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TODAY IN SPORTS EQUIPMENT



# Superintendent's Job Is Far Bigger than Greenkeeping

By LEONARD STRONG

Course Supt., Saucon Valley Country Club, Bethlehem, Pa.

During a short course in Turf Management, a query from the question-box was: "What are the qualifications of a greenkeeper?" I was called upon to give my opinion. I am sure I overrated the qualifications at that time, so I'd now like to clarify my answer to the question.

The qualifications of a greenkeeper are simply the ability to cut, pole, weed or water a green and to assist in topdressing same. I would engage as a greenkeeper anyone with that amount of knowledge. However, if the question had been: "What are the qualifications of a golf course superintendent?" (or perhaps the title might better be "golf course manager") my answer would be this:

A golf course superintendent is one who can take complete charge of a golf course—grounds, trees, shrubs and flowers on the club property. He should have some ability in landscaping as well as knowledge of the cultural practices needed to grow these various plants. That means he must have considerable knowledge of agronomy and agricultural chemistry.

He should have some knowledge of golf course construction; either to supervise the work himself or to look after the club's interests when such work is done by an outside contractor or architect.

He must be a good bookkeeper; able to make up a budget and payroll, keep inventory and give a comprehensive report of all major work done on the course during the year, which may be entered into the club's yearly records.

## Must Be Businessman

He must be a good businessman; able to purchase equipment and materials. He must have the executive ability and the personality to meet with the board of governors as a competent and trusted advisor. He should be recognized as an official at all times when he is on the course with the workmen.

He must have broad shoulders and a pleasant disposition to withstand the criticism of a player when shots are missed and the alibi is "there is something wrong with the green," etc. He must be a willing listener—willing to listen to reports of what fine shape John Jones' course is always in.

During the playing season he should arise several times every night to check with the

heavens as to whether there is going to be enough rain or too much. He must remain in the good graces of God because so much of the golf course superintendent's success depends upon His help.

Each year the superintendent must be prepared to meet the new chairman, appointed at the annual meeting. (There are a few cases where the same chairman is appointed.) He must and he does respect the intelligence of this gentleman, but the new chairman cannot be expected to know all the methods of good golf course maintenance. Yet by the end of the year some mutual understanding has been reached and this official begins to realize he knows "less and less about more and more" as far as a golf course is concerned. By this time it is again, "Meet the new chairman."

Although 95% of golf course work should be done in the daytime, we are expected to plan so that the workmen are not around when play is in progress. If any men are there, they must stand still while the shots are being made, which is almost every five or ten minutes—and do not lose sight of the fact that play is usually from 8:00 A.M. until 8:00 or 9:00 P.M. That is a superintendent's job for sure.

The superintendent must be a good manager of labor. He must be one who can hire the ordinary type of labor and on short notice teach such workmen the art of cutting the greens, topdressing, fertilizing, etc. I say "art" because carelessness or mistakes can be mighty costly in this type of work.

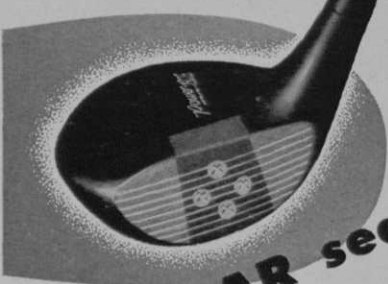
## Teach Again Next Year

By late fall the hired laborer has acquired the skills pertaining to his particular job, but now the time has come for you to say: "That's all for now, bub, come around again in the spring and I will put you back on the payroll." The fact that this man has to eat during the winter leads him to find another job, so you start in the spring with a practically new crew. Some clubs do maintain a skeleton crew through the winter. That's smart.

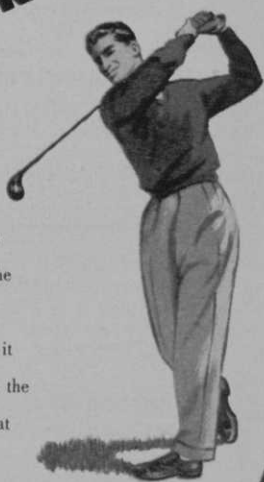
If a man is successful in all the above, he not only qualifies as a golf course superintendent but also proves himself to be the most important individual hired by any golf club. Almost everyone knows a new member or prospective member's first

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### MIKE AT THE MIKE ON SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Mike Murra's 25th anniversary as pro at Wichita (Ks.) CC was celebrated nearly on Mike's 50th birthday. Dave Truffelli, Crestview CC pro who arrived in Wichita the same day as Murra, Tex Consolover and other pros and their wives joined with Wichita CC members who tossed the surprise party for Mike, also tossed gifts including a pile of silver dollars. Mrs. Murra is at Mike's left.

interest is in what kind of golf course there is. Watch the pride of a member when showing his guests around the golf course. Later, guests are taken into the clubhouse and meet the manager and to the pro shop and meet the pro. Chances are they may never meet the man responsible for the condition of the course—the "greenkeeper."

