

Outstanding Course Jobs of 1940

AT GOLFDOM's request, prominent superintendents whose work is highly regarded by fellow greenkeepers in their respective sections, have reviewed what they consider leading features of maintenance at their clubs during the past season.

Their comments furnish an excellent survey of the problems and progress of course maintenance in various parts of the nation.

Leo Feser, Woodhill CC, Wayzata, Minn., remarks:

"Reviewing the season with the thought of selecting accomplishments that bring a feeling of satisfaction, three items appear to shadow the mass of routine that is the major part of maintaining a country club. These items are all a part of managing a business with an eye to the future, but their difference in character indicates the possibilities of improving a club plant by breaking routine to some degree.

"The first has to do with the appearance of the grounds. While we have maintained a tree nursery for the past 15 years, and have in the past planted thousands of trees on the grounds, the past season brought on a stage of development of these plantings that compels attention. The player who is interested in his battle with par finds his journey one of exploration; each hole offers a new and interesting avenue of adventure, each avenue invites the player to come along and see what is at the end of the road.

Tree Program Maturing

"Driving off the tee on certain holes one has the feeling that the green lies at the last outpost in the wilderness, yet a few yards from the green he gets a glimpse of the continuation of turf that carries on into new and enticing promised lands. Occasionally he can see his fellow explorers through vistas of varying depth, and again he gets a peek at them coming through the valleys toward the heights that he has conquered. The nursery expenditures are paying big dividends.

"The second item that looms large in the year's accomplishments is the establishment of a plot of superior bent on each green. While our greens have been satisfactory to our membership, they have

never been satisfactory to the greenkeeper. A new variety of bent has been outstanding on one of the greens for several years. During the past two years we have tried small plugs on other greens with good success. From stolons propagated during the past season, we have planted a sod strip one foot wide and varying from 10 to 20 ft. long on the back part of each green. These areas will be used for plugging stock; plugs taken out of the green will be discussed, plugs of the favored variety will be placed in their stead, and the holes in the new sod strips will be filled with compost for healing and future use. A quick plugger 1½ in. in diameter will be used for this work. A gradual changing of turf will result with no inconvenience to the players and with a minimum of labor.

Science Finds Sand Source

"The problem of getting sand for traps, compost and other uses is oftentimes a difficult one in some areas. While we have large commercial pits near the city, the cost of hauling to our club is greater than the cost of the sand. Furthermore we have established a labor management policy of providing winter work for our married workmen, and winter is a fine time to screen sand and haul it into the traps. We closed our old pit because it was an eyesore in the middle of the course, and we had made numerous soundings to find a new supply, but had no success.

"At the Minnesota Greenkeepers' Conference last winter, one of the lecturers told us of an electrical resistance method used to determine soil porosity at considerable depths. Upon investigation, we found an engineer who made a survey of our waste land to determine the possibility of sand or gravel being present in those areas. The survey required but a day and a half; the results were verified by digging test pits, and we now have a fine sand and gravel pit in an area of waste land that could be used for little else and where a pit will be completely concealed from the golf course or roadways.

Ed Haupt, Glen View (Ill.) GC, has done a notable job of weed elimination. The

Irving R. Pierson, mgr.-supt., New Haven (Conn.) GCs, on September 2 became, at 40, a grandfather to a 10-lb. boy. Irv's daughter, Mrs. Howard Clinton, and the baby, Richard Irving Clinton, are both doing nicely.—GSA News Bureau.

Glen View course, one of the oldest in the Chicago district, has a branch of the Chicago river wandering through it.

Frequently, over the years, this branch has left its banks and brought to Glen View killing films of mud and a distressing supply of weed seeds. Haupt has successfully employed chemical control to minimize the weed problem. The past season he developed an effective and economical treatment for weed patches.

He has a 60-gal. tank into which he puts 30 gal. water and 75 oz. arsenic acid. Air is pumped to 85 lbs. pressure in the tank. Fifty feet of hose with a trigger nozzle is attached to the tank. The tank is on pneumatic tires. The operator of the outfit can stand erect to do his work and can move the equipment around easily.

Weed eradication and landscaping were the two big jobs of the year at many clubs, and were prominent features of work at the Moraine CC, Dayton, O., where O. Young is greenkeeper.

Young set out 75 large pines in groups of 3 to 15. Incidentally, the practice of grouping trees rather than spreading the planting out to separate fairways, has become almost general practice. The line planting looked too artificial and required more maintenance attention, especially in watering.

