

of clubs immediately following your fire, remember that you will not sell to these same people for a few years to come!

Unless your club rebuilds the pro shop in record time, you will probably find that your temporary quarters are not adequate for conducting your business as heretofore. It is doubtful that you will have adequate facilities or space for rack service or for setting up your work bench and repair service. Without such service you will find that traffic through your shop is at a minimum.

Therefore you will not only be losing out on your service and repairs, but your usual amount of general sales will be considerably lessened. Yes, FIRE IS A COSTLY BUSINESS!

The Happiest of Careers Is the Pro's

By HARRY SPARLING

AFTER 53 years in the golf profession and still finding it as interesting, fresh and delightful as when I got my first job I might offer my own revision of the start of David R. Forgan's classic tribute to golf. You probably recall that Mr. Forgan's tribute begins:

"Golf — It is a science — the study of a lifetime, in which you may exhaust yourself but never your subject."

My version as a pro would read "Golf — It is the life—the joy of a lifetime, in which you refresh yourself from an ever-refreshing subject."

Here I am, with another season starting and feeling as eager as a kid to get to it and see if some of the new ideas will get my members playing par, take years off my own game, and again see that there are several "new" ideas that are old ideas in new words.

The great part of each new golf season is that as old as golf has grown it always seems young in the mind of golfers.

Young men who get into professional golf are fortunate. They are in a career of meeting and helping pleasant men, women and children and contributing to the pursuit of happiness. A career as a home club pro is a responsibility the really qualified professional sincerely and happily assumes. It is a privilege as well as a fine occupation rewarding in enjoyment and health and certainly not undesirable financially.

Many of the older professionals have been with their clubs for years. I didn't have that temperament, although I must confess that every time I went to a new job I felt a

wrench at leaving the friends I'd made and it's been great happiness to me to realize that I really didn't leave my friends but have kept them with me over the years.

I started as assistant to my brother George at the Dutchess G&CC at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. in 1901, then went to the Haworth (N. J.) CC where I was pro until 1907. From there I went to Brooklawn CC, Bridgeport, Conn., where brother George was pro until he retired after serving that club for more than 40 years. The next happy stop of the Sparling rolling stone was at the Manhattan CC at Hunter's Island, New York.

In 1912 I was engaged to take charge of Wright & Ditson's golf department in Boston and help the fellows who were doing a grand job of building golf in New England. In 1916 I felt the urge to get back on a pro job and went to the old Weatogue CC at Stratfield, Conn. Then I continued my service on a home club pro's counterpart of the touring schedule and before I came to the Lake Champlain club in 1943, I was with Taconic, Riverhead, Reydon, Nappanock, Warwick and Wolf Hollow. Four to six happy years at a club, then I sought new fields until I reached the most pleasant of all the pleasant places where I've been pro. Variety is the spice of life but when a fellow reaches a certain number of calendar years spice is not the most wholesome diet for him. After all, a fellow in golf must keep young by watching his diet, among other things.

The way I look at life thru the eyes of a pro golfer has kept me young. I still thrill to the happiness I see our members get out of golf.

The work you know and love and what you can do for the happiness of others makes a career in professional golf the finest career I can imagine. One lesson you've got a ten-year-old boy to whom you're teaching the joy of a good game, and maybe hoping he'll have the fame and glory of being a champion. The next lesson you're giving to a 75-year-old man who still strives to lengthen his drives.

The children you taught now are fine young men and women who remember you brightly and who have been enjoying years of health and pleasure from the golf you taught them. These things make the pro who's been true to his profession a rich man.

Happy and lucky is the young pro who realizes that he is in more than a business; that he's in one of the most glorious, most lasting occupations of acquiring and helping marvelously good friends.

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* PATENT PENDING

Program for 12-Months Course Care in South Is Outlined*

By HENSON H. MAPLES
Supt., Pinehurst (N. C.) Country Club

IN KEEPING a course open for play the year round, the main thing to strive for is to have the best possible turf at all times, giving consideration first to the greens, second to the fairways, third to the rough areas, and fourth to the tees, and do it economically.

The greens come first since they are the places each golfer is playing for, and usually reaches although some do it in a round-about way and wonder why they have to pay greens fees. It's hard nowadays to get something for nothing. Recently, I came across an article about a man — and he could very well have been a golf course superintendent — who was rushing his wife to the hospital in anticipation of a blessed event. In spite of all the rushing, he didn't quite make it in time and so the event took place on the hospital lawn. Everything went along fine, and he was given a bill. After checking it carefully he went to the doctor and said that the bill seemed to be OK except for the charge of the delivery room which wasn't used. The doctor said that was right so he took the bill, made a correction and handed it back to the man. Upon examining it the man found that the doctor had crossed out "delivery room" and had written "greens fee" in its place.

