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A leading turf expert stated recently, "Now that the quality of turf developed from commercial Penncross seed seems to be deteriorating (production fields appear to be left down too long) turf men are looking to the old standard stolons."

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- "Genetic Variability in Creeping Bent" A study of seed versus stolons for planting putting greens.

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Superintendent

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trogen and magnesium. The light treatments are certainly having an effect, but it is too early to evaluate fertilizer effects.

Tifdwarf and Tifgreen—Observations were made of the Tifdwarf and Tifgreen plantings. Early indications of the Tifdwarf show a distinct difference in color from Tifgreen. It has some different growth habits and preliminary indications are that it may not tolerate as much top dressing as Tifgreen.

St. Augustine Breeding and Selection Studies—Wayne Allen is continuing his work with St. Augustinegrass. A visit was made to the plots he is working with. Wayne gave an explanation of the cytological and genetical work being carried on with the various types of St. Augustinegrass. Also, extensive screening work is underway in an effort to select strains showing resistance to Brownpatch disease.



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Turf heating—The area was visited where the turf heating experiments are being conducted. Results of last year's trials have been published in Progress Report 2360. Copies of this are available and may be obtained by writing the Agricultural Information Office, of Texas A&M University.

The new turf analytical laboratory was also visited during the tour. In connection with this, the soil studies being conducted by Cecil Brooks were observed. He is running studies on various soil mixtures for turf and the resultant effects on gas relations in the soil. The particular gases being measured are oxygen and carbon dioxide.

Time permitted a stop at only one of the herbicide trials. The one visited was for control of Dallisgrass in a Bermuda fairway. Results were noted for varying rates of DSMA, AMA, CAMA, and cacodylic acid. These were applied both with and without a wetting agent. The trials this year demonstrated the wetting agent to have a beneficial effect.

The afternoon session was spent in the Memorial Student Center reviewing results of turf research previously conducted and not shown on the tour. The outline, with speakers, follows: A. Studies with various types of golf shoes on turf—Dr. Ferguson; B. First year results on turf heating experiments—Bill McCune; C. Results of miscellaneous turf experiments—Dr. McBee; D. St. Augustinegrass studies—Wayne Allen; E. Results of preemerge herbicide experiments with turf—Dickie Duble; F. Fertilizer studies on St. Augustine grass. Shade studies on turf—Dr. Holt.



7 New Public Courses for L.A. County

The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation has acquired or developed seven public golf courses by fiscal sleight-of-hand in a single package deal.

It has been done with virtually few precious, already over-extended tax dollars spent to date and without bonds or elections. The courses are being made available to the public now and not in some distant future.

"By acquiring these courses now we are able to save taxpayers an indeterminate but substantial sum of money," Norman S. Johnson, director of County Parks and Recreation, told Golfdom. "If we were to wait for available tax revenues, say 10 years from now, land costs could double or triple."

Johnson points out that his department, like so many similar agencies across the nation, is frustrated by what he calls "N.S.F. for V.I.P.'s—non-sufficient

funds for very important projects."

Los Angeles County is adding 188,000 residents annually and the growing demand for space has resulted in higher land prices. The county's golf playing public is looking more and more to the parks department to protect its recreation interests. Single and corporate private course owners are recognizing the investment potential of converting their valuable real estate to other ventures.

One of several solutions considered was outright purchase of existing privately owned courses before their conversion to business or residential developments resulted in loss to the playing public.

Ultimately, thanks to a bill signed in 1949 by then Governor Earl Warren permitting retirement associations to invest a maximum of 25 per cent of existing retirement funds in public works, a solution was found. Continued on next page

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CONTACT:

A. F. Eisenman, Golf Pro Sales Division, 2318 60th Street, Kenosha, Wisconsin Under California law, projects financed by retirement associations become their property. The associations in turn lease them back for a period of years to the public agency which operates them. This agency retains the option of gaining title anytime prior to or at the conclusion of the lease-term agreement.

Public works financed by the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA) had included county administrative buildings, the

county jail, and other facilities.

