

Public Gets Invitation to "Walk on the Grass"

By WILLIAM E. LYONS

Course Supt. and Garden Supervisor, The Firestone Tire and Rubber Co.

The Harvey S. Firestone Memorial, on the lawn of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Co.'s Research Building in Akron, O., is an inspiring tribute to the founder of the international organization which bears his name.

In creating a gem-like setting for the Memorial, a strip of grass, 12 feet in width, was placed between the circular walk and the steps leading up to the bronze statue.

People who visit the Memorial have a love for beauty and they naturally are hesitant to walk across the beautiful "living rug" of Old Orchard bent grass.

As a result, a sign, extending them an invitation to walk on the grass, was erected.

In planning the grass-way between the walk and steps, several factors had to be considered. First, it had to be beautiful to be a part of this work of art. And it is beautiful. We have seen visitors lean down and feel the grass, asking, "Is it real?"

Second, it had to take wear, and heal quickly if injured.

Third, it had to drain quickly the excessive amount of water used daily in keeping the granite spotlessly clean. It

had to have internal drainage to keep the walk dry. This presented a problem, since there is a slope of only one inch from the base of the steps to the walk.

We began with a catch basin about 200 ft. away and laid a 4 in. drain, so graded that we would have the tiles 3 ft. deep with a slope of 4 in. to the 100 ft.

Eighteen inches of the natural soil were hauled away. Then the half-circle trench, 200 ft. long and 18 in. deep, was dug and the carefully chipped and fitted tile was laid in the half arc. The back-fill was the excavated material. No crushed stone, gravel or cinders were used to hinder fast drainage.

Next, the soil was graded to maintain a slight slope to the center so that free water would be taken down to the tile.

Now the problem was to find a material that would sustain plant life, pack firmly and not settle and yet drain excess water quickly. We selected No. 612 uniformly coarse silica sand. This material is about as coarse and uniform as split peas. It will not pack, settle or oxidize. Four shovels of this, plus one of loam soil, plus one of cultivated muck were mixed by running them through a Royer. As the material was moved in it was thoroughly



Public has to be invited to walk on carpet of grass between walk and steps of Harvey S. Firestone Memorial where art and science of turf management have joined to create beautiful setting.

tamped and rolled. A light dusting of 3-12-12 fertilizer was placed on top and watered.

We grew the sod for this job on porous manufactured soil. It had been maintained as a nursery at the Firestone CC and given the same care as our greens for about two years. It cut nicely with a Champion sod cutter pulled by a tractor with a long rope from off the green. The soil was moist enough to hold together well. It was laid flat, not rolled, placed on a low wagon and towed to the job.

Two days after the sod was placed it was mowed with a putting green mower set at $\frac{3}{8}$ in. Only three pieces of sod had to be raised or lowered. In two weeks the edges had healed and the roots were deep in the sand.

It was not necessary to use any fungicide on this bent grass in 1951. As stated before, 3-12-12 was used under the sod—50 pounds to 2500 sq. ft. During the summer, we used 20 lbs. total of water soluble fertilizer of a ratio based on plant tissue tests. The workman who looks after this area washed the dew off the grass six days a week, mowed it daily at $\frac{3}{8}$ in. and watered it about once a week. He had never seen bent grass before, yet he did a perfect maintenance job.

USGA At Annual Meeting Names Curtis Team

USGA at its annual meeting held at Princeton Club, New York, Jan. 26, elected the ticket headed by Totten P. Heffelfinger (which was listed in detail in January GOLFDOM). It named the Curtis Cup team to play British women's amateur team at Muirfield, Scotland, June 6 and 7. The American team also will compete in the British women's championship at Troon, Scotland, June 16-20.

Mrs. Frank Goldthwaite, Ft. Worth, Tex., member of the 1934 and 1936 teams, was named non-playing captain. Dorothy Kirby, 1951 USGA women's champion, and Polly Riley, are the only two with previous Curtis Cup experience named to the team.

Others on the team are Claire Doran, Cleveland; Patricia O'Sullivan, Orange, Conn.; Mae Murray, Rutland, Vt.; Marjorie Lindsay, Decatur, Ill.; Grace De Moss, Corvallis, Ore. Mrs. Julius A. Page, Jr., Chapel Hill, N. C., was named first alternate and Mary Ann Downey, Baltimore, second alternate.

The US never has been defeated for the Curtis cup in the seven competitions for the trophy.

USGA also announced that plans were being made to have larger fields for the Open and Amateur championships. Probability is that list of exemptions will be

reduced. Negotiations between the USGA and the R&A for agreement on amateur status rulings also are being conducted, said the USGA. This subject wasn't covered when other rules agreement was reached.

New high of USGA membership of 1,495 clubs was reported. Another new high of 1,511 entries in 1951 National Open was mentioned. Although the association still owes \$20,000 on Golf House, its balance is \$114,753.91.

Pres. Heffelfinger appointed following committee chairmen for 1952:

Rules of golf, Isaac Grainger, Montclair, N. J.; championship, John D. Ames, Chicago; amateur status and conduct, James W. Walker, Westbury, N. Y.; implements and ball, Charles B. Grace, Philadelphia; membership, Lewis A. Lapham, New York; greens section, Richard S. Tufts, Pinehurst; women's, Mrs. Frank Goldthwaite, Ft. Worth, Tex.

Sectional affairs, Charles L. Peirson, Boston; public links, Frederick L. Dold, Wichita, Kan.; handicap, William O. Blaney, Boston; junior championship, Richard S. Tufts, Pinehurst, N. C.; girls' junior, Mrs. William R. Miller, Los Angeles; museum, James W. Walker, Westbury, N. Y.; international relations, Charles W. Littlefield, New York; golf house fund, Daniel A. Freeman, Jr., New York; public relations, John D. Ames, Chicago.

Discussed by the USGA and its Green Section was the possibility of establishing a west coast office of the Green Section. Green Section work has expanded so greatly under directorship of Fred Grau, and results of coordinated research have been so extensively and effectively applied by clubs of all sizes and other users of sports turf and ornamental turf, a revision in operating plan of the Green Section has been considered by USGA officials and Grau for some months. Among Green Section matters lately receiving study is the possibility of forming a national advisory council of the Green Section.

Hugh Egan Joins National Golf Foundation Staff

Hugh Egan, formerly sports director of U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce and liaison man between Athletic Institute and the Jaycees, has joined National Golf Foundation as asst. to Director Rex McMorris.

Egan, the energetic and resourceful young man who directed the Jaycees in their national junior golf championship which is the world's largest golf event, and in other successful sports promotions, begins his new work in a campaign to get additional golf courses built.