

OCTOBER, 1941

Greensmen Face Tough Test Again in '42

By HERB GRAFFIS

Greenkeepers prepare for worse conditions, but hope for better, as plans are laid for next year

PESSIMISTS might have reason for telling the greenkeeper or green-committee member who complains of 1941 having been a year of trouble on the course, "you ain't seen nothing yet."

However golf course maintenance is no place for any but the optimistic, hence the possible—maybe probable—difficulties of next year's work are being contemplated as merely another severe test of planning and resourcefulness.

In considering next year's work experienced greenkeepers and committeemen have given much thought to the experiences of the past season which has been the most unfavorable in years on turf of most clubs from the Mississippi valley east and the Mason-Dixon line north.

Winter Favored Insects

Winter conditions had favored development of insect pests. Although grub control by arsenate of lead has been very definitely effective, clubs had taken a chance in easing up on the treatment and lost the gamble. The clubs also lost gambles they took in skipping snow mold treatments. In fact, it was the super-bum year for clubs taking a gamble with the budget in hope they'd be able to save some money. Fertilizer skimping showed up flagrantly. Weather conditions in many instances were the worst possible on clubs

that had eased up on preventive treatment because of increased mercury price.

All these misfortunes most surviving clubs say they won't risk again, as the cost of repair has far exceeded the most generous estimate of the possible hoped-for saving. Hence it is not unusual among 18-hole clubs to have tentative maintenance budgets for 1942 in excess of those set for 1941.

Poa Annua Bad

Poa annua again gave many greenkeepers headaches and hell in the central and northeastern sections of the country. The *poa annua* going out was of course most obvious by contrast on the better maintained course. About all they seem to be able to do with the *poa annua* areas, if they don't dig them out and resod or reseed, is to get used to them as a visitation of divine punishment.

Chemical weed control was tremendously extended and with promising signs that the field is on the way to the right answer. There's still considerable uncertainty about factors governing successful control, among which is the factor of soil temperature when applications are made. Consequently chemical treatment generally followed cautious experiments on courses to be treated. Although fall treatments

were by a wide margin in highest favor, spring treatments in entirety or as a final knockout for weeds had some advocates.

Veterans in greenkeeping maintain that course maintenance is in for a period of tough going. They say that fundamental construction faults on courses built during the boom period of the early 20s now are beginning to show seriously. They assert that heavy watering and high-pressure treatments demanded by members now is beginning to exact its toll. Such drastic treatment as chemical weed control of such strength that it also eliminates much of the grass and requires reseeding is the necessary means of getting fairways of highest playing condition, so numerous practical men aver. They recommend doing the rehabilitation job without holding back, saying that it's virtually impossible to correct conditions by a series of easy treatments.

Experiments Promise Help

Highly promising developments in selection of bent grasses most suitable to various localities have been forthcoming from the Green Section work in which many state universities and clubs are cooperating. Fairway grass strain work begun by Pennsylvania State College several years ago has begun to spread out, especially at Iowa State College. Short courses and research and advisory services of universities and colleges never before has been as helpful to golf clubs as it has been this year. Few golf club officials and members realize the extent and value of the close cooperation between greenkeepers and schools which is certain to figure importantly in 1942 course maintenance.

According to several authorities, among them watering equipment engineers, plenty still is to be learned, and applied, in correct watering of fairways. Regardless of any arguments about the naturalness of letting fairways bake and grass shrivel during midsummer, public preference is overwhelmingly for watered fairways. The unwatered courses can't compete with watered courses in playing desirability. In preparing programs for 1942 short courses, watering practice will come in for more attention than it's generally received in recent years.

According to greenkeepers and chairmen in all sections of the country who have been queried by GOLFDOM concerning their 1942 plans, the problems will rank:

1—Money; 2—Labor; 3—Machinery; —4 Weather.

The money problem doesn't appear to many club officials as one that will be any worse than it usually is. The consensus is that regardless of taxation and drastic business readjustments for defense priorities the vast spending will allow a normal amount to filter into golf, at private, fee and public courses.

Club officials expect that golf play will continue its big increase of 1941, especially if the trend toward accenting the importance of individual physical conditioning responds to the high pressure development planned to be given it.