Wins Dandelion Fight

Young kept down the dandelions with a contrivance of chicken-wire fencing on an ordinary large metal farm gate having its front edge turned up like a sled. This device hauled at a fair speed over the fairways lifted up the dandelion leaves and cut leaves and blossoms.

One of the many little, but important, details of course work done last summer was the job of J. E. Benson, Cedar Rapids, (Ia.) CC, supt. To get away from rotting lumber and loose steps on steps to tees and on steep banks, Benson made all steps concrete. He then glued to the concrete 12-to-14 in. strips of rubber running-board material generally used on automobiles. The tread stayed firm despite exposure to hottest sun. Spiked shoes

don't slip on these treads. The treads wear well, but even when they are to be replaced they cost only 15 cents apiece.

Greenkeepers in the Detroit district had a tough summer. Herb Shave, supt. of Oakland Hills CC, tells how he had to battle to keep that championship course in good shape. Says Shave:

"We have gone through the worst climatic conditions of recent years. April, May, June and the first half of July were wet and cold. We were cutting fairways every day; but not all of them as we had to skip some fairways that were submerged by small lakes.

"One good thing about it, though, was that the grass grew so fast weeds were crowded out.

"On July 16 and 17 we had the Ryder Cup team Red Cross matches. Greens had been plenty soaked by rain. The first day all was well. The second day got hot, and a spell of heat high up in the nineties continued for a few days, after which there was a slump to the high forties.

Weather Hits Greens

"The greens had died out from the sun and wind and it seemed impossible to get water into them. They turned a sickly yellow and looked as though they had something on their stomachs they couldn't get out.

"We didn't fertilize. We spike rolled both ways to open them up for air. Next day we gave them a light topdressing containing a little lime, and followed it with a light spraying—just enough to keep the greens moist for a day or two. Then we really did water them. They started to pick up right away. After two weeks we gave them a shot of fertilizer. They came back good and have been in good shape ever since.

"We also had our troubles with dollar-spot, and it was hard to get rid of the old spots."

James K. Thomson, pro-greenkeeper at Mohawk GC, Schenectady, N. Y., reports that the usual combination of jobs accounted for Mohawk's good condition this year, rather than any outstanding details.

He relates that on his greens he did more forking than previously, and gave more study to watering. He followed through on his fertilizing program bearing in mind the greens analysis made at the

start of the season. Daily he fought graining. Because of much rain he moved holes oftener than usual.

He found that chemical control of weeds still is an uncertain factor, so depended mainly on a strong fertilizing program to develop good fairways.

By getting rid of old machinery Jim says he was able to save on gas, oil, repairs, and labor. Old machinery he declares is a greenkeeper's biggest headache and the club's biggest waste. He keeps a daily record of oil and gas consumed, also a daily record of work done on each green, and of the green's condition. His workmen have a report card they fill out each day.

Dyed Turf Pleases

Thomas says that when Dr. John Monteith developed Auragreen he did a great thing for greenkeepers. Jim relates that on the eve of the club's big tournament his No. 9 green looked very bad and he was ashamed of it. He gave it the Monteith coloring treatment and the green looked fine. Now Jim is wondering if the average member judges greens by their texture or by color.

Al Lesperance, pro-supt. of Westmoreland CC (Chicago district) has had greens this season that have been widely and favorably mentioned. Condition of Westmoreland's greens, says Al, is due to several factors.

He details:

"One is the rebuilding of the surface of the greens by removal of the sod and resodding with Washington bent from our nursery. In some cases, it meant rebuilding the contours of the greens and in others, only re-turfing. The sod taken off the greens has been used to increase the size of the tees.

"Another factor is an increase in the amounts of fertilizer we have applied, on both greens and fairways.

"Still another factor has been the removal of the roller in front of our power putting green mowers.

Remodels to Save Labor

"We have for the past four years been reducing in size in some cases, and removing completely in other cases, some of our traps that are too far from the line of play. This item has made it possible to release hours of labor for other work, without reducing the total maintenance budget, to the satisfaction of everyone."

Boyd Campaigns for Weed-Free Course

PORTAGE CC (Akron, O.), Don R. Boyd, supt., has done an effective job of weed elimination during the past season. Costs and operations of the job are outlined by Boyd as follows:

Cost of labor per acre (30c per hour)	\$6.37
Sodium arsenite, cost 100 lbs.....	11.00
Sulphate of ammonia.....	2.00
Milorganite, cost, 100 lbs.....	1.50
Weed guns	1.50

Mixture: 25 lbs. Milorganite; 10 lbs. sulphate; 4 lbs. sodium arsenite.