Upon the park department's recommendation, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors authorized negotiations with LACERA for outright purchase by the association of two existing private courses and sites of five planned golf courses, and subsequent early development of these latter facilities.

This approach became even more novel when private enterprise was invited to compete with LACERA for these

projects.

Under the lease-purchase agreement finally negotiated, the retirement association purchased the two existing courses some time ago, and more recently, five future sites. The county immediately leased back these seven parcels for 4½ per cent of the acquisition cost. Each course is leased to the county separately.

After construction on each new course gets underway, the lease rental is readjusted each six months to 4% per cent of the retirement association's mean investment to date. When completed, this

percentage figure is the base rental fee for the total project based upon a term of 20 years or longer, or whichever term has been determined by the Board of Supervisors.

The first two facilities acquired by the association were the Knollwood CC in San Fernando Valley and Western Avenue Golf Course in southwest Los Angeles. Since acquisition, Western Avenue has become the most heavily used known course in the country with nearly

144,000 rounds played annually.

Of the five planned courses, two are now open to the public. First to be finished was the Los Verdes Golf Course on a peacock-green promontory jutting into the Pacific Ocean at the tip of Palos Verdes Peninsula. Opened in December, 1964, was Diamond Bar Golf Course. Diamond Bar is the key recreation facility in the center of a mushrooming 8,000-acre planned community in eastern San Gabriel Valley.

In the planning stage are Victoria Golf Course, which will serve central and southwest Los Angeles County; Marshall Canyon Golf Course, located in the foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountains; and Los Amigos Golf Course, a pleasure font for players southeast of Los An-

Diamond Bar and Los Verdes already are playing to near capacity, a clear indication of the great demand for new courses by the playing public.

Perhaps the L. A. solution, or a similarly ingenious financing system, could work for other park agencies in supplying critically needed recreation facilities.

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AMF/Hogan Award to John Martino

The second annual AMF/Ben Hogan Master Salesman Award, given by the Fort Worth-based golf equipment manufacturer to one of its district sales managers, has been won by John A. Martino of Beverly, Mass., on the basis of points scored in 10 categories. Twenty-one Hogan Company salesmen competed.

The Master Salesman Award consists of a plaque containing a gold plated No. 1 iron engraved with the winner's name. A \$500 cash prize and a week's allexpense paid vacation to the Bahamas also go to the winner and his wife.

Additionally, the recipient automatically receives the Chairman's Key Salesman Award given by AMF Board Chairman Carter L. Burgess to the individual judged most outstanding in each sales force of the AMF organization.



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HERB GRAFFIS

Continued from page 28

should be closed to play and car traffic." Emil Beck, pro at Black River CC, Port Huron, Mich., and the PGA official who developed the association's Business School plan, has designed a course that will be built for B. J. Ver Hoven of Detroit . . . Beck will supervise con-

struction . .

Edgewater GC, some 10 miles from Chicago's Loop, members voted 207 to 73 to sell the club's 94 acres for \$7,600,-000 . . . New owners plan to take over in November, 1966, and build apartments on the site . . . Last year Edgewater members were offered a trade for Tam o' Shanter CC, owned by estate of the late George S. May . . . Tam o' Shanter in Chicago northwest suburb of Niles sold early this year for \$3,200,000 . . . Niles Park Board has filed a condemnation suit because of Tam's owners planning to reduce the course to nine holes and locate industrial buildings on the rest of the site . . . Park Board hopes to

retain 18 holes and pay for property with revenue bonds . . . Talk about Chicago buying the Edgewater site and converting it into a park.

Doug Jabaay, supt., Cross Creek CC, Naperville, Ill., now editor Midwest Assn. of Golf Course Supt. "Bull Sheet," succeeding Ted Woehrle, Beverly CC supt., who resigned after four years as the publication's editor . . . Ted made the Bull Sheet a working tool for midwest supts. as well as a bright periodical of association gossip . . . Typical of Woehrle's practical handling was an item on John Coutre, supt., Itasca (Ill.) CC, suspecting his water supply was the source of considerable turf difficulty . . . Water analysis confirmed John's hunch and purification treatment settled the problem . . . Along with this case history Woehrle ran a technical piece by A. H. Smith on removal of caronate salts in water and soil.