The problems of training new labor, frequent labor turn-over, higher wages, lower efficiency, and labor management have been sampled with distress this year on many courses. Nobody expects these problems to be reduced in 1942. Considerable attention is being given by greenkeepers to the preparation of standardized method instruction sheets or workmen's sessions to be started early next season as a means of doing the best possible job of acquainting new workers with what's required.

With labor being difficult to get and uncertain in performance, and of indefinite period of availability, machine maintenance is salvation.

Orders Should Be In

However, those clubs that haven't ordered what they need and don't have credit rating to interest suppliers in considering the orders, are trusting a lot to the Lord, to Washington and the warring nations. Although it finally is becoming widely realized that A. Hitler and none of us is primarily the dictator of defense material requirements, delay in recognition of the fact has caught non-defense equipment manufacturers in plenty of a jam. There is some hope that during the winter the priorities and labor difficulties will be ironed out in a way to maintain non-defense business on a basis that will not completely upset the national economy. If so the course equipment situation will be greatly eased. As it is now manufacturers are exercising great resourcefulness compatible with national defense, but rarely can promise deliveries. The old days of trade-in of used equipment for far more than it was worth have vanished.

Fortunately for golf courses, fertilizer and seed supplies are good and prices are

(Continued on Page 30)



Tennis court flooded for skating at the Western G&CC, Detroit. Winter Sports Club 'clubhouse' is in background.

Winter Sports Program Holds Members—Builds Club Interest

By CALVIN POOLE

WITH winter sports getting increasing publicity and growing in popularity among the grownups as well as the youngsters, the progressive country club in territory where winter weather allows a chance for skating, skiing and sledding, has an opportunity to maintain high year-around interest.

It's believed that this winter will see record activity in winter sports at country clubs inasmuch as foresighted clubs are beginning to "sell" the clubs as valuable factors in physical conditioning. The accent in the past has been on club membership for social standing or having just a swell hell of a good time, but now the conviction that the strength of the nation is the strength of the individual is bringing the wisely guided club into campaigns on the health theme.

Golf clubs have had the problem of putting on spring membership campaigns to replace members who've dropped out during the winter off-season because of lack of connection with the club. Bowling leagues have helped keep members together, but the outdoor activity, which now is considered smart, as well as good

physical conditioning, seems to supply an important factor that's been missing. There also is the members' kids' activity in outdoor winter sports and the interest of the youngsters of non-members to make the winter sports program part of the answer to the problem of retaining membership on a year-around basis.

Another element that club officials have been able to use effectively in making the winter sports program valuable is that of the winter sessions reducing the cost per visit to the club. Many of those who drop country club memberships do so because they figure it costs them too much considering the comparatively few times they may visit the club.

This fall and winter, regardless of weather conditions for ice and snow sports, the shooting programs—skeet and trap—are certain to be highly popular because of the defense theme.

An interesting case of a club that expanded its program to avoid the winter slump is the Western G&CC in the Detroit (Mich.) district. Of Western's winter sports attractions, G. D. Cline, Jr., presi-



Shelter houses and portion of trapshooting apparatus at Western G&CC. Snowstorm was in progress when picture was taken.

dent of the club when the winter program was inaugurated, wrote:

"At our annual meeting in the middle of October, 1939, one of our good members suggested that we start a Winter Sports Club, using our pro-shop and caddie quarters as a clubhouse. This was due to the fact that we close down our main clubhouse completely during the winter months.

"Even though it was quite late to get started, we did this, installing trapshooting, building a toboggan slide, flooding our tennis courts for skating, installing floodlights so they could be used at night, as well as a loud speaker for either radio or phonograph entertainment.

"The idea has more than paid for itself, as well as helping to pay for the overhead that we have during the winter months. In fact, it was so successful that the second year we increased the dues, which were \$5.00 the first year, to \$10.00. In addition, we spent \$2,500 in fixing up the pro-shop to make a very comfortable and appealing winter sports' clubhouse. We added more trapshooting apparatus, enlarged the skating ring, and had a complete series of social events and parties during the entire winter.

Gets New Members

"We have received some very fine new members due to their joining our Winter Sports Club, as we did not limit the membership in the Winter Sports Club entirely to our golf members.

"At the time of the year when our golf club interest is waning, we find everyone enthusiastic and looking forward to the Winter Sports Club. We find that it also allows us to have a year-round club, without all the tremendous expense of keeping our large clubhouse open."

