

mum required for a satisfactory condition of the courses.

What often is not considered in course maintenance is that the problems involving men and money are more pressing and more frequently neglected than the problems involving turf maintenance. And often the problems of men and money in maintenance are more persistently baffling than the turf problems, although we always seem to have some troubles with turf.

Rhodes Grass Scale Trouble

One of the greatest maintenance problems south Florida courses have had to contend with during the past couple of years has been a pest that has caused considerable damage to turf on golf courses and lawns of many home owners. This pest is known as "Rhodes Grass Scale". A very bad infestation is known on at least four greater Miami golf courses, one of which is my club, Indian Creek CC, Miami Beach. The pest has also done considerable damage to golf course turf in the Palm Beach area.

This scale insect gave us great concern during late September and October, 1951. The damage was so severe during that period at Indian Creek that it was very doubtful at the time whether our greens would be ready for opening by middle of November. At that time, several of our tees, as well as many areas throughout the fairways, showed signs of destruction by the pest.

We tried about everything that was recommended. The insect specialist from Subtropical Experiment Station at Homestead, Fla., worked diligently on the subject. He is still trying to find a control.

Fortunately for our club the turf began to improve very rapidly about opening time and inside a few weeks our course was in excellent condition and stayed that way during the season. Careful records were kept on all treatments. However, we cannot definitely state what caused the turf to improve other than good weather conditions, fertilization and topdressing.

We tried different maintenance methods during closed season of 1952. An experiment was tried out during 1951 on a small plot in our nursery with the idea in mind to save considerable summer maintenance expense. The small experiment proved very successful as to turf condition.

Our golf course was closed for the season on May 11th. That was the last day our greens were cut with any type mower until September 15th. The only maintenance during the entire summer was watering about once a week during dry periods. The grass on our greens (Gene Tift strain of Bermuda grass)

grew very thick and was 6 in. to 10 in. tall when starting to cut back. The grass became highly infested with the scales during early summer. As the summer went on, the scales became attached to about every node on the stems.

When time came to cut the grass and prepare for coming season, we planned to dispose of the grass by burning. That we know was a sure way to kill the millions of scale insects. We then sprayed all the green surfaces which were almost down to bare ground with materials recommended by Dr. Wolfenbarger of Subtropical Experiment Station. We should know within a few weeks the results of our treatments.

This year to date we have had only a small amount of permanent turf injury. However, last year our greatest turf injury showed during October and November.

Many golf course superintendents and others who are interested in control of this pest seem to think it thrives during extreme dry weather. The years 1951 and 1952 have been extremely dry in south Florida. If that is one of the causes, here's hoping we get normal rainfall from now on.

A news story in Sept. 14 Miami Herald, from which excerpts follow, gives an idea of the extent and character of this new pest.

"A new pest is threatening South Florida lawns.

"It is a scale insect, known as Rhodes grass scale. It looks something like a mealybug and injures grass by sucking the juices from the stem.

"This scale was first noticed a couple of years ago on golf courses in the Miami area. Dr. D. O. Wolfenbarger, insect specialist of the Subtropical Experiment Station at Homestead identified it.

"Since then the pest has become widespread in both Dade and Broward counties. It is doing great damage, and many persons probably are fighting chinch bugs and fungus when the real culprit may be this scale.

"Injury from Rhodes grass scale shows up slowly. The first signs are irregular yellow patches. The patches grow larger. Individual grass runners begin to die. The lawn becomes thin in areas where big populations of the scale are at work.

"The individual scales are white, soft and cottony in appearance. Look for them in clusters on the stems of grass.


"None of the insecticides tried so far have much effect on the scale. Not even parathion gives control.

"A representative of a large fertilizer and insecticide firm, Clint Brandon, wrote to The Herald farm and garden editor

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that he had found the damage from this scale to be widespread in Dade and Broward counties.

"I find that many of the lawns I check could not possibly be reclaimed due to such heavy scale infestation," Brandon wrote. "I spend a considerable portion of my time checking lawns, golf courses and other grass areas in Dade and Broward counties. I have found extensive scale infestation in every town in these counties."

