TAXES

Continued from page 30

had legislation passed to protect the recreation areas. Other states have not gotten wise to the fact that when a golf course is strangled with taxes, and has to cease to exist, that the property valuations all around it gradually decline to a point of less return than from the immediate gain derived by taxing the course out of existence.

Man is a wasteful creature. I don't mean to imply here that tax spenders are wasters: I wish to point your attention to the one unreplaceable resource, *land*. Too few states have laws prohibiting suburbs, shopping centers, and industry from building on Class I agricultural lands. California has such a law. Too late we are going to find ourselves running out of good food producing land. Some who know would tell you that time is *now*! Most agricultural surpluses have disappeared from the market. Seldom is first class land used in building a golf course.

Look at it another way. In many cases like ours, the golf course is built on lands that would not support one cow per 10 acres. Today these same lands have been developed to such a high degree of agriculture through good turf management that, to use the phrase loosely, they now support 1,000 golfers per acre annually.

Why, I ask you, should the bluegrass on our fairways be taxed ten times higher than the horse pasture across the fence? We are only trying to harvest dollars from our land the same as the farmer. Is the higher tax the penalty we pay for keeping it so attractive? No, it is the penalty we pay because we have not made enough noise to demand that we both be taxed on the same basis: Agricultural and not Commercial!

Commercial lands can never be returned to food production if the need should ever arise. On the other hand our golf courses will be better lands if ever needed on the food front. I would never permit someone to starve to death just because I would not plow up my golf course to produce for him a crust

Continued on page 72

Tom Savone (right) has been using "Tersan" 75 and "Semesan" on the greens at the Fenway Golf Club since 1926. His son, Tony, (left), after successfully completing a course in turf management practices, is now assistant superintendent at the same club.

AT FENWAY GOLF CLUB,
White Plains, Westchester County, New York
Supt. TOM SAVONE says:

"Tersan® 75 and Semesan® is tops for prevention of turf diseases. As soon as I spray this combination for dollar spot, the disease disappears. It's also best for the prevention of large brown patch or snow mold."

Golf course superintendents throughout the country know from experience that they can rely on Du Pont "Tersan" 75 thiram turf fungicide and "Semesan" turf fungicide for an effective preventive disease program. "Tersan" 75 may be used in combination with "Semesan" for broader, more effective control of major turf diseases and greater safety to turf. Or you can spray "Tersan" OM. This package combination offers the disease prevention features of "Tersan" 75, plus the curative advantages of "Semesan". "Tersan" OM has a large safety factor under all conditions...gives long-term residual protection.

For full information on dependable Du Pont Turf Products, consult your golf course supplier...your service agency.

With any chemical, follow labeling instructions and warnings carefully.

DU PONT
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

Better Things for Better Living...*through Chemistry*

For more information, circle number 207 on card.

STILL THE BEST GLOVES AFTER 18 HOLES

... the Continental and the Eagle statite by Champion

NEW CONTINENTAL (above left)
Top grade Italian Cabaretta Capeskin. Sewn with flat seam on both front and back. Elastic cuff with snap tab (which also serves as ball marker) and embroidered Continental emblem add to stylish appearance.

EAGLE STATITE (above right)
Made from the absolute finest quality leather. Only a select number of Champion's most experienced craftsmen are permitted to work on this glove. Includes popular alstik back. Both the new Continental and the Eagle Statite are available in an array of golf fashion colors: white, black, red, bone and brown. In a complete range of sizes for both men and women.

Write now for new illustrated literature and price list.

Champion GLOVE MFG. CO.
2200 E. OVID, DES MOINES, IOWA

For more information, circle number 220 on card.

From hickory to matched sets

The precision clubs of today are a far cry from the "Whistlers" of the '20s, but Wilson has seen it all—since 1914.

By JOE DOAN

Some 40 years ago it wasn't uncommon for professionals to laboriously drill holes in the heads of their clubs and inject from ⅛ to ½ of an ounce of lead into the orifices. Their offer to do the same for some of their favored members was often rejected with a curt "No, thanks, I didn't put $65 into my clubs to have you ruin them with that crazy fad."