Annual MSC School for Greenkeepers to Begin Jan. 5

MASSACHUSETTS State College's sixteenth annual winter school for greenkeepers is scheduled to begin January 5, 1942, and continue through the Recreation Conference, March 13-15. This course is an intensive and thorough study of all the phases of golf course management, and is under the direction of Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson, who originated the first school for greenkeepers ever held in the U. S. Prof. Dickinson is assisted by members of the college staff, and Carl Treat, a greenkeeper well known to all in the profession.

For the convenience of men who are unable to leave their club for the entire school term, the course is divided into two terms; January 5 through February 6, and February 8 through March 15. A certificate is awarded only to those who complete the full course. However, one may take the first term in 1942 and the second term at some future time. No one will be admitted into the second term who has not completed the first. There are no scholastic requirements for entrance, practical experience being of first importance. Enrollment is limited in number and is open to greenkeepers and persons with golf course experience.

The total matriculation fee for the full course is \$16.50; and for the term, \$9 payable at the time of registering. Enrollment has already started and those interested can obtain more complete information by writing to Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson, M.S.C., Amherst, Mass., or to the Director of Short Courses, M.S.C., Amherst.

Pro Income Is Up, But '42 Outlook Demands Wise Planning Now

1941 is probably last of 'normal' years for some time. Pro prospects for next season to depend much on pro's own initiative

PLAYING equipment and lesson sales are estimated to have increased this season about at the same percent as the play increased in 1941 over 1940, approximately 7% according to information available in late September.

This means that pro business total income was considerably better than last year as play increase was greatest at public and fee courses where pros are on a salary basis, sometimes having only limited, if any, merchandise sales concessions. Therefore, to hit the 7% increase pros at courses where they had full sales concessions had to do a quite satisfactory volume.

But, as usual, the ointment contained flies. Pro business was best at the smaller and average clubs. Members of the clubs usually classed as "leading" frequently were kept away from a normal amount of golf play by defense business duties. There was further development of the situation that has made the private clubs of high social prestige often much less desirable as pro spots than clubs that have memberships of lively ordinarily well-to-do people. The pros who have ownership interests in fee courses did very well this year, but then the fellow who has progressed to the extent he is part or full owner of a course generally has demonstrated superior business ability.

Golf for the Masses

In almost every territory there was evidence that the base of golf is broadening and that it's becoming a popular sport of the masses. Therein seems to lie biggest earning possibilities in the future for the pro who is a live promoter and businessman, and, in the case of the public courses, an adroit politician. However, in the latter case, the best politician at the public course seems to be one who is no politician at all but conspicuously a non-partisan public servant in recreation.

As to prospects for 1942 pros are concerned to the extent of thinking and planning more than they've ever done before.

A great majority of the pros of 45 or older were in the First World War. The American-born fellows recall that golf had a boom in and after the war. The British-born have a different and troubled story to recollect.

First effect of war has been on shipments of clubs and balls which were often tardy this year. It is doubted that unless there's a very great increase in demand for balls and clubs next year that there will be a severe shortage. Fall orders by pros and stores seem to have been amply adequate for getting the 1942 season started with adequate stocks. The pro who hasn't looked ahead may be out of luck. The credit situation is tightening plenty and manufacturers seem to be in position to entirely disregard any but C.O.D. orders from the boys who have been indifferent about their ratings.

Despite large orders for moderate- and low-priced goods from the stores, authorities who base their guesses on this year's experience believe that the big wages in defense industries will mean gratification of suppressed desires for pro-quality merchandise by the turf-trodding toilers in 1942.

No More Quarter Balls

The quarter golf ball will be no more. Prices of clubs haven't gone up as much as justified by material and wage increases, but those hikes may come later. Nobody knows. One thing's certain and that is that the 75 cent ball next year will be a standout bargain. That should be good news for the pros as they sell the greater volume of the top-price balls.

Women's business is sure of a strong play from the wiser and energetic pros. This was another good year for women's

Golf instruction will be done in a weekly series of television lessons as one of the initial steps in the extension of golf teaching as a feature of the National Physical Training program of the U. S. Office of Civilian Defense. The PGA and the National Golf Foundation are working closely with officials of the Physical Training organization.

play and buying, with many pros doing far better than they expected to do in getting women's patronage. They thought they'd have a tough time, considering that women naturally are store customers and sharp shoppers. But the boys who knew the competition required smart work on their part cashed in.

