

all persons in the area who are interested in better turf conditions to join the association. This includes representatives of cemeteries, parks, landscape gardeners and home owners.

It is expected that at its next session, at which Johnson will play host, the association will name a permanent slate of officers, and authorize a program committee to plan a year-round series of events in the turf-improvement field.

## Progress in Maintenance Has Influenced Course Design

By CHESTER MENDENHALL

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When we read in GOLFDOM that October 1951 marks the completion of 25 years of its publication, we look back and think of the advance in the field of turf during this period.

One of the first things that comes to my mind is some of the equipment, either horse-drawn or by an old iron wheel tractor. The fairway units were only enlarged lawn mowers. The greens mowers were pushed by hand and the old barrel cart was used for applying wet chemicals to the greens. At that time help was plentiful and most courses were operated with a large crew of men doing all the trimming with hand mowers and scythes.

Today the high cost of labor necessitates the use of fast moving power equipment which reduces the man power needed and at the same time gives the golfer a better playing condition.

Large power equipment has had its effect on course design. The old high steep faced bunkers have given away to the more gentle slopes that can be easily cut with power equipment. The size and number of sand traps have been reduced and a number of sand traps along the sides of fairways have been converted into grassy hollows. On other courses trees have been planted through the roughs creating a permanent hazard for the golfer who strays from the fairway.

There has been a rapid advancement in new chemicals for the control of turf diseases, insects and weeds.

Twenty-five years ago bichloride of mercury and calomel were the stand-bys for disease control. This required very careful handling or the effects of the control might be worse than the disease. Today's chemicals can be applied with very little danger of injury to the person

applying them or to the turf. The same applies to insect and weed controls. Not until rather recently have we heard of chlordane or D.D.T. for insect control, or of the herbicides that are playing such an important part in weed control.

There has been a big change in turf maintenance education. Twenty-five years ago turf research work was being carried on by the USGA Green Section and a very few colleges. Today turf research work is being carried on at some college in most every district in the United States. This work is correlated through the Green Section and the results of the work are being brought to the golf clubs and the golf course superintendents by a number of bulletins and periodicals. The oldest strong influence in this respect is GOLFDOM. I wish to express my thanks to Herb and Joe Graffis for the part they have played during these 25 years in the advance of golf and its business with GOLFDOM.

## Pride in Fine Courses A Spur to Supts.' Progress

By CLARENCE W. STROUSE



"Chet"



C. W. Strouse

My introduction into the golf business was in 1913, as one of the grounds crew. After two years I became superintendent.

During the years following World War I, I saw many changes in golf course maintenance, such as going from horse-drawn equipment to motorized, from plain grass greens to bent and from cow-pasture fairways to a more modern turf.

In the early 20's the greenkeepers began to gain recognition as professional men and by 1925 the National Greenkeepers Association of America was founded.

Golf course maintenance from this point on became a more serious business. The development of beautiful creeping bent greens closely clipped and methods of watering fairways were two of the earlier details of progress.

To help the man who wanted to further his knowledge of care and betterment of golf courses the book on "Turf for Golf Courses" by Piper and Oakley was published. The USGA Green section began experimental projects all over the country, agricultural colleges began short course work. The organizing of district turf associations in connection with the national association brought the men close together so they could exchange viewpoints, Bulletins issued monthly by the