

copied by other businesses at the solicitation of golf clubs. Every Tuesday the River Raisin Paper Co. holds a dinner for its office staff at the club. There is golf before dinner in the summer, and in the winter they play cards. After dinner there is a business meeting.

This company has one of the smoothest-running, energetic and able organizations you ever saw, and it is plain, if you happen to overhear part of its sessions at the club, that the weekly meetings at the club have helped a lot to develop a wonderful organization spirit, knowledge and close teamwork.

Wednesdays I used to run a league, and it's an idea I can recommend to every club and pro. I paired every member in the club and sent out cards on Mondays advising of the pairings. There was one point given the winner of the match in whatever game the contestants decided to play: golf, tennis, cards, dice, drinking, or anything else. Most of them played golf and the competitive interest made business good for me.

Rules were:

In golf three-fourths the handicap difference applied.

6 P. M. is deadline to wait for opponents.

Player had to be at the club to win a point if other player was out of town or could not be there for the game.

Team with highest number of points received dinner from losers.

Competitive season was 18 weeks.

I also gave a talk on golf rules and golf in general to our club's ladies, at one of their weekly golf luncheons each month. I conducted all men's, women's and junior tournaments at the club.

We have great golf spirit at Monroe, and it's the kind of spirit that, when applied to war effort, makes us a cinch to win, regardless of how long or tough the war is going to be. And I know that this sort of spirit, once it's crystallized, won't weaken, even though the pressure of war work and worries is heavy on our members.

Necessity Taught Us How to Solve Wartime Problems

By WM. H. JOHNSON

Greenkeeper-Mgr., Municipal Golf Courses,
Los Angeles, Calif.

DURING 1943 at Griffith Park we maintained the courses with 60% of our normal crew mainly by using power equipment such as three-gang Overgreen mowers and other power greens mowers. We built a couple of trailers, using midget auto racer wheels, hooking them on to tractors to transport from one green to another.

During the growing season we practically forget the traps. We work on them in the off-growing season.

The crew was organized into one unit which could double up on any maintenance problem that came up. Fairway mowing we skipped from the tee to a point about 150 yards out from the tee.

After talking with many superintendents at the recent Los Angeles Open Tournament, I have come to the conclusion that the biggest single item has been in the handling of the workmen on the course. It has really made the men in charge of maintenance use every ounce of their ingenuity. For example, one course has two men; another three; another six. Another gets out every morning and rounds up any transients who might work only one day.

From the equipment side of the picture; to keep their present machines in operation, some work over their scrap piles using discarded parts and remodeling or disregarding standard parts. By using a welding torch or maybe turning out on a lathe just anything to keep their equipment going, some are getting by.

An Old Master with New Ideas

By WILLIE OGG

Pro, Worcester, Mass. CC

WE had to curtail, like most other clubs in this vicinity. The question arose in February, 1943, whether we would try to operate at all during the season and it was decided to cut the dues and operate just enough to keep things from going to ruin. Remember, this was decided upon when things looked their blackest and the gas ban stopped our winter activities.

We tried the horse-and-buggy idea but without success but when the gas ban was lifted play picked up quite a bit but still much below normal. Many in this vicinity had the suffering complex and many still do; the idea being that it was wrong to participate in sports or enjoyment of any kind. The harvest is now being reaped in the form of sudden deaths and all kinds of ailments. The industrial plants are now going to insist that their employees take time off the coming year for fear that everybody will crack.

The Wilson broadcasts are doing a lot of good in making people see the light and they are to be congratulated in their advocacy of a physical fitness program as this surely will save lives and many many hours of production. Absenteeism is caused more by the employees feeling out of sorts than by anything else, according to my observations in this industrial city that is working night and day on war orders.

Our golf course took it on the chin like many others owing to the budget being cut. We did not suffer from lack of materials nor spare parts but we did have a labor shortage because the money was not forthcoming. We had to chisel on our topdressing, mowing, gardens and rough

to get by, but on the whole we held things together pretty well. By using winter rules we avoided any squawks about the fairways but many players did beef because conditions were not pre-war.

