

"Water will always find its own level," said Mr. Sheldin, "and all drainage ditches, before laying tile, should be tested for high spots with a good flow of water." Mr. Sheldin advised turning a hose into the ditch, watching to see that the water flows freely the whole length. "After you have found the level of your drain," Mr. Sheldin went on, "then start to lay the tile at that outlet and follow back. If there are any laterals to lay these should be dug before the main line of tile is laid. I use sewer tile for connections."

Mr. Sheldin had considerable trouble in the early days at the Country Club, as original lines were laid with ordinary farm drain tile, but for twenty-five years the sewer tile he installed to replace it has done the work with practically no repair.

"Sand traps should be constructed with a view to economy of upkeep," said Mr. Sheldin, "and natural lines should be followed wherever possible." Tile should be laid at least eighteen inches below the surface of the trap, and covered with first a good layer of coarse cinders, and then a layer of fine cinders on top, trench filled to level and tamped. "This depth is safer in this locality," said Mr. Sheldin, "as the frost will gradually raise the tile each winter a little closer to the surface."

"Few sand traps have sufficient sand placed in them to justify the use of the word 'sand,'" said Mr. Sheldin. "I use four or five inches, and three inches on the surface is a small allowance."

The construction of sand traps was discussed at length, to the effect that in general traps should have many of the high spots taken out of the surface and placed on the face. This, it was acknowledged, would not be relished by all the playing members, but wherever possible it should be done in order to reduce the cost of maintaining the trap.

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### What We Hear From Detroit

THE Entertainment committees for the annual convention, appointed from the membership of the Detroit District Greenkeepers' Association are working overtime just now completing arrangements to welcome National Association members and their wives during convention week. William Smith of Red Run, chairman of the Men's committee is ably seconded by Mrs. Smith, who is setting the wheels rolling to entertain the women. It is a close family corporation of good-will, ability and energy.

At the Detroit Golf Club, Alex McPherson finished sodding eighteen greens to bent this past fall, which is some cutting up and laying down.

One of the new courses contemplated for the outlying Detroit district will be a nine-hole course on Put-in-Bay Island. This is being sponsored by Mayor T. B. Alexander, and financed by residents of the island. We understand the first tee will be under the shadow of the famous Perry memorial.

### Mowers and Mower Service at Pennsylvania

AT a recent meeting of the Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents held at the Green Valley Country Club, the matter of mowing equipment came in for considerable discussion. Quality and design, durability and service given by various makers were talked of at length.

It was decided to hold an annual elective meeting of the association in February, and submit a list of the newly elected officers to the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER for publication.

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### Arkansas Valley Greenkeepers at Detroit

SEVERAL members of the new Arkansas Valley Association of Greenkeepers will be present at the convention, according to late advice from Chester Mendenhall, Wichita, president.

The temporary organization will be made permanent at an elective meeting to be held February 16, at which final arrangements will be made to send a delegation of members to Detroit for convention week. This news is particularly interesting to all National Association members. Snappy action, such as is being shown by a group of greenkeepers who were for the most part unacquainted with each other three months ago is a thing for all greenkeepers to think over.

### Keeping the Greens Open in Winter

By JOHN McNAMARA, First Vice-President

ALMOST all golf clubs close off the regular summer greens and build near them temporary or winter greens for use during the winter months. The contention of many golfers is that it does not hurt the regular greens if they are played throughout the winter season.

In my experience, I have found that not only the greens but the fairways and tees suffer to a great extent if played regularly. The more playing that is done, the longer it takes in the spring of the year to bring the course up to the proper standard. The course is much more damaged if we have a mild and open winter, as in favorable weather there are quite a few more playing. My opinion is that during the soft and mild days of the early spring, all golf courses (wherever this condition exists) should be closed tight. As the greens and fairways cannot be rolled before they are fairly dry, it is very hard to get the foot-marks out that were made in the winter months. The cups cannot be changed often enough to prevent spots about them being worn out when they are left in too long.

Does it pay a club to keep the regular greens open during the winter months, taking into consideration the damage that is done? I would like to hear the opinion of greenkeepers and others on this subject.