

# GREENKEEPERS TELL THEIR POSTWAR PLANS

WHAT would you do at your course if you had all the money, labor and materials you needed?

That question GOLFDOM asked of a number of greenkeeping superintendents and club officials, knowing many answers would be merely dreams, under prevailing circumstances. But, considering what the greenkeepers and chairmen have been through in maintaining courses in wartime, you can't blame a guy for dreaming, can you?

Considerable of the response to the query reflected carefully planned improvements that will be made after the war. In numerous cases club financial position now is such that postwar expense for course work, machinery, supplies and labor presage the greatest spending boom golf ever had; even greater than the new construction period following World War I.

That all of this needed work isn't being postponed until the end of the war is evident from some letters from private and public courses.

T. E. Adams, supt., Waveland municipal course at Des Moines, Ia., says:

## *Year Around Work*

"We are under the jurisdiction of the Des Moines park board. Custodians of all units of the Board are expected to list every improvement and piece of equipment that will improve facilities and make course maintenance more efficient.

"So it has been our custom to go the limit on our budget requests, and revisions are made as circumstances dictate.

"As all regular employees now are on an annual basis several major projects which do not require too much in the way of materials are accomplished each year by pooling regular labor at its slack times.

"At Waveland, since the beginning of the war, a 200 ft. long foot bridge, a concrete truck bridge, and a concrete spillway for the lake, have been built. All stair steps and four shorter foot bridges have been rebuilt completely. The material for the bridges was from lumber obtained from trees removed throughout the city's parks.

"All these projects were made possible by the pooling of labor. Far more efficient labor management is possible under the year-around plan of employment than under the customary seasonal method of golf club hiring.

"With this improvement in the labor situation I believe that we will have no

difficulty in providing the following needed facilities at Waveland:

"At least three suitable shelter houses. A periscope is needed on No. 3 fairway so time may be saved by players on No. 3 green which is a blind one.

"Underground storage should be provided for hose and sprinklers at each green. They should be circular, about 3 ft. deep, with a coarse gravel bottom, and should be of brick or concrete construction, with an iron top.

"Four of our greens should be rebuilt.

"We of course will have to replace a lot of equipment as soon as new equipment, especially mowing units, is available.

"Last, but not least, a new dwelling is needed. Fortunately \$6,500 already has been voted and set aside for this purpose as soon as materials are available."

Wayne F. Bennett, supt., Kokomo (Ind., CC said:

## *Plan for More Work*

"The first thing I would do is level all ditch and hill side slopes so as to mow by power instead of by hand.

"A water system would be next. The system should cover greens, tees and fairways and should have plenty of pressure to do a good job of watering the greens.

"The swimming pool needs a filtering and purification system.

"The club drive needs paving so as to do away with numerous patching and repairing jobs; and last, but just as important, a new tool shed, work shop and office.

"The building should be heated so that the crew can work all winter. In such an office we could keep all records and other information.

Gerald Dearie, supt., Edgewater GC (Chicago district) said:

## *Make It "Nation's Best"*

"If I were given the 'Go Ahead' signal and budget for two years after the war I would make a lot of progress in my aim to make Edgewater one of the outstanding golf clubs of the United States.

"Edgewater is located on the north side of Chicago and has been nearly 50 years in this locality. I have been Supt. of Grounds here for 9 years. We have made some changes in greens, tees and bunkers. Although a golf club is a non-profit enterprise, however, I believe that all departments should pay dividends such as a better golf course, service in the club house and in a well-equipped pro shop.

We all consider our departmental improvements as assets to our members.

"The 'Go Ahead' budget is what I have already been having pipe dreams about. First I would erect new buildings to house the course equipment and shelter space for storage of seed, fertilizer, and soil; also for compost; and a special machine shop for keeping all equipment in good working condition.

"Second, I would buy new equipment which would include three new tractors. I could use jeeps very nicely if they are to be available; one 5-ton truck, a bull-dozer, a new 7-gang rough mower, bunker and green mowers, and a power sprayer for greens and trees.

"Third, I would start on the watering system. Our system at Edgewater is one of the oldest and began a number of years ago to give us trouble. It is a hose system requiring two men full time to operate. So I would install the very best and most modern. It would be hoseless, so there would be no repair bills, and little labor involved in operation.

"Edgewater is located in the city and a good fence would not only improve the appearance but help to keep out the youngsters who are up to mischief.

"Then I would plant new trees and shrubs on the course. There are also changes that I would make on the layout.

"It is to the advantage of the greenkeeper to do postwar pipe dreaming. With the ideas that would come up as I went along, and with our fine membership at Edgewater, we would make our fine club still better."

Carl A. Bretzloff, widely known in Mid-western greenkeeping, writes:

#### *Plenty Work Here.*

"For the past two years I have been unable to give very much of my services in the golf course maintenance at Meridian Hills CC, as in this time, Stout Field called for my services. However, I list below the changes and improvements I would like to make:

"Reconstruct most all tees, building them larger and keep away from steep terraces in order to get away from so much hand mowing.

"Fill more sand traps in roughs and turf over, so they could be mowed with power equipment.

"Reconstruct some of the traps around green and regrade, so more power operated equipment could be used around greens.

"Treat fairways and roughs with weed control and feed fairways twice a year with good balanced fertilizer.

"Reconstruct water works with larger pump capacity and pipe lines throughout golf course.

"Build up-to-date compost building, in-

stall bins for screen compost so it could be dumped into truck.

"Buy small earth loader to load from field on truck to compost building for next spring's use.

"I would like to see equipment manufacturers do more experimental work on rough mowers, as in my experience I have not found any of them adequate to meet all conditions.

