

Outstanding Course Jobs of 1940

AT GOLFDOM's request, prominent superintendents whose work is highly regarded by fellow greenkeepers in their respective sections, have reviewed what they consider leading features of maintenance at their clubs during the past season.

Their comments furnish an excellent survey of the problems and progress of course maintenance in various parts of the nation.

Leo Feser, Woodhill CC, Wayzata, Minn., remarks:

"Reviewing the season with the thought of selecting accomplishments that bring a feeling of satisfaction, three items appear to shadow the mass of routine that is the major part of maintaining a country club. These items are all a part of managing a business with an eye to the future, but their difference in character indicates the possibilities of improving a club plant by breaking routine to some degree.

"The first has to do with the appearance of the grounds. While we have maintained a tree nursery for the past 15 years, and have in the past planted thousands of trees on the grounds, the past season brought on a stage of development of these plantings that compels attention. The player who is interested in his battle with par finds his journey one of exploration; each hole offers a new and interesting avenue of adventure, each avenue invites the player to come along and see what is at the end of the road.

Tree Program Maturing

"Driving off the tee on certain holes one has the feeling that the green lies at the last outpost in the wilderness, yet a few yards from the green he gets a glimpse of the continuation of turf that carries on into new and enticing promised lands. Occasionally he can see his fellow explorers through vistas of varying depth, and again he gets a peek at them coming through the valleys toward the heights that he has conquered. The nursery expenditures are paying big dividends.

"The second item that looms large in the year's accomplishments is the establishment of a plot of superior bent on each green. While our greens have been satisfactory to our membership, they have

never been satisfactory to the greenkeeper. A new variety of bent has been outstanding on one of the greens for several years. During the past two years we have tried small plugs on other greens with good success. From stolons propagated during the past season, we have planted a sod strip one foot wide and varying from 10 to 20 ft. long on the back part of each green. These areas will be used for plugging stock; plugs taken out of the green will be discussed, plugs of the favored variety will be placed in their stead, and the holes in the new sod strips will be filled with compost for healing and future use. A quick plugger 1½ in. in diameter will be used for this work. A gradual changing of turf will result with no inconvenience to the players and with a minimum of labor.

Science Finds Sand Source

"The problem of getting sand for traps, compost and other uses is oftentimes a difficult one in some areas. While we have large commercial pits near the city, the cost of hauling to our club is greater than the cost of the sand. Furthermore we have established a labor management policy of providing winter work for our married workmen, and winter is a fine time to screen sand and haul it into the traps. We closed our old pit because it was an eyesore in the middle of the course, and we had made numerous soundings to find a new supply, but had no success.

"At the Minnesota Greenkeepers' Conference last winter, one of the lecturers told us of an electrical resistance method used to determine soil porosity at considerable depths. Upon investigation, we found an engineer who made a survey of our waste land to determine the possibility of sand or gravel being present in those areas. The survey required but a day and a half; the results were verified by digging test pits, and we now have a fine sand and gravel pit in an area of waste land that could be used for little else and where a pit will be completely concealed from the golf course or roadways.

Ed Haupt, Glen View (Ill.) GC, has done a notable job of weed elimination. The

Irving R. Pierson, mgr.-supt., New Haven (Conn.) GCs, on September 2 became, at 40, a grandfather to a 10-lb. boy. Irv's daughter, Mrs. Howard Clinton, and the baby, Richard Irving Clinton, are both doing nicely.—GSA News Bureau.

Glen View course, one of the oldest in the Chicago district, has a branch of the Chicago river wandering through it.

Frequently, over the years, this branch has left its banks and brought to Glen View killing films of mud and a distressing supply of weed seeds. Haupt has successfully employed chemical control to minimize the weed problem. The past season he developed an effective and economical treatment for weed patches.

He has a 60-gal. tank into which he puts 30 gal. water and 75 oz. arsenic acid. Air is pumped to 85 lbs. pressure in the tank. Fifty feet of hose with a trigger nozzle is attached to the tank. The tank is on pneumatic tires. The operator of the outfit can stand erect to do his work and can move the equipment around easily.

Weed eradication and landscaping were the two big jobs of the year at many clubs, and were prominent features of work at the Moraine CC, Dayton, O., where O. Young is greenkeeper.

Young set out 75 large pines in groups of 3 to 15. Incidentally, the practice of grouping trees rather than spreading the planting out to separate fairways, has become almost general practice. The line planting looked too artificial and required more maintenance attention, especially in watering.

Wins Dandelion Fight

Young kept down the dandelions with a contrivance of chicken-wire fencing on an ordinary large metal farm gate having its front edge turned up like a sled. This device hauled at a fair speed over the fairways lifted up the dandelion leaves and cut leaves and blossoms.

One of the many little, but important, details of course work done last summer was the job of J. E. Benson, Cedar Rapids, (Ia.) CC, supt. To get away from rotting lumber and loose steps on steps to tees and on steep banks, Benson made all steps concrete. He then glued to the concrete 12-to-14 in. strips of rubber running-board material generally used on automobiles. The tread stayed firm despite exposure to hottest sun. Spiked shoes

don't slip on these treads. The treads wear well, but even when they are to be replaced they cost only 15 cents apiece.

