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VOLUME I.

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Wilshire Votes for Bent

By ROBERT S. GREENFIELD, Superintendent
Wilshire Country Club, Los Angeles, California

IN 1920 when I enjoyed the good fortune to become connected with Wilshire Country Club as superintendent, local data of what was suitable as regards turf for Southern California conditions, was decidedly lacking.

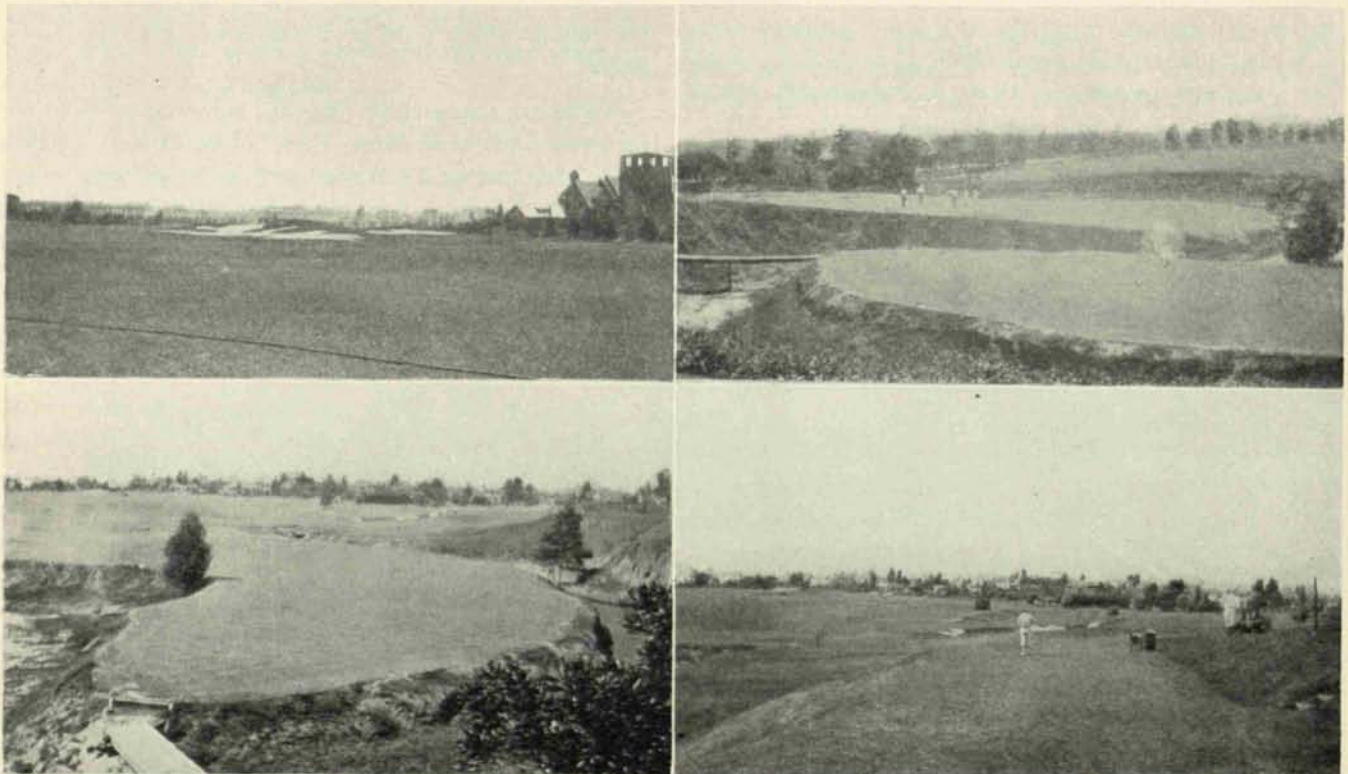
We had up to that time fair results from the popular green mixtures, though these mixtures were made up by eastern seed houses not fully acquainted with our climate and soil conditions.

We decided to buy only straight varieties of seed, and

put in our own mixture of Chewings fescue, redtop and blue grass, and following the advice of the United States Green Section as regards care and feeding we have enjoyed excellent results.

Bermuda for the Fairways

Bermuda grass having been used for fairways by all clubs at that time with good results, Wilshire did likewise, and though this grass is extremely difficult to keep out of the greens, I'm still an advocate of Bermuda un-



Views of Wilshire Country Club, Los Angeles. Upper left, sand trap replacing old pot bunker; upper right, number 16, a 560-yard hole; lower left, 410-yard number 18, and lower right, number 10, 155 yards

less the soil conditions are favorable for the less hardy grasses.

During the last two years bent has become very popular in Southern California, and among the local greenkeepers is something of a "bone of contention" regarding the mixtures of the various strains.

Seeding Bent on Established Greens

At Wilshire after considerable experiment we decided on "Cocoos" strain as our choice owing to the fact that seed is available and also that the seed will germinate quite highly in established turf. The last was the deciding factor as the greens were too good to be torn up.

Wilshire greens are free from Bermuda, but the cost of never ending weeding, and annoyances to the players of having men on the greens all day made it necessary for us to try for greens with a thicker, more compact turf having a tendency to keep out weeds and undesirable grasses. So far the results are most encouraging.

Pot Bunkers Changed to Sand Mounds

Styles of courses have changed much since Wilshire was constructed. We enjoyed or suffered from the old style pot bunkers, but having a heavy adobe soil, drainage was very difficult and often impossible and the usual troubles developed during the winter rains.

We are fortunate in being a "close-in" club, so close in fact that the city has grown all around us, so by scouting around we were able to get free dirt from various building excavations and have filled in our pot bunkers above water level, making some very attractive sand mounds at nominal cost.

The usual troubles of the Eastern greenkeepers are ours also; brown-patch, worms, grubs, etc., which we try to combat with standard remedies with average fair results.

Maintenance is rather a big item out here with the necessity for nine or ten months' irrigation, but we are gradually bringing costs down. The introduction of creeping bent is, I believe, the biggest single advance in greenkeeping during the last ten years.

Do You Grow Mushrooms?

By JOHN McNAMARA, First Vice President
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NOW that the brown-patch fungus season is about over for another year, I thought it would interest the readers to tell them of a better flavored and much more profitable fungus called 'mushroom.'

In past years, when tractors and machinery had not replaced horses, and manure was thrown or given away, I used to supply not only the club but the members as well with this table delicacy, but now that manure is at a premium I have given up this practice as

the club at which I am employed does not have a riding stable.

There are many clubs that still maintain a stable and the greenkeepers of these clubs can fill in some of their spare time during the winter months by growing mushrooms. It is a very interesting occupation. Any barn or cellar where the temperature ranges between 50 and 60 degrees is suitable. Although the mushroom is a variety of fungus it will not thrive in an unclean place, therefore it is of vital necessity to keep the barn or cellar whitewashed and clean.

This is a good month to start preparing the compost for your bed, and in the snowy months you will reap the benefit of your labor.

The picture of the mushroom bed was taken in the cellar of my house at the Pittsburgh Field Club in February. A time exposure and cellar lights with a small box camera produced it. It gives you a faint idea of the crop and you can see that there are plenty of mushrooms in the bed.

If the compost is mixed on the outside and transferred when ready to be put in the beds, you will find that it does not carry any objectionable odors, either in the house or barn.



Mushrooms growing in Mr. McNamara's house cellar.