

R&A to open membership to young men between 18 and 26 without entrance fee and with privilege of paying annual dues in two installments.

One proposal presented to R&A for rules revision would withdraw option of lifting or playing a ball that is in the way of a fellow competitor's ball in stroke play. . . . The nearer ball would have to be putted out. . . . The big idea is to save time. . . . Slow play at clubs and in tournament play is a serious problem in these years of crowded courses and course shortage.

Harry Givan heads committee to establish Alex Rose memorial scholarships to be awarded junior golfers in the Pacific Northwest. . . . Awards will follow general plan of Western GA Evans caddy scholarships but will be open to all junior golfers in territory. . . . Memorial to the late Pacific Coast golf writer and official has met with approval of section's clubs and is to be presented to Pacific Northwest GA for administration of fund and selection of scholars.

Midwest Industrial golf tournament, under auspices of National Industrial Athletic conference to hold fourth annual affair at Detroit this year, with Briggs Mfg. Co. as host. . . .

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... and a new Golfball washer. Write for Bulletin 49

STANDARD MFG. CO. "CUTS-TRUE" HOLE CUTTERS
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Lew Worsham and Chick Harbert Pan American World Airways passengers to Latin America for exhibition matches. . . . Carl J. Suedhoff, Ft. Wayne CC (Ind.) sec.-mgr., appointed chmn., Naval Advisory committee for Ft. Wayne which has charge of instruction of Navy and Marine organized reserves in seven counties in Indiana and three in Ohio.

500 now eligible for PGA Seniors who must be at least 50. . . . Peter Hodgkinson, pres., Thomasville (Ga.) CC formerly was its pro. . . . Charles Grant, pro at South Side CC, Decatur, Ill., and hockey and figure skating star, is manager of Ice Vogues skating show in winter.

Charles H. Ward, 1947 Ryder Cup player, won 1948 British Vardon Cup trophy with average of 71.29 for 44 rounds. . . . R. de Vincenzo, Argentine, had 70.87 average for 8 rounds of British tournaments. . . . Bobby Cruickshank on his vacation to the old country this summer averaged 73.71 for 14 tournament rounds.

Robert E. Everly, supt., Parks and Recrea-

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AGRICO Country Club Fertilizer

tion, Glencoe, Ill., elected pres., American Institute of Park Executives. . . . Pete Cooper, Ponte Vedra (Fla.) CC, signed for Wilson Sporting Goods Co. advisory staff. . . . Northern Calif. PGA working on establishing pro short course with university tie-up. . . . Northern Calif. section also having each member contribute dozen 50 cent balls or dozen reconditioned balls for use at veterans hospital course of which the pro organization was co-sponsor. . . . This smart, energetic section assessing members \$25 for radio program which has close tie-up with letter and shop card advertising to golfers.

Chet Mendenhall, noted midcontinent course maintenance authority, announces that he will not be a candidate to succeed himself as Greenkeeping Supts. Assn. pres. . . . Dickinson's two-year greenkeeping course at University of Massachusetts 50% over-subscribed after enrollment limit was increased 50%.

Peninsular Club, Grand Rapids, Mich., will be host to 1949 meeting of "25 Year Club" composed of men who have been managers of the same clubs for 25 years or more. . . . There are 14 city and country club managers now comprising this group. . . . Myron E. Hodapp, Glasgow, Mont., city clerk, got two



ROLLO SPRAYER

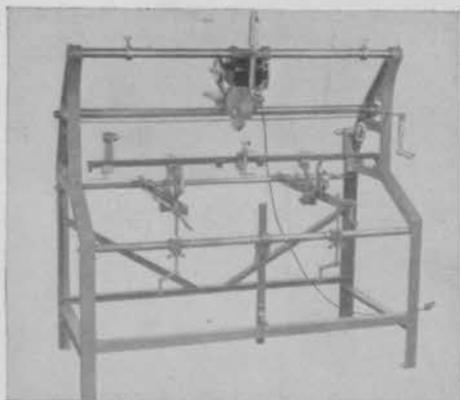
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WALTER S. LAPP

Department G. LANSDALE, PA.



