employing a year-round greens crew, or at least a full time greenkeeper.

Don Boyd, Portage CC, Akron, Ohio, superintendent, gives an enlightening report of his winter activities at Portage. Don says:

"In addition to checking drain lines and the general reconditioning work that must be done, I schedule my plans to keep at least 5 of my most valuable men busy during Jan., Feb., and March. In order to do this I have equipped my tool-shed with complete electrical machinery which enables us to repair and overhaul neighborhood tractors and mowers. Last year we handled all of the mechanical repairs for 9 courses in this district. We are very careful in this work and our business increases each year.

"We also trench around all trees adjacent to tees or greens, placing asphalt paper in these ditches to prevent the roots from absorbing nourishment and water from the areas where needed.

"Several years ago I took over the job of designing and installing the illuminated Christmas decorations for the clubhouse and grounds. At that time the members were satisfied with fairly simple arrangements, but now they have come to expect elaborate ornamentation and design. This work requires at least 10 days, is very interesting and our display attracts thousands of spectators each year.

"A considerable amount of my time is consumed making detailed reports for the coming year's operations, and I have found that the enumeration of details with proper explanations enables me to get better cooperation from my green-chairman.

"The winter months mean one thing for

•

When you're making up your calendar of club events for this year don't forget that each year September and October play is increasing in the north and central states.

Don't let your schedule of lively affairs run out too early.

me that I think too many superintendents neglect, namely, education. I digest all the golf articles accumulated through the summer, attend every short course possible, and try in every way to improve my store of information. I always inform my members of this bit of action on my part. I have attended the past 10 national greens' conventions and always feel that my time is well spent. I always manage to come away with at least one progressive idea that more than compensates for the expense of going."

Herb Shave, greenkeeper at Oakland Hills CC, Birmingham, Mich., says:

"Our force is kept plenty busy repairing all our equipment, such as mowers, tractors, ball washers, benches and the like, and painting up anything that looks shabby. We make a thorough check of our pumps and wells, and we also get our trees in shape during the winter months. Sometimes we move large trees from one spot to another, and we always rid the trees of any dead branches. Shrubbery is cleaned out and taken care of, also.

Haul When Turf Is Frozen

"Winter is a good time to do your hauling of sand, and to topdress those bare spots on the fairways for spring use. I usually burn all the rough I can, as it cleans out the bottom and destroys much of the weed seeds. I try to find out about all the improvements that have been introduced in new equipment, and I want to know about any new maintenance methods. Important, too, is to make up the budget for the new year intelligently, so that your chairman knows he can rely implicitly upon you and your recommendations."

Guy C. West, greenkeeper at Rhode Island CC, West Barrington, R. I., in addition to the many regular duties that keep him and his crew busy during the winter months, has the added job of repairing the damage caused by the tidal wave and hurricane last September. West says: "We lost some 3,000 trees in the storm, and now we're cleaning up what is left of them, splitting most of the fallen trees into 3 ft. lengths for fireplaces in the clubhouse. We are also giving many loads of limbs to the poor. Stumps that are in any way near play, are being removed.

"Loam is being hauled for fairway areas that were damaged by the storm, and we are doing considerable liming of fairways, especially where they were cov-

erd by salt water. Another major winter job here is screening and hauling sand for traps. We are fortunate in having a supply of beach sand on our property, and this keeps our 130 traps, most of which are large sized, in good shape.

"We have the problem of snow removal here because we have golf play throughout the winter on good days. We use the regular greens, unless the course is too soft. We do our cupping in the front halves of the greens, and change the cups several times.

"Winter offers the greenkeeper the best opportunity for self investigation and self improvement. He should study all available sources for knowledge and should attend as many meetings of his fellow-workers as possible. The wise greenkeeper adjusts the work to the weather and does not keep the gang inside working on equipment during fair, warm weather, and then have them dig loam when the ground is solid.

"In cleaning my equipment, I've found an Oakite solution very effective and another excellent method is some coarse steel wool. For many paint-up jobs, aluminum is very handy; it covers well, prevents rust, and makes a good priming coat on metal. I hate to see something such as a ball washer all cleaned and painted, and then have a wornout paddle or brush installed in it. Do a complete job and use new brushes and paddles as needed. Don't wait until the last minute to get things done, but don't paint up the equipment so early that it will need another coat to freshen it up before use.

"I believe that the average club in the Northern belt believes that there is little work to be done around the club during the winter months. This is very untrue; any good greenkeeper can ably occupy at least half of his summer crew doing the many jobs which they haven't had time to do earlier, and getting everything in readiness for the coming season."

'38 PLEASED USGA, REPORT SHOWS

REPORT of the USGA Executive Committee, released at the Association's annual meeting held Jan. 7, boasted of golf's healthy condition during 1938 . . . Highlights of the report:

Rules of Golf Committee adds two footnotes to the Rules for clarifying purposes but no new rules; extends for another year the temporary stymie rule; reiterates its stand against unnecessary cleaning of the ball on greens; and advises that the R&A has adopted the 14-club rule.

Championship Committee reduces the field in the 1939 Amateur to low 130 scorers and ties after first qualifying round; announces dates and venues of '39 USGA events; and frowns on the suggestion that ex-Open champions be automatically qualified.

Membership Committee reports a net gain of 15 clubs for the fiscal year, the membership now standing at 828 clubs.

Amateur Status Committee during year approved 64 applications for reinstatement as amateurs, turned down 15 others, and has 18 applications pending.

Implements and Ball Committee has agreement with ball manufacturers stabilizing ball distance as of today; and reports it examined the usual quota of new club designs and rejected most.

Women's Committee announces increased yardage for women's par, as follows: boosts 3-par from 200 to 210 yds.; puts upper limit of 4-par at 400 yds. formerly 375 yds.; carries 5-par from former 550 yds. to 575; and calls all over 576 yds. par-6, heretofore 551 yds.

Public Links Committee points with pride to the record breaking entries in the annual pub-links championship—248 competitors from 73 communities in 29 states and territories, plus 55 teams; and announces a desire to establish sectional qualifying rounds hereafter.

Treasurer's Report shows dues income of \$22,740, income from tourneys of \$21,344, income from broadcast rights of \$5,000, other income of \$1,063 for a total of \$50,147. Expenses for year were \$49,800, leaving profit of \$347. This profit, plus \$7,073 of Green-Section reserve transferred to surplus, boosted association's surplus from former \$76,463 to \$83,883.

Statement on tournament income and expenses shows: Open—income, \$18,619; expenses, \$8,055; net, \$10,564. Amateur—income, \$10,098; expenses, \$1,711; net, \$8,387. Women's—income, \$3,573; expenses, \$1,060; net, \$2,513. Pub. Links—income, \$1,240; expenses, \$1,360; net loss, \$120. Total tourney income, \$33,531; expenses, \$12,187; net, \$21,344.