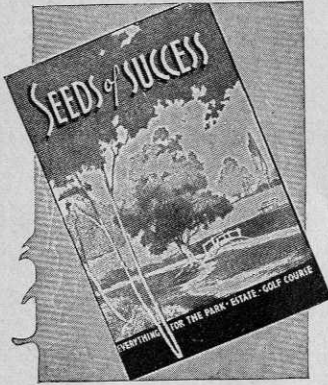


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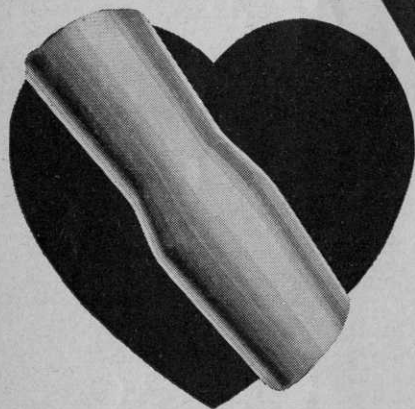
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## ARLINGTON SAVED!

By HERB GRAFFIS

### USGA Increases Green Section Budget to Preserve Research

THE USGA has answered the distress cries which arose after the association announced that the Arlington turf garden, center of Green Section research work, would be discontinued this year due to lack of funds.

Digging down into its reserve fund, the USGA managed to come up with enough to maintain the Arlington garden and save for the nation's golf clubs the great and irreplaceable investment in research represented by the Arlington plots.

Official announcement of Arlington's preservation, as released by the U. S. Golf Assn. over the signature of its secretary, Frank M. Hardt, read as follows:

Experiments on matters affecting every golf course in the country are to be resumed immediately by the Green Section of the USGA. They will be conducted at the Arlington turf garden in Washington, D. C., on government-owned ground, by the scientific staff of the Green Section's Washington bureau, under the direction of Dr. John Monteith, Jr.

To enable widening of the Green Section's scope in this and other directions, the USGA has appropriated \$5,000. The fund will be used at the discretion of Harold W. Pierce, of Boston, chairman of the Green Section Committee, and Dr. Monteith. US Department of Agriculture officials have promised to cooperate.

Dr. Monteith's plans call for work on varieties of grasses, soil improvement, disease and weed control, and kindred matters.

At the start of the present year it was planned to continue the reduced appropriation for Green Section work and to limit the Washington bureau's activities to ad-

visory and educational service, on a budget of \$10,000.

However, a feeling grew that a major phase of the work should be experimentation. This sentiment seemed justified by the Green Section's contributions in other years, findings which definitely elevated golf-course standards and resulted in uncounted financial savings to clubs.

Therefore, believing the work too valuable to be abandoned, that a real need exists for it, the USGA has decided upon revival even though it should involve dipping into reserve funds.

The Washington bureau will continue to advise individual member clubs on their specific problems.

When news of the intention of the USGA to abandon Arlington appeared in GOLFDOM, greenkeepers and green-chairmen began to have cold chills. One prominent club official of the Pacific Coast estimated that Green Section service had been worth \$30,000 to his club. Other sectional association officials such as Harry Radix, president of the Chicago District GA and Leo Baumann, head of the St. Louis district green section also got busy.

Golf seed and equipment houses and golf turf nurseries began to sweat. One of the nurseries, The Old Orchard Turf Nurseries of Madison, Wis., sent out to the grass trade the following letter to golf turf nurseries:

No doubt you have noticed in GOLFDOM that the Arlington Turf Gardens of the USGA Green Section may be forced to discontinue.

You and I, as nurserymen, have reaped many rewards from the research work and the data on turf production and main-

tenance in past seasons and it would hurt us as nurserymen to have this valuable source of information discontinued.

Our united efforts may be of some value toward carrying on the good cause by writing to our senators asking them to appropriate money to support turf works of all kinds. Also write to the Secretary of Agriculture; Harold W. Pierce, Ch. Green Section, USGA, 74 State street, Boston, Mass., and furthermore, to make sure that all golf clubs in your district belong to the USGA.

Some of the experiments have been going on for fifteen years and discontinuing these experimental plots for even one year means the sacrifice of years of investment in incomplete research and starting all over and waiting another fifteen years until Arlington catches up to its condition at the time of discontinuance.

