

## Remember When? And Don't Think Progress Stops Now

**T**AYLOR BOYD, supt., Camargo CC, Cincinnati, in the interesting Green Breeze published by the Greater Cincinnati Greenkeepers' Assn., gives an amusing jolt to the supt. who thinks that everything in his business has progressed about as far as it can go.

Taylor and his brothers are sons of one of the finest and smartest of the old time greenkeepers. Since the time when Boyd, Sr. was a top man in the business there has been great advance in course maintenance methods, as Taylor recalls in his article headed "Remember When?" He subtly gets across the reminder that any fellow who thinks he's doing mighty good on his course now may look back not too many years and see there's been progress made comparable with that which Taylor points out.

The Boyd piece:

Some young greenkeepers are playing with the idea of changing their greens to a grass called Bent. In fact there are new courses being planted entirely to this unproven turf grass.

The old experienced men say nothing

will take the place of fescue, clover, blue grass and poa annua. There seems to be a disease that is very deadly to this bent grass. It is known as "brown patch."

The usual treatment is bordeaux mixture. Again, some up and coming young men are starting to use mercury which hasn't proven to be very successful as yet. The reason seems to be that the bent grass needs a lot of water and they continue to water every night and the brown patch continues to grow. If these new chemicals keep coming on the market somebody will suggest that a greenkeeper will need to go to college.

The best fertilizer is rotted cow manure in compost. There is a tendency on the part of some men to use some bonemeal and some potash. There is a fertilizer on the market that is shipped in from Peru, South America, that seems to have a good effect on the grass. Beware of some fertilizers because they are mostly sand with a big name.

There are clubs, new ones mostly, that are going to water their fairways. This probably won't prove successful because of the cost of installation and having men working night and day at 25c to 35c per hour plus the cost of water and running the pumps.

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The machinery companies are in a dither to make new machinery to get some of the loose money golf clubs are spending. Toro is putting power steering on their push-type fairway mower. Toro also just came out with a hand putting green mower with a roller to drive the reel. It is designed for cutting bent grass. Jacobsen has come out with a 2-cycle power mower that is really fast and wide. Time will tell what these complicated gadgets will do to greens and fairways.

We all wish someone would come out with chemicals that will kill weeds and not kill grass; chemicals that will kill insects and not kill grass and will not be so expensive.

Some greenkeepers seem to think some type of organization should be formed to promote new ideas and pass around the ideas of one man to another. Greenkeepers are a very close-mouthed and secretive group though, and this may never be done. Some local groups may get together.

Golf has undergone some very drastic changes in the last 3 or 4 years. More changes are predicted, some of which hardly seem possible.

A young man named Herb Graffis,

Greens-committee member at the new Sunset Ridge Club, has said in ten years there would be no more horse drawn mowers, that almost every town and city would have city-owned courses for the poor people to play on and greenkeepers would need to be highly trained men to handle the mechanical and chemical problems to come in the future.

Another young man from Milwaukee named Noer, or some such Scandinavian derivation, comes around with ideas he's gathered from other greens men. He mentions a product called Milorganite and then tells you not to use it for various and sundry reasons, mostly because he is smart enough to want you to buy rather than think he's selling. Neither one of the above mentioned men will very likely be around golf over a year or two.

The USGA Green Section is doing a good job of passing out information but by the time the bulletin arrives some smart operator has already improved on the current problem which, even though the bulletin is good, is about 6 months behind their research.

It is my opinion we have about reached the peak of turf maintenance right now.

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