So you see, although some golfers do not use the fairways, they all use the greens and maybe that's where "greens fee" came from. Anyway, special attention should be given to the greens. Since the ball's movement is on the surface of the green, it is essential that this surface be smooth, and of uniform texture. Selection of the best strain of grass whether it be from seed or stolons is the main consideration here. The grass will be one that is adapted to the particular location in which it is to be used, is of fine texture, is hardy and resistant to disease, and is aggressive enough to hold its own in competition with other grasses and weeds.

Greens should be mowed as often as needed and as determined from the growth which is regulated by temperature, fertil-

izer and moisture. Height will vary from 3/16 in. to 5/16 in. depending on growth and temperature. Fertilizer should be applied at fairly regular intervals in sufficient quantities and of the proper analysis to provide for healthy and uniform growth. Lime requirements should be applied as indicated by soil analysis. A preventative schedule for the application of fungicide should be followed rather closely. The old saying — an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure — still applies and is well worth observing. Infestations by insects should be watched for closely and controlled as soon as possible. Prevention is better but not always possible. The insecticide will depend some on the type of insect but chlor-dane rates high, and the old standby arsenate of lead is still probably best for greens. The problem of weeds will be greatly lessened by keeping the turf grass in a healthy growing condition. Control measures should be taken when needed using a material that is recommended for the particular weed in question. Greens should be aerified when needed, preferably before the application of fertilizer, lime or topsoil.

Top-soiling Good Practice

Topsoiling, in spite of the expense, the inconvenience to golfers and the wear on the mowers, is still good practice and oftentimes the only thing that will improve a green. The topsoil should contain a good percentage of sand and should be applied as often as needed in sufficient quantity to do the job right. By working it into the grass and watering afterward, it will not interfere with either the golfer or the mower very much. Watering practices will be governed by rainfall and should be done when there is insufficient rainfall to supply the requirements of the grass. Heavy waterings at longer intervals are usually preferred to frequent light waterings. However, the frequency will be determined by the grass root depths, and how rapid the surface moisture dries out. The grass will show this when it begins to wilt.

All of the abovementioned treatments should be done at any time they are needed,

(*1954 GCSA conference address)

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AKRON SUPTS. DRAW 1400 TO LAWN CLINIC

Ohio golf course supts. drew 1400 to pack Akron's Central High auditorium on a sleety early spring night. The superintendents starred in the annual Lawn Clinic put on by the Akron Beacon-Journal. The lawn clinic idea was started in Akron 6 years ago when Bill Lyons gave a lawn and garden talk arranged by the Beacon-Journal garden editor Mrs. Kate Clapp. This year the paper's promotion department gave the idea the full treatment and with advance publicity public interest in the meeting grew so the intended meeting hall wasn't large enough and a late switch was made to Central high. After an introductory talk on lawn care by Lyons he announced that 14 experts for Ohio golf courses would go through the crowd answering questions. They were swamped and next morning so were the lawn supply dealers. Their stocks of many lawn equipment items and supplies were cleaned out. Next year the Beacon-Journal plans an even bigger promotion featuring the supts. as the men with all the right answers for good lawns. Supts. who participated were Bill Lyons of Firestone Tire and Rubber; E. M. Kirkhart, Youngstown CC; Carl Springer, Congress Lake CC; Ken Springer, Fairlawn CC; Nelson Monical, Portage CC; Ernst Ranck, Mayfair CC; Colin Smith, Shaker Heights CC; Larry Wolfe, Rosemont CC; C. L. Deming, Sleepy Hollow CC; M. A. Matteo, Mayfield Heights GC; Robert Fannin, Kirtland CC; C. R. Burris, Acacia CC; and K. B. Crandall, Cherry Ridge GC.

and arranged so as not to interfere with play any more than necessary.

Keep Golfer Happy

Give the grass first consideration, but keep the golfer closely in mind. The golfer pays the bill. He wants good grass to play on so keep him as happy as possible.

Great care should be taken when applying the materials to get them on evenly and to avoid any possibility of burning the grass. Having the proper equipment can save dollars as well as trouble.

Cups should be moved as often as needed — every day when play is heavy. The main purpose is to distribute the wear, but it is also a means of changing the play of the hole.

Care should be taken to select the best grass on the green, smooth the area close to the cup as this soil swells up when the hole is cut, and set the cup to the proper

depth. Any grass extending into the hole should be trimmed with scissors to make a neat appearance. The cup plug should be replaced to fit perfectly. Low plugs will have long grass in them, high ones will be scalped by the mower and ones packed too tight, to make them fit, will probably die.

