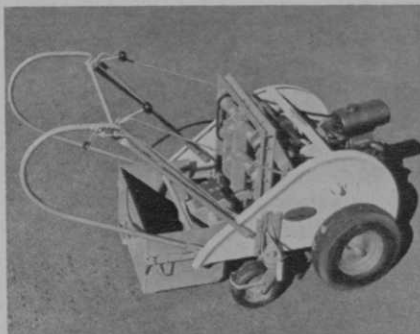


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Como Amateur at the Port St. Lucie CC in Ft. Pierce, Fla., was won by **Paul DesJardins**, 22-year-old Miamian, with **Al Johns** finishing as runnerup.

Tentative dates of July 1-4 for the Western Open golf championship have been announced . . . The Tournament will again be played at Tam O'Shanter in Chicago . . . The Fred Hutchinson Memorial Trophy will be added to Miami's National Baseball Players' Golf Tournament . . . Trophy will be awarded to the major league manager shooting the lowest score in the 72-hole event scheduled for Feb. 18-21.

**Cliff Olinger** is moving from Great Oaks Lodge and Yacht Club, Chesterton, Md. to Caroline CC, Denton, Md., where he will be pro-supt. Olinger has completed 9-holes with fairway irrigation and automatic sprinklers . . . **Edmund B. Ault** was the course architect.

A new trophy, standing 44 in. high, and named the George S. May Memorial Trophy was recently presented to the WGA . . . It will become the WGA cham-

pionship trophy listing all winners of WGA's three events, Western Open, Western Amateur and Western Junior . . . Lookout Mountain GC near Chattanooga, Tenn. is losing pro **Bill Vach** to Golden Gate CC at Golden Gate, Fla. . . **W. C. Richey** of Paducah, Ky. recently shot a 70 at Sligo Park CC, Silver Springs, Md. . . Richey is 71 years old.

**Mike Wyman**, caddymaster at Mountain Ridge CC in West Caldwell, N.J., has been elected president of the recently formed caddymasters organization of New Jersey . . . The group hopes to sponsor weekly and state tourneys . . . At the annual election of officers of New Jersey section of PGA this Fall, **Harry Dee** was named president and **Joe Dante**, honorary president . . . **Ronnie Ward**, associate pro at Atlantic City CC in Northfield, N. J. has moved to Wildwood G & CC in Cape May Court House, N. J. as pro. Assistant pro **George (Skip) Juris, Jr.** will accompany him as associate pro. Ward replaces **Bill Moran** who moves to Shackamaxon GC in Scotch Plains, N. J.

(Continued on page 106)



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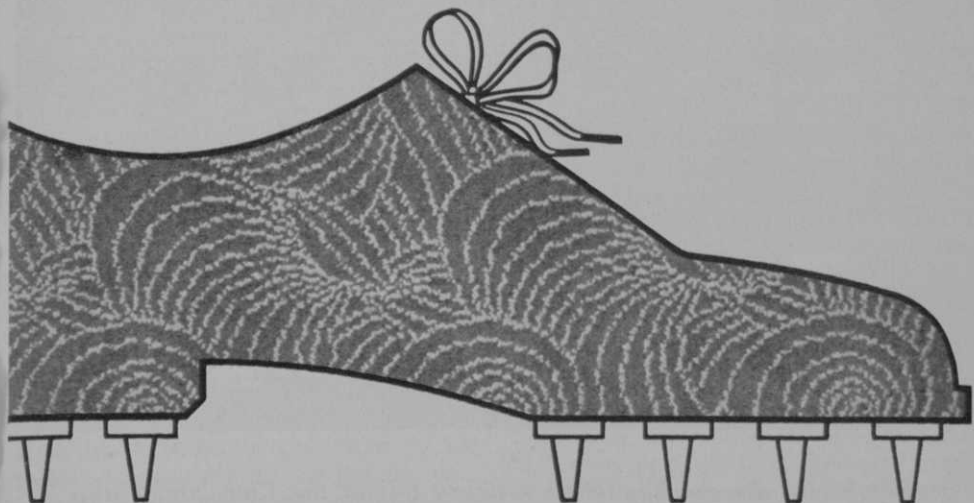
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# GOLFDOM

THE MAGAZINE OF GOLF BUSINESS

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JANUARY • 1965

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## Tree Restoration at Shaker Heights

*Dutch elm disease has taken a heavy toll at the Cleveland club, but Colin Smith's re-forestation program is catching up with it*

By **JOE DOAN**

**A** club that has lost more than 100 of its towering elm trees every year for the last 15 years or so normally would be expected to lose nearly all vestiges of its original or early beauty, but that hasn't happened at Shaker Heights CC in Cleveland, devastated by Dutch elm blight as it has been.