I have been told there is a lot in a name. Maybe that accounts for the fact that the "greenkeeper" is so much in the background. Even most dictionaries do not recognize the existence of a "greenkeeper." Every year at our turf conferences, outsiders look at our identification badges and say: "Greenkeeping Superintendent? What's that?" Titles do mean something. Years ago the club steward became the club manager, the golf clubmaker became golf professional. Now change "greenkeeper" to golf course superintendent.

Fortunately I am in a position to say that there are exceptions to the above statements and I know of some cases where the golf course superintendent, the professional and the manager are recognized as having the same status.

There are many instances where the term "greenkeeper" is applied to the men actually working on the course in place of the name laborer—which is as it should be. It is quite obvious a distinction should be made between the man in charge and the laborers. In making that distinction let it be befitting the position the superintendent

holds as the No. 1 man at any golf club, as the course without a doubt is the No. 1 item.

Chances are I have left unsaid a lot of things pertaining to the above. If I have, fellows, why not voice your opinions?

### Montana-Wyo. Meet Learns Turf Helped By Skim Milk Powder

Experiments conducted by the Department of Horticulture of the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station have indicated considerable benefit to a variety of horticultural plants by soil applications of small quantities of skim milk, Dr. V. E. Iverson, Prof. of Horticulture, told greenkeepers and officials attending the Montana-Wyoming Turf Assn. spring meeting held at the Butte CC, April 16-17.

He said, "with vegetables, skim milk treatment was found to produce the following results: 1. Larger, more fibrous root systems, 2. Larger stems and taller plants with greater leaf areas, 3. Increased early and total yields.

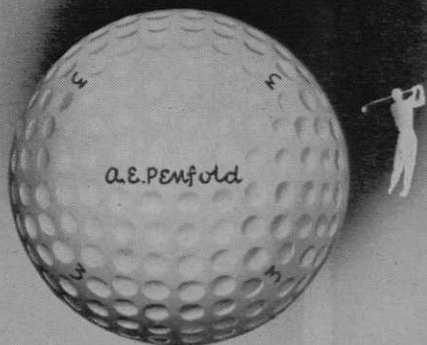
"In 1950 preliminary experiments were conducted to determine the effects of skim milk powder applied at the rate of one pound per 100 square feet, on turf grasses. The results of this small preliminary test indicated the following benefits to a Kentucky blue grass mixture, and, to a lesser extent, a mixture of colonial bent and creeping fescue: 1. Better color, 2. Increased top development, 3. More fibrous root development.

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experiment with turf grasses, it must be considered exploratory in nature and more supporting data is needed before this treatment can be recommended on an experimental basis."

Under the leadership of Dr. Fred V. Grau, Dir. of the USGA Green Section, members and friends of the Turf Association heard discussions on aerifying; fertilizing; weed and clover control; soil and moisture relations, which included references to bad effects of clay or gumbo soils, and drainage conditions; equipment; winter injury and greens dressing; introduction of grass specimens, and technical discussions by Dr. Fred Grau and members of the Agronomy and Horticulture Departments from Montana State College Experiment Station at Bozeman. Dr. A. H. Post of the Agronomy Dept. presided at one of the technical sessions and Mr. I. V. Anderson of the U. S. Forestry Service and Alford J. Dixon of Missoula presented a paper on the use of Lignin and aged sawdust in greens building and maintenance.

Most of the grass courses in Montana and Wyoming and cemeteries and school grounds management were represented at the meeting.

### **Nelson's Teaching Features Indiana Spring Session**

Indiana PGA members plus PGA members from Ohio and Kentucky put in a crowded day of business at Indianapolis April 11, with a teaching session by Byron Nelson headlining a practical program. George McCarthy of US Rubber gave his travelog through the US ball plant with slides being the vivid 3-dimension photographs. Mac's educational talk and pictures are much better than an actual trip through the plant on a hot day. O. J. Noer, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, did his usual great job of giving the fellows a close-up on what and why of trouble with golf turf and how to avoid it, or cure it.