Rough was spread with a 9-ft. Thompson spreader, using 10 lbs. of fine ground limestone to 1 lb. of sodium arsenite; spreading this over 2,500 sq. ft.

After fairways were hand weeded, 1½ ozs. sodium arsenite to 1,000 sq. ft. was mixed in the fertilizer and applied. This killed clover and chickweed. Boyd's men then went over the fairways, filling up the holes with dirt and seed mixed. When large areas were bare, they raked and seeded. They used straight colonial bent.

Boyd adds: "We have had very good results with the above, except where we used the 1½ oz. of sodium arsenite mixed with Milorganite. The temperature should be in the 80's before the work would do much good.

Stodola's Problem Is Traffic Wear

ST. PAUL'S Keller course on which one PGA national championship and all the annual St. Paul Opens have been played, provides its greenkeeper, Harold Stodola, with one of the most difficult maintenance problems in the game. Harold has to operate a course that not only will stand the heavy traffic of public play but will be in such excellent condition for open tournament play that it will be advertised as a St. Paul civic asset by the scores of big-time pros who play it each year.

The excellence of the course and its conditioning has done much to develop public golf in St. Paul. The city's golfers brag this year as having one of their own, Bob Clark, as the USGA national public links champion.

There's been a lot doing in work at the Keller course this year. Stodola notes the high spots of the season's work:

"Our outstanding job this year was the erection of a fine pro-shop. It is made of stone, and faces and adjoins the first tee. The interior is knotty pine. This is a real building and was planned by Len Mattson, Keller pro.

"Permanent toilet facilities were made for the convenience of the galleries attending the annual Open. This meant a separate Imhoff tank and building.

"We have a picturesque bridge, 150 ft. long, across a valley. It is now over 10 years old, and has become dry-rotted, and while satisfactory for ordinary traffic, has become unsuitable for tournament crowds. This summer the bridge was supplemented by a dirt causeway across the valley entailing the moving of 30,000 yards of dirt.

"Weeds and clover in our fairways have convinced us that we must follow a definite fertilizer program. Last year we had very good success by starving our greens. The texture was finer and the grass did not scuff like it formerly did. This year we tried the same procedure but with no results. The grass was weak and could not withstand disease or traffic. So now we plan to feed well so the grass will be thick and strong and able to stand close cutting.

"This has been a tough year for dollar-spot. We spent a minimum for chemicals, not because we wanted to, but because we had to. This dollar-spot is more than a discoloration; it kills to the soil, making a mark that interferes with putting."

"Fairways for Plane Landings Not Needed": Army

DR. DANIEL FRANCIS LUBY, Syracuse, N. Y., golfer, suggests that American golf courses have at least one fairway available as an emergency landing field for planes. The suggestion was advanced by the Doctor as a civil as well as military measure.

Dr. Luby's idea has received the following comment from Major General E. S. Adams, Adjutant General of the U. S. Army:

"Some thought has already been given to the possible utilization of golf courses as emergency landing fields. From time to time in the past forced landings of military aircraft have been successfully

accomplished on some of the longer and more open fairways of golf courses. Light commercial craft can land and take off from some fairways on the larger golf courses now in existence.

"Should future developments indicate the necessity for extensive emergency fields, a study of certain adaptable fairways for indication as emergency landing strips might be made with a view to planning in each case steps for immediate conversion should the situation so demand. At the present time, however, it is not felt that the situation requires such drastic action."

Woodruff Field Day Attracts 170 Greensmen

AT least 170 persons interested in growing of fine turf turned out for the annual F. H. Woodruff & Sons Field Day held September 4 in Milford, Conn. The day was bright and clear, affording the greensmen an excellent opportunity to inspect the 315 turf plots at the Woodruff proving and breeding grounds. Flowers, bulbs and lawn equipment were also viewed.

Welcome address was given by Harold Woodruff, and explanation of the various



Not a safari of African explorers; just some of the crowd at the Woodruff field day in souvenir toppers.

plots was given by Chauncey Baker and Wm. R. Somers over a portable sound address system. Included on the luncheon menu was chicken, corn, beer, watermelon, etc., and no one went away without eating all he could hold.

