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TIPS FROM A SUPERINTENDENT



"How I prepared the course for the Western Open"

BY TED WOEHRLE,

Superintendent, Beverly CC, Chicago, Illinois, site of the 1967 Western Open, tells about the special preparations needed for the big tournament.





July, 1966

I knew full well that the Western Open was coming to Beverly in one short year. Working with the grounds committee, we felt a drastic renovation of the fairways on the front nine was needed. At this time we decided to get rid of the *Poa annua* that had given us problems for thirty years. We engaged a Purdue professor, Dr. Bill Daniel, to consult with us regarding a vegetation killer.

Creeping bentgrass

We discovered that once most of the *Poa annua* had been destroyed, the bent-grass grew in dramatically, filling in from what had been a 5% portion up to nearly 85% of the total grass. A carefully planned program of watering assisted greatly in this job. Our cast iron pipe irrigation system performed with complete satisfaction.

Spring, 1967

By this time, everything looked healthy. The weather was cooperating, the grass was growing in beautifully. We were proceeding nicely on schedule. And then...

Disaster!

A tornado smashed through the south side of Chicago, destroying property throughout Oak Lawn, Evergreen Park and Beverly CC. Thirty-one huge oak trees were torn out by the roots. The entire pro shop, cart house, caddie house and other structures were flattened. A half-mile of fence was also damaged.

The long haul back

All our efforts were put into removing debris, repairing damage to greens, tees and trees. Seven large trees were used to replace those lost. With maintenance procedures and fertilizer schedules interrupted, we were now a full 3 weeks behind our *normal* schedule! Bringing in extra crews, new construction was begun on the destroyed buildings, the fence was repaired, and things began to get back into shape.

Summer—the homestretch

With the weather at last cooperating, we began to put the finishing touches on the grounds; edging and power raking the sand traps, daily mowing of greens to the suggested height, keeping the rough trimmed until a week before the tournament began, and more.

The equipment

In the middle of July, the WGA van arrived with the equipment. Some five miles of rope, 2000 stakes, leader board signs, telephone equipment, direction signs, snow fence. Much of this had to be cleaned and painted by our staff.

One week to go

The stakes were down, the rope was strung; TV, telephone and electrical cable has been placed in the ground and in trenches. We handled this ourselves. Over 5000 feet of TV cable was placed in the ground to accommodate the 11 cameras required for the color coverage. Stands had to be erected, plus portable toilets; trunk routes had to be mapped.

Water system

Our decision to install cast iron pipe for our water system has paid off. With the traffic conditions our course undergoes during a tournament like the Western Open, pipe that can handle excessive external load is a must. Also, during any kind of reworking, the ease with which the system can be tapped and altered makes it a real saving.

The big day—August 3

Two major breakdowns kept us up all night the last night—the clutch on our only dump truck, and the 100 hp irrigation motor. I'm proud to say that despite our problems, we've been able to keep the course open to members right up to the Day. We'll have our hands full this week, keeping the grounds in repair. And once the tournament is over, we'll have to correct the damage done by the trucks, the crowds; the trenches will have to be filled, the practice tee will need reseeding. But within a week to ten days, we should be almost back to normal. Almost.

