

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

Green section, and articles written by many practical authorities were published by GOLFDOM and played a very large role in the educational program. The ever-growing demand for finer turf caused the manufacturers to develop better and more economically operated equipment, the fertilizer men to develop better and more efficient fertilizers, the chemical companies to develop insecticides and weed control and means of applications.

During these changes and developments it was very necessary to keep in constant contact with your green chairman and other club officials so that they could understand the progress in golf course maintenance. It also became necessary to start keeping a set of records so you could show what was done and why.

With the development of chemicals and the danger in applying, it was necessary to be very careful in selecting men and training them for this work.

During the constant changes and developments of golf course maintenance it was found necessary for the superintendents to make a study of landscaping so his course was a place of beauty as well as sports ground.

Through the years there has been a lot of long hours of hard work and planning, but the enjoyment of seeing your efforts develop into a place where many people could have a club to which they were proud to bring their friends has more than offset the worry and strenuous labors and headaches.

After 38 years at the same club I have severed my connections. The club was purchased for a fee course operation and maintenance to the exacting standards of highest type private course operation is deemed impractical. In a way that's a tragedy to one who has spent almost four decades in striving to perfect and beautify a course. But the case is not unusual among superintendents who love their work and are proud of their courses. The veterans have raised the standards so the ordinary conditions of courses today are better than existed at many high ranking private clubs 25 years ago.

I wish to extend my most sincere appreciation for the many interesting topics which the publishers of GOLFDOM have supplied to the superintendents and club officials in keeping them abreast of progress.

I know there are many fellow superintendents who have gained as much as I have in the 25 years of GOLFDOM and I feel sure that they will continue to be of great help to the younger men who are coming up in the ranks to take over as the so-called "old timers" approach the retirement age.

Five Major Developments In Course Improvement

By JACK PATTERSON

Congratulations to GOLFDOM on the completion of its 25th year. It has been the guiding hand of many of the improve-



Jack Patterson

ments made on golf courses with timely and well selected articles. I would like to present to its readers at this time a few observations of an "Old time Pro-Greenkeeper."

There have been five major developments in the past 25 years that have been the means of making golf courses the places of beauty they have become. I list them in what I consider their order of importance.

First: Machinery: I well remember in the early 20s at Midlothian all the power we had were men and horses. The rough at that time was allowed to grow to the late spring, then cut, and the resultant hay was allowed to cure, then raked up, stored, and used as fodder for horses.

Those were the days that the rough was the golfers' nightmare. The rough of today is only rough because of the comparison between the perfection of today's putting greens and fairways which would have been impossible to obtain without all the present-day equipment; gangmowers, power mowers, spray machines, etc. But in spite of the lack of equipment Midlothian, in that earlier period, was recognized as one of the best courses in the country. Golf has come a long way since then.

Second: Elimination of Worms and Grubs.

The problem of worm casts on greens today is rarely encountered. In the early 20s it was one of the greenkeeper's heartaches. With the help of good old bichloride of mercury and, at a later date, Mowrah meal, we were able to present a reasonably clear putting surface. Then came arsenate of lead. I am happy to say that I was one of the first to use this for worm and grub elimination and got quite a thrill at the time when greenkeepers from far and wide visited Midlothian to inspect the wonderful results obtained. Chemical control is the reason you see no worm casts on putting greens today.

Third: Fairway Watering.

In the early 20s it was no picnic to walk on fairways by the time the 4th of July arrived. The fairways were not only