"The Rhodes grass scale, in my opinion, will eventually eclipse chinch bugs in importance as a lawn pest in South Florida. Insofar as is known, there is no control, other than a parasitic insect."

"The scale probably is normally attacked and kept under fair control by other insects, which live upon it. But these beneficial insects are being killed off through the use of strong insecticides in the fight against chinch bugs and mosquitoes. And the scale, which is not bothered by the insecticides, is having a field day with none of its enemies around."

"The scale was first found on Bermuda grass. But the scale doesn't seem to mind whether its diet is Bermuda or St. Augustine grass."

"So far, the insect hasn't been reported on centipede or zoysia. That doesn't mean that it will not attack these grasses. Nobody has reported seeing the scale on them."

"While making his initial study of the Rhodes grass scale, Dr. Wolfenbarger also found another scale at work. It is known as Ruth's scale, but it isn't as widespread as Rhodes grass scale."

Why Course Labor Is Scarce

By BERT H. ROST
Supt., Park Ridge (Ill.) Country Club

The most important problem that faces golf course maintenance today is salaries to attract and hold good men. Normally, we have a crew of five men the year round. Some of our time is spent in cleaning and painting the interior of the clubhouse, dormitory and other buildings in the winter.

Two years ago we lost two men, one from death and another was past 70 and didn't feel he could work steadily any longer. Therefore, we advertised in two publications recently. Our returns were very gratifying and I would say we had about 12 men answer the advertisement, most of them between 30 and 50 years old. Three of them had been raised on farms and were at present working in factories, but would like to do outside work. After asking them a few questions pertaining to their qualifications, of course, the next thing discussed was salary; ours is on a par with most other

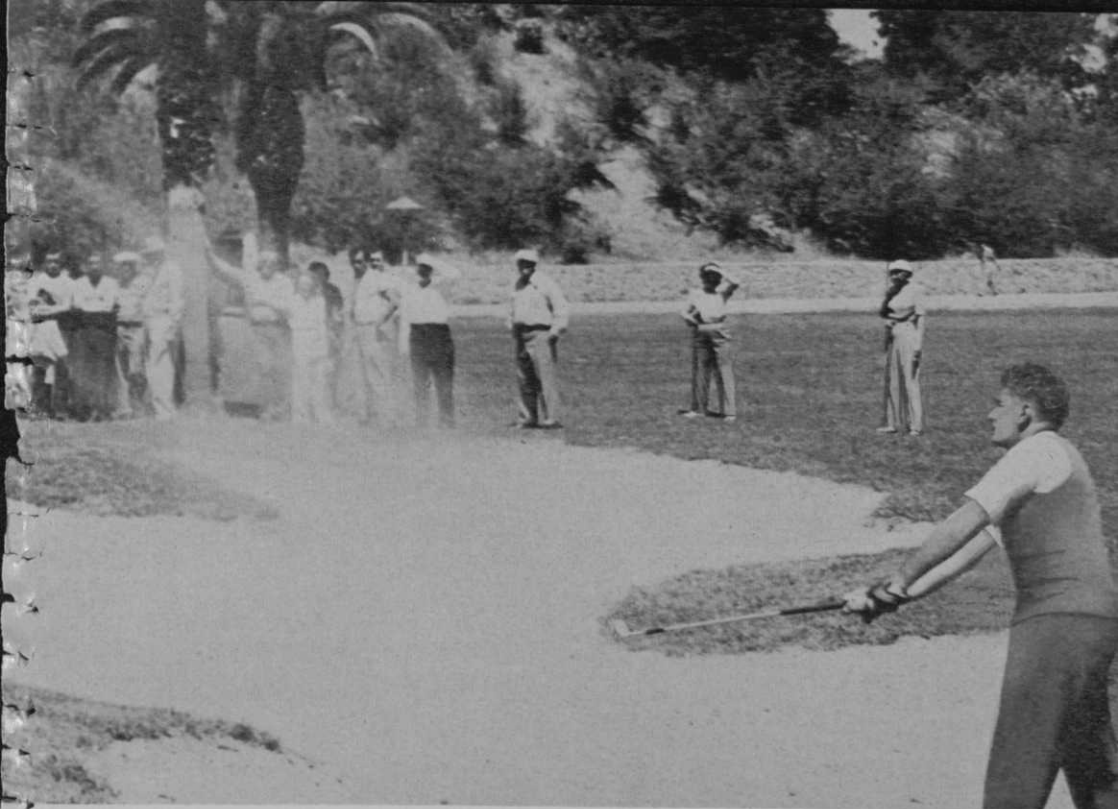
clubs in the district. This usually ended the interview in a minute or less. Some went a little further to ask if we had a Health or Hospitalization Plan, Pension fund, overtime for time over 40 hours. Most clubs do not have these to offer; 2 weeks with pay, yes, but that didn't seem to offset the disadvantages they found. We at present have two men who are trying us out.