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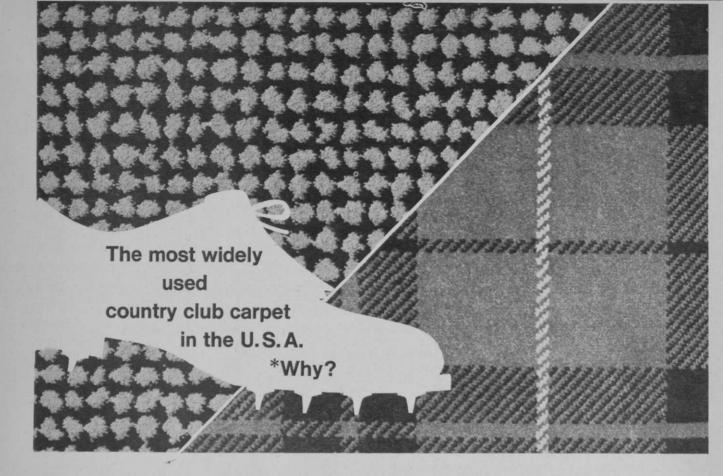
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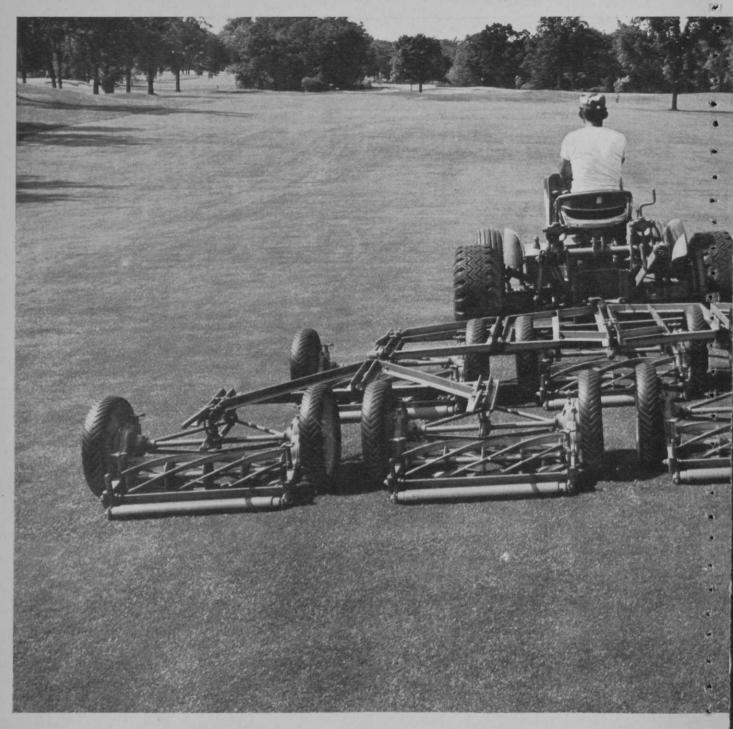
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Why our gang mows

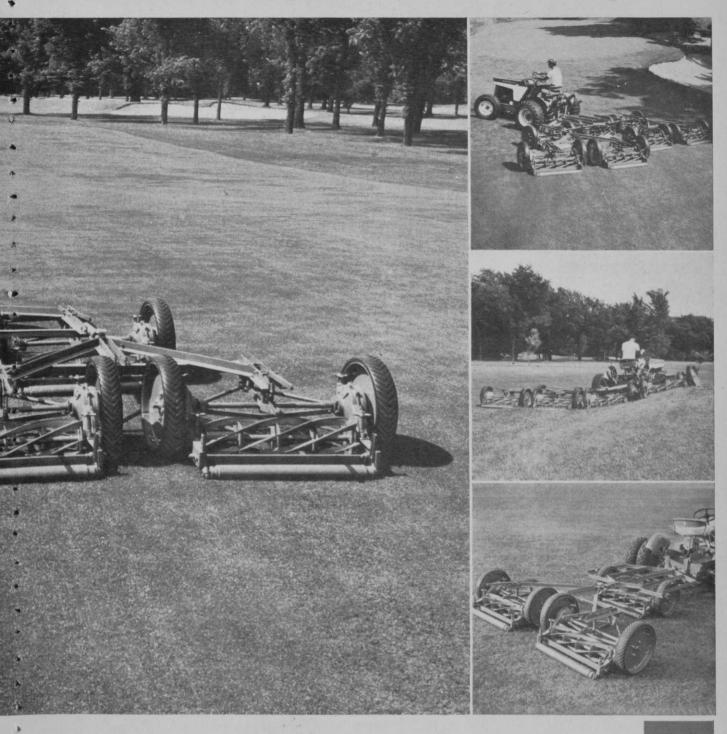


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Swinging around golf

by Herb Graffis

A bright spot will be missing at

major golf tournaments now that

Charley Bartlett is gone . . . Pres-

ence of the very able, beloved golf

writer of the Chicago Tribune, made

a tournament a major affair . . .

