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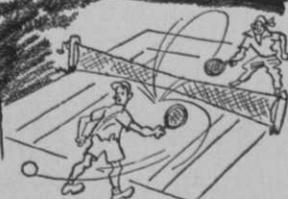
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Course Rehabilitation Needs Noted by Greenkeepers

By JOE GRAFFIS

CORRESPONDENCE and interviews with greenkeepers bring out the fact that greenkeeper records during these times are going to dictate a great part of postwar work at clubs.

A prominent eastern course supt. writes:

"Our club is one of the older and better clubs in this section and always has expected the best. Since we went into a slump of play during gasoline rationing and couldn't spend money for needed items of course maintenance if we wanted to, about the best I can do is to keep things going now and make notes of the work that will have to be begun the minute the war ends.

"Even fertilizing, seeding, weed treatment and other turf treatment for which we can get material has been neglected because of lack of labor. Some of the little labor that we do get is labor that is holding night-time war jobs and fatigue is bound to reduce its results on the course. However, I am not complaining. I think the outdoor work probably is a good change of pace for these factory workers even if they are rather old. I have been trying to get discharged veterans but as we have many factories around here offering more money I haven't had any luck in selling the health-resort qualities of golf course work.

"We now are running the course with five men and myself, and I used to think that 12 men was the absolute minimum. I know I never was wasteful in handling labor. So it is a sure thing that with half the men on the job we are doing just half the work that should be done to maintain a course in the condition our members have been educated to expect. At present they are making no complaints, but right after the war's over I think they again will be asking for perfection on the greens, fairways and tees, and in the traps.

"That means I am going to have to jump from a course force of six men up to 18 or 20 men to put things back into pre-war shape, and that may mean an argument that can cost me my job.

"About the only thing I see that I can do now is to make notes of everything that has been neglected because of war

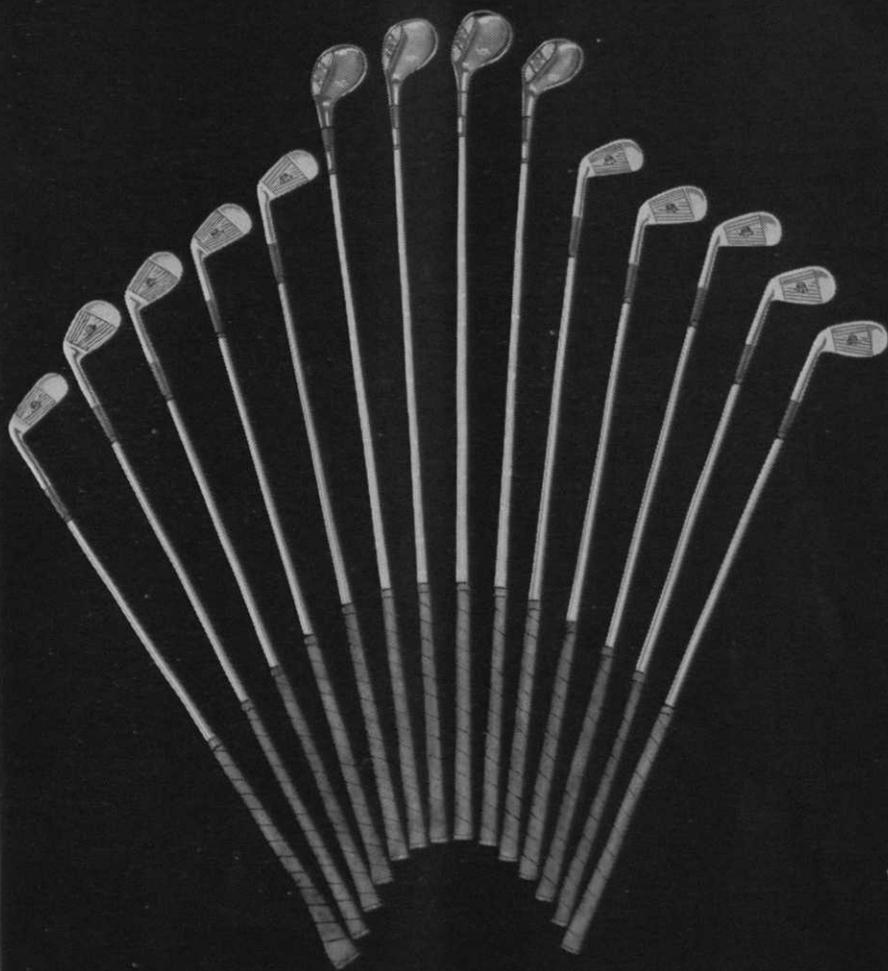
conditions so I can put the entire record before the chairman and let him fight it out with the board."