We are now operating our diningroom on a concession basis and this includes the locker room as well. This may be the answer to the catering problem, although in the main this will probably always be for each individual club to solve according to their own particular needs.

We had a shortage of caddies during week days but on the whole there was enough boys to go round week-ends. Doubling up had to be resorted to most of the time with the result that Sunday bags became of general use. This may have caused some slight inconveniences but I am sure that if this was not done we could not compete in the labor market. It is either increase the caddie fees or double up.

Getting back to the golf course, I wish to say that we are blessed with loyal employees and that we are equipped with a small machine shop in which we are able to do most of our own repairs. We have not found any short cuts in our operation but just concentrated on the greens and tees and spread out what we had left on the fairways and rough. The traps were left more or less unranked and unsickled but teeing up was allowed to offset this.

About the only new development that I have worked out is a machine which may cure the packed condition of grounds. This machine has other varied uses but mainly I have been trying to get something that would be better than spiking. Spiking or punching holes does put a green out of play for a while and packs still more the areas which the spikes does not enter so that, on the whole, spiking did not do much good.

The machine we build has knife steel discs and the principle used is the same as the disc harrow excepting that the cuts are verticle instead of an angle. The depth of cut is governed by the weight used on a tray directly over the axis and the condition of the ground; the wetter the ground the less weight needed for penetration.

To prevent the turf from lifting I have skids riding between the knives and the pressure of the skids on the turf is regulated by spring tension. The cuts made in our own case were about three inches deep, and, as the knives are quite thin, it does not put the green out of play. We do the job on each green in 15 minutes as we use the Overgreen for motive power.

Naturally, many greenkeepers would be horrified at the idea of slicing up a green, but I can assure you it works. Topdressing is immediately available to the roots and there are no puddles after a rainstorm. Inasmuch as the space between the cuts is regulated by whatever width of collar

or spacer is used, this machine is invaluable for cutting grainy greens.

I look for more play this year and a more generous budget, even though I am now caddie master along with my other jobs and work seven days a week I still love it. I have golf balls and other merchandise and I do not complain.

Beyond "Hello with a Smile" Is Hard Work

By EM BRAAK

Em Braak, who has been a golf pro for 23 years, and for the past five years lessor of the Minnetonka CC, Minneapolis, prior to the time it was sold, gives tips lessons from his experience in successfully conducting a golf club on a wartime basis.

Braak's statement shows the importance of having men with savvy on the job. He says:

Five years prior to leasing Minnetonka I acted as pro-manager. I feel that the past ten years' experience has left me capable of handling any situation that may arise at a golf club.

I set up my budget during the winter months, so when spring did arrive I was ready to go. I never overlooked the fact that a golf club's main income was from those who played golf, and therefore I made every effort to see that the golf course got the largest share of attention, although I kept the dining room and locker rooms up, and always presentable to members and their guests.

During the winter I would contact all the business revenue in the dining room. I always maintained a rule that "a hello with a smile" would pay big dividends. Operating a club is no easy job, it means hard work and long hours during the playing season.

The past two years the golf professional has been called upon to take over many duties he never before experienced, and has had to keep the ball rolling with his knowledge of golf.

First among wartime needs at many clubs is easing playing conditions by eliminating bunkers and widening fairways. That gives the player a better chance to score and he derives more pleasure and relaxation out of the game. This method will prevail after the war if the clubs expect to maintain a membership, and get on a paying basis. Public courses have proven this point in all sections of the country. The fellowship we get out of golf we are willing to pay for if we enjoy our games. I have seen several players quit golf just because they loose too many balls, and a few dollars in bets, due to the condition of a course. The maintenance of a course is cut considerably by the elimination of heavy rough and unfair bunkers, making conditions more unpleasant for every one.