American Medical Assn. News brags (with good reason) that Jean Ashley, 1955 USGA Women's Amateur champion, is daughter of G. L. Ashley, MD,

Continued on next page

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HERB GRAFFIS

Continued from page 127 Chanute, Ks. . . Jean is a protege of Mike Murra, veteran Kansas pro who also developed Marilynn Smith into champion status . . . Joe Sarro, for 15 years at Southampton (L. I., N. Y.) CC now is pro at Beden's Brook Club, recently opened near Princeton, N. J.

Ray Didier and his son "Buzz" are a father and son team of supts. who've done very well on their own . . . Ray was supt. at the late George S. May's Tam o' Shanter back when he had to work out techniques for handling heavy play and big crowds at the worst possible time of the golf turf year . . . The job almost killed Ray and a heart attack sidelined him for a while . . . Now the Didiers have their own course "Village Green CC" at Mundelein, Ill. . . . It's going fine . . . They've got Don (Jack) Smith, formerly supt. Calumet CC (Chicago dist.) as supt. . . . Buzz is doing the construction jobs . . . He'd finished the new holes for Northmoor CC, building several greens at Butterfield and Silver Lake, also in the Chicago district,

and is building a par-3 nine for O'Hare Inn near Chicago's airport similar to the great par-3 he built at the Flying Carpet motel in the airport area.

Open Cedar Rock GC 18 near Lenoir, N. C. . . . Talk about building 36-maybe -72-at Van Nuys, Calif., airport. . . . Costa Mesa, Calif., to build 27-hole muny course . . . Lytton Savings and Loan Assn. to build 18 at Cucamonga, Calif. . . . Kansas City (Mo.) Park board building 18 at Minor Park . . . Open Lake Anne CC nine near Monroe, N. Y. . . . Al Tull designed it . . . Marvin Greene owns it.

Two 18-hole courses, one 6,800 vds. and the other slightly shorter than 6,000 yds., both lighted, will be built as Golden Eagle CC at Inver Grove Heights, in Minnesota Twin Cities area . . . Cleadis Schlief of Schlieff's Little City heads the project . . . Open River Valley CC nine at Westfield, Pa. . . . Hugo A. Forster building par-3 nine at San Clemente, Calif. . . . Dr. Sidney Wexler heads group building Leawood CC at Lexington, Mo. . . . Open Husum Hills GC at Bingen, Wash.





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Course superintendent honored by pros

Gene Comely, Firestone C. C. crew presented scroll signed by field in American Classic.

Greens superintendents are usually regarded as "the enemy" by tournament golfers. But Gene Comely of Akron's Firestone C.C. is an exception.

During the 1965 American Golf Classic, Comely was presented a large poster signed by all entrants thanking him for the fine condition of the course.

There are many reasons why Firestone, annual site of the Classic and World Series and next year the PGA, is a favorite with tournament players. Comely is one of the reasons.

Writers at the Classic were amazed at the pros' voluntary testimonial and unable to recall a similar incident anywhere on the tour.

The presentation was the idea of Jay Hebert, who suggested it to PGA press secretary Doc Giffin.

Doc had Hebert's sentiments lettered on a five-foot high cardboard poster:

"To the Firestone Country Club Ground Crew:

"We want you to know how we

appreciate the marvelous condition in which you have the golf course for us in this tournament. It is obvious that you and your crew worked many long hours and days in bringing the course to such peak condition and we want you and your men to know how much we appreciate it. Thanks so much for making at least that part of our week here in Akron so enjoyable."

The poster was signed with colorful magic markers by about 100 of the tournament participants. It now hangs in the Firestone clubhouse where members can see what the world's most critical audience thinks of their course and ground crew.

"I've complained enough about courses I didn't like. I thought it was time to do something about the ones I do like," said Hebert. And he said it after a disappointing round of 78.

Firestone members play all year under the same conditions the pros enjoy at Continued on page 132

Fairway Mowing-Rough Control-Leaf Mulching



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