"I would have all equipment for maintaining golf course power operated. Most all equipment at Meridian Hills is power operated.

"Construct good substantial caddy house with drinking fountains, soft drink and candy stands and large playground: built some distance from pro shop and club house."

Carlton E. Treat, supt. of golf courses, Montclair (N. J.) GC makes an exceedingly interesting and arresting comment:

#### *More "Puttering" Treat's Hope*

"Your idea of having groundkeepers tell what they would do to their courses and grounds if they were given all the budget they asked for for the first two years after the war ended" interests me. Have you considered the fact, though, that foresighted greenkeepers try to constantly keep before their committees or board, sometimes, years in advance, the necessary things that should be done on the course to bring it up to A No. 1 condition?

"A good greenkeeper should be able to go back over his reports and suggestions he has made to his Committee or Board and find a long list of things needed to be done and that he wanted to do to improve course conditions.

"Now, Herb, don't come back at me with the statement that there are greenkeepers and clubs that are not foresighted! Shame on you for even thinking such a thing!

"Reports are such fine things anyway to get across to the committee or board, or, better yet, to the membership at large, not only the work that *has been done* on the course but make great opportunities to suggest and urge extra needed repairs, improvements, etc. Again, think of what such a practice does for the greenkeeper, himself.

"Now, to get back to what I would do on the 36 holes at Montclair if the officials gave me the 'go ahead' signal. A good many of these things would be such that would be of little interest to others, though they would apply to this club only and we have many plans 'on foot.' However, perhaps the greatest thing that I would look forward to would be to be able to do much more 'puttering' on the courses at Montclair.

"'Puttering', as I mean it, is having men enough to get back to doing those things that can only be done best by hand and

(Continued on Page 40)

## GREENKEEPERS' PLANS

(Continued from Page 38)

only by a real lover of turf; having time enough to pick the stray weed, catching hard spots in the greens before serious trouble develops, forking a hard 'walk-off' area, catching the disease before it has time to 'catch' you, hand-cutting on tender spots, changing 'traffic' on the greens and tees, spot-watering, that most necessary of practices, studying and developing strains of our own grass, 'babying' the turf and those hundreds of more practices that need the HUMAN factor to best carry through.

"Perhaps, I'm old-fashioned—but the 'machine age' in the care of turf does not appeal to me. (It may be that I have had too many of these machines to operate through this duration!) Let's get back to the point where we really can 'baby' the turf, or, 'hand-nurse' it, so to speak, by extra human care. Turf is a living thing we are taking care of, you know, but, often that is forgotten.

"Some day the 'race' of cutting fairways and greens may stop. Not that power-machinery will ever be replaced or is *not very essential*, but a time should come when the grass—as well as I—might have a chance to take a 'deep long breath'! In taking the deep breath I then may have the chance to 'pick the weed', 'lift the ball-hole', 'spot-water the drying area', 'nurse back a sick area', and give the turf in general that *extra* attention that only human care can give.

"Yes, I want to do more, and I want my men to do more 'PUTTERING' at Montclair."

## CADDIES

(Continued from Page 28)

or main prizes are distributed at this event.

The boys also elect a caddie council of seven members from their ranks. The boys elected are always the nucleus of a good caddie force, and have a great deal to do with the program laid out for the whole caddie force.

We are trying to educate our members into thinking that a caddie is something more than a boy to carry his golf clubs. We have several cases where members have offered some of our boys opportunities that have resulted in the boys attaining positions that they most probably would not have attained without the counsel and aid of someone who was keenly interested in them.

If these notes on our experience are of help to other clubs I am glad, and I hope more club officials realize what a great opportunity they have to do something real worthwhile for the men of tomorrow.

## TURF FOUNDATION

(Continued from Page 32)

Dept., Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., and Joe M. Graffis, Treasurer, GOLFDOM, 407 S. Dearborn St., Chicago 5, Ill.

Every golf club, whether private, daily fee or municipal, both 9-hole and 18-hole, within the regional district previously outlined, will be given the opportunity of subscribing to the Foundation fund. Considering the investment in turf in this regional group, the annual upkeep problems and expenditures, the basic importance of good playing turf to each club's popularity and operating success, it is hoped that club executives will support their green-chairmen and greenkeepers by subscribing to the Foundation fund. Complete particulars of the project will be mailed to all clubs in the near future.

## Worthington Adds Distributors

★ The Worthington Mower Co. announces the appointment of Evans Implement Co. as its distributor for the State of Georgia. The Evans company has for years maintained their sales and service headquarters at 569-71 Whitehall Street, Atlanta, Ga., and have enjoyed an excellent reputation in the Southeast.

The Evans company has specialized for years in the sales and servicing of grass cutting machinery and their personnel will be in a position to give intelligent and practical assistance to all types of mowing problems in the State of Georgia. They are fully equipped to render service on all Worthington machinery and repair parts.

Also recently appointed as a Worthington distributor for the 15 counties surrounding Ft. Wayne, Ind., is Fred E. Greiner of that city, operating under the company name of Worthington Moto-Mower Sales & Service. Mr. Greiner is especially well equipped to serve the turf maintenance needs of golf courses, athletic fields, parks, etc., having for several years owned and operated his own golf course, Fairview GC at Ft. Wayne. Greiner will maintain complete sales and service departments for Worthington mowing machinery and an adequate supply of replacement parts.

### CONTROL CLOVER in BENT GREENS and FAIRWAYS with LAWN SINOX

Effective, inexpensive. Write for prices  
and directions.

PAUL E. BURDETT  
SEEDS — FERTILIZERS — GOLF COURSE SUPPLIES  
P. O. Box 241, Lombard, Illinois