We hope you will agree with us that the Green Section is a very important source of knowledge to the fine turf nurserymen and no stone should be left unturned to keep it going.

#### What the Show-Down Showed

Defections in the personnel of the Green Section kept getting more serious. Ken Welton, right bower to Dr. John Monteith, jr., technical head of the Green Section, resigned to take up government soil erosion work; thus another valuable man, extremely well acquainted with golf course turf and maintenance problems was lost.

As is customary in human affairs, the tendency was to pass the buck and blame the USGA for the whole serious condition. But calm second thought showed that the fault began in another spot. The USGA depended on member clubs and as long as clubs wanted to deadhead on Green Section service instead of paying \$30 annual dues, the USGA wasn't able to get enough dues and tournament income to finance the Green Section up to its bare needs.

These sectional officials who became intensely interested in the plight of the Green Section quickly saw that what was needed was sharply focused sectional campaigns to get clubs in all localities to join the USGA. There are extremely few clubs that can't afford the \$30 annually for the USGA on the basis of Green Section work alone, but bringing this point before individual club boards for action is something that has to be done by men personally acquainted with members of the boards. The deal has been complicated by the sectional associations' own problems of membership.

What possibly will be the outcome of this crisis in Green Section affairs is a reorganization of the Green Section of the USGA, bringing into intimate contact with the national association all of the sectional associations and trade organizations, somewhat along the lines of the British Greenkeeping Research organization which works closely with the various golf unions of the empire.

#### To Expand Section's Reach?

There certainly is an opening for more effective selling of USGA memberships through the medium of the Green Section. Hundreds of letters for advice are received from non-USGA clubs each year, without the valuable replies to such inquiries making a bid for memberships. Apparently the association's gentlemanly error has been in taking too broad a view of service to the game, not realizing that with many clubs changing officials each year there are bound to be many new officials who don't realize that the USGA has to be run with money.

After one has been a green-chairman for a few years, the value of the Green Section's service is fully realized, but the frequent turn-over in chairmanships is such that a lot of these officials are in the dark as to the Green Section's functions and not of a mind to acquaint themselves with facts.

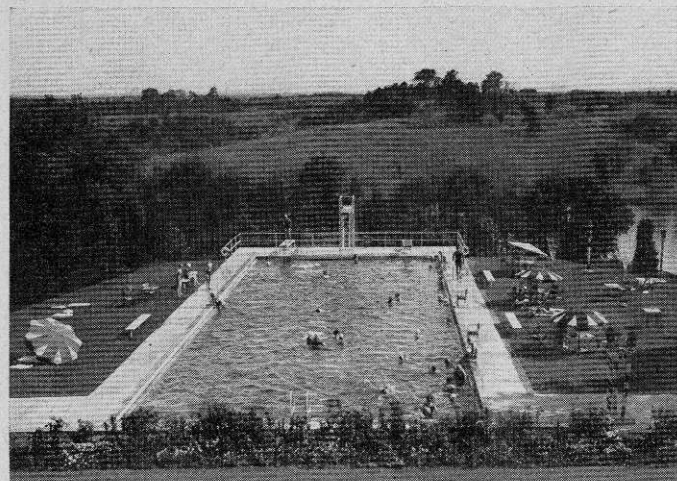
Indicative of the serious prospects for conscientious green chairmen comes from the sage and observing Ray Slotter, green-chairman of Philmont CC, in a recent letter to GOLFDOM. Without Green Section research and every other aid, the green-chairman and greenkeeper these days are fighting for the course with the odds against them generally, because, as Slotter points out:

I am very much afraid, in these days of curtailment of cost, club executives are "becoming set" in their thoughts that economy can go on forever and the battle of chairmen and greenkeeper to obtain budgets will be terrific.

A good greenkeeper gets his work done for economical reasons before interference by members during play and for convenience of members playing, with the result that workmen are not always visible on the course. Many board members wonder where all the men can be. Then too, very few laymen realize that turf can be compared to human beings, it is subject to disease, in need of medicine and nourishment and sorely in need of help in the proper upkeep during the season.

# Overcome Indifference and Install Paying Pool

By FRED E. KUNKEL



This pool is the result of digging for funds by live ones.