Winner of first door prize, a check for \$20, went to Homer Whitson, superintendent at Bethpage Park GCse, Farmingdale, L. I., N. Y. Second prize, a pen and pencil set, was won by Paul Bigos, Oxford CC, Chicopee, Mass.

—GSA News Bureau.

What Will War Do To Golf?

Clubs considering what changes war would make in golf picture

FORESIGHTED officials are beginning to plan to adjust their membership situation to the national defense plans, especially keeping in mind the possibility of younger members being drafted.

The Audubon CC, Louisville, Ky., has decided to cancel dues of any member called into the service, during the period the member is in service, President B. R. Meidinger advises. Meidinger adds:

"In our last board meeting we decided to cancel dues for any man who was called in the draft during the period for which he was in actual service, and then taking him back at the end of such service in good standing. However, I do not think this will effect very many of our members, and of course will not be much of a problem. Our situation may be slightly different than a lot of clubs due to the fact that we are close to Fort Knox and also Bowman Field, which is to be a training place for a large number of pilots.

"Very likely there will be no reason for our membership to decrease. On the other hand, it would seem to me to be entirely possible that clubs may be forced to raise their dues if higher prices are a result, as I believe most clubs today are working on a very close margin concerning income and outgo. I assume, though, on the other hand, that cafe and bar sales would probably be greater."

R. W. Phillips, President, The Country Club of Waterbury (Conn.) recalls that during the first World War the club had virtually normal activity. He says:

"Naturally, many members of military age were away, but our section was filled with military officers, government experts, etc., and many of them used the club.

"The country and our part of it will be busy and will be earning money if the U. S. gets into war; but certainly no one works 100% of the day, and most emphatically exercise and recreation are necessary for everyone. I believe that in a war the club's golf and tennis playing, restaurant, etc., will be as active, anyhow, as in these recent four years.

And its revenues should not be greatly affected.

"Of course, caddies will not be as plentiful; but some of us will have to get used to double-caddying or carrying less clubs: and caddie-less contests may be unavoidable sometimes.

Phillips and other club officials who have commented on golf club prospects, call their forecasts off in the event of Hitler's conquest of Britain or extension of active hostilities to this country.

Golf continues to an astonishing extent in Great Britain despite some courses in the south of England being closed. The value of the game in caring for war-abraded nerves has been demonstrated conspicuously in Great Britain. In Germany, too, sports programs have been continued as war-nerve measures, although Germany never did go much for golf.

Generally, American golf club officials expect more disturbance to the course and clubhouse operations than to the membership situation as the result of an accelerated and far-reaching preparedness campaign. Consequently, plans for curtailment of the fancier features of house operation and an extension of mechanized course maintenance are being tentatively discussed.

Several officials who prefer not to be quoted believe that emphasis to be placed on physical conditioning will result in more golf. Some have expressed the opinion that a revision downward in golf club dues to attract more members in the 30-to-45-year classes will be dictated by developing conditions. They remark that fixed charges dictate a broadening of private golf club membership, possibly by accenting the physical benefits of golf more, instead of depending, as previously, principally on the social values of the game.

The president of a prominent club on the Pacific Coast comments that it would be a good thing for the nation, as well as for golf, if the idea could be put across that inefficiency and poor physical condition are disloyal acts.

Colleges Set Short-Course Dates

SIX schools had announced dates for their annual greenkeeping short courses and turf conferences up to the time GOLFDOM went on the presses. They were Massachusetts State College, Rutgers, Penn State, Michigan State, Maryland, and Ohio State.

Massachusetts State College's fifteenth annual winter school for greenkeepers is scheduled to get under way January 6, and continue through the recreational conference March 13-15. The course is divided into two terms, the first from January 6 to Feb. 11, and the second from Feb. 12 to March 15. The second term continues the work of the first, and certificates are given only at the completion of the full 10 weeks' course. It is not necessary that the two terms be taken consecutively, however, in order to receive a certificate. Registration fee, including hospital fee, is \$16.50 for the 10 weeks.

Word from Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson, chief of the section of agrostology at MSC, who is in personal charge of the course, indicates the enrollment is nearly completed, but that a few could still be accommodated. Carl Treat is again expected to assist Prof. Dickinson in conducting the course. Complete information may be obtained by writing Prof. Dickinson, MSC, Amherst, Mass.