Other letters and interviews express the same basic situation. Experienced greenkeepers believe that after the war there will be sharp competition for members and the club which gets its course in superb condition soon will be the one which will have the edge. But one thing they don't believe will change is the difficulty of selling a green-committee on the necessity of a decided increase in budget. That is the reason many of the smartest greenkeepers are keeping wartime journals of work done and work that had to be skipped, in as complete shape as possible. The record will have to speak for itself.

"What I think may make the job of reconditioning courses after the war a hard one for greenkeepers is the immediate demand for spending in replacement of equipment," the supt. of a southern California club comments. "Inability to get good mechanics and careful operators has quickened the depreciation of machinery. Now, with course labor hard to get it is ruinous to have machinery break down and hold up work. The first thing that postwar chairmen probably will want to do is to replace equipment, and the greenkeeper will be all for that except that he will have to make a delicate decision in determining just what percentages of machinery and labor expenses to set in his budget."

On this point there are varying opinions. Some greenkeepers believe that in a few years there may be drastic changes in course maintenance machinery design and construction. They are hoping that they'll be able to get by with repairs on major items until they see the new designs come in and prove themselves. Others think they'll be lucky to have machinery hold together until the war's end and that they'll be glad to get new equipment of prewar standard design and construction which demonstrated itself as eminently satisfactory.

Observation of numerous greenkeepers is that drainage systems will be among first items needing extensive overhauling. Roots have interfered with the performance of systems and drainage conditions



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that before the war showed need of revision have been neglected to the extent that course injury from that cause has become increasingly serious.

Careful watch has been maintained over watering systems. In cases where the greenkeeper has been on the job during the war the pumping and piping has been vigilantly checked and such minor repairs as have been needed have been made promptly. Due to reduced wartime budgets the watering systems haven't been used except when the greenkeepers have decided such use was urgently required. That's meant a minimum of service demanded from the installations. The majority of the complete installations are comparatively modern and trouble-proof, hence there's not much concern about their need of costly repairs, extensions or modernization after the war.

In many cases greenkeepers expressed the belief that enforced reduction of greens mowing during the war was resulting in nappiness and other defects of greens surface that would not have been countenanced on first class courses before the war, and which probably will call for complete correction after the war.

There is considerable indication from greenkeepers, and chairmen too, that the fairway weed percentage is getting far too high. This, greenkeepers particularly say, is the result of clubs having been too quick in sacrificing fertilizing and weed chemical control. The clubs will have to pay for that in extensive work after the war, greenkeepers believe, and add that they have seen courses where practically complete reconditioning and reseeding of fairways will have to be done to reclaim them from pasture status.

Great jobs have been done by greenkeepers in wartime maintenance. Despite adverse weather added to the complications of wartime labor and material conditions the courses are in better shape than players probably expected, or have reason for expecting. Nevertheless experienced greenkeepers who know the infinite detail of first class course maintenance are keenly aware of many jobs they have been compelled to sidetrack during the war. They have seen that nature, when it is allowed to get out of control, can insidiously and seriously lower course standard under the condition the greenkeeper wants as evidence of his mastery of his profession.

As the many little things that all together constitute perfection in golf course maintenance may be forgotten in the work and worry of wartime, foresighted course superintendents are adding to their greenkeeping logs notes on jobs to be done at the first possible postwar time.