I had the great luck to know Charley

as a very warm friend and an admi-

rable fellow worker in golf since

he began covering the game in 1931

... In all that time I never heard

him say an unkind word about any-

body . . . With his ability, his con-

sideration and his immense memory

and knowledge of golf he was most

valuable to his colleagues; the vet-

erans and the youngsters, alike . . .

He was versatile in sports coverage,

a keen observer and a writer whose

stories took you with him . . . His

service as secretary of the Golf

Writers' Association since its found-

ing in 1946, and as its treasurer un-

til two years ago, was immeasurably

valuable to the golf writers, their

readers and the players . . . His box

score gave significant detail of a

difficult game to cover and involved

much work which he faithfully

did . . . In score by strokes Charley

wasn't a good golfer but in scor-

ing as a human he was one of the

very greatest . . . He will be cheer-

fully at home in the Green Pastures.

golf business in many districts this

year, say optimists who survived the bad days of 1967 . . . In parts

of New England last spring and

summer, there were 11 consecutive

weekends of rain . . . Fee course

revenue in wet areas was off 40 per

cent . . . You can imagine what hap-

pened to pro shop sales and sales

of modern irrigation equipment . . .

With weather being the main factor

in pro shop, restaurant, bar and

pay-play ticket sales at golf clubs.

it's strange there isn't much record-

Weather is bound to be better for



ing and study of the effect of weather on golf business revenue. There is, however, a lot of record-keeping and study concerning rainfall and temperature effect in course maintenence work.

There have been shocking surprises on taxes demanded by the government on checks and other gifts given to pros at their ''retirement parties." . . . There have been pained vowls from famous athletes who've had to pay taxes on automobiles, belts, etc., awarded them . . . Reminds me that some years ago Tommy Armour spent plenty trying to get Washington to give pro athletes a break on the order of the depletion allowance given oil and other natural resource companies ... PGA, pro baseball and football player organizations were deaf and dumb when it was suggested that they go along and work with tax experts and favorably inclined Washington people Tommy and Stell Armour knew well . . . Now the big thing in management of athletes is ducking taxes like real rich men.

Looking at golf in the old-fashioned way when the biggest man was the one who put the most in: Chick Evans has been sick and in bed for weeks after returning to his home in Chicago from the international senior amateur tournament at Colorado Springs . . . Chick played 11 consecutive days in 5,980 ft. altitude . . . At 77, he couldn't take it.

Somehow when we hear the belly-aching about three-putting (including our own) and lousy greens and changing the rules for players with early starting times we happen to think of Charley Boswell, who again won the Blind Golfers Association annual championship . . . Boswell shot 108-101 at Edgemont GC, Media, Pa., to win by one stroke from Claude Pattemore, five-time Canadian blind champion . . . Boswell has won the U.S. title umpteen times . . . He was blinded in the Battle of the Bulge.

Women's Western GA decision to drop Women's Western Open from the WWGA calendar could be a tip to manufacturers who have girl pros on their staffs and who have a lot to gain from development of women's golf . . . The Ladies PGA could use a lot of the same sort of advice and support it got from leading manufacturers in the days when the organization was new.

Randy Smith and wife have bought Oakville CC, Sterling, Ill., from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hartman and are improving the course . . . John Marschall, assistant to Jack Bell at Medinah (Ill.) GC for two years moved up to the boss job when the personable Bell resigned to go in another business . . . There's talk about a PGA memorial award in appreciation of the services to the association and its members of the late Warren Cantrell . . . Cantrell's judgment, foresight and courage during the difficult years of his presidency straightened out the PGA National Golf Club and course deal.

continued on page 12

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