GOLFDOM has heard from numerous pros that they intend to make more of a feature of apparel and accessory business in 1942 so they'll have their shop income at least partially protected in case they can't get all the clubs and balls they can sell.

Jobs Being Held Tight

There wasn't the turnover in pro jobs that the draft was expected to bring. Jobs are being held fast, and generally handled smarter. The pro at the border-line job where he doesn't know until September whether he is going to make enough to carry him through the winter, or has been giving the club his services free, has been unable to jump to a good paying defense job because of his lack of technical qualification. Therefore, he's more intensively worked the spot he has.

Were it not for the usual short terms in office of golf club officials and this handicap to long-range planning, chances are that there would be a change in the customary plan of paying the pro.

Club officials now confronted with the problem of getting clubs strengthened to meet rather desperate emergencies have discovered that the pro department properly organized and conducted might have saved a lot of difficulty, especially in membership turnover.

The pro's potentialities as a promoter of golf interest and a solicitor of new members are curtailed by the necessity of sticking to the club to make whatever quick profit he can from equipment and lesson sales. A veteran Eastern amateur with extensive experience as a club official believes that an important move pros and clubs missed was in not giving the pro a worth-while salary and making one of his duties that of helping to secure new memberships. Now that private clubs don't often have the money for pro guarantees of a substantial nature he is of the opinion that a bonus arrangement should be worked out to keep the pro busy in the winter and spring, especially, in securing new members.

Said this golfer: "Pros, and clubs too, ought to study the chances of renewing

one of the strong membership attractions a club had in the earlier days. Then, many a member joined a club primarily because of the pro it had. I think there are many pros today as valuable to club members as were the earlier pros but one doesn't hear often of somebody joining a club because of the fellow the club has as its pro."

Promotion activities that have been brought into national recognition by the National Golf Foundation and the PGA during the past several years again have put the spotlight on the bright and industrious pro as a membership magnet. Each year more pros check up on members who visit the club only at rare intervals, and now the pro who is most secure in his job is the fellow who makes it his business to see that the member gets frequent demonstrations that the pro department is on the job to see that the member and his family get value for their investment in club membership.

Group Lessons Show Benefits

Group lessons for women and children have been definitely effective in getting and holding members. As a general rule pros have been ahead of club officials in learning that women's interest in club affairs is one of the surest factors in keeping a club in sound shape these days.

Closer teamwork between pro, greenkeeper and manager has helped clubs operate more economically and with greater service to the members. One of the reasons for this cooperation was explained by a well known Midwestern pro who put the case this way:

"When clubs had to cut down during the depression and made the pro a pro-greenkeeper, it taught pros who had been cussing and fighting with greenkeepers that the greenkeepers had many reasons for damning the pros for lack of understanding. Like many of the older pros I had been a greenkeeper. In those old days you could get by with a course that had greens not as good as most fairways today. Now the member wants perfection on a low maintenance budget regardless of what nature has decided.

"It's taught me that grass can be more stubborn and unreasonable than even the members. Seeing what the greenkeepers today are up against reminded me that the managers also must have grief I didn't know about and wouldn't want on my own job.

"With club officials having so much to worry about they couldn't give any too much time to the clubs this past season—and possibly less next season—the men hired to run the clubs had better get together to run the club smoothly or they'll be out of clubs."

With the reminder fresh in mind that it was the high-handicap players who quit the clubs when the depression started, pros have been intent on instruction advance and extension to improve the scoring standard, hence the playing program, of golfers.

Several promising tips for possible great progress in golf instruction effectiveness have popped up at the Purdue and Minnesota university clinics which PGA sections sponsored. The PGA's Teaching Committee is hopeful that it has secured from the pros ideas that may give golf instruction great impetus.

Average Golfer Plays Better

Elimination of costly and unnecessary traps may give the rank and file golfer encouragement. Harry Cooper voiced an interesting hunch recently in saying that he believed golf instruction had developed average players more than is realized. He said the progress did not show because so many golf courses now had watered fairways and the average player couldn't get the distance formerly secured on the baked fairways of summer. Harry remarked that if you'll observe how the scoring has improved on the non-watered courses, even though at the cost of walking discomfort and lack of scenic attraction, you'll be convinced the average golfer is hitting the ball much better than did the average golfer of 15 to 25 years ago.