Colorado Springs Golf Course Has 25th Anniversary

★ In June Patty Jewett GC, Colorado Springs, Colo., will observe its 25th anniversary as a municipal golf course. The club was a gift to the city by K. K. Jewett in memory of his wife.

Before the transfer to the city, the club had operated for many years as a private club. It was then known as the Colorado Springs GC. It was preceded by the Town and Gown GC which was opened in the nineties.

Many improvements have been made to the golf course in the quarter century of city operation. All greens, fairways and tees are of grass. Yardage is 6,595 for regular play and nearly 7,000 for tournaments. Many tournaments have been held here. The first Pikes Peak Open, held last year, will be an annual event at the club, to follow the Broadmoor invitation in early August.

The club is located less than three miles from the center of the city and even in wartime, with the gas restrictions, golfers can get to it without trouble. In normal years the Patty Jewett Club has 300 to 400 annual members, although the daily green fee is the largest source of revenue. Visitors from all states of the union and many foreign countries play here during peacetime, and while very few of this group are now able to travel, play at the course has been almost as heavy as in normal times, as an army camp and air base are located nearby. Special rates are made to the men in the service, both officers and enlisted men.

Pike's Peak and many miles of the front range of the Rocky Mountains form a background for the course and the view from the club is said to be one of the finest in Colorado. The golf course is open for play over 300 days each year. In the last ten years the highest being 351 days and the lowest 298 days. While golf is the main attraction, other forms of recreation, such as cards, billiards, ping pong, etc., are open to the members of the club. Light food, beer and soft drinks are available daily, and dinners, dances and parties on special occasions.

Fees for play are kept at a minimum so that many may use the facilities provided, and if play in the future warrants enlargement, the club expects to have an additional nine or eighteen holes.

Owen McHugh, mgr. of the club, says that it has been a prominent factor in establishing Colorado Springs as one of the most popular tourist centers of the west.

Wartime maintenance problems, of course, are severe, but the standard of course conditions has been kept high.

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Modernizing Club Policy Accents Family Appeal

By **CARL SUEDHOFF**

Sec.-Mgr. Fort Wayne, (Ind.) CC

★ Only in the larger metropolitan districts can the ultra-exclusive country club get by and by limiting its dignified service to those of high incomes and reserved social temperaments exist in a sphere which apparently is diminishing.

To what further extent the wartime disruption of the social scheme will effect the so-called country club set is anybody's guess. But it is certain that the long lasting tendency to imitate, in smaller communities, the austerity of the chilly distinguished old clubs of the large cities has ended. No factor of social change was accountable for this imitative and worshipful attitude of the smaller cities' country clubs being abandoned. The first class country clubs in the small cities had to become far more alive than the glacial and grand old clubs. Either the smaller clubs had to liven and extend their attractions and services or go out of business as the older and severely conservative members dwindled in numbers and willingness to meet club deficits.

We are confident that at the Fort Wayne Country club the change to the new order has been made with great success financially and socially. The balance sheet shows satisfactory figures and the roster of members plainly reveals that no lowering of membership standards is involved in making a club a briskly conducted family center keyed to the interests of the most desirable people of a community. In fact, our club is a demonstration of the logic of securing the most desirable members by offering the most desirable program and facilities.

Club officials and members may recall the Fort Wayne Country club being featured in a nine-page picture story in *Life* magazine as an American family club. Family is the keynote of all of our operations. No private club, no more than any business enterprise, can depend for enduring stability on an appeal mainly to older people who are getting to the years when their enthusiasm for golf and country club life is bound to diminish. Replacements must be educated among the children of members. This is more important during wartime than ever before.

The older children are away in uniform. Contact must be maintained with them. The younger children, also, are subject to the effect of war. They catch the rebound of the parents' wartime work and worries and feel other effects of war on domestic life.

Consequently, clubs instead of attempting to exist only for the service of a few selfish elder members, are being virtually compelled to expand in friendlier, democratic, youthful spirit.

We saw earlier this season how the spirit of youth around a club is a great thing for the older members, especially in these times when the rarity of boys between 18 and 26 in communities has a subconsciously depressing effect on grown-ups.

