

## In Horse and Buggy Era

Speaking on labor and related problems, Elmer Border said that in spite of equipment improvements in the last 25 years, courses are still in the horse and buggy era when it comes to carrying out mowing operations. "Mowers have been improved tremendously," Border declared, "but they haven't been speeded up sufficiently to even make a dent in our most expensive maintenance operation. If the manufacturers really want to help us they'll concentrate their research and engineering in producing faster equipment without sacrificing any of its present efficiency."

Border also pointed out that poor labor management plus benefits such as sick leave, paid holidays, etc. reduce actual available manpower hours at courses by approximately 15 per cent. The benefits are here to stay, Border said, but the supt., by learning first to manage himself, can save his club many lost work hours through better scheduling and more efficient deployment of his labor force.

Marion Luke, the laconic supt. from Augusta, revealed that the day after the Masters tournament is out of the way, the club starts preparing for the next one, although the bulk of the work for each tourney is handled between Jan. 1 and the early April date on which the event gets started.

## What's Fast Grass, Marion?

Luke described a few of the little humorous touches that are associated with the tournament. When a pro has a good day, he said, the grass is fine; but let him blow a round and he'll swear that better turf can be found in a cow pasture. At least once a year, Luke manages to victimize a city-bred newspaperman with the gag that the greens are fast because fast grass is planted at Augusta. But he always has been able to intercept the hapless fellow before the latter manages to get this startling bit of intelligence into his paper.

About 40 extra workers have to be em-

## To Chicago

The 1959 GCSA convention will be held in Chicago from Jan. 25-30. Detroit was expected to make a bid for next year's supt's meeting but gave up the idea when it was found that the city didn't have large enough hotel facilities for staging the convention.

## Eleanor's Divot

Eleanor Kerns, wife of Russ, supt. at Green Hill Yacht & CC, Salisbury, Md., recently won a "Most Original" prize in a local competition for a hat which she concocted from a 16-in. diameter divot taken from her husband's 12th green. The 8 lb. creation included a miniature doll in Scottish attire, a flag and a sandtrap (foreground) containing actual sand. It had to be sprigged into an inverted cooking pan so that Eleanor could wear it.



played a week before the Masters starts, Luke said, and they are around a week after the tournament is over, cleaning up debris. In more recent years the Augusta supt. has had his work multiplied with the introduction of TV towers which have to be moved around the course by his crew.

Earl Yesberger, who spent about eight years raising enough money to buy land and build a 9-hole course in North Olmstead, O., gave an insight as to how resourceful a fellow has to be to serve as proprietor, supt. and a few other things at a small club. Yesberger irrigates with a pump-in-center, spider web system that he installed and treats his greens by introducing dyed chemicals through it. The irrigation system is fed by a lake that Yesberger also constructed.

Citing some things that public course owners often overlook or are careless about, the North Olmstead owner said that he is very finicky about replacing broken flagpoles, keeping benches and bridges repaired, making sure that water fountains, ball washers, etc. are kept tidy and seeing that the course is kept free of debris. Yesberger also pointed out the money saving advantages of having both an intercom and public address systems at small courses, saying that this combination enables him to get along with fewer employees than he would have to have if he didn't use them.

## New Fertilizers

Dr. Jesse A. DeFrance, discussing new developments in turgrass fertilization, said that methylene urea compounds, containing 38 per cent nitrogen, have worked out well in tests because they have excellent slow release qualities. The same is true of the new synthetic polymers, also with 38 per cent nitrogen content.