**F**OR MANY YEARS at the Congressional CC we had been talking about an outdoor swimming pool but nothing ever came of it.

We have a stream of water running through our property and two dammed-up lakes, but we would no more think of building a make-shift pool out of this running water than we would think of taking the clubhouse on a stratosphere flight.

A pool here would have to be modern and up-to-date, for to this club belongs a list of dignitaries that would choke a blue book register.

Yet all we did was talk. Times were hard. The club didn't have the money. But in January, 1934, we got some new members on the Board of Governors—some younger business men who were alive with ideas and to whom nothing seemed impossible. We also elected a new president. He appointed some of the younger progressive members of the club (also some of the chief kickers, who however immediately became the club's chief boosters) to head various important committees.

In other words "Bill" Denning, the new president, followed the Democratic policy of creating a "brain trust."

But the idea of building an outdoor swimming pool was hard to sell to the new Board of Governors. In fact, the idea has never been successfully sold to them, yet today the pool is built and in actual operation. It only cost \$12,500 with all equip-

ment and paraphernalia, including lawn chairs and tables to serve drinks and sandwiches.

The whole idea started by appointing an outdoor swimming pool committee, which never consisted of more than a half dozen members until the pool had been laid down in solid concrete, when the committee was increased to 15, with chairmen of various subcommittees, such as "pool operation," "maintenance," "furnishings," "printing," "publicity," and so on.

## Getting Pool Started.

The chairman of the swimming pool committee was on the Board of Governors and also in the real estate business. He enlisted the aid of the club's president, who sent out circular letters over his signature to all the club members, inviting them to a mass meeting to discuss the prospects of building an outdoor swimming pool.

The first meeting was a frost. Eight people showed up after 800 letters had been mailed out. But did that discourage the committee? Hardly.

They had pink faces, but they went around among their personal friends and pled with them to come out to the next meeting. Each member of the committee brought at least one friend or two. One man alone got out ten of his friends. The next meeting was considerably larger in numbers and developed some enthusiasm.

But still the results were not up to expectations.

Then we decided to tie in with the Thursday night family dinners—an innovation at the club, whereby a member could obtain a first class dinner for \$1 and 65c for his children, and thus bring out the whole family and feed them at a reasonable figure. The idea had attracted a constantly increasing number. Members were beginning to come out to patronize these dinners with their wives and children.

So we circulated another letter, over the signature of the president, calling a mass meeting for Thursday. As a result we got the whole family into these meetings and pretty soon we were all waxing enthusiastic and it looked to us as if the swimming pool idea was firmly launched.

We decided we were ready to start our campaign to raise funds. We would issue 5 per cent debenture bonds, the interest of which would be paid from revenues and each year we would retire a certain amount of bonds, so that in five or ten years the club would own the pool free of any indebtedness.

We then began issuing subscription cards for anything from \$10 to \$100 and broadcast these among the club members by mail, but the response was not so hot. We got about \$2,000 in subscription cards but *no funds*. But we never once let up. We enlisted the aid of some of the live wires of the club and pretty soon we had more subscriptions and *some* actual cash.

Then we broke ground for the pool. We said to ourselves "it cannot fail." We wanted to show that something was actually being done so we could collect our money and go to them with the urge of paying their subscriptions in cash. And we could get new subscriptions on the basis of having started something.

### Digging Gets the Cash.

The scheme worked. Pretty soon our subscriptions had swelled until we had \$11,500 in actual cash by July 1st and \$2,000 still unpaid on subscriptions. By July 4th, when the pool was opened, we had enough money to pay every one of our bills and we had one of the finest outdoor pools in the City of Washington.

The cost was kept down because the real estate man heading the committee had drawn all the plans in his office; an electrical contractor belonging to the club, also on the committee, handled all the

electrical work and lighting; a plumber handled all the plumbing; a constructor handled the concreting, and so on.

