

My Chairman is My Best Friend

By ERICH W. PAHL

Greenkeeper Interlachen Country Club, Hopkins, Minn.

I FIRST got my start in golf course work during the summer of 1911 when Interlachen was first started here, working on maintenance and general construction at that time.

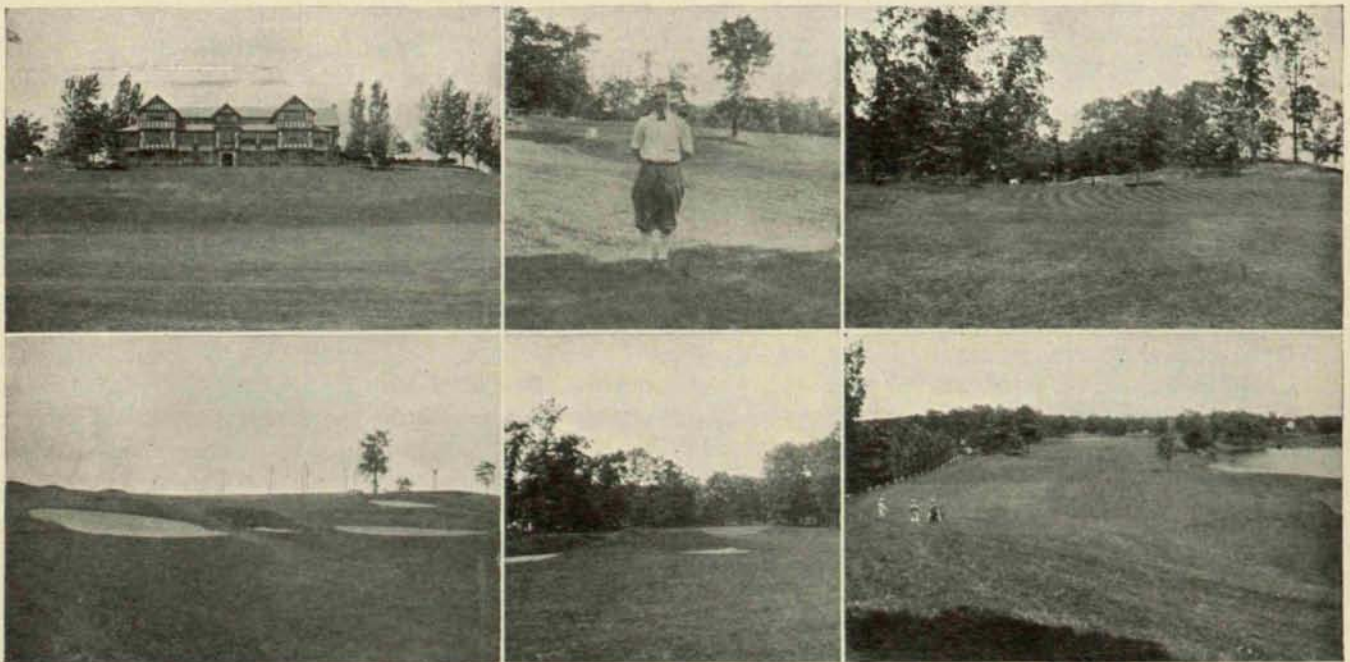
After three seasons of that, the club purchased an Austin power mower for the fairways and I was picked to run it. The following year after unfair treatment from the new greenkeeper, I went to work in a boiler shop at the Thresher works here, working up to boiler-maker. Then the war came on and I went into the service. Returning from France I again went to boiler-making. After a little more than a year of that, I decided to leave that work on account of the noise. I again tried to get work at Interlachen and was informed that the club was purchasing a Toro mowing machine (then first coming on the market) and that as soon as it was certain to go through, I could have the job running it. I started the next week doing mower repairing and general mechanical work for a couple of days until the new machine was delivered. After three years of that I was finally selected for greenkeeper when a change was decided upon by the chairman. Knowing something of the difficulties they had had and no co-operation on the part of the greenkeeper, when thinking back I can not blame the chairman. We still have the same chairman, and

I want to say here and now that I have never worked under a better man.

With a very little knowledge of greenkeeping, I was promised his assistance at any and all times when needed and he has always been willing to co-operate in every way and to the satisfaction of everyone. Together, we have been doing, I think, splendid work. Being a lover of trees, there have been about 600 planted on the course during his term with more to be planted when funds are available.

