

Idea Hunting at Meetings Never Fails to Pay

By JOHN C. VIAL
Irwin Country Club, Paintertown, Irwin, Pa.

IT IS DIFFICULT to separate the three sources from which superintendents gather ideas for their courses. The conventions provide top agronomists and men in other fields who give information about types of grass, watering, fertilizing, etc., and provide an opportunity for discussion with other supts. about their problems.

At the convention newer types of equipment can be seen and officers of local organizations can contact nationally-known speakers for their meetings.

At local meetings we become aware of the various problems that develop due to climatic conditions in particular locations. Trips to Penn. State Univ. show what actually occurs to various types of grasses under normal conditions and the results of experimentations.

From these sources I have learned that increasing the sizes of tees from the old small ones to 10,000 sq. ft. or more enables the supt. to move markers in so many more positions that better tees are provided throughout the season.

Also by using newer methods it is possible to carry out a more complete fertilizing program throughout the hot humid season.

Through information received at a convention I learned that by installing a $\frac{1}{2}$ in. valve directly above the foot valve it was possible to leave the suction line connected all winter, thereby avoiding the trouble of removing 200 ft. of 4 in. suction line. This cut down cost of labor considerably.

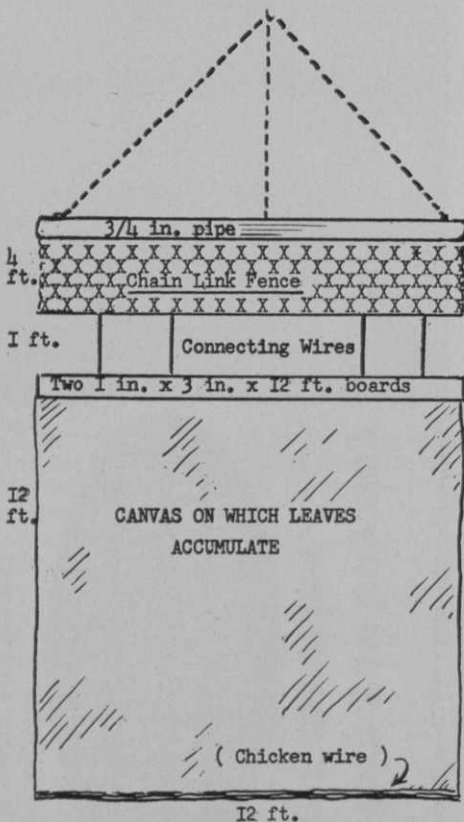
Through installation of snap valves in the center of greens, the use of hose to water greens has been practically eliminated with the result that less time is spent in watering since it is not necessary to drag hose from one green to another. On a course with heavy play this is important.

If attendance at superintendents' conventions, local meetings and conferences and inspections at experimental stations yields just one idea per trip, the expense and time of the trip pay big returns to each superintendent's club.

I've yet to be at any of the gatherings when I didn't get an idea—maybe a new one or a reminder about some matter of routine that needs checking.

Less Leaves, More Play Is Big Idea for Fall

BOB SCOTT, JR., supt. Bonnie View CC, Baltimore, Md., says that an idea which came to him from Bob Shields, supt., Woodmont CC, Rockville, Md., and Agar Brown, sec., GCSA, saved a lot of money and work in getting leaves cleared away for pleasant fall play.



It's a leaf sweeper, which is diagrammed by the ingenious typewriter drawing Shields made for the Mid-Atlantic GCSA Turf Letter.

The junior Scott says the leaf spreader was made up in the Bonnie View shop and operated very efficiently, especially after one of the fellows on the maintenance staff discovered that the sweeper would do a much better job when the tractor pulling the sweeper was circled down the fairways. With the sweeper going around in a half circle rapidly the leaves were forced into the back corner of the canvas where they were held by the chickenwire across the back of the sweeper until they were removed.

The circling operating Bob, jr. says is the vital operating factor. The idea only works on open fairways but there it's very valuable according to Scott's experience.