It is a known fact that it is almost impossible for country clubs to obtain group benefits for their employees because of the large turnover of employees, but most of these are in the clubhouse and not on the grounds. Some clubs have set up benefit funds which appeal to men who like golf course work and would be an asset to a club organization.

At the present, the golf course superintendent has to operate on a skeleton crew until the boys get out of school, June 1st, which is far too late in the game. The time for most work to be done on a golf course is April, May and September until it freezes in the fall. They are the cool months when reconstruction and planting and trimming can be done. If adequate labor is available in these months, the course has a good chance of being in good condition during the months of heavy play. I believe the all successful clubs have found that it pays to hire and keep good key men who can and will do several duties at a club.

As for the turf problems of the past season, they have been a culmination of weather conditions which have come about during the past three years. 1950 and 1951 were both summers with plentiful rainfall, therefore a shallow root growth on turf, along with plenty of snowfall in the winter (a record in 1951) therefore no frost action in a heavy soil as we have in the Chicago area. In April, 1952, hot dry winds that almost desiccated many shallow-rooted grasses, left turf in a weakened condition to be followed by the hottest summer on record in the area, which affected turf that was weak, although it had a good color from fertilization but not the root system to carry it through such a period of far above normal temperatures.

The Midwest golf course superintendents know that we do not have all the answers to our problems, therefore we have submitted to the University of Illinois a complete plan for a Turf Research and Experimental Area to be established at the University of Illinois Drug Plots and Horticultural Station at Lisle, Ill. So far we have had little response to our efforts from the University. This is a project that would be highly beneficial to all home owners in Illinois and needs a big push from everyone interested in turf.



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Assistants Are The Problem

By **JAMES D. FOGERTY**

Professional, Sunset Country Club
Sappington, Mo.

The most important job for pro golf in 1953 is giving to members the high standard of thorough, helpful service the pros want to give, when it is so extremely difficult for the pro to get the required type of shop men for the money the pros can afford to pay.

Professionals at the great majority of clubs receive only nominal salaries and are expected to staff their shops for the service the members want and which the pros certainly want to give. The clubs generally pay the caddy masters, but they're the only ones of the pro department's staff of assistants the clubs usually do pay.

At any good club the pro is almost compelled to stagger the working hours of his help and that means the pro must now employ at least two more men than he had to back in the days when employees were agreeable to long working hours. The pro often starts teaching at 8 a.m. and finishes at 10 p.m. after helping handle the details of a tournament at the club. Every club member in business knows that he couldn't get his office or factory help to work those hours at pro department wages. Neither can the pro get his help to go for that long stretch which the pro himself must keep on the job.

To employ good shop help—ones who are competent, thoughtful, courteous, honest and who will give a 9 to 10 hour day's work, 6 days a week to members and the pro—you have to pay \$250 to \$300 at good metropolitan district clubs.

And to keep such employees you have to give them an all-year job. If you're in a territory where there is play most of the year the clubs expect that the pro shop will keep operating although sales in the fall and winter are very little, excepting the Christmas gift business which is being developed into a life-saver on the pro's books. So the staff payroll of a couple of assistants is about the \$6000 mark.

Eating Up Income

Now it doesn't take higher mathematics to reach the answer that on such expense approximately \$15,000 of merchandise must be sold before the pro has the slightest chance of breaking even. Furthermore, before lesson income to any extent can be figured on for that part of assistant's time when he can be spared from the shop without lowering service

to members, the pro must make a considerable investment of time in the assistant. That all mounts up, and with greatly increased operating expense, the pro is being reminded more than ever before that his time is money.