Henry Cowen, MacGregor pres., reminded pros that a lot of well known retail businesses in towns do smaller annual sales volume than pro shops and no pro could expect to get by now without paying close and wise attention to every detail of business. Henry emphasized that the tax situation now calls for very careful and complete accounting. He also said that pros had better be watching their inventories and putting on every kind of proper sales push to see that they didn't get too much working capital tied up in inventory and run into credit embarrassment.

E. Stumm of National Cash Register showed how other merchants handled delicate merchandising situations in ways that pros should study.

A most interesting and valuable talk

on golf club manufacturing was made by Joe Wolfe of Wilson's. Veteran pros who had had bench clubmaking experience and younger pros and assistants all pronounced the Wolfe talk more illuminating than anything else they'd heard on modern club manufacturing, especially with respect to getting clubs made to suit individuals. Wolfe's talk will appear in an early issue of GOLFDOM.

Byron Nelson's teaching demonstration took in the cases of the stars clear through to the duffers. Nelson said he started the wrong way and learned that a golf swing had to be constructed. He said the first score he kept was 118, not counting the ones he missed. He also confessed to being the world's worst dancer. He said Bobby Cruickshank, in the 1930 Texas Open, advising him to change his grip started him to being a good golfer and that Ted Longworth gave him a lot of help when he (Nelson) began to see what it was all about.

Byron said that he grips the club rather tightly but not enough to cause tension in the forearms. He said he had found he could do a lot for ordinary golfers by teaching them to waggle and break up tension that way and with a forward press that unfroze the hips and hands.

Nelson also said that his game gets off comparatively just as much as a 90-shooter's and unless he can keep playing little bad habits are liable to creep in. He told of being unable to play, because of his TV program with Ed Sullivan, for almost a month before the Masters' and when he got into play at Augusta he was compelled to steer shots with a feeling of awkwardness because he didn't know just what error had come into his swing. The final morning, on the practice tee before he started his round, he discovered his body turn hadn't been working just right. He corrected that. Then, with that error eliminated Byron went out and shot his highest round of the tournament.

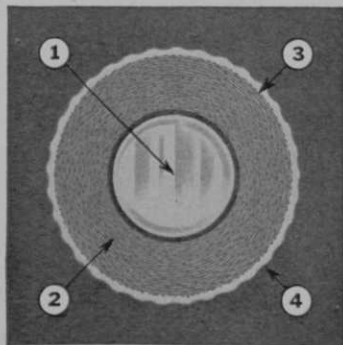
The Hoosier spring round-up concluded with the customary merry dinner at which Bob McMillan, famed football coach and not so famed golfer, was the very entertaining top performer.

### **Texas PGA Has Full Week of Play, May 28 - July 4**

Texas PGA to have full week of tournament play May 28 thru June 4 at the Amarillo CC with George Aulbach as host professional. Play opens Monday, 28th, with qualifying for National PGA championship; Tuesday, Pro-Amateur event; Wednesday, International PGA match — Texas vs. Mexico; Thursday, first 18 of PGA and Open flight; Friday, second 18 of PGA and finals of Open flight; Saturday and Sunday, semi-finals and finals of PGA. Monday, June 4th, qualifying for USGA National Open.



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# Wartime Methods Studied At Purdue Turf Meet

By FRED BERGGREN

(Continued from April Golfdom)

Carl Fenner, Lansing, Mich., told how and how not to prune park trees and illustrated his lecture with slides. Fenner also discussed subsoil fertilization of green trees and the protection of wounded trees. He warned the turf caretakers that basswood, red oak and linden may look healthy but be rotten inside. Fenner closed with the remark that tree work in winter enables park superintendents to employ golf course workers over the entire year.

Dr. J. C. Carter, plant pathologist at U. of Illinois, discussed tree diseases and how to treat them. He used colored slides to illustrate symptoms of diseases over the seven-state area of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin. Dr. Carter illustrated the procedure of supplying liquid fertilizer to trees under pressure through a feeding needle. He also told of possible injury to trees by chemicals used in weed and disease control on turf.