Leading clubs in those days were looked upon by many as a combination of superstition, tinkering and plain damn foolishness. Most pros who did it or believed in it couldn't give any rational explanation for adding more weight to the clubhead. Their only defense was that "it gives you more clubhead feel." Science was with those 1920s era pros, but they didn't know it.

Ninety per cent of the club shafts were hickory in those days. Cumbersome carbon steel shafts, which had been introduced in the early '20s, were regarded with suspicion not only because they were new but too often they bent or broke. Some companies made clubs (Whistlers) with holes in the shaft because they thought golfers would be infatuated by the sound effects. Unwittingly, the manufacturers who produced the Whistlers probably gave golfers better balanced clubs than they ever had before. The holes resulted in improved weight distribution between the shaft and clubhead, which had always been too light in relation to the overall weight of the club.

"Golfers of the '20s were playing with pretty horrible weapons," is the way Joe Wolfe, national golf director for Wilson Sporting Goods Co., looks at that comparatively primitive era. "To shoot

Continued on next page

"Ogg-mented" irons, above, patented by Willie Ogg, left, in 1933, moved weight away from heel toward "sweet spot," a design principle still used by manufacturers in making irons.

HICKORY TO MATCHED

Continued from previous page

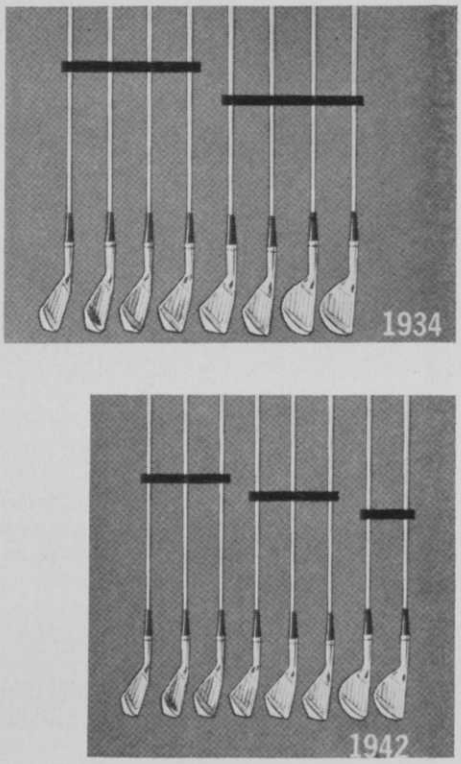
289 as Jim Barnes did in the 1921 Open, and 288 as Gene Sarazen did in the Open of the following year is somewhat unbelievable in view of the equipment they had to use."

In 1930, though, clubmaking made its great leap forward, passing from its Stone Age to its Steel Age in what amounted to about one year. The onset of the Depression may have had much to do with it since golf manufacturing companies suddenly realized that if they were to stay in business they had to give the customer a lot more in the way of clubs than he had been given before. The changeover from the 1929 to 1930 models was radical. Practically every company came out in the latter year with woods and irons that were vastly improved over what had been produced before.

Wilson was lucky to have as its head design consultant the late Willie Ogg, a Scot expatriate. Ogg is remembered as having been a fairly good tournament player, a fine home pro and a course architect. What is overlooked, according to Joe Wolfe, is that he may have been the first of the great club designers.

Ogg understood fully what is meant by clubhead feel. To achieve it, he realized that the whole concept of balance and weight distribution had to be re-examined and the club, particularly the iron, rebuilt from the tip of the grip to the sole. He started by re-designing the clubhead, taking the weight away from the heel or hosel area and moving it toward the center of the club. This was done by flanging the once flat-back iron and shifting the "sweet spot" toward the middle of the blade. Ogg also improved the 1930 model woods by improving their shafts and striving for better balance between clubhead and shaft. Fancy inserts in the face of the woods, which had been introduced in the '20s and were a great source of annoyance because they constantly popped out, were dropped in 1930. In Wolfe's opinion, the principles of club construction that have been followed for the last 35 years were developed by relative-

Continued on page 38



Up to 1934, identical shafts were used for all clubs in same set, despite fact all clubheads within any set become progressively heavier. To compensate for this difference in clubhead weights, Wilson club designers, recognizing need for each club in set to have same "feel," were first to use two different shaft flexes in same set, in 1934. Flexible shafts were used in lighter and longer clubs, stiffer shafts in heavier and shorter clubs. In 1942, Wilson introduced three variations of flex action in same set. In 1947, four variations in the same set were introduced.

