

PAST YEARS' STUDY IS HELPING UPKEEP NOW

By WILL SMITH

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★ AFTER I HAD served four years apprenticeship under one of the greatest greenkeepers who ever trod a golf course, Peter W. Sees, I thought I knew all there was to know about golf course construction and maintenance. But after 30 years at this game, 25 of which have been spent at Red Run, I know there's been something new to learn almost every day.

There have been many changes in these years. Up into the early twenties greenkeeping was a secretive business and a greenkeeper kept his methods very much to himself, having learned most of them the hard way by trial and error—with plenty of error.

Prior to 1920 we did not hear much from the USGA Green Section and very little from the state agricultural colleges. It was about this time that Dr. Charles Piper was speaking and visiting in the Detroit District Golf assn. meetings and in other sections of the country. He was talking facts that had been positively proved by years of field and laboratory experiments. Then John Monteith and Kenneth Welton carried on the good work and gave us in black and white the results of years of expert study and experiments in control of scourges which threatened to all but destroy many of our courses.

We learned much from their work and their lectures and demonstrations on brown patch, snow mold, weed control, insect control and the isolation and propagation of bent strains, breeding the better strains of seed grasses, improved

fertilizing methods, soil analysis and other factors of course maintenance.

At that point the state agricultural colleges began helping us greatly with their wonderful research and their practical applications of methods of turf work best suited to different sections of the country.

The schools did a tremendous job for golf and greenkeeping in bringing together the greenkeepers of various sections for the exchange of ideas that brought out the facts and developed a scientific manner of looking at the greenkeeper's problems. The colleges brought to our help facilities which gave sound scientific research to our problems and followed up points brought out in our discussions. There is no doubt of the solutions we have reached as the result of the greenkeeper-agricultural college team work having been of prime value in keeping golf courses on the map during the critical years of war.

While greenkeeping isn't officially regarded as an essential occupation, recreation is considered vital. Many a business executive would have cracked up long ago had he not been able to get on a golf course and relax. I bring this point out because I have seen it so often shown by the executives in Detroit territory who have done such a magnificent job in wartime management and production under unbelievably heavy pressure. The course superintendent who helps these men to bounce back from the load they're under is doing a valuable job. I also mention this phase of greenkeeping's service to show the

ROUGH BECOMES PATHWAY TO THE PANTRY

This Victory garden at Northmoor CC (Chicago dist.) where Supt. Frank Dinelli reclaimed wild shot territory for members and club use is typical of thousands of golf club vegetable gardens being farmed on an even larger scale than 1943's surprisingly extensive operations.