University of Maryland's third annual short course for greenkeepers will be held January 27-28. Applications and further information concerning the conference are available by writing Prof. Ernest N. Cory, state entomologist, U. of Maryland, College Park, Md.

Rutgers University annual turf short course will be held Feb. 17-21. This is the thirteenth annual greens short course sponsored by the Rutgers U. college of agriculture. Prof. Frank Helyar, director of resident instruction, Rutgers U., New Brunswick, N. J., is the man to write for additional information.

Pennsylvania State College's thirteenth annual fine turf conference is scheduled to be held Feb. 19-21. Prof. H. B. Musser, associate professor in experimental agronomy, is general chairman of the course. Fred Grau, dept. of agronomy, is Prof.

Musser's No. 1 assistant in helping conduct the course. Further information may be obtained by writing either Musser or Grau at PSC, State College, Pa.

Michigan State College has scheduled its annual greenkeeping conference for March 13-14. This conference is designed to give instruction in the classification, nature, and properties of soils, and the suitability of various soils for green construction and maintenance. Prof. James Tyson is advisor for the course. Details may be secured by writing Prof. Tyson at the college, East Lansing, Mich. Course fee, incidentally, is \$1.00.

Ohio State University's short course for greenkeepers will be held December 10-12. This course is offered through the cooperation of the Ohio Assn. of Golf Course Supts. Problems peculiar to the establishment and maintenance of fine turf will be discussed by men of national prominence in their fields. Registration fee for the course is \$5.00. Detailed program will be available about Nov. 1, upon request to the Dept. of Agronomy, OSU, Columbus, Ohio. General chairman of the conference is Prof. George M. McClure.

Pinehurst Is Ready for Its '40-'41 Season

PINEHURST, N. C., began its 1940-41 season when the Carolina hotel held its 41st annual opening informally Oct. 4. Formal opening of the Carolina will be Nov. 9. The Mid-South pro best ball and open tournaments, each at 36 holes, will run Nov. 12-15. There are no entry fees for the tournaments.

Special rates for pros and their wives will be made by the Carolina and Holly hotels.

Richard Tufts, president of Pinehurst, Inc.; Donald J. Ross, mgr., Pinehurst CC; Harry Norris, Carolina mgr.; Ed Horne, Holly Inn mgr., and Bob Harlow, Pinehurst publicity director, have planned a pleasant and active schedule for the golfers who have made this North Carolina spot most famous of American golf resorts.

Masterson Is Master of Seattle's Muny Golf

By
Campbell
Davis

"GIVE US," demanded the ever-increasing throngs of golf enthusiasts in the up-and-coming golfing center that is Seattle, Wash., "a municipal course that will be beautiful but tough—and fit to entertain the National Public Links championship."

That was the cry in the spring of 1936, and before.

Seattle, population 400,000, had at that time two fine municipal courses; one in the north end and the other on Beacon Hill in the south. But a glance at a map of the sprawling Queen City showed that the far-flung residential section of West Seattle was out in the cold, from a golfing standpoint. So the city park department set the ball rolling by purchasing a tract of land; W.P.A. labor was recruited; and a slight, soft-spoken little man of Irish descent was commissioned to design the course from a good golfer's viewpoint.

He was the late Chandler Egan, two time winner of the National Amateur championship, and a beloved figure in Northwest golfing annals. The new course may well serve as a memorial to its designer, because the little man to whom golfing was a way of life didn't see its completion this summer, when, after five years, what had been 130 acres of stump-land and public dumping ground emerged as a 6,353-yd., par 72 course; beautiful but tough.

Fine Architecture to Layout

It provides a real test for the real golfer. The general playing standard of the 18 holes is high; some are outstanding. The 12th hole in particular, a 430-yd. two-shotter, is as fine an example of golf architecture as you'll find in a week's journey. The 9th, 549 yards long, is one of the few legitimate par-5s in the countryside. The one-shotters set a standard seldom surpassed in this district.

From a revenue standpoint, these qualifications must be made: the course is a bit long for the ladies; play is slowed as golfers hunt for balls in some of the almost impossible roughs; and the course is sincerely difficult. All these factors ad-

mittedly limit the number of enthusiasts who play the course and so cut down the revenue.