Undoubtedly it's because Colin Smith, who doesn't believe that maintaining a golf course begins and ends with managing turf, is the supt. at Shaker. In the last 10 years or so, Smith planting mainly red and scarlet oak, fir and hard maple with a generous sprinkling of blue spruce, hemlock, hawthorn and crab apple, has replaced nearly all of nearly 2,000 elm trees that have had to be removed following Dutch elm disease attacks.

At first glance, the replacement of thousands of trees on a 144 acre estate where most of the emphasis has had to be on the upkeep of fairways and greens may seem like an insurmountable undertaking. But Smith prepared for it by first establishing a nursery back around 1952, and then waiting for two years before starting to replace the elms which, by this time, were being thoroughly decimated. Thereafter, he set out an average of 200 trees a year, doing most of the work in the fall.

Today, the Shaker Heights nursery contains about 8,000 deciduous trees and about 5,000 fir trees and evergreens. A second nursery serves as a transition area between the main nursery and the course. Trees that are to be transplanted to the course as well as the clubhouse grounds are kept in this area, where the soil is richer, until they are permanently located.



Colin Smith, Shaker Heights supt., points to plaque that is a memorial to E. Miller France who supervised planting of 75 per cent of the trees when the Cleveland club was started.

### Spends \$10,000 A Year

The Shaker Heights re-forestation program has consistently cost from \$7,500 to \$10,000 annually for the last decade.

Colin Smith has been in the course maintenance business for nearly 35 years. The first 15 of these were spent at clubs in Akron and at Sleepy Hollow, which also is located in Cleveland. He came to Shaker Heights at the end of World War II. Like many greenmasters, Colin concedes that until 15, or perhaps 20 years ago, he couldn't see the trees for the golf course. If they hadn't been there, he may never have noticed their absence.

Then he came under the persuasion of the late E. Miller France, one of the older Shaker Heights members, and he had no choice but to develop an awareness of trees. Smith recalls with some wistfulness that soon after he started working at Shaker, Mr. France came to the maintenance building to inform him that his education in arboriculture was about to begin. And it did, slowly perhaps at first, but nevertheless with certainty.

### Supervised Early Planting

Mr. France, it developed, had planted possibly 75 per cent of the trees at the

then 30-year old Shaker Heights club. This included approximately 2,500 elm trees along with numerous other varieties that were set out with studied care to accent the rolling beauty of the Cleveland course. "Mr. France," says Smith, "was a real artist when it came to trees. He produced some arrangements that were simply beautiful. He was very painstaking in the way he planted them. It wasn't unusual for him to have a fairly large tree moved only two or three feet to get the effect he wanted."

### Disease Moved West

There is a memorial near the practice green at Shaker which reads: "To E. Miller France, Dean of Foresters, whose landscape artistry and devotion have endowed these grounds with enduring beauty." The memorial was placed in 1956, about a year after Mr. France died. Since then the club has adopted the practice of setting out trees as memorials to deceased members. One of these has been planted in memory of David Livie, who was the pro at Shaker Heights for many years.

Dutch elm disease got a foothold on the East coast in the early '30s and in-



Only low-lying shrubs and dwarf fir trees are planted in shelter areas at Shaker so that shelter houses aren't hidden from view.

vaded the Cleveland area around the end of World War II. Within five or six years it was evident that the elms at Shaker Heights had been extremely hard hit. It was then that Colin Smith established the tree nurseries.

Red and scarlet oaks, hard maple and fir trees have been used most extensively in replacing the elms that have had to be removed. Blue spruce, hemlock, hawthorn, crab apple and Lombardy poplars have been planted where beauty or perhaps utility have dictated that they be used. When quick and temporary cover is wanted, Smith sets in willows and soft maples. The Shaker Heights supt., however, describes the latter varieties as being nothing better than weeds and pulls them out as soon as he can arrange to make permanent plantings.

#### Call in Consultant

The most important consideration in tree planting, Smith says, is to make sure that the roots have proper drainage in all directions. Trunks of deciduous saplings, or whips as they are sometimes called, are wrapped in paper which is kept on for about one year. When dead trees are cut down and stumps removed, it is advisable to build up the cavities in a chocolate drop effect to allow for eventual sinkage of the fill.

When a planting or restoration program is undertaken, time and money will be

saved and poor planning avoided by calling in tree specialists, such as from the Davey Tree Service Co., according to Smith. After a few months of observing and working with an outside crew, planting, irrigation, pruning and similar operations usually can be handled by the club's maintenance department. A competent arborist can be just as valuable a consultant as an agronomist, Smith adds.