Judges Study Heddon Pro Questionnaire Replies

REPLIES are now in the hands of the judges in the 1941 PGA Questionnaire Contest, for which James Heddon's Sons Co. has put up a purse of \$500 in prizes. This contest, open to all members of the PGA, is similar to the one held last year and for which the same donor contributed the prize money.

The ten questions making up the questionnaire cover such widely diversified subjects as "What is the greatest accomplishment of the PGA in the past 25 years," and "Do you favor the present stymie rule?" Other questions touch on caddie training, teaching, publicity, shop management, and short courses.

Results of the contest will be announced as soon as the judges—Thomas G. McMahon, J. Leslie Rollins, and Earle F. Tilley—have had time to go over the entries and pick the ten winners. First prize is \$150, second prize is \$100.00, and so on down to a ninth and tenth prize of \$10 each.

USGA Lightning Ruling—Competitors in USGA events may hereafter discontinue play of their own volition, without penalty, if they think they are endangered by lightning. They may do so even though the Committee may not have given a specific signal to stop play.

The Association adopted this procedure out of a desire to afford all possible opportunity for players to protect themselves in the event of lightning, noting the many deaths and injuries from lightning on golf courses in recent years.



Photo at left was taken at the 4th annual GSA tournament, played at Midland Hills CC, St. Paul, Sept. 16, and won for the second straight year by Emil (Mashie) Masciocchi, Onwentsia (Chicago district) greenkeeper. Left to right: Nelson Monical, Westfield CC, LeRoy, Ohio, who placed second with a 75-75-150 for the 36-hole championship play; Masciocchi, winner, with 69-75-144, and holding O. M. Scott & Sons Co. trophy; Don R. Boyd, Portage CC, Akron, Ohio, and GSA President Harold Stodola, Keller Park, St. Paul, extreme right. Boyd and Stodola tied for third place in the regular play, but Don edged out the prexy in their playoff. Superintendent Emil Picha was host and had the course in fine condition.

COURSE WORK

All photographs and



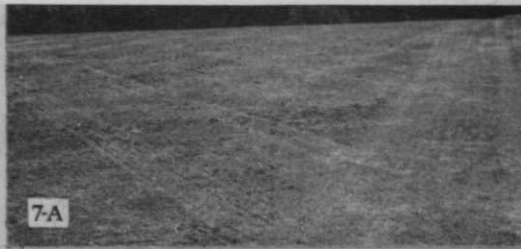
- 1—Ridding fairway of plantain with sodium arsenite dry method (Milarsenite), in Philadelphia district.
- 2—Home-made brush harrow, in use at Waterbury, Conn., municipal course.
- 3—Localized drying along edge of green—aggravated by tree roots. Deep forking, followed by drenching with water, needed.
- 4—Discolored bent from close cutting in hot weather. This course enlarged greens putting surface, by closer cutting of adjoining apron, at wrong season.
- 5—Skunks disfigure turf in search for grubs.
- 6—Closeup of injured fairway turf at New England club showing May beetle grubs.