HICKORY TO MATCHED

Continued from page 36

ly unsung Willie Ogg.

The introduction of alloy steel for shafts at this time proved to be a great boon to the golf industry. But clubmakers in general were undecided as to where the flex point should be. It wasn't until 1934 that the flex in the No. 6 through the 9 in Wilson irons was dropped below that of the No. 2 through 5 iron to compensate for the difference in weight among the various clubheads. Wilson later stepped down the flex point on its higher irons on two occasions.

Joe Wolfe started with Wilson in 1936. One of his first jobs was the menial and hazardous task of shrinking celluloid sheaths onto shafts by the hot water method, and then sanding them. He worked with a fire extinguisher only a few feet away.

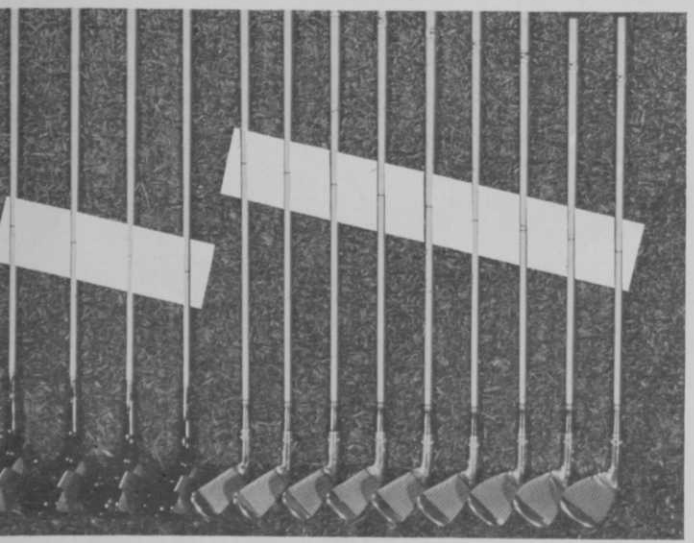
Thereafter, he graduated to expediter and then moved up to supervisor, foreman, assistant superintendent and finally designer, proving that people did come up the hard way. Soon after the end of World War II, Wolfe was put on detached service to attend the needs and whims of Snead, Middlecoff, Maxwell, Boros and other Wilson staff pros and when the occasion called for it, offer them a shoulder to cry on.

Between 1938 and the beginning of World War II, club design and manufacturing continued to improve, but not as explosively as it had between 1930 and 1934. Chrome shafts came in and the necessity for sheathing went out. Persimmon became pretty much the standard material for fashioning wood heads. Clubhead weight was distributed better than it had been before through improved flanging and by cutting down on the diameter of the hosel. Experiments which eventually led to grip depth being reduced from 17 to 13 inches, to cut down shaft weight, were carried on. Composition grips were introduced to augment the heavier leather grips.

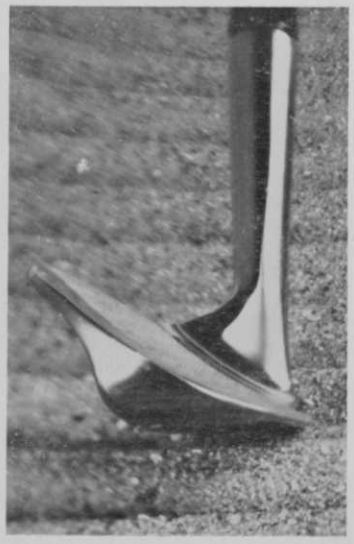
In 1941, Wilson went to strata-bloc construction of its woods, using laminations of maple, but the new type clubs didn't reach the market until after the war. Only 1,500 sets were manufactured by the company that year and all were conscripted by the Army.