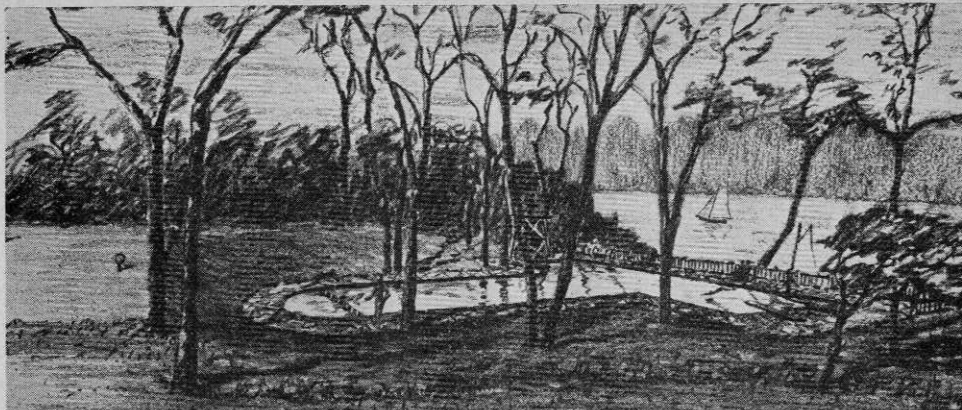
In other words, the Outdoor Swimming Pool Association of the club, as the committee was known, handled the finances and was really a separate corporation. It collected all the money on subscriptions and made all disbursements in connection with the building of the pool. It collected all the revenues, paid the salary of a swimming instructor in charge and his assistant, while the club housed and fed them, without expense to the association, and also provided the necessary locker space, towel service, shower facilities, wash wringers, etc.

### The Pool Itself.

Within seven weeks after ground was broken, the outdoor swimming pool was opened for use. Located on the site of the old tenth tee, south of the clubhouse, and below the pavilion porch, the new pool is completely landscaped and sits on a hilltop overlooking a lake set in a grove of trees. This outdoor pool gives the Congressional, one of Washington's largest country clubs, complete swimming facilities, both in winter and in summer, and makes it the only country club in the national capital which has both an outdoor and an indoor pool.

Venetian and Italian in architecture, the pool is designed, with its equipment to be able to hold intercollegiate meets or any A. A. U. championship matches. It can accommodate comfortably more than 300 bathers, being 100 feet long by 35 feet wide, with the shoal end 2 ft. 6 ins. sloping down gradually to a 6 ft. depth for a distance of 72 ft. At its deepest point it is 9 ft. deep. Here are one high and two low diving boards.

Landscaping surrounding the pool is very artistic and effective, adding as it does an unusual view from the terrace of the clubhouse where diners may enjoy a full view of the pool. One side of the pool has a spacious lawn, flanked with trellis work from which ultimately rambler roses will shed a profusion of color, interspersed with eight artistic wrought iron lamps (Floridian), each of a different design and containing different colored glass. Two 1500-watt lamp flood lights, one on each side of the pool, throw light on the water and diving boards at night. Tables, with lawn umbrellas, are spread at intervals over the lawn.



Rockford (Ill.) CC is building an unique swimming pool with wading pool for children at shank of a T-shaped tank. Deep water will be in the bar section of the T, which will run parallel to the Rock river. Location and design of this modernly-equipped pool make it one of the feature jobs of the many pools golf clubs are constructing.

The pool soon became as popular with members as the beach resorts. It was a popular social rendezvous during the entire outdoor swimming season. A swimming meet of club members, a style show with parading mannequins, and an A.A.U. meet completed the unusual events for the summer.

### Unique Filter System.

The filtration system used in the pool is also worthy of mention. It is different in its operation from any other pool in the United States at the time it was opened. With it water is not only run in and out, but it is also filtered and then sterilized through an electric silver process, known as the Katadyn system—a method brought over from Germany for this pool.

This method has been successfully used in the past two years abroad, but this is the first installation in America. It is now being used in dozens of pools in England. The system does not have the bad effects on the membranes of the nose, eyes, ears and throat to which other systems occasionally fall heir.

### Selling Season Tickets.

The price charged for use of the indoor pool is 25c for members and 50c (plus tax) for guests. No higher charge was put on for the outdoor pool, although it was felt the guest fee was too low, being no more than in some of the public pools, but this proved a good idea for many club members brought guests and had night parties, coming out in dozens instead of singly. The

first month of operation the club took in nearly \$3,000. This was due to many guests and members using the pool, but primarily from the sale of season tickets.