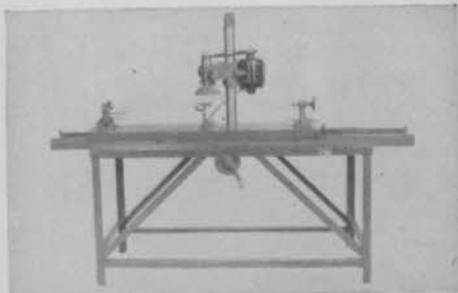
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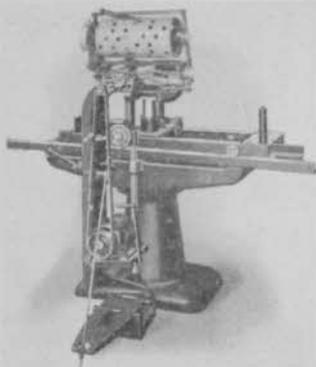
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successive eagles in the North Montana championship at Havre. . . . Holes were 469 yd. 6th and 105 yd. 7th.

Kansas City GA's first annual award dinner, held at Blue Hills CC, had capacity crowd. . . . "Goffer" statuettes were presented to Frank Stranahan, Leland (Duke) Gibson, Wm. E. Saunders in person and to Ben Hogan by a highly competent proxy, Byron Nelson.

One of the few district golf associations having a pro as its president is the Akron (O.) District GA where Paul Segerlund, pro at Mayfair CC, is completing a year in office. . . . The Akron assn. is excellently run. . . . Among other features it has a five-year tournament schedule. . . . Your district association might pick up several excellent ideas from the latest yearbook of the Akron outfit, if they've got any left. . . . Address is PO Box 123, E. Akron 5, O.

Some notes from 50th anniversary book of Bellevue GC, Melrose, Mass.: Young men coming back from war with Spain. . . . George P. Merrill and nine others organized the club. . . . Mr. Osborne, first greenkeeper, had pay increased to \$11 a week, beginning May 20, 1901. . . . L. C. Servos visiting club

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on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays for two weeks to give lessons at \$1 for half hour lesson. . . . Servos later wrote an opera. . . . Dues for men were \$20 and for women, \$5.

There's talk about golf's Hall of Fame at last being established with Golf Writers' Assn. conducting selection of the notables and Evans' scholars house of Western GA at Northwestern university, Evanston, Ill., providing location for the "hall." . . . Association between the famed American golfers and the aspiring caddies is fitting.

Sports writers and broadcasters polled by PGA nearly unanimous in naming Hogan for PGA "Golfer of the Year" 1948 award. . . . Western Golf Assn. celebrating its 50th year. . . . Billy Campbell, former Princeton golf capt. and winner of amateur division in All A-May-rican 1948 tournament, elected to West Virginia House of Representatives. . . . Cary Middlecoff, 1948 Hawaiian Open winner, and other mainland pros at the Waialae CC affair, impressed by development of Hawaiian pro and amateur talent.

Pros losing clubs loaned to strangers who come into shops with glib tales of being relatives of well-known pros, "borrowing" a set for a round and failing to return. . . . Smoothest operator of this racket is light-

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Plunger Type for deep wells. Double main gears eliminate strains and stresses.



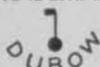
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haired, 5 ft-8 in., 135 lb. fellow about 26 years old who falsely claims to be in-law of Claude Harmon. . . . He took bag and a set of clubs from Hank Miller, pro at Briaridge GC. (Chicago dist.)

