

# SUPT. SOLVES WAR-UPKEEP ACHES

TRANSPORTATION has begun to bear down hard on recreation in the eastern states. One golf course superintendent tells GOLFDOM that bus drivers in his vicinity refuse to permit passengers carrying sports equipment to board buses on weekdays. He says nothing about the possibility of the buses being used by passengers en route to the movies or ball games.

Up to the time of the drastic transportation restrictions play was normal, considering weather. Pro shop sales were ahead of last year; probably, this superintendent guesses, because of golfers thinking they'd now better get what they think they'll need for the duration.

Travel restrictions have brought some new bag storage patrons to the course. The clubhouse is about a 10 minute walk, across the course, from the clubhouse.

Considerable of the play at this correspondent's course is of war workers. He says there's still much confusion about the place of recreation in the program of war workers in his section with the present attitude seeming to indicate that it is O. K. for a war worker to get needed recreation in a saloon or elsewhere indoors rather than escape crowded, noisy industrial city conditions if such escape for outdoor recreation requires even some use of public transportation.

War industries in his section have a high absentee rate.

## Budget Much Lower

The 27-hole course and park where this correspondent is in charge, are being operated on a sharply reduced budget. Much rain this spring has required more than normal mowing and considerable of it under very unfavorable conditions.

Of this season's operations at his course this superintendent reports:

"We are operating with seven men (including the working foreman) and a boy who comes in Saturdays. Three of these men are newly broken in on greens mowing, and one man newly broken in on rough cutting. About 90 per cent of our mowing is done by power.

"Greens now are power mowed three times a week, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, using three machines. Two men each mow nine greens each (including also turf nursery for one man), and the third man

mows 10 greens which include the practice green. Unable to get transport carriages for two new mowers, we bought parts, and made others to make up two carriages for those new machines bought winter of 1941. Fuel consumption for three machines per week (cutting 200,000 sq. ft. putting surface) is under 10 gallons gas (mix 4 gal. gas, 1 qt. SAE 30 oil). Except on Saturday, we do not mat the dew off the greens, nor do we use the grass catchers. We do other work in A.M. until greens are dried off; saving eight labor hours per week. Up to gas restrictions we worked nine hours, five days, eight hours on Saturday. Two men are nine hours on course patrol Sunday; starting 7 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., ½ hour for lunch. Now that play has dropped off, we are starting at 7 A.M. and quitting 3:30 P.M.; giving the workmen more time to work on their V gardens here on the place. We have no V gardens for players, and have no request for space.

## Less Play Cuts Work

"Banks of greens are mowed by tractor units. Banks have been mostly regraded to facilitate this work, to be done when fairways are cut first part of the week. 'Collars' of greens, up to gas shortage, were mowed with three units. Less play, less trap raking, etc. We are now cutting collars by hand, once a week, days we mow greens, while waiting for dew to dry off putting surface. Some banks inaccessible to tractor mowing are also cut by hand mower once a week. Banks and collars are not all cut in one day, but progressively through the week, until the job is done. Now with play off, we are changing cups Monday and Sunday; moving tee markers a pace ahead, every other day through the week.

"Watering is done to retain about 1 inch irrigation per week, with or without rainfall, to make up the total. We took up our lines from fairways, and extended greens lines to snap valves, now using 1/3 the hose previously used with the gate valves then in use. Watering is done in A.M. when and as needed. Fertilization and topdressing now done as needed to retain growth, but not forced for color. We have no weed problem on greens, except some poa annua and slight clover.

"Tees are mowed twice a week with

## Have You Seen Him?



Here's a chance to help the FBI catch a murderer—William Bommarito—although he probably isn't using that name today. He is wanted for killing his mother-in-law and wounding his estranged wife in Detroit in 1937.

Bommarito is an expert golfer, scoring in the low 70s. He loves the game and plays at every opportunity. In 1930, '31, and '32, he was a member of the Detroit team in the national

Public Links championships. He was finalist in the 1930 Michigan Amateur. He wears a glove when playing, hits practice shots before each match, uses the best equipment, prefers to play for money, is hard loser. Has a wide stance; putts with heels together.

He's 39, of Italian extraction, 5'5", weighs about 170, muscular build, swarthy, unruly dark brown hair, brown eyes. Swaggers when he walks, dangling his arms which are too long for his torso. Beard heavy and dark, may wear a mustache. Has a 1" scar at outer corner of left eye; brown spot between shoulders.

Bommarito likely plays public links, so look at the pictures above, which were taken 11 years ago. This man may have played your course since his flight from Detroit in 1937. If you think you recognize him, help apprehend a murderer by notifying the nearest field office of the FBI.

fairway units. All have been regraded and average 4000 sq. ft. each. Watering and divot reseeding, topdressing, etc. done as needed, with some curtailment.

"Fairways are still mowed twice a week. They were leaved last year. No fertilization or liming this year, as we have reached a point in accumulated fertilization where we can coast along on this for a few years. No weed problem to speak of. Some reseeding done last fall and this spring where low spots were drained, filled in, or regraded. Cutting ht. 1 inch, same as tees and greens collars. Fairway total 56 acres, 50 yards wide average.

### Save Gas on Rough

"Rough cutting height is two inches—where cut. Rough now considered 10 yds. each side of fairway, plus first 100 yds. in front of tees. About 15 per cent of our rough is being left grow up to hay, in areas where only a wild ball may land occasionally. Our greatest gas saving will be on rough cutting, also leaving some lawn areas grow up to rough, or even hay length.

"Traps are raked and weeded only on Fridays now; formerly 3 times a week. Fringe trimming is done every two to three weeks using grass whip type cutters.

"Compost is still made regularly, some 300 cu. yds. yearly. We are not using cyanamid; ammonium sulphate, instead. Rotted cow manure, which we have plenty

of, received from dairy for pasture use of part of park.

"Gardening work is done Saturday afternoons and Monday mornings. By keeping a day book, cost records, etc., jobs are started, left for other work, then gone back to, regularly until a cycle has been completed. Gas consumption runs up to 100 gallons per week, all machines.

"We have plenty of nursery sod if needed, and other spots are temporarily reseeded with redtop, rye, bent, etc., mixed in smaller quantities. Daily work slips, machine operation records, etc., are still kept. Boys employed (3 to 4) under 18 years old. Other men are over 38, with one exception, who is married and in 3A,—and myself.

"Fairways and practice field areas totals 58 acres. Total rough (60 acres) about the same. We may let the practice field grow up to hay. The foreman and myself are kept busy trouble-shooting, and keeping machines serviced and in operation. In other years we broke all men in to care for their machinery, but with present type labor, and turnover, these men make no repairs, oiling or adjustments, except fueling, and cleaning up after use. All painting done each year is continued. Tree work done in fall, winter and spring. We have discontinued tree spraying as 'preventative', and only spraying as control."