Painting the inside of the cups white improves their appearance and makes them easier to see. Ball marks need to be repaired daily when the play is heavy. By squeezing some of the surrounding turf into the scar they can be effectively fixed. The USGA recommendation of keeping the cup 15 ft. from the edge of the green is a good one to follow for every day play as well as tournaments. This prevents getting the cup too close to a trap or a sharp slope at the edge of the green.

In view of the many things required for the maintenance of the greens, it is easy

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to see that a large part of the labor, considerable supplies and special equipment are devoted to them.

Study Green Size

Therefore, it is evident that economy would be greatest by having the greens of a size to take care of the heaviest play when there is maximum wear. By reducing the size of greens that are larger than necessary, substantial savings could be made at once in labor and supplies. Since the equipment would have less work to do at each operation, it would have a longer life before needing replacing. The golf would not be seriously affected by smaller greens. True, the target would not be as large to shoot at, but in a lot of cases the whole green cannot be seen anyway for the approach shot. More chip shots would be used that would have been putts on a larger green.

After the greens, consideration is given next to the fairways, since they are designed to be used in getting the ball from the tee to the green. Since the ball travels mostly over this turf, rather than on it, it is not necessary that the fairway turf be maintained anything like the green. The fairway turf is a resting place from which the ball is hit to the green and therefore should be good enough for the ball to sit up on, instead of down in.

Reference is made here to the position of the USGA about Winter Rules, or improving the lie of the ball. It's really taboo with them. As with the greens, the main thing is to have a good grass that is adapted to the section in which it is used. It need not be a fine-leaved grass, but rather one that forms a dense turf and is very aggressive. Fairways should be mowed as often as necessary and as close as possible without injuring the grass, so as to give a clean lie and to promote thicker turf. — $\frac{3}{4}$ in. is a good height.

Fertilizer should be applied as needed to keep the grass growing good, and lime as needed and indicated by soil tests to keep the Ph at the proper level for the particular grass being grown.

Insects and weeds need to be kept under control by the use of materials recommended for them. Chlordane is effective against most insects including ants and has the added advantage of residual effect. Sodium arsenite is a good weed killer, but must be used correctly and with extreme caution as it will burn seriously. It is economical and will give good results when handled properly.

Aerification can be done at any time

when there is sufficient moisture and preferably before applying fertilizer or lime. Dragging and mowing afterward makes a finished job.

Watering concerns only those courses with watering systems and should be done often enough to meet the requirements of the grass.

Divots should be kept repaired as the play demands.

All the work should be done as much as possible when it interferes least with the golfers. But since the working area is larger, this will not be as serious as it is on the greens.

Smart Care of Rough

The rough areas, including adjacent wooded areas, should not be neglected. The beauty of the course is enhanced when they are properly groomed and cleaned up, and the golfer who strays, benefits by the fact that he can at least find that ball that cost \$1.10 even if he can't play it. By finding the ball quickly, play is speeded up, resulting in happier golfers and more golfers — naturally more greens fees.

The grass in the roughs may be of any kind — even weeds — to give a ground cover. The area should be mowed regularly and kept short enough to find a ball in it without too much looking, yet long enough to present a more difficult shot than would be had from the fairway. The height of cut will vary with different grasses. Bare areas will look better with some kind of grass on them, and the need for ball washing will be reduced.

Tree areas will look better by cleaning out all the dead wood, both on the ground and standing, and by keeping the scrubby undergrowth cut. In areas where it is possible to use rotary type mowers (both tractor drawn and self-powered) they will do a wonderful job of cleaning up practically anything in sight, long or short grass and weeds, leaves, brush, even the operator's hat should it fall off. Those who have seen these machines operate will swear by them — not at them. They are very rugged and economical to operate if properly taken care of — needing only the replacement of belts and blades on the tractor models. They are really labor savers and will soon pay for themselves.

Tee Care Outlined

Usually the rough areas aren't given any consideration in regard to fertilizer, liming, watering and aerifying as this expense wouldn't be justified. Weed and insect control is advisable under certain conditions,

(Continued on page 81)



Gallery of company employees follow finalists from a field of 40 in the annual championship at the Fuller Brush Co. par-3 course.

Short Course Popular With Fuller Brush Employees

By GEOFFREY S. CORNISH

WITH a half hour to an hour required to play a round, a short 9- or 18-hole layout with holes averaging 30 yards or more depending upon space has much to recommend it as an employee recreation facility around industrial sites, large office buildings and factories.