The idea of raising quick revenue impelled the committee to sell season tickets, \$5 for a member; \$6 for a member and his wife; \$7.50 for a member and his entire family, including children. In order to sell the maximum number of these tickets, an "Order Coupon," was enclosed with the July *Bulletin* (which also carried an announcement of the opening), and in addition a committee was appointed (of the most popular members who were well known to a great many club members) to dispose of them. Of course, after the pool opened the operator in charge suggested, when a member signed up (if he did not display a season ticket), that it would be cheaper for him to buy a ticket. Thus nearly 400 were sold the first month.

August was a cold month, with many cool nights, and revenues fell off considerably over July, which was a hot month, thus demonstrating the value of selling season tickets. However the club took in over \$500 in guest and member fees, and made enough money the first year over all expenses to retire more than 20 per cent of the bonds issued and left enough to pay interest on the investment.

**N**EW BENT GREENS are frequently wavy and rough the season following planting, and a considerable number of topdressings may be needed to fill up the waves and obtain an even putting surface.

# WHERE THRIFT STARTS

By ARTHUR LANGTON

**W**HILE avoiding rash predictions, it may be fairly safe to venture a thought or two on the possible recurrence in the golfing world of more affluent days than golfers have become accustomed to since the Big Bust. These thoughts have risen since 1930 while sympathizing with greenkeepers forced to endure pre-depression construction on post-depression budgets. The conclusion to be reached from this outburst of cogitation is that if this alphabetical prosperity lays a golden egg and any golf courses are built, old methods of construction should not be allowed to survive the economic ice age—to mix a few figures of speech.

We pray that golf courses in the future be constructed to suit rather than defy local conditions. Let us have golf courses that are built into surrounding topography instead of in spite of it. May each layout be more than a golf course just on the surface. And we humbly beseech that a few simple standardized rules be followed during the planning and construction period so that future generations of greenkeepers will lose that harassed and haunted air. Amen.



Surface drainage into trap needs correction to effect thrifty maintenance.

**W**ITH the bashful appearance of good times again, clubs are beginning to think of reconstruction improvements. There continue to be new construction jobs on public courses and here and there some private club is building a course.

So, as an extremely timely warning against construction that means unduly high maintenance expense, GOLFDOM happily presents Mr. Langton as the voice of the greenkeeper crying out against course building sins for which he eventually has to pay.

Immediately the cynic will drop the magazine at this point, exclaiming profanely that propaganda for regimentation has at last reached the golf courses. But wait, Old Boy, it is not necessarily standardization to think a little about future expenditure when constructing a golf course, or even when rehabilitating an old one. This should be particularly significant to you with your traps having banks so steep that they have to be cut with a sickle instead of a mower. It is not sacrificing individuality to abide by a set of rules for the assurance of convenience and economy. Even the most modernistic home of a Hollywood movie baron has not sacrificed standardized sanitary plumbing on the altar of individuality.

## Money Thrown to Traps

The subject of sand traps having been suggested, here is one sore spot around which hundreds of dollars could be saved by a little careful consideration while the layout still is in the form of a blue print. Remember, ye planners who favor bays, capes, points, peninsulas, gulfs, and other geographical phenomena about the bunkers, these frills must be planted to seed, watered and mowed; and while it may be artistic or unique to have traps shaped like something from the middle of a jigsaw puzzle, the upkeep on such frivolities is enormous. The morale of the greensman whose job it is to care for such stuff is in constant danger of being shattered as he tries to mow narrow ledges, keep tiny curves and corners trim and neat, and pretty up other architectural frills with a pair of hand shears.

It is conceivable that there are people who believe in the existence of better looking traps than the kind with bold sweeping outlines and smooth contours, but certainly no one can deny that the latter are





Banks that machines can't handle call for hand mowing that runs up costs and makes difficult the well-groomed appearance which is the objective of every greenkeeper.

cheaper and easier to keep looking neat and trim. No matter how it is decorated with frills and furbelows it is practically impossible on the average golf course to make a bunker look like anything but what it is, and a clumsy attempt at disguise makes it even more obvious. Some designers have gone so far as to shape their traps into stars, crescents, circles, triangles, and squares, but such geometric leanings should have been confined to the late and unlamented peewee putt courses. A trap at its best, and cheapest, is one whose curves harmonize and correspond with the general outline of the nearby fairway or green.