Following the war, manufacturers

Continued on page 84



In 1961, Wilson brought out this perfectly matched set of clubs. As the weight of each clubhead increased, flex action of each shaft was engineered to compensate for the change in weight between the clubheads.



Possibly first sand iron made, the "Bomber" was introduced by Wilson in 1930. Note the wide, heavy sole that made "explosion" shot possible. Concave clubface helped golfers scoop ball from traps. Later made illegal.

Do two jobs at once. Mix water-soluble AGRI-TONE Plant Food and your fungicide to reduce your time on the greens and still get controlled growth and disease protection. AGRI-TONE Plant Foods are compatible with all popular fungicides. When you have your spray rig out, feed, too! It's ideal when play is heavy—doesn't affect playing conditions.

AGRICO offers two grades to fit your maintenance program. AGRI-TONE 28-7-14 is in the low-phosphorus 4-1-2 ratio. It's great for frequent, light feedings of summer greens. Keeps them in top color and playing condition. AGRI-TONE 20-20-20 is the logical choice where more phosphorus and potash are needed.

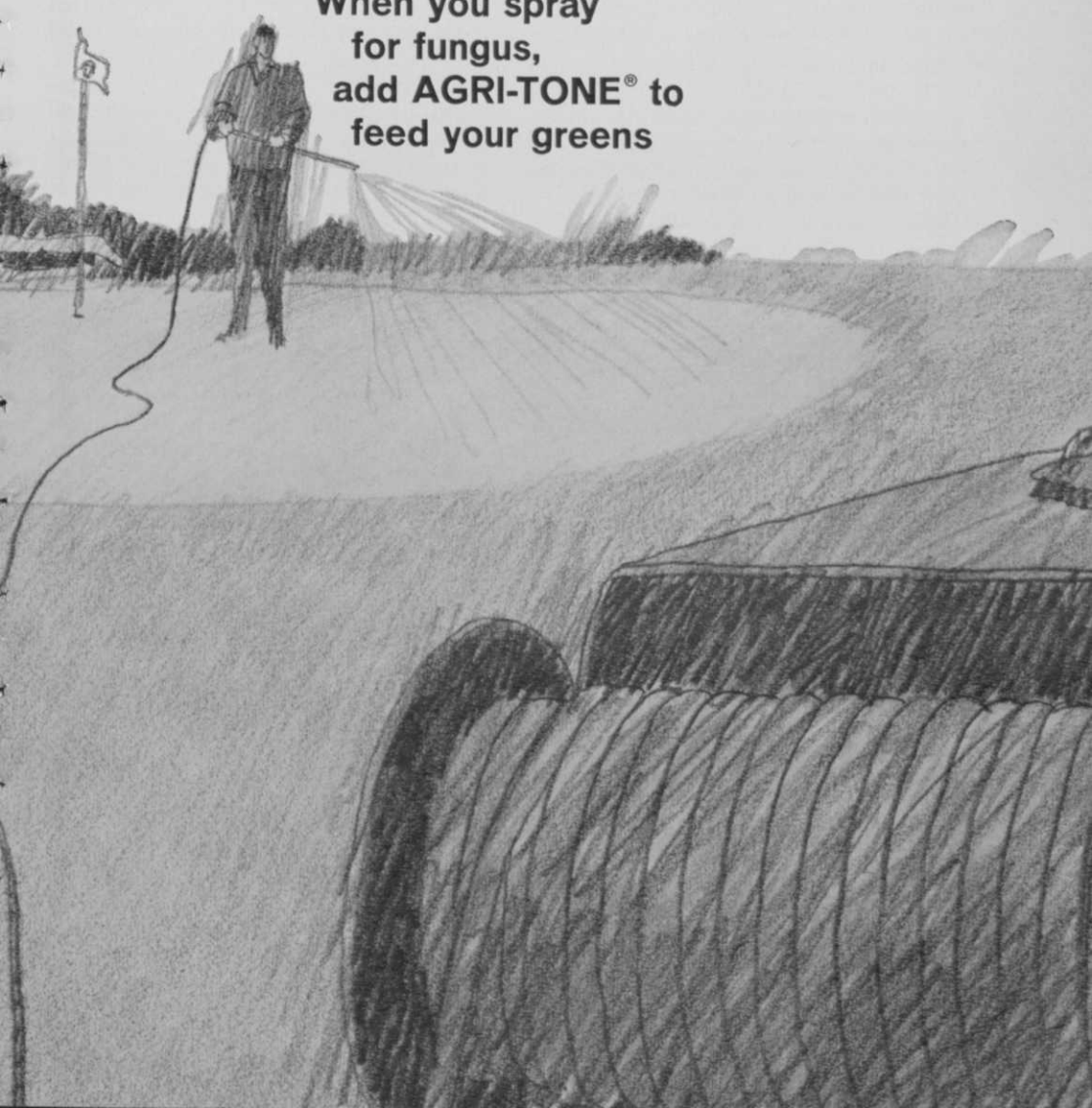
Both AGRI-TONE Water-Soluble Plant Foods are low in acidity, keep harmful salt accumulations to a minimum and are completely soluble in cold water. You'll find AGRI-TONE the easy way to keep greens thrifty all summer long.

