

WARTIME IS TEACHING US MAINTENANCE LESSONS

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MANY of us who thought we were able to give the majority of the answers to golf course maintenance have learned this season that we had to go by a new set of wartime rules. And I think it's taught us that we can carry on through the war notwithstanding possibly more adverse conditions next year.

Our club has had 25% more play this year than it had in 1942. Many of our members are deep in war work. Their sons are in battle zones and training camps. These people are under such pressure and demands on them are such that golf really is a life-saver to most of them. Fortunately the club is situated so many of its members can walk to it from their homes.

The first thing that we learned about wartime play is that traps are due for revision at many clubs. Due to labor shortage we couldn't put new sand into our 85 traps and keep these traps raked and completely free from weeds. Three years ago it cost us \$2800 to put sand in our traps.

Tee-Up in Traps

This year some of the players even teed up in traps. Maybe that isn't golf but I did notice that the psychological effect of not dumping a lot of shots in traps was very welcome to the great majority of players who shoot from 95 up and who, during this year, came out to their club to get a few hours away from their troubles.

Our officials observing this wartime attitude toward traps, are considering a reduction in the number and size of traps. I don't know what their final decision will be but, although adequate trapping will be retained, it is a certainty that one lesson of wartime maintenance will be the reduction of the expense of traps and the unwarranted punishment of higher handicap players who spend too much time and suffer too much annoyance in unnecessary traps.

Another lesson wartime maintenance has impressed on golf clubs is the fool-

ishness of over-watering. This year we couldn't get enough help to enable us to use our fairway watering system. The course at times was nearly baked and it certainly didn't look as good as I wanted it to. But the balls did travel. Keeping the greens and tees looking beautiful took some of the curse off the appearance of the fairways during the latter part of the summer. However, we had enough rain at the right time to keep the entire course thoroughly playable and the patronage figures certainly show that nobody was scared off when the fairways got brown for a while.

Best Turf Ever

I am inclined to believe that the combination of drier fairways and the weed treatment we applied will produce for us better fairway turf than we've ever had before. And that will be maintained by conservative watering practice.

We applied Milarsenite to our fairways at the rate of 300 pounds per acre. in three applications, starting around the first of August and repeating the treatment in 12 and 24 days. About 70% of our dandelions were eliminated and more complete results were shown on plantain, chickweed and knotweed.

We had considerable knotweed. When we didn't water, the poa died down and knotweed took over. Not all of our fairways got weed treatment this early. As a result of our experience last fall we intend to do the greater part of our weed control work by applying Milarsenite around the first of October, then again in 10 and 20 days. We found that this later application not only eliminated the late crop of weeds but that the discoloration was not seen by many players. However, the late treatment doesn't do much—if any—good in eliminating weeds that already have gone to seed.

We found that the later applications of Milarsenite should be made after lunch, after the dew had thoroughly dried. We apply Milarsenite when there has been no rain for at least 48 hours and when

weather reports don't threaten rain soon. We have not noticed that bent or bluegrass suffers from the treatments.

What we have noticed though, in our experience with weed control, is that a club has to keep at it. It's somewhat similar to painting a house. After a while, regardless of how good the job is, the house needs another coat. We had areas heavy with crabgrass until starting the Milarsenite treatment three years ago. Now we have none. The clover is greatly reduced. But what many club officials fail to consider is that weed seeds constantly are blowing onto a course.

The labor problem has been tough. We have had to rely on high school boys. They are all right as long as you tell them exactly what to do and supervise them closely. But the boys don't often last at the job more than a few weeks until they quit to work elsewhere.

The instruction and management of these high school lads have suggested to many a golf course superintendent changes in procedure that he can employ

to good effect with older men when things return to normal and older men again can be obtained for golf course work.

An interesting sidelight to the great use of our club as a recreational center this summer has been the popularity of two shuffleboard courts we built at a cost of \$195. We installed them for entertainment of the juniors, but when lights were installed at the courts, they became magnets for the adults every night.

It seemed that almost every detail of course maintenance this year involved a new problem, but the heavy play that came to LaGrange impressed on us that we had to solve those problems and not alibi. Otherwise we'd be falling down on the job of supplying recreation to people who needed it more than they realized, and who could do their wartime jobs better with the lift and relief they were able to get at the club.

And in solving the problems we were tipped off to plenty that probably will be highly beneficial to the management of golf courses after the war.

Chicago's Dime-a-Round Campaign Expanded

An alternative plan of an honor roll on which appear names of golfers subscribing a dime for every round of golf they play has been added to the Chicago District GA's dime-a-round first tee collection method. The honor roll method supplements the original plan which placed a milk bottle at first tees.

Those who sign on the honor rolls commit themselves for at least a dime a round for every round of golf they play during the season. The proceeds go to Chicago's Servicemen's centers.

Lowell D. Rutherford, chairman of the Dime-a-round plan said that Oak Park and Beverly country clubs each promptly filled in two honor rolls. Public and daily fee courses have been much larger contributors to the dime-a-round campaign than the private courses.

To September, the campaign, brain-child of Thomas G. McMahon, CDGA president, had raised \$9,756.89. The plan is sponsored by the CDGA, PGA, the Illinois Section PGA, the Chicago Park District Courses, the Chicago District Daily Fee Courses, the Cook County Forest Preserve District Courses, the Western GA, the Chicago Women's District GA and the Women's Western GA.

Jackson Park leads all park courses with \$1,466.37. Tom Walsh's Westgate Valley leads all daily fee courses with \$809.46 while Edgewater Golf Club heads the CDGA Member Clubs with \$410.00.

Mrs. Charles Dennehy to Head Women's Western GA

Nominating committee of the Women's Western GA has named Mrs. Charles Dennehy of Onwentsia club (Chicago district) to be voted in as president of the organization at its annual meeting, which will be held at Chicago, Sept. 20. Nomination is tantamount to election.

Other officers for the forthcoming year: Mrs. Wrisley B. Owen, 1st v. p.; Mrs. Harry Newby, 2d v. p.; Mrs. Edmund D. Adcock, corresponding sec.; Mrs. Murray Moxley, recording sec.; Mrs. A. L. Heald, treas.; Mrs. Philip G. Lenz, handicap chmn.; Mrs. George Weinhagen, Jr., rules chmn.

Lengthen Muny Hours — Because so many war-workers from nearby airplane plants couldn't fit the hours that Long Island muny layouts were open to play into their off-work schedules, the courses have decided to open earlier and stay open later.