What has been said of the possibility of eliminating expense by ironing out the border of traps is just as applicable in regard to their banks. Fortunately the tendency in recent years has been to get away from banks of any kind and to have the sand itself graded to the level of the surrounding fairway. This is commendable because of the economy of construction and the ease of maintenance. By permitting a thin fringe of longer grass to grow around the edges they are as difficult to play from as a trap sunk a foot or two below the level of the ground. However, conditions do not always permit the former type of trap owing to the elevation of the green. But never is it advisable to have a precipice. A gradual slope is much easier on the eye as well as on the club's pocket book from year to year.

#### Distress with Drainage

Drainage is just as important in trap construction as it is in building greens. "Sure my traps have drainage," shouts one Southern California greenkeeper. "I have one in which all the water from three fairways drains into one side and out the other, taking most of the sand along with it. Drainage? Phooey!" An hour or two's work with the grader during the course of construction would have prevented this rainy weather difficulty permanently. Which is worse, the irrigation ditch type or the one that is a reservoir to catch all the water in seven counties and retain it until the advent of the pumping gang, it is difficult to say. Greenkeepers the world over already have damned each kind from here to perdition, which is the only place where they belong. If the master-minds who decide how a golf course must be built insist upon placing a hazard where drainage is impossible, they at least should listen to the growing chorus of advocates of the grassy hollow in lieu of the conventional sand trap. This chorus lately has grown so vociferous as to require no further swelling here.

A usually unconsidered feature in golf course creation is transportation facility. The booby prize in this regard goes to a golf course in central California. One of its nine holes is a healthy brassie shot away from the shop as the ball flies, yet in order to get there the greenkeeper's



Location of traps without thought of course surface drainage runs up sand costs and interferes with play.

truck has to travel no less than six miles. But still, as the greenkeeper philosophically remarks, "I can get competitive prices on fertilizer from the farmers on the way over, and on butter and eggs on the way back."

Roads never should be a conspicuous feature of a golf course landscape, yet definite routes must be provided so that every inch of the property can be reached by truck, tractor, or other heavy equipment. Bridges particularly should be built with the weight and width of the club's motive equipment in mind. The cost of the necessary extra material to accommodate such machinery will be saved many times over by the direct routing of equipment. Unless constant vigilance is exercised, a green which cannot be reached as easily as the others is going to suffer from lack of attention over a long period of time.

#### **Pretty But Unsound Sites**

Plenty has been said of how easy maintenance qualities should be built into a green, but the surroundings largely have been neglected. Many designers tuck a green away so that it is practically surrounded by trees or canyon walls. The idea might be okeydoke if such secluded greens were equipped with electric fans for creating a breeze to prevent brown-patch fungi from making a three point landing on the bent. Unfortunately such equipment never has been forthcoming and the greenkeeper has had to make expensive use of calomel and corrosive sublimate for the benefit of his suffocated greens.

Sprinkling systems suggest maps, and maps are something of which no golf courses ever had enough. Every golf shop should have at least one which shows every

pipe, hydrant, gate, valve, tee, green, fairway, trap, tree, path, and bridge on the place. Such a map is invaluable in distributing labor and plotting new work.

Beside the point is the matter of garbage disposal, but it usually falls to the lot of the greenkeeper to get rid of the debris as best he may. Some hallowed spot of ground should be chosen, before construction has gone too far, to be made sacred to the burning of refuse and the disposal of the conglomerate rubbish which can be gathered around any golf course by the truck load. Again remember the little winds: the odor of burning garbage penetrating the interstices of a clubhouse will neither add to its dignity nor popularity.

#### **Hire Greenkeeper Ahead**

The most revolutionary suggestion that might be made in regard to construction of a new golf course is to secure the services of a good greenkeeper while the proposed layout is still raw real estate. No matter how capable and efficient a golf architect may be, he is not the one who will have to worry about the course after the first divot is dug. An experienced guardian of the fairgreen, called into consultation before the course is built, will act as a sort of governor to modify and make practical some of the too visionary schemes which are frequently forthcoming from even the most noted designers. Not that an attempt is here being made to lay all the golf course woes on the doormat of the poor architect, but if conditions which make for expensive and cumbersome upkeep are eliminated before the course is completed, they can never weigh heavily on the sadder side of the club's balance sheet.