For AGRI-TONE or an AGRICO Turf Feeding Program, call your AGRICO Representative. Or write: AGRICO Chemical Company, Division of CONTINENTAL OIL COMPANY, Memphis, Tennessee 38118. AGRICO Fertilizers are also available in Canada.

AGRICO®
The Nation's Leading Fertilizer

COUNTRY CLUB FERTILIZERS

When you spray for fungus, add AGRI-TONE® to feed your greens



Smooth greens on the Gulf

Although the cool, wet Spring has led to some disease problems, most courses boast fine, very puttable greens.

By VERNE FLOYD

Photos by the author

From Pensacola to Port Arthur, the early May golf play was heavy and the Bermuda was rapidly taking over all greens in the area. Traffic on greens during this period when the winter grass disappears would seemingly make a rough putting surface. However, the even and certain growth of Bermuda keeps the surface smooth and the courses in this Gulf Coast section accommodate thousands of golfers during Spring.

While visiting some of the men who manage courses in the area, we find a variety of maintenance procedures. In each course, one practice was about the same—early to work.

Andy Mortimer, a native Scot with a southern drawl keeps the course in shape at beautiful Lakewood CC at Point Clear on Mobile Bay. Mortimer, past president of the Southern Turfgrass Association, loves his job at Lakewood and makes no bones about it.

Andy seems well satisfied with the success of T-328 Bermudagrass on his greens, but is keeping an eye on Tifdwarf. He said that rather than testing Tifdwarf on one of his regular playing greens, he will first try it on a test plot, to see if it meets with the approval of the club. He noted that Tifdwarf putts quite differently from T-328.

Andy Mortimer, Supt. at Lakewood CC, Alabama, is keeping an eye on Tifdwarf.

Construction is underway at Lakewood on nine new holes, which will make 27. Frank Batto is supervising construction for Joe Lee, architect. Mortimer does not envy Batto his job there, because the new nine will be carved out of low-lying woods and trying to get good drainage in this area will create many problems.

Another Lakewood Country Club, this one at New Orleans, built a new course six years ago after leaving the old layout across the river. Reese Coltrane, superintendent at both places over a period of 32 years, has dealt with below-sea-level land and come up with a fine course where the New Orleans Open is played each year. The greens and fairways are in T-328 Bermuda. Coltrane likes 328 as a fairway grass and mows it every other day.

A problem we saw on some courses in the low-lying New Orleans area was keeping a uniform surface on fairways. The soil is silty and high in organic matter and if you allow it to dry out it tends to crack, with depressions a couple of inches deep forming over large areas of the fairways. However, if the soil is kept moist all the time, this problem can be controlled. Around New Orleans, disease can occur—especially in cool, wet Springs such as this.