NEWS REEL

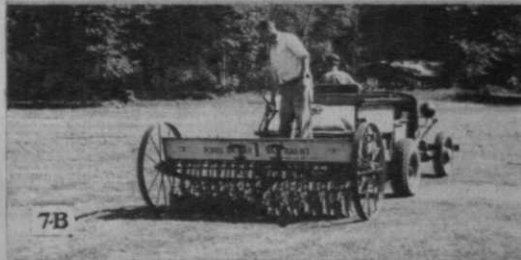
text by O. J. Noer



7



7-A



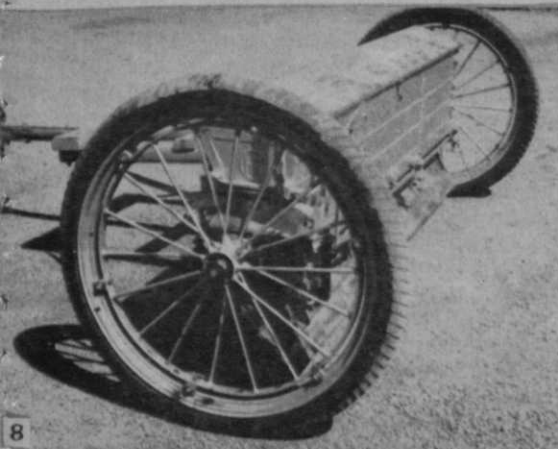
7-B



7-C



7-D



8



9

- 7—Improvise marker for spreader used to apply sodium arsenite by dry method, side view.
7-A—Disc seeder marks—reseeded fairway after killing clover and weeds (at Arcola). Note rolled strip along right side.
7-B—Seeding after killing clover and weeds with sodium arsenite by dry method. (Arcola).
7-C—Seeding apron in front of green, after killing clover and weeds (Arcola).
7-D—Rolling cross-disc seeded fairway—after sodium arsenite by dry method to kill clover and weeds (Arcola).
8—Way and McLaren at Canterbury converted steel wheels to rubber. Using regular agricultural rim and tire, they cut spokes and steel rim of old wheels to fit.
9—Unique home-made lamp post—from pine log, in White Mountains, N. H.

October, 1941

Dripping Dollars

By C. KENT BRADLEY

*"Much water goeth by the mill
That the Miller knoweth not of."*

— Wm. Shakespeare.

AS WEATHER gets colder, water systems, both outdoors and inside are being turned off and made ready for overhauling. By doing the job right this year, paying special attention to faucet leaks, irrigation costs will be lessened, and the money can be used for other maintenance items.

Pipe joint leaks are rarely a problem after the cut iron threads are painted, and drips "rust shut" when new. Conversely, faucets that are water tight when installed, gradually wear and leak. The snap valve type sprinkler connection is the best protection against leaks, and gate valves second choice of shut off. Smaller clubs often use the standard type compression faucets with hose coupling threaded spouts. These, while less in first price than snap or gate valves, can become an accumulative expense item—considerably more than the "saving" over the more efficient hose valves.

Even though the course water system may have proper hose valves, the water waste problem may exist in the clubhouse and service buildings. Sill cocks thru the foundation for 3/4-inch hose irrigation of landscaped grounds, also faucets in kitchen, dining and wash rooms, need regular attention.

Money Down the Drain

Municipal water experts figure \$4.25 as the average yearly cost of a dripping hot water faucet. Where clubs are isolated from town water lines and have private pumping facilities, the price is substantially higher. A few drops of water is not much waste, but multiply them by dripping time and number of outlets and the figures mount.

There is enough activity and sound about a clubhouse, so that constant drip will not get on one's nerves, but the signs are evident in stained porcelain fixtures that require scouring, ultimately resulting in enamel wear.

Various plumbing supply manufacturers have supplied leakage data that are in-

teresting to compare with water requirements of grasses, as told on page 14, July, 1941, GOLFDOM.

What is considered a slow drip, a small drop per second, is said to leak 456 gallons a year. An average drip wastes 15 gallons daily, 450 a month or about 60 cubic feet. An opening of 1/32-inch consumes 264 gallons in 24 hours, 7,920 gallons in a month. Leaks totaling 1/2-inch aperture, under an average 50-lb. pressure, by-passes 1,827,000 gallons monthly. Should this condition exist within 36 outlets at 18 tees and greens, plus low points of line drains, *a single month's loss exceeds 10 times the turfed acre water gallonage requirements in a normal growing season.*

Due to defense orders, the price of brass has risen, and unless snap or fitted gate valves are installed to eliminate the trouble, the alternative is to repair existing faucets out on the course.

The usual method is to unscrew the stem packing nut (or faucet bonnet) and core assembly, true up washer seat surface with a bibb seat reamer, and put in new fixed fibre washer seals. Bibb seat reamers can be bought in hardware or plumbing stores—an inexpensive one for small jobs can be obtained in 5 and 10 and 25 cent stores, as carded merchandise. Washers and brass retaining screws are cheap, but they do not last long. Constant turning grinds them away, causing first a slight leak which increases as the handle is turned down tighter. Also, water borne grit roughens the washer seat, and the washer can become swollen or distorted, in hot water. Main cost of such repairs is labor time, hardly warranted if the job needs be soon done again.

Sealers On Market

American inventive genius recognized the need for more permanent repairs, and now on the market are various improved sealers. One of these is the CleValve, a complete core assembly that seals the washer seat with a Neoprene gasket, and