

We located 50 pounds of creeping bent seed for which we paid 2 pounds of tea and a package of cigarettes. We sowed this at the rate of 3 pounds a green, after the topdressing. The bent produced new shoots late in June.

Traps Are Rehabilitated

Most of the greens were well trapped. Here our problem was to rid the traps of weeds and refill with sand. Cutting the weeds down and refilling with sand didn't work and finally we decided to practically remake each trap.

We put 5 or 6 men to a trap. POWs work slow. We had the weedy sod lifted and as much sand as could be was shaken from it. This gave us a bed of about 1½ inches of sand. The Germans had hauled hundreds of yards of pure white sand into Merianbad before they left. This we had loaded on GI trucks and hauled to the course where it gave us an ample supply of sand to face our greens with beautiful and sparkling traps.

Our POW help which ranged from 10 to 20 men a day was augmented by Gaston, a Frenchman who drove the tractor; Hans, a German who cut the greens; and Marion, a Pole released from a concentration camp. Marion was our interpreter.

And believe me, you need an interpreter when you're trying to get a gang like we had working on a golf course.

But notwithstanding the language differences and other difficulties the work proceeded smoothly and at the end of two weeks the course was being played. At the end of the first month you'd not realize that the course had been out of play for so long.

About the first of August, Lloyd Mangrum and Lt. Matt Kowal shot sub-par rounds over the par 72 course. The par was no setup for anyone so the Mangrum and Kowal rounds were good indications of the success of the rehabilitation job.

This job was of special interest not alone because of its value in providing attractive and keenly needed recreation facilities to the marooned GIs, but because it was a good demonstration of what can be done in restoring courses that have been abandoned during wartime in the U. S. Those courses can be restored to provide golfing facilities for many thousands of soldiers who'll want to play when they get back home. Our observation at Marienbad was that golf certainly is going to be highly popular with returning GIs.

USGA Championships to Mean Tougher Courses?

★ HARRY ROBERT, golf writer of Philadelphia Record, has stirred up lively controversy with a column saying that conditions favoring low scoring have been overdone to the extent that the public no longer becomes greatly interested.

Robert cites PGA tournament mgr. Fred Corcoran's remark about the possibility of rating tournament courses as an indication that tournament pros have been insisting on playing conditions being too easy to heat up the golfing public about low scores. Robert says that wartime absence of USGA controls over club faces, the PGA abolition of the 14 club limit, selected balls for the tournament pros, casual regard for the rules of golf, and softer greens has been reducing public regard for scoring achievements.

He refers, in his criticism, to the probability of Canterbury, where the 1946 Open is to be held, requiring a winning score that will make the money-circuit performances appear to be affairs played over push-over courses. Little and Sarazen tied at 287 in the 1940 Open at Canterbury, with Little winning the play-off at 70 against Sarazen's 73.

The way Oakmont this year defied efforts of today's top stars to make phenomenal scores may give basis to Robert's

opinion that the tournament circuit courses are not set up to traditional national championship standard.

In this connection it's interesting to note that the Daily Mail tournament, first major competition played over St. Andrews after the war, was won with Cyril Ward's 298. The course was stretched to 6,852. Weather conditions were unfavorable. Jack White, winner of the 1904 British Open, who played in the postwar tournament at the age of 73, said: "The old championship course played four strokes a round longer than in any championship since the rubber ball came into the game."

Comment of several newspaper golf writers on the Robert column is that renewal of the U. S. National Open with the USGA and Canterbury standing firm on real championship conditions will strongly reaffirm the Open's status as the game's top tournament regardless of other events offering more prize money.

U. S. Open lowest winning score was Ralph Guldahl's 281 at Oakland Hills CC, Detroit, in 1937. British Open record of 283 was made in 1932 by Sarazen at Princes, Sandwich; in 1934 by Cotton at Sandwich, and in 1935 by Perry at Muirfield.