

# Saving Money on Reconstruction

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A GOLF course is never finished. No matter how ideally planned or how perfectly builded it may be in the beginning, like the sands of the desert it is constantly being shifted. A new tee is built here, a bunker or two there, a fairway may be narrowed or made wider. These changes are being made every year but occasionally there comes the need of a more radical change such as a new green or two with of course new fairways, tees and bunkers.

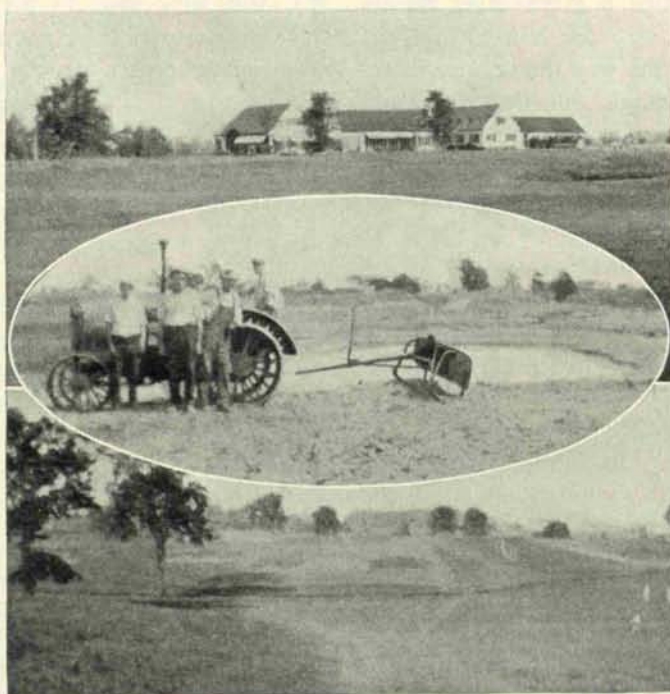
No doubt a large percentage of greenkeepers have been confronted with the problem of several changes to be made on the course with only a limited amount of funds for the work. This was our experience two years ago when the board of governors and Green committee decided it would be necessary for three holes to be changed.

## **Making Changes Along With Regular Work**

After going over the project very thoroughly we made an estimate on the cost of building two new greens and three fairways. At their next meeting they decided they could not afford to make the change at one time. The Green committee and I made them a proposition of allowing us \$1000.00 more a year on our budget and we would do what we could at odd times along with our other work until the changes were completed. This they consented to with the result that in two years' time we have nearly completed the changes which would originally have cost \$8000.00 for only \$2000.00 more than our annual allowance for the upkeep of the course.

Here is how we managed to do the work at this low cost. As the fairways which we had to build were across a swampy rough, the first work we did was to dig our ditches through this in the fall after the season's work was finished and labor was cheap. This was accomplished the first fall with the help of but three men.

In the spring we purchased a Schaefer Fresno which can be operated by the man on the tractor. With this



*Upper, number 18 with clubhouse in background; oval, grading around lake; lower, showing bunkers around number 2 green, Flint Country Club, Flint, Michigan*

outfit we did nearly all of the grading. We were very fortunate, however, in having a large hill beside the swamp where we were building our fairways so we had plenty of filling dirt handy.

## **Novel Way to Build Water Hazard**

At the end of first year we had the greens finished and seeded to stolons and a fair start on the fairways, but a water-hazard was to be built where there was nothing but soft, mucky ground making dredging an almost impossibility under ordinary conditions. So in January when the ground was frozen solid we hired a steam shovel on which

was attached a clam shell. With this we excavated a hole 200 feet long by 80 feet wide and 5 feet deep, and of an irregular shape. This pit quickly filled with water, for it was below the level of a large lake nearby, yet we had nothing but a mudhole which was anything but ornamental.

To overcome this we purchased enough second hand cypress lumber to lay a double floor on the ice which formed on the lake after it was filled with water, laying one floor lengthwise, and the other crosswise and nailing the two together. Around the edge we placed boards five feet long nailing one end to the platform and letting the other end stick up over the banks. Then we covered the platform with about 18 inches of gravel. When the ice thawed in the spring it all sank, making a nice gravel bottom for our lake.

After we had finished the grading around the lake and the ground had dried out during the summer so we could get in with trucks we hauled gravel and dumped it over the boards around the edges thus making a gravel bank all around the lake. We did not seed within 5 feet of the lake, leaving a gravel walk all around which makes a very pleasing appearance. The dirt from the lake helped out in filling and top-dressing our fair-

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ways. The work is nearly completed and the new holes will be ready to play on next summer.

Of course this can only be accomplished by the help and co-operation of the Green committee and the kind consideration of the players in overlooking an un-raked bunker or a rough that has become a little long, understanding that we did not intentionally neglect any of our regular work of keeping up the course.

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## *Clippings and Bags*

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the removal and disposition of clippings in the above manner is now a daily operation, the men taking the same interest in it as they do in keeping their greens in shape.

"Clippings and Burlap Bags" is not much to write about, but using them as we do here on a course in its second year, surely saves a lot of time and does a lot of good.

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## *Chat With President*

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avoid penalties in his play through knowledge of certain rules, and definitions necessary to avoid complaints.

WE are all born into the world debtors to the past, and during our lives to our friends whose companionship has helped us develop character and give us ideals.

GUY C. WEST, Fall River, Mass., says, "The ability on the part of a greenkeeper to read and observe intelligently, knowing when to adapt someone else's experience to his own use will advance him materially." I personally agree with him.

CULTURED people are kind, thoughtful, deliberate. They think of the future, plan carefully, and in life prepare for the ultimate needs of their family at death. In a word they seek protection. For the sake of your family and for your own sake join the Death Benefit Fund of our association, which furnishes you with protection at cost.

IN the great rush to get somewhere, men are prone to lose sight of the moral trend of modern life. The common excuse is lack of time.

IF you are interested in the care of trees on your course, read Mr. C. M. Scherer's articles which appear in our magazine. Mr. Scherer is principal of the Davey Institute of Tree Surgery, Kent, Ohio.

Say you saw the ad in *The National Greenkeeper*

WILLIAM BROWN, Trumbull Country Club, Warren, Ohio has had a hard struggle to get the clover out of his putting greens. I suggested to this club that they would get a nice batch of clover when they allowed the architect to use too much vegetable fertilizer. By the way, William was not twenty-one years old when he took charge of this 18-hole course.

BE yourself, be sincere. If you are sincere you will attract friends of a like nature.

"VEGETATIVE PLANTING" by Lyman Carrier, an article which appeared in our last issue was very interesting. If you have not read it do so. If you have, read it over again.

THE world does not owe you a living. You owe the world a useful life.

IF you desire more news in THE NATIONAL GREEN-KEEPER you can help by sending to the Editor your own experiences and pictures. At the same time it will encourage her, knowing that you appreciate her endeavors.

GET a new member, and watch us grow.

### **Tile Drainage For Golf Courses Is A Permanent Investment Insures Good Turf**

**Hancock Vitrified Tile is Everlasting**

*Write for Drainage Bulletin*

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### **Customer's Chemist Proves FAIRWAY Best!**



"The Chief Chemist has made a test of Fairway Water Hose and says it is the finest piece of hose he has ever seen, and is recommending its use in all departments and has requested Purchasing Department to buy the hose when in the market."

**THE REPUBLIC RUBBER CO.**  
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