

THE GREENSKEEPER

by Edgar A. Guest

He's on the job at break of day and when the stars
come out,
There's always trouble on the course for him to fret
about,
He starts the gang to work at dawn and follows
them around
Then listens to committeemen whose wisdom is
profound,
They talk of "bents" and "Fescues" in a way that
makes him squirm
For they acquire much knowledge in one brief
official term.
His task is one that calls for tact, for lacking that it
means
Next year there will be another man brought on to
keep the greens.
The members seldom know his name, or have a
smile for him,
They only wonder why it is the course is not in
trim,
They only rave and rage and rant while hunting for
a ball
And wonder why the greensman hasn't cut the
rough this fall,
And when they find a cuppy lie or footprints in a
trap
"The course is in rotten shape!" declares each
gloomy chap.
And yet my hat is off to him, when winter
intervenes,
I want to pay my tribute to the man who keeps the
greens.
He's on the job from dawn to dusk, a million pests
to fight,
Tis' his to see that every green is watered well at
night.
The weeds attack his finest work, the drought
destroys his grass,
The rain beats down the tender shoots, but still the
players pass
And still they play the game they love, a happy
golfing clan
Who never stop to count the odds against a single
man.
And so I wave my hand to him, who toils in sturdy
jeans,
The best old friend all golfers have - the man who
keeps the greens

BEST WISHES

The officers and directors wish the
members, advertisers and readers a Joyous Holiday
Season and a Happy New year!

GOLF COURSES LAND USE AND SACRED COWS

The following article was given as a talk to
the top club owners and managers at the annual
meeting of the Nation Club Association held in
London. These are highlights from the talk given
by the Editorial Director of Golf magazine, John
Fry.

The title of his talk was "Golf & Ecology: A
Responsibility and Opportunity for America's
Country Clubs." The remarks were made to owners
and managers but they apply to us as well, if
maybe not more in some ways.

Although the amount of land in the actual
hands of golf clubs is not particularly large
compared to the Redwood forests of California or
the great Southwest desert, many of these courses
are priceless islands of turf, trees and animal life
in the midst of, or standing in the way of, what up
until recently we have liked to call progress. One
golf course in a suburb of Westchester or Chicago
or Los Angeles can be infinitely more valuable than
20,000 acres of Forever Wilderness land, not only
in dollar terms, but more important, in terms of
thousands of people affected by the use of that
land.

There is, of course, great pressure to sell
bearing down on many private clubs and
commercially-operated semi-private and public
courses. Adding to these pressures is the mounting
tax load on many clubs. Suddenly a community
wakes up to the fact that the pleasant expanse of
green in its midst, that was the country club has
been sold off to the developers of an industrial
park or of mass housing. But the public
officialdom, which failed originally to see the long
range value of such green belt areas, is too
bankrupt to buy up a natural resource which it
helped to tax out of existence.

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Each of us as citizen and golfer has a
responsibility for the wise use of the land around
us. We especially have a responsibility - unique
trust - when we own that land. Until you change
your thinking about land so that it no longer
merely is a capital item on your club's book, a
business transaction on the way to some future
land speculation - you don't deserve to receive, let
alone ask for, favorable tax treatment from the rest
of the non-golfing public.

What is needed is to change the attitudes of
our members particularly the governing bodies of
clubs. And when they have adopted new attitudes -
new values about the ecology of golf course land -
they can become crusaders in the communities in