Greenkeepers in the Detroit district had a tough summer. Herb Shave, supt. of Oakland Hills CC, tells how he had to battle to keep that championship course in good shape. Says Shave:

"We have gone through the worst climatic conditions of recent years. April, May, June and the first half of July were wet and cold. We were cutting fairways every day; but not all of them as we had to skip some fairways that were submerged by small lakes.

"One good thing about it, though, was that the grass grew so fast weeds were crowded out.

"On July 16 and 17 we had the Ryder Cup team Red Cross matches. Greens had been plenty soaked by rain. The first day all was well. The second day got hot, and a spell of heat high up in the nineties continued for a few days, after which there was a slump to the high forties.

Weather Hits Greens

"The greens had died out from the sun and wind and it seemed impossible to get water into them. They turned a sickly yellow and looked as though they had something on their stomachs they couldn't get out.

"We didn't fertilize. We spike rolled both ways to open them up for air. Next day we gave them a light topdressing containing a little lime, and followed it with a light spraying—just enough to keep the greens moist for a day or two. Then we really did water them. They started to pick up right away. After two weeks we gave them a shot of fertilizer. They came back good and have been in good shape ever since.

"We also had our troubles with dollar-spot, and it was hard to get rid of the old spots."

James K. Thomson, pro-greenkeeper at Mohawk GC, Schenectady, N. Y., reports that the usual combination of jobs accounted for Mohawk's good condition this year, rather than any outstanding details.

He relates that on his greens he did more forking than previously, and gave more study to watering. He followed through on his fertilizing program bearing in mind the greens analysis made at the

start of the season. Daily he fought grain-ing. Because of much rain he moved holes oftener than usual.

He found that chemical control of weeds still is an uncertain factor, so depended mainly on a strong fertilizing program to develop good fairways.

By getting rid of old machinery Jim says he was able to save on gas, oil, repairs, and labor. Old machinery he declares is a greenkeeper's biggest headache and the club's biggest waste. He keeps a daily record of oil and gas consumed, also a daily record of work done on each green, and of the green's condition. His workmen have a report card they fill out each day.

Dyed Turf Pleases

Thomas says that when Dr. John Monteith developed Auragreen he did a great thing for greenkeepers. Jim relates that on the eve of the club's big tournament his No. 9 green looked very bad and he was ashamed of it. He gave it the Monteith coloring treatment and the green looked fine. Now Jim is wondering if the average member judges greens by their texture or by color.

Al Lesperance, pro-supt. of Westmoreland CC (Chicago district) has had greens this season that have been widely and favorably mentioned. Condition of Westmoreland's greens, says Al, is due to several factors.

He details:

"One is the rebuilding of the surface of the greens by removal of the sod and resodding with Washington bent from our nursery. In some cases, it meant rebuilding the contours of the greens and in others, only re-turfing. The sod taken off the greens has been used to increase the size of the tees.

"Another factor is an increase in the amounts of fertilizer we have applied, on both greens and fairways.

"Still another factor has been the removal of the roller in front of our power putting green mowers.

Remodels to Save Labor

"We have for the past four years been reducing in size in some cases, and removing completely in other cases, some of our traps that are too far from the line of play. This item has made it possible to release hours of labor for other work, without reducing the total maintenance budget, to the satisfaction of everyone."

Boyd Campaigns for Weed-Free Course

PORTAGE CC (Akron, O.), Don R. Boyd, supt., has done an effective job of weed elimination during the past season. Costs and operations of the job are outlined by Boyd as follows:

Cost of labor per acre (30c per hour)	\$6.37
Sodium arsenite, cost 100 lbs.....	11.00
Sulphate of ammonia.....	2.00
Milorganite, cost, 100 lbs.....	1.50
Weed guns	1.50
Mixture: 25 lbs. Milorganite; 10 lbs. sulphate; 4 lbs. sodium arsenite.	

Rough was spread with a 9-ft. Thompson spreader, using 10 lbs. of fine ground limestone to 1 lb. of sodium arsenite; spreading this over 2,500 sq. ft.

After fairways were hand weeded, 1½ ozs. sodium arsenite to 1,000 sq. ft. was mixed in the fertilizer and applied. This killed clover and chickweed. Boyd's men then went over the fairways, filling up the holes with dirt and seed mixed. When large areas were bare, they raked and seeded. They used straight colonial bent.

Boyd adds: "We have had very good results with the above, except where we used the 1½ oz. of sodium arsenite mixed with Milorganite. The temperature should be in the 80's before the work would do much good.

Stodola's Problem Is Traffic Wear

ST. PAUL'S Keller course on which one PGA national championship and all the annual St. Paul Opens have been played, provides its greenkeeper, Harold Stodola, with one of the most difficult maintenance problems in the game. Harold has to operate a course that not only will stand the heavy traffic of public play but will be in such excellent condition for open tournament play that it will be advertised as a St. Paul civic asset by the scores of big-time pros who play it each year.

The excellence of the course and its conditioning has done much to develop public golf in St. Paul. The city's golfers brag this year as having one of their own, Bob Clark, as the USGA national public links champion.