

brown and hard but had cracks; in some cases, big enough to lose a golf ball. But that's not the case now since fairway watering came into general practice. The fairways are almost as good as some of the greens years ago. Oh, you lucky golfers of today!

In the early 20s the Reddy tee was introduced and later on eliminated one other of the greenkeeper's chores; the removal of tee sand boxes which had to be attended to every day to keep the sand in condition so that a ball could sit on it. Probably the majority of golfers of today have never seen a sand box.

#### Fourth: Development of Fungicides.

Putting greens for many years have been damaged by fungus diseases. In the 20s the only remedy then known was bichloride of mercury which did a fairly good job, but at the same time could do a great deal of damage if applied carelessly, so very close supervision was required. Around about 1923-1925 the chemical companies began to experiment and have developed fungicides that have brought fungus disease under close control and have therefore made possible the perfect putting greens of today.

#### Fifth: Putting Grasses.

To go back again to the 20s, in the early life of GOLFDOM, the putting greens were composed of many different types of grasses which made it very difficult to maintain a really good putting surface. About this time United States Golf Assn. began to take a very active interest in the development of bent grasses and has continued through the years with the active support of the superintendents' associations and have now developed many strains of grass suitable for different sections of the country. This has resulted in excellent conditions of the putting greens all over the country and has helped to make the game of golf the healthful and popular game it is today. I am proud of my over 50 years of active service in Golf, and having taken part in many of the improvements made in the "Grand Old Game."

When I change cups and happen to hit a hole left by an aerifier and see long roots extending far below that of the other growth I see a pay-off for attendance at turf conferences. After the Los Angeles conference in 1949 I got our officials to make possible aerifying of our greens. We've escaped enough trouble that was common with us and improved our greens so much that idea alone was worth attending the turf conferences and meetings.

A. R. Emery,  
Supt., Bonneville GC, Salt Lake City,  
Utah.

## Progress That Looked Nearly Impossible

By EDWARD B. DEARIE, JR.  
Supt., Oak Park (Ill.) Country Club



Ed. Dearie

During the 34 years I have been in golf course maintenance work I have seen progress that we would have regarded as impossible as recently as 25 years ago although some of us probably were dreaming of what now has come true.

We have made our experiments—some very cautiously and some boldly—and have seen a fair amount of failures but some remarkable successes. I remember one early venture in chemical weed control on the 15th fairway at Oak Park that I made after worrying and exploring all possible angles. When our officials gave me the "go ahead" the treatment was applied. For weeks the fairway was horrible looking and I suspect that some of the members thought I'd made an unwarranted mistake. Then the recovery began, as we'd planned. Now I doubt that there's a better fairway in the midwest. It's weed-free and the turf is firm, deep-rooted, compact, of fine color and healthy.

That was one example of what we risked when we applied earlier research to our courses. But the pay-off is in the results and the advance in the practical application of testing research promises continued and greater advance in course maintenance.

I began greenkeeping at Wanango CC, Reno, Pa., in 1917. My salary was \$110 per month. The men working on the course numbered twenty and were paid 25¢ an hour. We had mixed grass greens, consisting of German mixed bent, blue grass and fescue. Our main equipment consisted of Coldwell gang mowers. We used Bordeaux mixture for insect and fungus control and used mushroom soil and sheep manure as our main fertilizers.

Since that time I have seen many changes come about. We gradually changed to stolon bent greens. In the '20's we saw fairway irrigation come into its own. Research and science have given us a number of effective controls for diseases, insects and other pests.

Mower companies have developed power mowers and machinery, reducing the cutting time about one-fourth from the early days. Research has also come up with weed killers, which to my mind have been the greatest aid to the greenkeeper and

## SILVER ANNIVERSARY FOR THE SUPTS.' ASSN., TOO



John Morley

Association of Greenkeepers of America, held its first meeting in Chicago during the International Golf Show and Country Club Sports Exposition, at Hotel Sherman, March 21-26.

New England, Chicago dist. and northern Ohio greenkeepers had active sectional associations and groups of greenkeepers in other areas were getting together to compare experiences and discover the other guy had some very good ideas.

John Morley of the Youngstown (O.) CC was a vigorous promoter of the idea of a national association for the greenkeepers. Morley had been one of the organizers of the Prohibition party as a political element in his youth. At times it seemed to Morley that the prohibition party had had a better chance of electing a president than the greenkeepers of getting organized on a national basis. But some of his neighbors, especially Fred Burkhardt of Cleveland, kept campaigning with him and the Chicago area greenkeepers, who called themselves the Midwestern Association of Greenkeepers. In particular, John McGregor, Eddie Dearie and a few around the midwest, such as Chet Mendenhall of Kansas City, Leo Feser of St. Paul, and Carl Bretzlaff

of Indianapolis were eager to get the boys together. O. J. Noer, then early in his valuable services as sales missionary and roving technical expert for the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, kept fertilizing the field for a national organization.

With the Midwest organization as hosts the national organization was launched and Morley elected its first president. The Golf Show gave the new association a well publicized debut as the show was promoted by Spearman Lewis and A. R. Shaffer, two able press agents. Lewis, by the way, later hit one of the biggest daily doubles ever paid at a race track and with that roll retired from publicity work and became a successful real estate operator at Miami Beach.

Morley died a few years ago, living to see national teamwork for the good of golf and recognition of those responsible for course maintenance. The national association had great effect in developing an alert and open-minded attitude in turf maintenance work, a vast promotion of turf research and its practical application.

The toil, worries and sacrifices of the association's officers never will be adequately appreciated by golfers, although members of the association know the story and are positive in expressing their gratitude. The association has had two changes of name since getting its original label, and due to the wide influence of the course superintendents on all fine turf development, have been importuned to define the association's work as turf, but as golf continues to be by far the main object and inspiration of turf betterment, the association's present title seems likely to stick for many years.

golf that has been developed in the last 25 years.

Today we have six or seven men on an 18 hole golf course. Our expenses are carefully budgeted and the superintendent's financial standing is given full recognition by club officials and golfers everywhere. Our schools and colleges have recognized the importance of turf management. Today we are offered short courses for greenkeepers in general and college courses leading to a degree for such young men as would become greenkeepers.

There are still numerous problems to be

solved. I am sure that science and research will continue to help the superintendent and improve golf turf.

Iowa Greenkeepers and Turf Assn. bulletin says fellows used to bring their clubs along to meetings and get in at least 9-holes but now that they're all discussing the lectures, exchanging their problems and looking over the host's course, there's no time for playing. Iowans had 60 at their Sept. Field Day at Ames, with crabgrass test plots, fungicide tests and equipment demonstrations being the high spots.