A factor that neither the pros nor the members seem to recognize clearly these days is the decided improvement in golf instruction. Most of us who have been in professional golf for some years now can—and do—very frankly recall that the teaching we did the first few years that we were professionals was mostly of a catch-as-catch-can nature and that our pupils in many cases probably taught us more than we taught them.

In pro golf we don't go for that haphazard way of instructing instructors any more. The responsibility of teaching is too important and too exacting to allow giving any part of it to an untrained assistant.

The responsibility of good shop operation, of course, is sharply realized by pros, for the simple reason that if the shop isn't conducted correctly the pros won't make enough to keep them eating. But a pro can't be in his shop all the time. He must be everywhere at once—in the shop, teaching, conducting tournaments, cooperating with the course superintendent, the club manager, committee heads and club officials, keeping books, making buying trips to town and out of town, representing his club at tournaments and meetings, and in general keeping himself so fully occupied that he must have capable, trustworthy assistants.

Members Are VIP

In this day and age when a person learns that he must work Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, plus the long hours of daylight saving time he thinks of the contrast between his hours and those of other workers and wants time off. When we older pros were breaking in we never thought of the hours, but that's not the case with desirable young men we're trying to get into pro golf now.

And the desirable young men we want are those who will work for the members, not those who want assistant's jobs thinking that such a job means playing a lot of golf and practicing without going to the expense of becoming a member.

As a professional at a fine country

club I want to, and must, give the best possible service to my members, courteously and efficiently. My members are Very Important People to me. Their visits to the club must be made completely pleasant so they and their guests will want to come often. At times, whether the members and guests realize it or not, I am slightly embarrassed because I am unable to give them the kind of service they should receive. The reason they don't get it is my inability to get adequate shop help of the sort I know I should have, at the wages I can afford to pay. My members are wonderful people. Perhaps I want to give them too much service but I think it's my duty to take care of them in the way I'd want to be served if I were a member and came to the club to get refreshed and entertained and served in a way that would balance the strain of high-pressure living today.

I am certain that the members will be expecting perfect service from the pro department in 1953 and that the pro who knows his job expects to give it; but how this service can be given in view of the shop staff employment conditions is going to be one of the most difficult problems the pro will have to solve.

While we're trying to arrive at the solution we professionals must give due consideration to the requirements of the assistants. Neither professionals nor club officials can look at the present situation in the light of "the good old days."

Fair Weather and Jones at PGA Annual Meet

PGA annual meeting, to be held at Sheraton hotel, Chicago, Nov. 10-13, promises to be without political controversy and as another unusual feature will have Bob Jones as speaker in the instruction part of the Education program.

Horton Smith, Harry Moffitt and Harold Sargent will have only formal contests for re-election to positions of president, sec. and treas., respectively. Demands on time of PGA national officials and the problems of their offices limit the number, likewise the desire, of qualified candidates to undertake PGA official responsibilities at no pay and sacrifice of personal and club job time.

Financial problems will come up for considerable attention, with a recommendation for dues increase to be voted on. Since the PGA made a financial statement available for study by all members, the pro association is in better position to adjust its due to costs of its operation.

Revision of PGA championship procedure possibly will be discussed. There is also a chance that overtures of the Tamarisk club of Palm Springs, Calif.,

for a PGA championship as a winter event may come before the delegates. Informal talk among home club pros has favored the Tamarisk suggestion.

Tournament affairs at the time being are serene, with Harvey Raynor as tournament supervisor and Fred Corcoran as publicity man having no storms surrounding them. The PGA Advisory committee headed by Bing Crosby, and tournament sponsors will meet with PGA officials at Chicago. Manufacturers' representatives and PGA officials will be in session Sunday, Nov. 9. Much of the routine business will be handled in committee sessions starting Nov. 7, with committee reports and recommendations being submitted to delegates in general sessions.