There are many theories as to how the large scale planting of trees should be carried out. Balance, a predominant theme, harmony with the way in which a course is graded and wide use of bays and points should be the main considerations in tree layout, according to arborists. At Shaker Heights plantings have been made with the thought in mind that when the trees reach maturity, the taller ones will be seen in continuous lines, broken by clumps of low lying trees. The pro shop, which is located some distance from the clubhouse, and the maintenance building are centered in islands of trees. Shelters are surrounded by evergreens and low-growing firs so that they aren't hidden from view.

#### Point Toward Greens

In at least two or three spots, Smith has contrived to top fairway trees so that they give the illusion of pointing toward

*(Continued on page 96)*



Small taxus plants that line the bank of a tee minimize erosion and give an unusual scenic effect.





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## 36TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

# *Supts. Return to Cleveland for the Third Time*

The GCSA will take its international turf show and conference to Cleveland for the third time, Feb. 7-12. Previous national conventions were held in the Ohio metropolis in 1936 and 1946. The Hotel Sheraton is headquarters for this year's show.

Attendance at the coming gathering is expected to eclipse that of 1964 when a record 2,750 supts., agronomists and manufacturers' representatives registered for the 35th annual show in Philadelphia. Show space, which extends to 33,000 square feet, was sold out several months ago. Exhibitors will occupy 143 booths, 14 more than in 1964.

Malcolm E. McLaren, supt. of Oakwood Club, Cleveland, and John J. Spodnik, supt. of Westfield CC, LeRoy, O., are co-chairmen of the conference which will have as its general theme, "Looking Backward but Moving Forward." More than 40 speakers will take part in the educational program, details of which appear below:

### **Monday, February 8 Morning Session**

Invocation; Welcome to Cleveland

(Ralph Locher, Mayor) and to Ohio (James A. Rhodes, Governor). Response: David S. Moote, president of GCSA. Key-note address: Malcolm E. McLaren, supt. Oakwood Club, Cleveland Heights, O.

The Club — A Center for Family Recreation: James Tuckersby, president of Cleveland chapter CMAA.

Golf — A Booming Business: Warren Cantrell, president, PGA.

How to Unwind Before You Wind Up: Dr. Floyd Corbin, lecturer-humorist.

### **Afternoon Session**

Theme: Self Improvement.

Selling Your Officials on You (Speaker to be announced).

Practical and Educational Training — A Necessity: Stephen L. Frazier, supt., Woodland CC, Carmel, Ind.

Good Public Relations — A Must: Fred Bove, supt., Brentwood CC, Los Angeles, Calif.

How the Supt. Looks to the Members (humorous but educational skit): James L. Holmes, USGA, Paul Weiss, actor and producer, Sherwood Moore and Dave Miller, actors.

You Are Worth More (with slides):



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Education sessions at convention are scheduled to be held in the Sheraton's grand ballroom.

Tom Mascaro, president, West Point Products Corp.

**Tuesday, February 9**

Manufacturers' exhibits open at 9 a.m.

**Golfdom Luncheon**

For the eighth consecutive year, Joe and Herb Craffis, Golfdom's publisher and editor, will be hosts to supt. fathers and sons and sons-in-law at a luncheon at the GCSA convention. Officials and directors of the supts.' organization also have been invited to attend the affair. The luncheon will be held in the Empire Room of the Sheraton Hotel on Wednesday, Feb. 10.

**Afternoon Session**

Theme: Development In Turfgrass Research.

Section 1—North and East: Dr. W. H. Daniel, Purdue U., chairman.

Section 2—South and West: James B. Moncrief, USGA Green Section, chairman.

**Wednesday, February 10**

Entire day will be devoted to business and membership meetings. GSCA officers and directors will be elected in the afternoon.

**Thursday, February 11**

**Morning Session**

Theme: A Complete Irrigation System — A Panacea without Trouble?

A Water Shortage — How Soon?: John Shrunck, irrigation consultant.

Good Watering Practices: Harry McSloy, supt., Wilmington (Del.) CC.

Panel on Automation: Donald E. Wright, supt., Camargo Club, Cincinnati, O.; Thomas E. Topp, supt., Bellvue CC, Syracuse, N.Y.; and Walter Boysen, supt., Sequoyah CC, Oakland, Calif.

Watering Requirements in Relation to Cultural Practices and Climatic Conditions: Ralph E. Engel, Rutgers U.

**Afternoon Session**

Theme: Keep On The Grass.

Panel: My Experience from Student to Assistant to Supt. — D. Frank Dobie,

*(Continued on page 92)*

Conference officials suggest early registration as record crowd is expected in Cleveland.