Best Christmas gift selling campaign pros ever conducted was that for 1948 business. . . . Pros spent money for effective advertising and followed it up with telephone and personal calls. . . . Corporation gift business for customers and employees helped make December most profitable month of year for some pros. . . . When you talk about veteran pros who stay up as players in fast fields, don't forget Toney Penna, age 41. . . . Sunny Antonio's winning 285 in Pinehurst's North and South Open was a grand performance by a fellow who plays tournaments as incidental to his selling job.

Bob Reith, one of Horton Smith's staff at Detroit GC, financed by members on winter tournament swing. . . . Bob is English-born lad who won Canadian amateur titles. . . . He turned pro in 1940 and after war service was engaged by Horton. . . . Willie Hoare is at Detroit hotel, St. Petersburg, Fla. and would like to see or hear from the team-mates he had before physical disability restricted his cruising.

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Tire Floor-Mats in long runners and special sizes for locker room, grills, entrances, and shower rooms. Pay for themselves by saving floors, spikes, and preventing accidents. Low prices due to high production.

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20th National Turf Conference and Show

sponsored by

THE GREENKEEPING SUPERINTENDENTS
Association

Covering all phases of the Turf Industry

TIME

FEB. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 1949

PLACE

MEMORIAL COLISEUM, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Greenkeeping Sup'ts. Association together with the Host Association, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Southern California, extend a most cordial invitation to attend our 20th National Turf Conference & Show.

The showing of the latest equipment and recent developments of science and industry for turf management assures success at the annual meeting, gives you opportunity to discuss your turf problems with your fellow superintendent and turf production men, and offers constructive educational values which cannot be overlooked by course superintendents or their chairmen.

Reasonable guarantee of hotel space has been assured. The Alexandria Hotel will be used as official Association Headquarters Hotel. You are urged to make reservation early. Attention is called to the desirability of using double or twin bedded rooms to take full advantage of hotel facilities.

The 20th National Turf Conference will afford an opportunity for all those interested in turf production to attend the only conference concerned with the specific problems encountered in the production of turf. The greatest Technical men available in the country will outline what's new in chemicals and research work. Greenkeeping Superintendents will relate actual experiences of maintenance practices and problems on their courses.

This educational program will give all those attending their share in the Association's broad general interest in the field of turf. The Educational values received will amply repay any club or organization for the expense incurred by their representative in attending this meeting.

THE GREENKEEPING SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION,

F. W. ERMER, Chairman Show Committee

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JANUARY • 1949

Consider the Greenkeeper, Grau Asks Club Officials

By FRED V. GRAU

Director, USGA Green Section

Golf club officials are beginning to realize the increasing seriousness of the shortage of competent greenkeepers.

GOLFDOM gets an accurate close-up due to our impartial and experienced close-up on the employment situation.

When there is a pro vacancy at a good club there are from 40 to 100 or more applicants, of whom probably 30 per cent are well qualified men. When there's a manager vacancy there will be from 10 to 25 candidates well qualified by club or hotel records. But when there's a greenkeeper opening at a good club a lot of searching has to be done to find an able man who will work for the salary offered. Generally, the only way to get a competent greenkeeper is by taking him away from another club by offering him more money.

Even then the good man usually is so much in love with his course that he is reluctant to leave the place. If his family situation makes him desperate for more money he goes into another field of work. Despite union restrictions it isn't difficult for the versatile greenkeeper to get a card in a trade where training and production requirements aren't nearly as exacting as in course maintenance.

Now, players on smaller town public and daily fee courses insist on turf standards equal to those of expensive metropolitan district private clubs 15 years ago. Each competent greenkeeper has to make use of all the exceptionally thorough and practical scientific training he's taken during the past 15 years which have seen an amazing transformation and improvement in fine turf development. The greenkeepers are an unselfish lot of trained and loyal specialists but economic conditions have compelled them to take stock of their financial situation and prospects. The picture doesn't look any too bright to them.

The club officials' responsibility at this critical point is bluntly presented in the accompanying Open Letter by Fred V. Grau of the USGA Green section.

The main problem in golf course maintenance right now isn't grass. It's men.

