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**Says Poa Is Nature's Way
of Filling In Weak Spots**

By HENRY MITCHELL

Chemical control of poa annua is again being tried by the experiment stations. Tons of bent seed are still sold each year. Apparently, poa is still classified as a weed by many turf growers. It is, I think, a gift from Mother Nature. Seeding prolifically, it fills in many thin, weak spots in turf.

The most common cause of thin, weak turf is traffic. If the soil is very wet traffic affects it even more. So, it is a popular theory that poa is "caused" by traffic and poor drainage.

Especially on fairways, mowing is our most serious form of traffic. Excessive nitrogen softens plant tissue and reduces the resistance of the grass to traffic. It also increases traffic by increasing the necessity of mowing.

Reduce Organic Content

Nitrogen, lime and water reduce the organic content of the soil. In fact, they

are recommended for this purpose in the compost pile. They feed bacteria and encourage it to use up carbon and simultaneously reduce the oxygen content of the soil air.

When used excessively the resultant low carbon (or organic) content spoils the structure of the soil and the low oxygen content is disastrous to the growth and function of the grass roots. There is a narrow margin between too much and too little of this nitrogen-lime-water combination. When too much is applied poa thrives on the resultant compaction.

Some factors are uncontrollable but much of the poa might disappear if nitrogen applications were reduced. About 30 per cent is forced into our turf by early feeding before temperatures are high enough for the growth of bent and 10 per cent is the result of improper use of mechanical tools.

Southern supts. are reporting the successful use of high nitrogen plus aerification as a means of forcing poa into winter greens (a substitute for overseeding with rye grass.)

Penn State Speaker Sees Big Turf Demands Ahead

By George Van Horn

"Many more demands will be made on turf people in the next 15 years than are being made today," Howard B. Sprague, head of the Penn State agronomy dept., said at the banquet held at the university in conjunction with the 29th Penn turf conference. About 250 persons attended the four-day session.

Sprague said that researchers and supts. are making great contributions to basic knowledge and its practical application in the turf field. He urged those now in turf work to encourage young men with vigor and talent to come into the field to help meet the challenge of the future.

Non-creeping Bent Research

Houston B. Couch, Penn State pathologist, speaking at the opening day session, pointed out that the fruit fungicide, Dyrene, shows great promise in the control of the melting-out in Kentucky bluegrass. It should be applied at rates of 4 and 8 ozs. per 1,000 sq. ft., with the latter rated the most effective. Couch added that Dyrene has been tested only one year at Penn State. Acti-dione Thiram also has proved to be an excellent product in this respect.

Progress in the development of non-creeping bent was described by Albert Dudeck, graduate assistant at the Penn agronomy station. His research has been confined to the inheritance patterns of the creeping habits of Colonial and has been carried out under a USGA fellowship. The European chafer, a brother in crime with the Japanese beetle, was described by Mac A. Campbell, U.S.D.A. plant pest control specialist. The chafer, Campbell said, has occupied New York and West Virginia but hasn't invaded Pennsylvania.

Compaction Report

Walter E. Swartz, a graduate assistant, who has made a series of compaction studies, revealed that as traffic and moisture increase on natural or modified soils, decreases in total pore space, aeration capacity and water movement occur. Albert Hunter, Penn State soil technologist, discussing the value of lime in turf growth, gave several reasons why pH should be kept in the range of 6 to 7. Among them are that it makes plant food more readily available, cuts down on toxic materials and aids the activity of soil microbes. Grasses



Herb A. Waterous, Woodstock, N. Y. (l) and David F. Dobie, North Olmsted, O. (center) get \$100 scholarship certificates from Paul Leix, supt. of Allegheny CC, Pittsburgh, who represents the GCSA. Presentation took place at Penn State turf conference.

in well-limed soils, Hunter said, are more weed resistant and more capable of converting dead plant material into nutrients.

Guest speakers at the conference included C. G. Wilson, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission; Felix Juska, U.S.D.A.; R. T. Miller of du Pont, J. B. Beard, Purdue University; Harry C. Eckhoff, National Golf Fdn.; and Tom Mascaro, West Point Products Corp.

Other speakers representing Penn State were M. A. Farrell, H. B. Musser, F. C. Snyder, C. D. Jeffries, J. C. Harper III, J. R. Bloom, J. M. Duich, B. R. Fleming and L. D. Moore.

Two Sponsors

The turf conference was sponsored by the University's agronomy dept. and the research advisory committee of the local GCSA. J. M. Duich was general chmn.

In addition to the scholarship awards made to David F. Dobie and Herbert A. Waterous (see photo), the Albert E. Cooper Memorial Scholarship, donated by Pocono Turfgrass Assn., was given to Harold J. Reed of Centre Hall, Pa.

