

# Supt. "Scorches" \$60,000 Rumor In Re-Turfing Scioto

By PAUL W. NEFF

Supt., Scioto CC, Columbus, O.

ORDINARILY, a club has to be selected as a site for the USGA Open or some other important tournament before directors are moved to "plow" a large sum of money into renovating its golf course as was done at Scioto last summer.

So, when I became supt. at the club early in the winter of 1957, had a chance to examine the turf and recommended that the members would get much more pleasure out of their course if some money were spent to reclaim it, a great hue and cry went up that "here is a man who has gone completely mad."

The reason was that a rumor got around that it would cost \$60,000 to do the job. Oddly enough, most of the protesting over this huge, proposed expenditure came from the outside.

After I explained to Thomas L. Carey, Scioto's green chmn., why the course had deteriorated and what had to be done to bring it back, he immediately sensed that Scioto couldn't be saved by picayunish spending and, in turn, impressed this on the club's membership. At the same time, I quieted the rumors that were making the rounds by assuring him that that \$60,000 figure was grossly exaggerated and that \$7,000 or \$8,000 was much more realistic. At any rate, it wasn't long before I got approval to undertake the renovation project.

Scioto's decline undoubtedly was due to demand, over the years, for close-clipped championship turf. Kentucky bluegrass had largely been eliminated by the invasion of poa annua and following this, chickweed, knotweed, clover and crabgrass had crept in. Shortly after news of the renovation got around, I got a request from a young man to take color photos of the fairways. Everything had turned brown by this time and the young photog-

rapher confided that his purpose in getting the pictures was to use them in an article pointing out the foolhardiness of spending \$60,000 to reclaim the turf. At the mention of this preposterous figure, I merely smiled.

## Theme Is Changed

As you can well imagine, one of the greatest thrills I got out of the renovation program was to invite the young man back the following fall and show him what excellent condition the course was in. He had never gotten around to the article that he originally intended to write. After he saw the new Scioto, there was an abrupt change in theme. When he finally got down to his writing chore it was to describe the wondrous changes that had been made in the course. Fortunately, he had both "before" and "after" photos to use as illustrations. And, he was flabbergasted to find out what re-turfing Scioto really cost.

To replace the nondescript turf at Scioto, we resorted to a "scorched earth" program. This was considered quite revolutionary in the Columbus area, but certainly it was not without precedent. The late Dave Bell was the first to use heavy rates of sodium arsenite for total eradication before reseeding at St. Clair in Pittsburgh. More recently, Carl Springer of Congress Lake in Hartsville, O., had done the same thing.

These facts were brought to our attention by the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission's Turf Service Bureau. The Bureau ran soil analysis tests on our fairway samples and its representatives constantly consulted with us on the progress of the renovation program.

The fairways were sprayed with 1 lb. of 2,4,5-T and ½ lb. of 2,4-D in July (1958) to remove clover and the broad-leaf weeds. This was done early to prevent possible germination of desirable seeds. "D-Day" (Death to the weeds) was Aug. 18, when the fairways received their first application of sodium arsenite liquid concentrate at 35 lbs. per acre in 50 gallons of water. The kill was almost complete with recovery of an occasional spot of Kentucky blue and African Bermuda.

## Seedbed Prepared

Three days later we prepared the seedbed by aerifying and rotary hoeing six times over. A chain drag was used to break up the cores. Lights were used on the tractors and the labor crew was split into three 8-hour shifts.

Milorganite was applied on Aug. 29th



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at 500 lbs. per acre. On Sept. 2, a "green haze" from a new crop of poa annua was evident so the second application of sodium arsenite was made as scheduled at 20 lbs. to the acre. This was the knockout punch!

Seeding started on Sept. 8 with 400 lbs. of 10-3-7 fertilizer applied immediately ahead of the drill. Rolling followed and irrigation commenced as soon as two or three fairways were completed. All watering was done during daylight hours to catch nozzle clogging, sprinkler stoppage or flooding before washing occurred.

#### Bent Seed Mixture Used

A bent seed mixture, 45 per cent Astoria, 45 per cent Highland and 10 per cent Penncross was drilled in two directions at 100 lbs. per acre. The heavy rate of bent was justified to get the jump on the tremendous crop of poa annua seed known to be in the soil. Watering continued until Sept. 16 when nature co-operated beautifully with light, gentle rains of  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch.

Five weeks after seeding the 4-in. drill spaces were solid bent in most places and voids were filling rapidly. The fairways had been mowed for the third time.

The battle is by no means finished! Some annual bluegrass is evident but I estimate it to be under 1 per cent. In the future we expect to use some pre-emergence control like arsenate of lead. We will continue to use light sodium arsenite treatments in the fall, if needed.

As to costs, the exaggerated outside reports of \$60,000 were utterly without foundation. According to our records the breakdown was: Labor, \$942.00; Sodium arsenite liquid concentrate, \$506.00; and bent grass seed, \$1850.00.

#### Luncheon for Fathers, Sons

GOLFDOM, for the second year, will entertain fathers and sons, who are employed as supts., at a luncheon in The Ruby Room of the Sherman Hotel at the GCSA Convention on Wednesday, Jan. 27.

#### Mid-Atlantic GCSA Officers

Jim Reynolds, Hermitage CC, Richmond, Va., is new pres. of Mid-Atlantic GCSA. Jim Thomas of Army-Navy CC is vp and Tom Doerer, Jr., Fredericksburg, secy.-treas.

## 150 Assistants Expected to Attend PGA School

About 150 apprentice pros are expected to attend the PGA's Assistant School which will be held at the Ft. Harrison Hotel, Clearwater, Fla., Jan. 11-16, according to Emil Beck, Black River CC, Pt. Huron, Mich., education chmn.

Following is the lineup of speakers for the five-day school schedule:

Jan. 11 — Joe Devany, Eddie Duino,

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A West Coast PGA assistants training school will be conducted at the Alameda Municipal GC, Jan. 26-30. Applications for enrollment still are being accepted, according to Max McMurray, chmn., who is pro at Alameda Muny.

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George Aulbach, Willie Ogg, Bill Hardy, Bob Russell and Tom Crane.

Jan. 12 — Devany, Duino, Emil Beck, Aulbach, Ogg and Hardy.

Jan. 13 — Stanley Szulik plus speakers of the 12th.

Jan. 14 — Same schedule as on the 13th.

On the 15th, the annual banquet for assistants will be held. Classes will be held from 8 to 11 a.m. and from 1:15 to 2:30 p.m. daily in addition to night classes on the 11th and 13th.

## Greensboro Pro Gives Tally on Aces at His Club

By GEORGE CORCORAN  
Pro, Greensboro (N.C.) CC

The hole-in-one is generally regarded as the most spectacular shot in golf. My club, I believe, has the unique distinction of having the oldest and the youngest golfers ever to shoot aces.

In 1951, an 83-year-old gentleman, Sam Wortham, scored a hole-in-one on the 178-yard, par 3 12th hole. In 1955 Sandy Worth, age 11, got an ace on the same hole.

Seldom does a pro and his wife get an ace in the same year. In April, 1954, I scored an ace on the par three, 215-yard 16th hole. In September of the same year my wife carded a hole-in-one on the third hole which measures 116 yards.

In the 14 years I have been pro at the Greensboro GC there have been 29 holes-in-one. This, of course, is an average of two a year. During that time men have not had a monopoly on the prized holes-in-one. There have been five women who have accomplished the feat.