And while we're on the subject of finances, make yourself acquainted with Pierre Masterson, superintendent of the golf division, Seattle Park Department, whose responsibility it is to manage the three muny courses. Masterson, a solid, stocky,



Seattle's popular "czar" of golf is Pierre Masterson, more generally known as Pete.

business-like young man, learned his job the hard way. He was once a caddie at the Seattle CC. Then he went to work for the city park department, and in 7 years climbed from an apprenticeship to the superintendency, a position which he has held for the past 10 years.

Though golf is his very full-time job, it's still his recreation. Because he doesn't believe in mixing business and pleasure, he tours any of the three courses outside of working hours, habitually in something like 78. But when he's on the job he's all business, and it's axiomatic with his greenkeepers that he knows when the 14th green so much as gives birth to a new blade of grass!

That Masterson knows his business is demonstrated by the fact that the course revenues are sufficient to cover the maintenance cost—and then some—although year 'round expenses must be figured into the budget. This year, he says, looks like



The twelfth at Seattle's new many course is a 430-yard two-shotter, with an imposing gully directly before the tee, and beyond that, Longfellow creek. There is no level ground between tee and cup.

the best since 1932. The three municipal courses are figured to take in something over \$70,000 for the 12-month period.

Golf is definitely on the upswing in Seattle, according to Masterson, who should know. "Prospects look very good. I can't remember a year when there were so many new players, and especially, so many young faces. This trend is due, in part at least, to the fact that there is a publicity man constantly promoting golf in the high schools."

These rising golfers can take their choice of three as fine municipal courses as any city in the United States can boast.

Jefferson Has 27 Holes

Of the trio, Jefferson Park, 188 acres, is oldest. In fact, it was the cradle of municipal golf in the Northwest. The records have it that this 5,958-yd., par 70 course was completed on May 12, 1915—at a period in the first World War comparable to the present stage of the second. It is unique in this section of the country in having, besides the regular 18-hole playing course, a 9-hole course used principally by beginners and women golfers. Addition of the 9-hole course had the immediate and highly satisfactory effect of increasing revenues and easing up the congestion of players at this popular city course.

Last year, 102,000 players used the Jefferson Park facilities.

Beautiful Jackson Park, covering 146 acres in Seattle's north end, has the appearance of a private club course. It's Masterson's particular pride, and is also the site of a \$40,000 clubhouse, built by the city. Playing figures for the 5,948-yd., par 71 course in 1939 totalled 72,000. It

consistently maintains a reputation as the greenest links in the Northwest.

Greens of the three courses are predominantly colonial bent and fescue, and are in exceptionally good shape. They are well raised and are surrounded by deep grass bunkers. There are no true sand traps on any of the three courses, although depressions have been prepared for this purpose. Sand has been left out, of course, for the purpose of cutting maintenance costs.

Originally, golfers took to the courses after getting the go-ahead from a clerk in the starters' sheds, but a loudspeaker system is now being used at all three Seattle courses, the players being called onto the course in rotation. Without the loudspeakers, the park board would necessarily be paying salaries to four starters—two at Jefferson Park and one at each of the others—so a considerable saving has been effected.

33 on Operating Staff

Even so, Masterson superintends a force of 33 men, including a publicity director, intermediate clerks, pros, greenkeepers, utility men, maintenance men, and common laborers. Staffing the new course are 2 utility men, 6 regulars, 2 full-time intermediate clerks and 1 relief man; all very busy. The office of an adjoining athletic stadium is serving as temporary quarters, while the city fathers consider the district's strong demand for a rather elaborate clubhouse.

The athletic stadium and a Boy Scout camp separated from the links by a woods, together with the course itself, constitute a recreational area which was constructed at a cost of \$1,137,629. Hence, the new



Golfers leaving the \$40,000 city-built Jackson Park clubhouse for a try at the 5,948-yard, par-71 course.

links was popularly dubbed "the million dollar golf course." That topheavy title is a misnomer, but the park board is rather close-mouthed about the actual cost.

Fairways of the new course do not present much of a maintenance problem so far as watering is concerned, since an improved "snap-on head" water system is a feature there. Nine hundred and eighty automatic sprinklers keep the course in excellent condition at a minimum of human effort.

That's one reason why it will be in good shape whenever the top golfers of the nation get set to take a crack at it. In this connection, Masterson points out that preparations for entertaining the national championships would include moving tees back from 20 to 50 yards on most of the holes, to provide the greater length that a contest of this caliber requires. The course was constructed with this in mind.

Longfellow creek, whose waters once boiled with salmon and trout; on whose shores Indians once camped, flows mischievously through the course. Advantage has been taken of its whims to make it the golfer's Public Enemy No. 1.

