

## A Pro Comes Back from the War

★ A FORMER PRO in Kansas recently was given a medical discharge by the Army. Stomach ulcers were one of the reasons. He always worked hard and was conscientious. Ulcers seem to be the reward of such a temperament.

In considering his prospects for re-employment in golf, the pro wrote GOLF-DOM:

"My present invoice of equipment to start back to a pro career is a bent screwdriver, a well-worn pair of golf shoes, seven worn out shoe-calks, a torn rain-jacket, a set of clubs in a bag I'm no longer strong enough to lift, and a golf ball in poor condition. I tried to buy a new ball last summer. My biggest chance was the day I got up to \$2.35 in the bidding. Had I have been a Sgt. or a 2nd Lt. I might have made it. My last report from the manufacturers was that no matter how many times they tried to make a No. 2 iron it always came out a machine gun.

"I was still quite optimistic in Sept., which the European War was supposed to be over the 15th of, (to hell with grammar). But day before yesterday I heard an eminent authority say, 'We can rest assured that Germany will go down in defeat in the early months of the coming Summer.' Yesterday I heard (quoted from an Admiral), 'We have many months of hard fighting in the Pacific yet ahead of us, but we can rest assured that by the first of next year we will have Japan humiliated and to her knees.' This morning I listened attentively to an international statesman—"The Axis group has not weakened as we had anticipated, in fact they have become revitalized, but we may rest assured that 1949 will see the dawn of a new civilization and the end of all this horrible bloodshed." The 28th of last Aug. I heard a rather foresighted buck private (after seven months of service) say, 'I guess I had better wash these clothes—

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looks like I might be wearing them for the rest of my life.'

"So much for the nonsense. The truth of things to come is that I am not looking for a club attachment. I got satisfaction out of the time that I have put in pro golf. My big sticker was that I was never able to pound a ball far enough. In years past I went to several good pros desperately seeking the necessary 25 to 30 yds. that would have turned a hard game into an easy one.

"That in itself was probably the source of quite a bit of my teaching technique. I got by just swell with the women students as I could impress them by out-driving them, but men would watch me play and always wound up concluding they could hit a ball farther wrong than I could right.

"They kept right on hitting them wrong and I kept right on going hungry. I should have chronic ulcers from the continuous agony I have had to stand watching these big hulks go to the par fives with a drive and an iron and me paying to watch it.

"My unfortunate status in golf is that I put in five years studying for the ministry, and it always stuck in my craw that I was wasting a hard gained education."

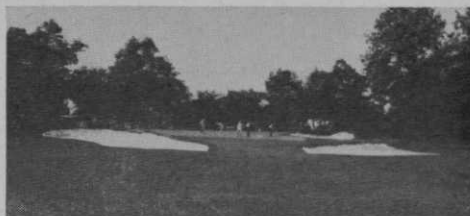
## Coutre, Veteran Chicago Greenkeeper, Dies



★ John M. Coutre, a pioneer greenkeeper in the Chicago district, passed away after a brief illness on Jan. 23, 1945, at the age of 67. Although born in Chicago, Mr. Coutre either lived on the property or was in the employ of Indian Hill CC. from early youth until his death. From 1909 to

1913 Mr. Coutre served the village of Winnetka as Chief of Police and Fire Marshal. In 1913 he helped construct the Indian Hill golf course and was retained as greenkeeper. He is said to have been the first greenkeeper as such in the district. In 1938 he retired in favor of his son, John, but nevertheless he never missed spending some part of each day at the course until his death. He served Indian Hill faithfully and efficiently for 32 years.

His green chairman in the early years was Mr. McCordic who served for 14 years. It was a happy team because both were keenly interested in turf. It terminated upon the death of Mr. McCordic. Since



5th green at Indian Hill; first green in midwest to be planted vegetatively to creeping bent stolons.

then there have been five chairmen, Messrs. Badgerow, Lyon, Gordon, Sears, and Mr. Northrup, the present one. The club sent Mr. Coutre to Washington every year to study the Arlington Turf Nursery and obtain first-hand information from Drs. Piper and Oakley. On such a trip in 1920 he obtained a bushel of bent stolons. They were the first to be planted in the Middle-West. The fifth green at Indian Hill was converted to this grass first. Its turf, twenty-four years old, is still in use. A large nursery was developed and used to convert all the others except number 14, which is the only seeded one left. Three or four greens were changed each year until the job was finished.

Indian Hill was one of the first to abandon manure as a fairway fertilizer and switch to more concentrated materials. Mr. Coutre recognized the necessity of adequate fertilization for fairways that were watered.

Mr. Coutre was a charter member of the National Greenkeepers' Association and continued as an active member even after retiring. With his passing Indian Hill has lost a valuable employee and the green-keeping profession one of its outstanding men.

## Lively Demand for Spalding Co-Sponsored World Series Film

★ The 1944 World Series film "rings the bell" in entertainment judging from the many requests for its showing. This picture depicting the high lights of all of the games of last year's World Series between the St. Louis Browns and Cardinals, is packed with thrills. If you want it for your spring stag or any club affair just write: American League of Professional Baseball Clubs, 310 South Michigan Blvd., care of Lew Fonseca, Promotional Dept., Room 2420, Chicago 4, Ill. The only charge is expressage of the prints to and from Chicago. The movie comes with sound in both 16 and 35 mm sizes and can be run in about thirty minutes. The film was put out by the American League with A. G. Spalding & Bros. as a co-sponsor.