Thus far, I have always been able to come out ahead on my budget and during reconstruction have always been able to save money by doing things a little different, getting the same if not better results with less money. My first construction job was to make a practice course out of a swamp near the clubhouse. It had been tiled the winter previous. We first took up about 1600 yards of good peat, stored it in one pile to use in top dressing fairways and have obtained wonderful results thus far. My next was to rebuild our number 4 green which was planted to stolons of Washington Bent, having started a nursery the year before.

Had considerable hard luck with the bent, as having heavy rains right after planting washed it out three different times before we got a stand of grass. I started



Views of the Interlachen Country Club, Hopkins, Minnesota. Upper left, club house practice green in foreground; upper center, Erich W. Pahl, greenkeeper; upper right, Number 16 green; lower left, bunkers guarding No. 13 green; lower center, bunkers guarding approach to Number 8 green; lower right, 479-yard Number 1 hole taken from club house

cutting that close as soon as there was anything to cut, and will say we have a wonderful green there now with excellent turf. Our soil being heavy yellow clay, we scouted around the country to find suitable soil and finally found a real sandy loam, which we hauled with trucks and put about 7 inches on each green before sodding. We raised a sod nursery of bent and year before last reconstructed six greens and sodded with bent sod, replanting the nursery for the following year's work on greens. Last year we rebuilt five greens and have six left to do this year, then we will have 18 bent greens. Have twelve now and they are all coming fine. Our number 15 was about two-thirds killed out with snow mold this spring, and we tried seeding the spots with very poor results. We decided to re-sod the part killed out as we had plenty of bent sod left in our nursery.

Our nursery covers approximately 43000 square feet. After this year we will maintain about enough for 2 greens in case we need it.

Have had a lot of help out of the Green Section bulletins and feel that The National Greenkeeper is going

to give as much if not more help. Find the various articles very interesting and helpful and think that Mr. Morley was on the right track when he started the National Association.

I have a crew of 14 men divided as follows: One man cutting fairways which we cut three times a week; one man cutting rough and general hauling; two men for night watering for fairways and greens; six men for cutting greens, tees, etc. Each man has three greens and tees to take care of and also taking care of trimming bunkers on those fairways; one man to take care of the nursery; one man to rake bunkers; one man for the garden, which is under my care this year, and one man for all around work.

Have started a system of maintenance costs this year to keep an account of the different classes of work.

Greenkeeping is truly a great game and I intend to follow it up. I find it very interesting as there is plenty to think about. The main thing is co-operation of the chairman and greenkeeper and I have been very well treated in that respect. If we had more chairmen like ours we would have better golf courses.

Sand Greens in South Dakota

By LE ROY JOHNSON

Greenkeeper Yankton Golf and Country Club, Yankton,
South Dakota.

ALTHOUGH we do not have grass greens, we meet up with some questions of maintenance that I believe are greater problems than any of the greenkeepers of eastern clubs have to contend with.

We are beyond the belt of good bent and other good grasses for fairway turf. We have seasons of no rain, and we have no watering facilities for the course. If we had a medium to average rainfall, or water, we could maintain a good turf, but without either, let any greenkeeper "try and do it."

We have sand greens, and would like to hear from those who have a success or a near-success with them. I am having better luck with my greens at present than I did last year. Our greens get so hard it is impossible to putt a well directed ball, but I have recently been commended by our club president on the condition of the greens.

Our greens are constructed of clay and sand, just enough sand to keep them smooth, and enough oil to keep the clay soft and yet firm. I use oil from automobile crank cases, a fifty-two gallon barrel to each green. I put the oil on the clay after leveling out the marks and rough spots, then put the sand on with a

shovel and spread it with a float I constructed myself.

Spreading Sand with Wooden Float

This float is a piece of 2 x 2, cut 4½ feet long, bolted to a handle in the form of a T. I made a bevel cut on the lower edge of the handle, about forty-five degrees, so as to get a good smooth floating surface.

I start directly at the cup and around, then I cross the green from cup out to the side. Then I finish from the cup out in a circle. When the job is finished the green looks like a plastered surface.

I use oil every time the green gets a good washing rain, as the oil seems to disappear into the ground after a heavy rain or during a hot dry spell. The worst time we have with sand greens is late in the fall when the frost starts, and early in the spring when it begins to work out of the ground. The greens have a tendency to sweat and heave, get terribly soft from the oil, and no amount of rolling does any good.

I would certainly like to read something written by a greenkeeper who has made a study and a success of the maintenance of sand greens, but I do want to say that I enjoy the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER, and hope to get some more good advice on turf culture.