Easter Sunday we had an egg hunt party for children. We'd intended to have the Easter eggs hid around the course but weather interfered, so the eggs were put around the porch and clubhouse. More than a hundred children came and we gave each of them a basket. It was easy to supply enough eggs to keep them happy as the government was almost begging the public to buy eggs.

We had a magician entertain the youngsters and he put on a show in which they participated. Ice cream and cake was supplied. All this was free. It came out of our entertainment fund. One of the features that especially interested the youngsters was a pen of live rabbits. The Easter bunny item is one of those little things that the children remember and which makes them want to go to the club. We do our best to have the children plead with their parents to take them to the club, and to make a club visit a reward parents can promise their youngsters.

One of the things we notice more and more is that the actions of these youngsters are entertaining to the older people. I have been pleasantly surprised any number of times by hearing older members who I suspected might have been not altogether cordial to the idea of having youngsters around the club comment "isn't she cute", or "isn't he a fine little fellow"

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about some youngsters whose parents have brought them out.

Like every other club we have our problem of help shortage. Many managers might figure that the presence of children around the club would add to the labors of available help. But it's been the experience of our people that when youngsters get in the habit of coming to the club they are not any trouble to handle. When there are quite a few of them they're like a large family and anyone who's observed large families has seen that the kids in those menages generally are much better behaved than the only child.

Last Fourth of July we had a circus with bleachers in the practice golf area for the youngsters. The circus ran for an hour and 40 minutes. We also had ponies for the youngsters to ride. Then, too, we noticed that the elders got great entertainment as well as the youngsters, and that the pride of grandparents in showing off their grandchildren surpassed that of some venerable gentleman who has shot a golf score far below his usual figure.

At Christmas, when most northern country clubs are closed, Santa Claus sends a personal letter to the children of members inviting them to the country club party. Santa Claus greets them when they enter and gifts from the tree are passed out just before the children go home. Christmas carols are sung by the youngsters.

When we who conduct the club's operations see that party we forget that the club is our job. It is our family. A similar reaction is experienced by the members. They forget that it is a club to which they pay dues and think of it as an intimate part of their family life.

Something that is paramount among club activities having to do with its members' boys and girls is maintaining close contact with those in the armed services. We now have 112 members out of a total male membership of 350 now in uniform. Each week our members write group letters to two club members in service, the names of the two being drawn, and the overseas members getting first call.

I don't know of a thing that the club has missed in tying itself into war effort. Anyone who says our membership is neglecting the war because it can take some legitimate and needed recreation at the club is mentally unbalanced.

Our lecture programs supply the best available adult informative and entertainment features of this character. Such men as Henry Cassidy, Associated Press correspondent from Moscow and Harry Flan-

nery, formerly Columbia Broadcasting's representative at Berlin, are representative of the class of talent we book.

Wednesday afternoon our bridge affairs bring out an older group of members' wives for a respite from war service schedules in which they are deeply engaged. Many of the war benefit affairs are held at the club.

Our club is frequently and strongly represented in women's page news because we see to it that the news is made and supplied. My observation is that when clubs and club management complain of difficulty in getting society or women's page publicity it is because the events haven't been made newsworthy and the data fully and promptly supplied to local papers.

Not only have we done everything within reason to make ours a family club, but we also have made sure that the public is made conscious of the nature of our club. We book a limited number of organization dinners that are scheduled to avoid interference with our service to regular members. This gives the organization guests a close-up of the attractions of our club and helps spur desire to belong to the club. And, of course, this outside business is a factor in leveling our club patronage figures on a plane high enough to give us the revenue we need for first class steady operation.

