

## Brains Pooling Biggest Factor in Maintenance Progress

By HERB SHAVE

In the last analysis the great progress of the past 25 years in golf course maintenance is primarily due to the eagerness of men in the business to pool their observations, discoveries and the actual or promising solutions of their problems.

We've learned to put at least one idea of our own into the cooperative store of brains in our profession and draw forth for the benefit of our clubs the good ideas of all our co-workers.



Herb Shave

During the past 25 years new strains of grasses have been developed and appraised in actual service on courses. This work continues to advance.

The USGA Green Section has done marvelous work of research and coordinating experiment station, laboratory and course scientific endeavor.

The state colleges and state experiment stations have contributed tremendously to research in grasses, diseases, fertilizers, watering and other essentials of fine turf production and maintenance, and have supplied facilities and personnel that have greatly helped the men at the golf clubs.

### Organizations Valuable

Formation of the course superintendents into a strong national association has been of immense value to clubs and golfers and I'd like to see for the good of all golf a much larger membership in the national and section superintendents' associations.

Tribute must be paid to the chemical companies whose experts work so closely with the superintendents and the USGA, state and national department of agriculture authorities in striving for safe and economical control of turf diseases and destructive insects. Also contributing greatly to the pool of brains from which the superintendent has been able to draw in progressing in his profession, are the experts of the fertilizer and equipment companies. The successful use of 2,4-D

has accounted for the most apparent revolutionary improvement in golf course conditioning during the past few years, but of similar importance has been the rapidly extending use of aerification in providing conditions that facilitate the close, deep and healthy growth of desirable grasses, leaving but little room for the undesirable weeds.

Improvement in power course maintenance machinery and watering facilities has come a long way. Some clubs seem inclined to think that almost all maintenance is by machinery and chemicals now, but that's not nearly the case. There's watering, top-dressing, fertilizing, fungicide treatments, mowing and many other tasks, big and little, routine and emergency, in which there is no substitute for the informed and resourceful man.

Making the brains of all of us available to any one of us is the biggest thing that's happened in golf course maintenance during the past quarter century.

GOLFDOM has been of value beyond reckoning in promotion of this phase of progress in golf. Lots of luck to it.

## Chemical Advance Greatest of 25 Years on Courses

By LEO J. FESER



Leo Feser

It seems to me that the greatest progress made in turf management in the past 25 years has been the development and application of chemicals for weed, insect and disease control. While admitting that there is still need of much research in control of these pests, I am all for presenting the loving cup to the

people who have given us the chemicals to do a job that was impossible to do in 1926.

While considerable progress has been made in the management of water in soils, I think this phase of turf management rates a poor second to the chemical phase. It appears that the next 25 years will bring tremendous progress in water management in soil, and the men who have given us tools to get air down into the soil are leading the way to better management and water conservation.

A lot of progress has been made along many lines. The development of better machinery and the architectural adjustment of golf courses to the use of that machinery has taken the edge off of the sharp rises in labor costs. National and sectional meetings of turf men have

Herb Shave, supt. of Oakland Hills CC, where this year's National Open was played, is a vigorous, alert leader of his profession at 76, with more than a half century's experience in course maintenance—  
Editor.