Golfers find it pictorial but tricky; as imposing as an elephant's yawn. The creek's aimless meandering, together with the several ravines leading into it, are largely responsible for the predominantly narrow fairways and numerous doglegs on the course. It's banks have been lined with stone, and in one place a rock dam forms a small, picturesque lake. "Lake Lost Ball," some call it.

A large crowd of Seattlites who thronged the velvety new links for the inauguration last May 16 saw big, ruddy-faced Harry Givan, once a Walker cupper, top a championship foursome with a blistering 34-33-67. In so doing, he knocked five strokes off the established par of 72!

The par-makers were not embarrassed. "Harry's unforgivable mistake can probably be attributed to over-enthusiasm," one of them smilingly explained. "He made it look easy with his 67, but the big fella was at his booming best—and when Givan is at his best he makes any course look easy." Well . . . Givan did have a 325-yard tee shot on No. 16, and he did can a 30-foot putt on No. 8. His 67 will stand for a long time.

Said the giant Givan after sinking his final three-foot putt and wiping his brow: "The course is a peach. It's in marvelous shape for a new links. Fairways and greens are like a carpet, and there's enough rough to make the going tough." He had further praise for the 140-yd. long practice putting green.

So now you know about Seattle's newest municipal course, which was built with an eye to entertaining the brilliants of golfdom. Sometime in the not-too-distant future the champs will come to the West Coast city for a national tournament. And here's a bet—that they'll never forget the view they have of Seattle's photogenic skyline from almost any green on the course, nor the 9th hole, 549 yards long; no, nor the miniature Grand Canyon that hides Longfellow creek.

Are You Looking for Christmas Gift Ideas?

Turn to page 47 — you'll find some ideal gifts there for your fellow club workers.

Adequate Winter Programs

EACH autumn golf clubs in a large section of the country begin to worry about winter loss of membership. Normal turnover of membership in the representative metropolitan district clubs is about 10%, due to transfers of residence and changes in financial condition. When the per cent of resignations exceeds that figure, it's something requiring corrective action.

The clubs that have highest financial and social rating of membership don't have this annual membership turnover problem. But one reason some of them don't is that activities are spread out on a broad basis so when golf play is cut down by weather, other activities are in progress. The St. Louis (Mo.) CC, one of the nation's distinguished clubs, has a long waiting list and no winter resignation problem, and as its president John R. Shepley points out, "golf is only one of the many activities carried on at the club."

At Glen Oak CC (Chicago district) the winter resignations have been reduced to normal by an extension of the winter sports program, particularly by skeet and tobogganing when snow permits. There are occasional stags and other parties at the clubhouse during the winter, and a New Year's Eve party that's one of the club's entertainment high spots.

Inasmuch as Glen Oak's memberships are on an annual basis and resignations are accepted only at the end of the year, the club expects a year-end drop in membership.

Pay Dues Early

Smaller clubs have found the method used by the Pontoosuc Lake CC, Pittsfield, Mass., effective in quickly recovering from winter membership slumps. Men members who pay their year's dues before March 24 get a discount of 32%; women, a 20% discount. Men who pay between March 24 and April 21, a discount of 20% and women who pay in this period, a discount of 10%.

Spreading dues payments over most of the period when house accounts and play-

ing expense are running is the plan followed by the Champaign County (Ill.) CC. Dues are payable in installments on January 1, April 1, June 1, and July 1, and are delinquent 15 days after the due dates. Delinquent members are not permitted to play.

As Frank C. Amsbary, jr., the club's president, remarks, "After having paid 3 installments for only 6 weeks' golf, it is only human to pay the balance and play out the season."

It's the winter program, rather than the financial arrangements, that seems to control the membership slump in most instances.

The Barton Hills CC (Ann Arbor, Mich.) L. C. Cushing, president, lists features of a winter schedule that strives to keep the members lined up. Barton Hills' golfers are organized into men's and women's bowling teams, and have mixed tournaments monthly. There are monthly dances, keno and bridge parties. There are dinners and celebrations, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.



Toboggan slide at Passaic County (N.J.) GCse, where Kent Bradley superintends, is extremely popular with winter sports enthusiasts in the vicinity. Slide, which was built by WPA workers, is 300 ft. long; tobogganers enjoy another 700-900 ft. slide on the fairway after leaving the incline.