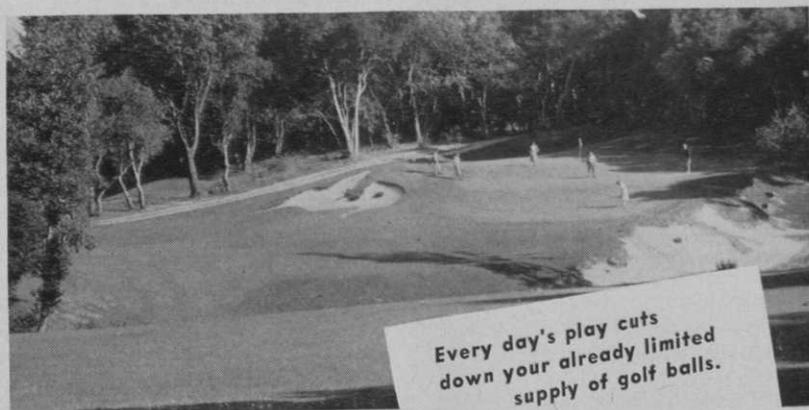
Our experience indicates that many clubs have a tremendous job ahead of them in establishing a sound and broad basis of popularity and patronage. The club can no more expect to stay on the "yesterday" basis than any other enterprise that caters to the public.

We are looking forward to postwar construction of an artificial ice rink to tie into the great growth of figure skating among the young and middle-aged. This and bowling alleys will help us to achieve a lively year-around program.

I am positive that the country club, if properly managed, is due for tremendous growth after the war. I am sure they can give more for the money and be solid financially if competent management is allowed to plan and operate unimpeded by a tangle of inexpert committees.

We have seen that despite the increase of stockholders in large corporations the operating authority is kept sharply limited so the stockholders can get returns on their investment. The same principle applies to the country club and will be more generally adopted as the wartime and postwar revision in club management takes place.

A New Crop of Old Balls *every day*



You're heading into the third year since any new golf balls were made. And, the only golf balls you're going to have to keep golf going at your club are those in your hands and the hands of your players . . . and the number dwindles with each round played.

You don't have to be told that **every ball counts** . . . certainly you realize that when you see each round taking its toll in damaged balls. The one sure way of plugging this daily drain is to keep after your players to **turn in their "cuts" after every round.** Then, get them back into service as soon as possible by shipping them in for reprocessing. Your members are awakened to the seriousness of the ball problem . . . but only their ACTION will solve it.

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Refuse \$100,000 Profit on Depression-born Course



Hutt Martin

WASHOE COUNTY (NEV.) commissioners have turned down an offer of \$100,000 for a comparatively small part of the county's land holdings. The acreage has two small buildings on it. The price offered by a millionaire eastern distiller represents profit of

\$100,000 on what Washoe county, the city of Reno and the federal government put into the property.

But, in unanimously agreeing to turn down the offer the commissioners echoed the statement of Melvin Jepson, district attorney, who said "Selling the Washoe county golf course would be like selling the courthouse."

In the Washoe county commissioners' decision there is evidence of a happy ending to what began as a very troubled story of municipal golf. Before the Washoe county course was made a first class municipal layout there were many political and technical difficulties to be overcome. The present course was widely publicized as one of the wastes of public funds for which no local or national administration could be pardoned.

And, in its earlier stages when difficulty was experienced in getting grass on the

course, it certainly did seem to be a bust. Green Section advice helped greatly in establishing fine turf on the greens, tees and fairways. A major engineering job was done in getting the course supplied with water. The average rainfall at Reno is 4½ inches in a year. With rare exceptions the rainfall is in the winter months.

The course depends on artificial watering from April 1 to December 1. Its reservoir contains about 10 acre feet of water which is supplied by an irrigation ditch in which the course has rights of 80 miner's inches. The feed is by gravity and gives a static pressure of about 110 lbs. at the highest point on the course and 160 lbs. at the lowest point.

A Buckner snap valve system waters the course completely. The course is watered three times a week. Greens are cut three or four times weekly at 7/32s. Fairways are mowed to ¾ inch twice a week.

In normal times the club has five men mowing greens and on other maintenance jobs, one man mowing fairways and rough and wo men on night watering. Since the war the club has been getting along with five men.

Last October the club lost its equipment barn by fire. The new barn is a very good job of wartime construction. Equipment was damaged by the fire, and all of it shown in the accompanying view of the new barn was repaired by the club's own

225 yd., par 3, fifteenth hole of the Washoe course.