More Fun to Dream

At Ft. Myers (Fla.) CC this winter two Ladies Day events have been introduced that other clubs may wish to copy. One is known as an "Accuracy" tournament and the other the "Golfers' Dream" tournament. In the former, the player adds a stroke each time she hits the rough, another for landing in a trap and a third when more than two putts are taken on any green. In the dream event, the player replaces the score of her three worst holes with par figures.

What do you get when you buy a Hand-Shovel Fed ROYER?

By STAN DAVIES

President, Royer Foundry & Machine Co.

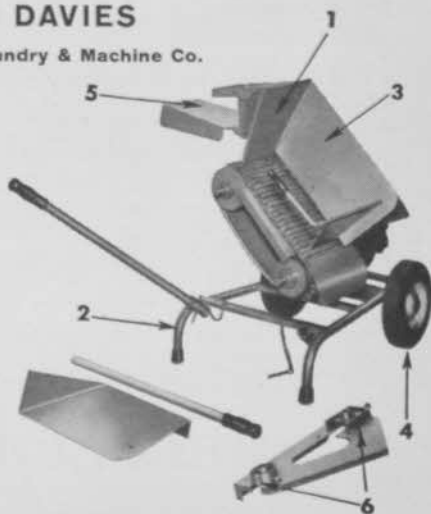
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GWA Richardson Award Goes to Fred Corcoran

Fred J. Corcoran, who makes his home opposite Winged Foot's 15th green in Mamaroneck, N. Y. but usually is traveling in behalf of the International Golf Assn., Ladies PGA and assorted golf interests, has been awarded the William D. Richardson trophy for outstanding contributions to the game by the Golf Writers Assn.

Corcoran got 343 voting points from the writers, over 100 more than Walter Hagen, the runnerup for the trophy, received. Joseph C. Dey, Jr., executive dir. of the USGA, was third in the poll.

A native of Boston, Corcoran has been in the game for more than 40 years. He started out as a caddie at Belmont Springs CC in Boston back around 1918. From 1936 to 1947 he was the PGA tournament manager, increasing the circuit prize money from \$80,000 to more than \$500,000 during that time. Corcoran organized the Ladies PGA in 1948, built up this organization's tournament schedule, and then returned to the PGA tournament bu-

reau from 1950 to 1953 when he again boosted the pro prize take, this time to \$750,000. He also was founder of the Golf Writers Assn., originated the PGA and Ladies PGA Halls of Fame and managed U. S. Ryder Cup teams in 1937 and 1953. Fred has been tournament dir. of the International Golf Assn. for the past several years.

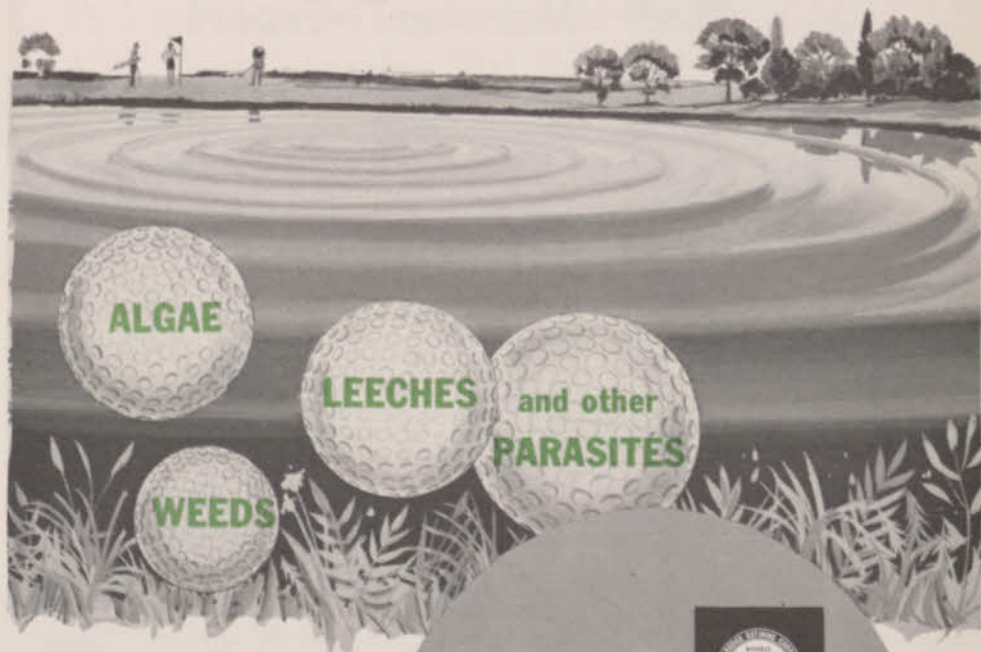
In addition to his golf promotion activities, Corcoran has served as business mgr. for Ted Williams, Sam Snead, Jimmy Demaret, Ben Hogan, Stan Musial and the late Babe Zaharias.

Corcoran joins a dozen others who have received the Richardson Award since it was instituted in 1947. These included Bob Jones, Bob Hudson, Pres. Eisenhower and Patty Berg, who was honored by the writers last year.

