



Russell Stout (left) designer of Parker Fairway Sweeper, explains to members of Snyder Park Golf Commission how machine collects leaves, twigs, golf balls, etc., and otherwise keeps fairways clean.

Sweeper Cleans Fairways and Extends Play for Snyder GC

By HAL STROH

The nation's golf season continues to grow longer as more and more clubs report on maintenance activities pointed specifically toward removing as many as possible of the obstacles that have hampered earlier spring and later fall play.

At Springfield, Ohio, players, officials, greenkeepers and maintenance men of the city's Snyder Golf Course are ready and willing to tell the world that there's more golf tucked away in America's courses than most clubs realize. Much of it, they found, was tucked away under their leaf covered fairways, right at a time when golfing conditions otherwise were ideal.

Generally, throughout the field, play sharply slumps when leaves start to fall. Too many players lose too many well hit balls. Player enthusiasm wanes and club activity suffers. The Snyder GC officials and greenkeeper decided to take action late last summer and something new was added to their maintenance line-up — a Parker fairway sweeper, a new sweeper developed over the past two years by the manufacturers of the widely used Parker Springfield green sweepers.

The larger fairway outfit, tractor drawn, sweeps the leaves, twigs, etc., from its 47 in. swath into a canvas hamper by means of a sturdy rotary brush, ridding the turf of approximately 500 bushels of litter and leaves per hour. The filled hampers are quickly detached and converted into bales

for burning or compost use. Formerly, the task of annual raking had been employed in an attempt to keep the course free from the leaf nuisance. It was slow, monotonous and costly. But it was that method or less golf. The introduction of speedy, economical machinery to keep the flight lanes open is arousing the interest of club officials and greenkeepers generally, in the practical solution to one of the game's oldest and most costly problems.

The benefits, previously pointed out by GOLFDOM in its campaign to extend the golf season, are worthy of study by club officials and greenkeepers. The investment in facilities and equipment, fixed charges, and experienced operating staff are factors that warrant consideration of ways and means to lengthen the period of member activity and club income. Added to this is the bonus of litter-free turf during the spring growing season and better playing conditions to encourage early activity.

Cent. NY PGA to Hold School

Central NY PGA will hold a short course for pros and assistants at Hotel Syracuse, Syracuse, N. Y., March 28. There'll also be a golf teaching and demonstration open to the public. Spring meeting of Central NY PGA will start off the business session. All PGA members are invited, regardless of sectional affiliations. Considerable time and thought has been devoted by Central NY PGA officials and members to preparation of the pro short course.