Prof. T. E. (Ted) Shaw of Purdue's Department of Forestry spoke on uses of the different varieties of trees. He believes that too few species of trees are used on grounds of golf courses, cemeteries and parks. Since elm, chestnut or oak—those subject to tree diseases—are dying out, he suggested other varieties to use. Shaw said that a tree can also be selected to fit the area and the soil. He closed with the observation that true forest soils are the most porous of any, and with the warning that trees shouldn't be planted too far from their native habitat.

## Testing for Better Grasses

Dr. R. R. Davis, turf specialist at Ohio State Agricultural Experiment Station, said he'd found that good greens had three times more roots than did poor greens. Another observation of Dr. Davis' was that the best greens contain less organic matter than poor greens. Also, the best greens have good percolation. Another finding was that lack of fertility was not a limiting factor on the poor greens.

Al Linkogel, St. Louis, told that U-3 Bermuda has crowded out crabgrass on the tees of his course, so he has established a U-3 nursery. This bermuda-grass works exceptionally well in St. Louis, he reported.

Don Likes, Hyde Park GC, Cincinnati, discussed the ability of grasses to heal over divot scars; the watering of fairway grasses and the performances of many different grasses. His talk was based on his work at Purdue University during the summer of 1949.

## Insects and Diseases

Under this section, Prof. Glenn Lehker, Purdue entomologist, said that DDT has great residual action, but that Parathion may be quicker acting. Lehker warned that eight deaths have occurred in 1950 from the use of this insecticide. Precautions for the applicator to take are to use a respirator, rubber gloves and clothing that completely covers him.

Dr. John R. Vaughn, head of the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Michigan State College, described the properties of actidione, a new antibiotic fungicide. The new chemical shows much promise for the control of "melting out," but it is unavailable to the greenkeeper as yet. Dr. Vaughn also illustrated the percent control of "dollar spot" and "melting out."

Dr. Eric G. Sharvelle, of Purdue's Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, stressed the importance of using the appropriate treatment to control each disease.

R. H. Wasson and Frank Guido, representing the Fairbanks Morse Co., lectured on irrigation pumps. They emphasized the importance of buying the right type of equipment for the job that is to be done, installing it properly and giving it the best possible maintenance. They presented illustrations of types of pumps, and demonstrated maintenance practices.

The annual turf banquet was held Wednesday evening. The main features of the evening were a presentation of a desk pen set to Merton L. Clevett, founder of the Purdue Turf Conference in 1937. This was followed by the Purdue Glee Club's singing. Dr. J. B. Peterson, head of the Department of Agronomy, Purdue, was toastmaster.

At the final session M. E. Farnham spoke on Athletic Field Management. He told turf workers to choose appropriate proportions of soil materials, then mix them thoroughly when building athletic fields and similar areas. Otherwise pockets of certain materials may form to the detriment of the turf grasses.



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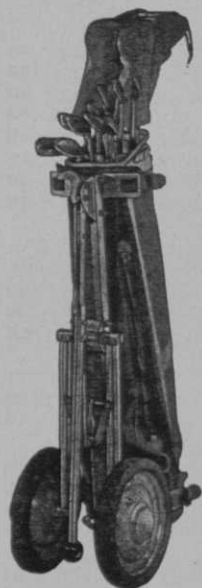
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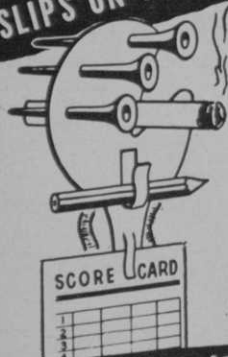
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Farnham explained that too much organic matter may make soils hold more water than is desirable for use of athletic fields.

Farnham recommended that grass be cut often so that only a small amount of clipping is taken at one time. This is more important than height of cut. This was likened to shock following amputation of a finger compared to that of an arm.

Farnham said that phosphorous is important with new seedings, and that potassium is more important than it was long thought. He likes organic nitrogen, and has been using it more and more from June on.

Farnham fertilizes with nitrogen 10 days before aeration so that the turf will grow rapidly when it is aerified. He commented that aeration may be a good practice to follow all the year round instead of just seasonally. It would help water absorption and lessen compaction. As for water applications, Farnham said that it has been found that too much water applied may result in less water being absorbed than with lighter applications.

This turf authority said that applications of as low as 1 pound of sodium arsenite per acre of turf has given striking results in the control of crabgrass. Farnham advised that even though chemi-

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