Herb Graffis
Editor, GOLFDOM

Sirs:

I take the liberty of addressing you in this manner because it is not possible to talk with you face-to-face. Even though I might have that privilege this year, your respective offices may be occupied by someone else next year.

My reason for writing you is to discuss the position of your greenkeeper, or your superintendent, whatever his title may be, in relation to the welfare of your club. He has earned my respect. I have been in his line of work myself. As Director of the USGA Green Section I see more of him

than I do of you, therefore, I understand his true value to your club and can appraise his efforts in realizing your ambitions for your club.

Your responsibility is to provide the best there is available for the members of your club. The principal reason for the existence of your club is the golf course. Our responsibility in the USGA Green section is to develop research and educational programs which will help you to have a better golf course. This is accomplished in part at our Beltsville Turf Gardens but by far the major effort is in cooperative work with State Experiment Stations, universities, and Greenkeeping Superintendents' associations.

We travel extensively over the country to attend turf field days and turf conferences and to check on cooperative research work. When it is possible, we visit your course, examine the turf and discuss turf improvement directly with your greenkeeper. We should like to meet and talk with you, too, but seldom is that possible because you are busy running your business, which is your bread and butter. For 20-odd years I possibly have seen your greenkeeper once or twice each year and have come to know him well. There is a bond between us. We talk the same language which is both technical and practical and aimed only at providing a better golf course for your members.

Greenkeeper Pays to Serve Club

Frequently I learn, to my dismay, that your greenkeeper has had to pay his own way to the turf field day and to the turf conference. This is a credit to his desire to keep fully informed, but I'm sure you realize that it is your club which benefits most.

Think what it would mean to him if, in the annual course maintenance budget, an item for "Research and Development" were included so that he would feel free to attend important meetings without wondering, "can I afford it?" After all, your greenkeeper has become a highly-trained technical and professional man and he is the mainstay of your club. After 20 years we are still discussing problems with him. How many men have held your positions at your club in that period? Reliable statistics show that there is an annual turnover of more than 60 percent of club presidents and green chairmen.

Do you realize now why we deal directly with your greenkeeper? By all means, then, give him full responsibility for keep-

ing your course in top shape and provide him with the tools and materials which he needs to do the job. He won't let you down if you will stand as a buffer between him and the membership. Give him responsibility and let him do the job with the minimum of interference. Your confidence will give him added confidence in himself.

Incidentally, have you provided for your greenkeeper the increased pay in keeping with today's level of living costs and for the long hours of loyal service he has given the club? Won't you consider that seriously now that we are on the subject?

Every day your greenkeeper is actively on the job for from 12 to 16 hours a day. If anything happens at 2 a.m. it is his phone that rings and gets him out of bed to take care of the situation. And when there is an important tournament, or when the temperature and the humidity soar together, or when all Nature seems to be working against him, he can't sleep for worrying about the course. He is not a 40 hour-a-week man; he is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The club probably pays unskilled labor \$1.00 an hour or thereabouts. Is he worth twice that? Three times that? Figure it out on that basis and you will probably hustle to the next board meeting and push through a logical and fair salary increase for him. As you may know there are not enough good greenkeepers to go around. Someone may have already offered him an inducement to leave your club because they have seen the work he can do. He loves your club and would hate to leave it, but he can't pay bills with love.

Another important point is that the salary you have provided for your greenkeeper has been below average. Very few young men are being attracted to the profession. This is a dangerous situation on a national scale.

In this day and age of new chemicals, new fertilizers, new and improved machinery, and new grasses, your club must look into the future and provide for continued professional supervision. It is suicidal to turn a huge expensive plant over to an inadequately trained man. It is up to you to provide an incentive for young men to train and to study for this profession which is so important to your success as the chosen leaders of your club.

At many clubs it is customary at the first cold weather to lay off the men that your greenkeeper has trained during the season. This may be the very time he needs them most. Next spring they will