Golf Therapy and Ike

A recent news release from the American Medical Assn., discussing the state of President Eisenhower's health (better now than when he entered the White House), states: "He has become the world's Exhibit A of golf's therapeutic value to a cardiac patient."

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Don't Do It Yourself!

Monument or Monster?—Expert Makes Difference

By **GENE O'BRIEN**

Professional, Rolling Hills CC, Wichita, Kans.

MOST golf clubs can be persuaded to spend money to improve their facilities if earnest, informed members with good judgment can sell other members or, at least, the directors on the sound value of the improvements.

But by whose appraisal and under what conditions are the proposed improvements "sound value"?

Alterations to a course or clubhouse may be "monuments" to the foresight of whoever proposed or approved the changes or may be, as is so often the costly case, "monsters that will have to be destroyed after devouring far too much of the members' money.

The monuments — or monsters — can be one or more of many things: a new bunker, a new green, another tee, changes in the clubhouse or pro shop or landscaping alterations.

Progress vs. Criticism

If the changes become monuments to the foresight of their supporters the club progresses. If the monuments turn out to be monsters then the members criticize the board for throwing away money and the bad job has to be corrected.

There shouldn't be many monsters because today there is so much expert advice available through organizations such as the USGA and the National Golf Foundation and many individuals who are validly qualified to advise. I emphasize "validly" because of the great overabundance of people without adequate qualifications to advise golf clubs, especially on course architectural problems.

About the only department of club planning and operation that doesn't have a lot of experts—voluntary or mercenary—is club financing.

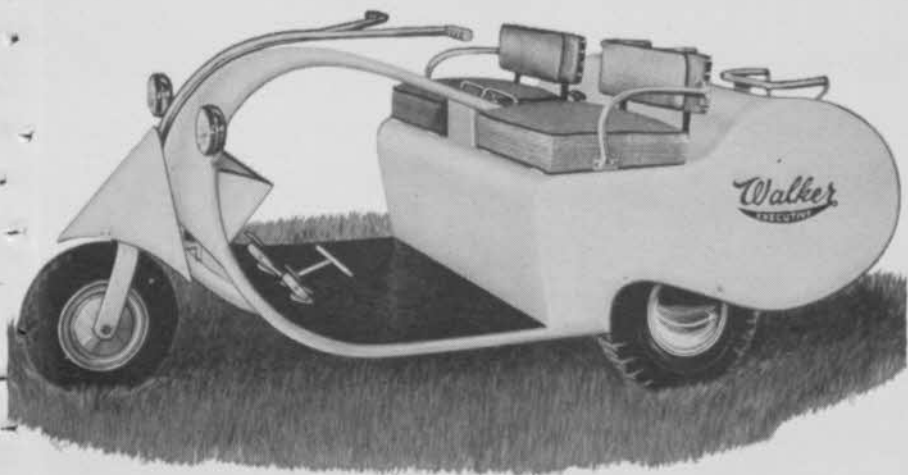
And when you get right down to facts, financing is problem No. 1.

Many Experts Available

When you consider the extent of expert information that is available, why should clubs waste time getting so many monster

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ideas rather than monuments. I know of one club that spent nearly \$100,000 in improving and changing its course without consulting a competent architect.

That club would have been better off if it had given the money to charity. If money of that kind were spent according to the plans and under the supervision of experienced specialists, it would have been a wonderful monument to the men who wanted the course improved. But they took it upon themselves to do the job and made a horrible mess of things.

Another club that I know of called in a capable architect to handle the building of its course and came up with a near perfect example of what an 18-hole layout should be. Everything down to the trees and shrubs were planted upon the advice of a specialist.

Studied Plans Before Building

Most professionals that I know respect the advice of experts in their particular lines. It's either that or go broke. For example: I have a new shop that's less than a year old. Before it was built I worked with the building committee and architect studying about 50 or 60 shop plans. I knew just about what I wanted — but, I'll confess, in an amateur sort of way. I

allowed a nationally known company to design my sales room. It would have been foolish and wasteful if I had attempted the job myself.

What do I now have in the way of a shop?

It is one of the most attractive in this part of the country and it is profitably functional. I get many compliments on it. But the compliments should go to the pros who designed and built it for me.

If you or your club are planning anything that involves spending a large sum of money, for heaven's sake consult the experts. Your ideas and dreams may be very practical and would enhance the beauty, character and operation of your plant, but don't allow them to become the final word. Let the experts have that and you'll become the hero who has built a monument.

There are a lot of inconsistencies in the golf business; maybe more than in others because of the nature of the way in which clubs are operated. I have seen cases where the directors have hired an attorney to fight parking violations, yet supervise the building of new greens, even to telling the supt. how it should be done. This kind of inconsistency can be costly, especially when it is necessary to call in an architect or construction specialist to rectify the mis-