Among other matters that may be talked over is that of revising membership requirements so the PGA can, if possible, avoid the embarrassment of the National Open champion not being eligible to first class PGA membership, as has been the case with Little, Middlecoff and Boros. A peculiar part of that situation is that it seems to take more time to train a home club pro to be able to competently handle teaching and other duties than it does to develop a playing star. With the newspaper publicity naturally featuring the playing pro the home club pro angle of PGA eligibility requirements are overlooked by the public.

The open door section of the convention, the Educational program, will present what Chmn. George Lake and fellow members of the PGA Educational committee are confident will be the most practical and profitable of these sessions which have been steadily growing in value to PGA delegates.

With Jones starring on the instruction end it is believed that there will be more accent on the pupils' than on stars' technique as Jones, at the 1952 PGA meeting, declared the pros would have to make their instruction more attractive and effective for the representative amateurs.

Among other subjects scheduled for the Educational sessions on Nov. 13 are assistant training, pro department business operations, mutually helpful relations with club officials, superintendents and managers, promotion and rules of golf.

PGA plans to send bulletins and guest cards to all clubs having PGA pros, inviting members to play PGA National course, now that course is getting in condition of which PGA may be proud . . . Emil Beck is chmn. of committee responsible for needed program of Dunedin course improvement . . . O'Grady now giving free junior lessons at course to Dunedin kids . . . Dunedin hoping to become location of PGA headquarters office.

How Lamboley, Pro-Supt., Made His Job Grow

By ROBERT MOONEY

Meshingomesia CC at Marion, Ind., like many other golf clubs, has experienced ups and downs during the course of years.

Possibly its best break happened in the spring of 1931 when Clarence Lamboley suddenly appeared as the club's new pro.

After 21 years, Lamboley is still there. His hair, once black, has a silvery white look, matching the smoke from his ever-burning pipe.

Any chance of him leaving Marion is somewhat remote. He has turned down four better offers. Each of these gives members jitters.

Members took cognizance of possibilities that Lamboley might leave a few years ago. Such chilling thoughts brought quick reaction. Funds suddenly appeared for a new house. Complete with breezeway and garage, the comfortably furnished white bungalow sits near the clubhouse separated by a driveway and fairway.

As an extra dividend, the pro and his wife received life memberships to the club. Now each October, a Lamboley Stag is held with the faithful pro receiving many fine gifts.

Life hasn't always been as smooth. Lamboley could not have picked a poorer time to arrive. As everywhere, depression gripped Marion in 1931. The club, practically on the mortgage block, had but 200 members. Many of these were ready to forego such luxury until better times.

But things got worse. In 1932, Clarence struggled along on a \$200 salary. The salary jumped to \$350 each of the next two years. But he hung on.

The young man's early persistence stemmed from his background. Clarence and three brothers grew up under the shadows of the Ft. Wayne CC. Clarence graduated from the caddie ranks to caddiemaster under Tom Cahill.

Incidentally, his father, Joseph, 86, and mother, Dora, 84, still live in the old home. The name Lamboley is French derived. Those possibly still living in the Belfort sector of France go by L'Ambole or L'Amboley. The pronunciation (Lahm-bow-lay) is far prettier than behind-the-back snickers of "Lam-baloney", vocally exercised by young players and caddies, in-

cluding four Mooney boys, during the pro's early days.

Wife Is Team-Mate

Clarence first jumped from Ft. Wayne to Escanaba, Mich., where he married an Irish girl named Virginia Rockwell, a fine representative of that grand group of helpmates, the pros' wives. When the shop is short of help she will cheerfully and ably clean clubs, manage caddies, and runs the shop when Clarence is giving lessons, out of town or working on the course.

They have a son, Eddie, now a sergeant in the Air Force at Romey Field, Puerto Rico. He'll be 21 in November.

From Escanaba, Clarence moved back to Ft. Wayne, helping Chester Nelson at Orchard Ridge.

When the Marion job opened, Lamboley grabbed it... whether he knew what he held onto isn't quite certain.