"The idea that very short 9-hole courses are without interest is an erroneous one," wrote George C. Thomas in "Golf Architecture in America." "It is possible to make a very short 9-hole approach and pitch course, where the holes will average around 30 yards, all of which requires most skillful playing to secure the average par of 3, and I know of several layouts of this character in crowded districts, which are very interesting and attractive. It would seem that such short courses could be easily installed at many clubs, at hotels and even for private grounds, and give the utmost pleasure, as well as fine practice for the short game."

Since Thomas made these observations in 1927 a number of short 9's and 18's have sprung up on industrial sites. An outstanding example of such a layout is the Fuller Brush Co. course at Fuller Park, Hartford, Conn. Opened in the late summer of 1941,

the Fuller Golf Club built on about 7 acres has become an important feature in the company's recreational set-up.

"It is my opinion that the golf course is the most popular recreational facility we offer our employees," says Thomas F. Brennan, Sports Director of the well-known brush company. "Altogether we have developed 13 acres for various sports at Fuller Park adjoining our plant and offices with the golf club occupying part of this acreage."

This 9-hole short course has yardages from 1 to 9 as follows: 64, 81, 67, 82, 94, 60, 62, 86, 103 for a total of 699 yards. All holes are par 3 for men, while for ladies 3, 4, and 5 pars are provided on the score card.

Averages 70 Rounds Daily

"An average of 70 rounds of golf is played daily on the course from spring opening until fall closing," says Brennan. "We run the normal tournaments that are popular at any country club. We have an annual club championship for men and one for women. About 40 enter the men's competition yearly and 15 to 20 are in the girls division of play. Spectator interest runs very high in these matches. Our big favorite, however, is the Hole-in-one contest usu-

ally scheduled in the fall which attracts more than 200 entries each year. With individual prizes for both men and women, all employees show tremendous interest in this contest."

It is of interest and possible significance to note that the Fuller Industrial Golf team won the Greater Hartford Industrial league championship in 1953, and then went on to win the New England Industrial championship. The short course and other recreational facilities are run by employees with organization and rules similar to a country club. To the Fuller Club members may bring visitors as guests, subject to regulations by the House committee. Otherwise play is restricted to employees.

The course, laid out on gently rolling, lightly wooded land has been designed to provide interest for the golfer and beginner and because it can all be mowed with large power mowers its maintenance is an economical operation. Not only has it preserved the original beauty of the grounds but it has added to their attractiveness.

Industrial Grounds Course Sites

While the Fuller course occupies around 7 acres, flat and rolling lawns of two acres and larger on industrial sites have been converted inexpensively into interesting short golf courses of this type with no sacrifice in the beauty of the lawn as part of the landscape. Although layouts built on extensive level lawns with flat greens and no hazards afford considerable interest, a superior course not requiring a great amount of soil moving and additional expense is made by raising many of the greens above the general lawn level, constructing a few shallow sand traps and gentle mounds, and possibly one or two ponds. To call for greater skill in putting, several of the greens could be rolling.



There always are Fuller Brush employees watching the shots of the more than 200 contestants in the annual hole-in-one competition.

A course designed in this fashion provides interest to all with no abatement in interest as the season progresses. Furthermore, with close clipped elevated greens contrasting with longer cut fairways, with colored flags, white sand traps, balanced plantings of shrubs, perennials and annuals the whole feature can be amazingly beautiful.

When lawns are converted for this purpose the existing water system can often be utilized with only a few alterations. Equipment is already on hand for fairway mowing and if care is taken in construction the lawn turf is more often than not ideal for fairways. This leaves greens to build, their seeding or sodding, the excavation of traps, building of water hazards, if these are included, and purchase of one or two greens mowers, flags, hole cups and tee mats. Once the course is built the existing grounds crew can usually maintain it as is the case with the Fuller course. When technical advice on turf maintenance is needed an arrangement can probably be made with a local golf course superintendent to make periodic visits of inspection. In this regard experience has shown that ideal putting conditions are just as important in short golf as in the longer game.

The question of a clubhouse may arise. While the Fuller Club has an attractive house, more than one course of this type has been opened for play without anything in the clubhouse line at all. In later years this may be added, if it is desired.

In the last few years many short 9- and 18-hole courses floodlit for night play and operated as commercial ventures have been built in various parts of the nation and are proving to be assets to the communities in which they are located. Not only are they of interest to golfers but they are affording many newcomers an opportunity to learn the game and are providing many hours of wholesome pleasure for an increasing number of people old and young.

With the trend toward decentralization of industry and the consequent locating of business houses and factories away from the centers of towns and cities, increasing interest is being shown in golf by company sports directors. Because there is not time at lunch hour or between shifts to participate in the longer game, nor always land and funds available for standard layouts, the inexpensive short course similar to the Fuller Golf Club on limited acreage deserves consideration by sports directors and committees planning recreation programs and facilities for employees.