Lamboley's consistent plugging, despite financial worries and hard times, earned him a permanent niche in Marion. In later prosperous years, a minority with big ideas entertained thought of hiring a playing professional. This sudden impulse was quickly, but firmly, squelched. Members admit their pro gets little time to play golf at home and his yearly tournament experience is practically nil. But they quickly point out his ability to keep the course in top shape, his teaching and golf goods supply services and his constant energetic, pleasant and expert promotion of golf interest makes him the most valuable kind of a man for the club.

Old timers recalled a long line of predecessors, some good and some not so good. One flash quickly departed without a formal "good-bye, been swell, hope to see you". Reason later was discovered. Flashy Boy apparently emptied the two-bit golf ball slot machine before his sudden exit.

At clubs that can afford to pay two men for two exacting jobs the course superintendents and the professionals all have more work than they have hours in the day for the work but at a club such as Meshingomesia where the finances dictate one good man in the dual capacity of superintendent and professional he

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must be forever on the alert in seeing that his responsibilities are handled in sound balance and that no part of his job is neglected.

Makes Use of Turf Research

In taking advantage for his club of every possible chance to improve operations Lamboley works closely with Purdue university and makes full use of the expert services of Purdue's golf turf experts and the knowledge of other superintendents he meets and talks with at the annual Midwest Turf Foundation meetings and short courses at Purdue. This utilization of authoritative outside knowledge has paid the club richly. Clarence has applied a valuable combination of his



Matt Garland (L), pres., Meshingomesia CC, Marion, Ind., was 10 years old when Clarence Lamboley (R), the club's pro-supt., came onto the club job.

own skill and experience and that of others in turf maintenance in maintaining his course in excellent condition, acting as adviser on lawns to many members and in maintaining experimental plots at Meshingomesia.

This past summer's plague of turf diseases damaged but one green to any extent. It was Number 5, a par 3 hole, the only green Lamboley hasn't rebuilt on the course.

The Marion club now has comfortable assets, and required \$100,000 operating expenses in 1951, a far cry from Lamboley's early days. In one year of improvements, \$50,000 was expended for plumbing and \$25,000 for electrical improvements. The club's crowding membership (now 400) required a \$40,000 parking lot.

Still a 9-holer, Meshingomesia's rolling hills and short flats are tougher since Lamboley changed the entire course (except one hole). Likewise, 500 yards were added. Tees were set back. New greens were designed and built. Hackers don't object to extra yardage on the eighth

hole. But the new green there brings out the crying towel. It offers testing contours. The normal guy willingly settles for two putts.

Lamboley experienced a red-faced moment on this hole last summer. Louise Suggs, playing an exhibition, thought a long iron would get her on the green in two. Lamboley hinted maybe a wood should suffice. Miss Suggs chose the wood. She missed it, all right. She carried over.

Despite long layoffs from playing, Clarence isn't taken often. Recently, a few of the gang, thinking he might be rusty, encouraged him into a foursome. The old pro (he's really only 52) smoothly went out in 33.

Making Members Happy

"The pro-greenkeeper's job calls for attending to a lot of detail that must all add up to just one answer: keeping the members happy," says Lamboley.

"I think the most important point in keeping members happy is maintenance of the course. With the course in good playing shape everyone is delighted. Naturally, this takes plenty of extra work but it surely pays off in the long run."

Lamboley declares that the worst risk the pro-greenkeeper runs into is that of getting into a rut. "Try to learn something new each day. Do things that aren't normally asked of you," he advises.

As to the human element: "Keep individual members likes and dislikes in mind. See that nothing happens to upset their games if you possibly can help avoid it. Be honest and fair in all dealings. A smile or greeting doesn't hurt either."

For lively events, Lamboley runs off six club championships a year ranging from the girl's junior to the President's Cup (handicap for men).

Winner of the Field Swezey Memorial is regarded as club champ. The club also holds the annual Knights of Columbus versus Shriner's match, the professional's tourney (lawyers, doctors and dentists) and the Calcutta. In the latter handicaps are knocked down with each successive bid.

Although the club collected ample finances for a huge remodeling program during years of the slot machine craze, Lamboley is relieved by their removal since enactment of Indiana's anti-slot machine law.

"The slots caused too much trouble and anxiety among members. Since they've been out, we've learned to stand on our own feet," he said.

Need Supplies — See page 117
