



John Morley

Mac and I Go East

What we saw and heard while visiting courses in the New England, New York and Philadelphia Districts

By JOHN MORLEY

President, National Association of Greenkeepers of America

HAVING practically taken no time in the past three years for relaxation, I decided that the time had arrived when it was necessary to do so. I knew that our second vice-president, John MacGregor had the same idea, especially after a strenuous season in getting his course in first-class condition for the Walker Cup Matches.

So I induced Mr. MacGregor to accompany me on a trip to the east combining the trip as one of pleasure and observations of a few of the leading golf courses, as well as to get acquainted with greenkeepers whom I had heard so much about, but had never met.

Believing that the readers of the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER may be interested in a report of our observations while enjoying this kind of relaxation prompts me to write briefly an account of our trip to the east.

On Saturday evening, September 8th, we arranged to meet in Cleveland, Ohio and were met at the depot by Fred A. Burkhardt, chairman of the committee on our coming Golf Show. We were from there taken to the home of Mr. Burkhardt on the grounds of the Westwood Country Club and were served an excellent dinner prepared by Mr. Burkhardt's estimable wife and daughters.

Knowing that a trip on Lake Erie would be beneficial to us we took the night boat to Buffalo, New York arriving early the following morning. We proceeded to the Statler Hotel where we met Robert Henderson, president of the Western New York Greenkeepers Association. After having breakfasted together and inspected the beautiful ballroom which will be used for our coming Golf Show we took a train direct to Boston, arriving there late Sunday evening.

We Arrive at Brae Burn

BRIGHT and early Monday morning found us on the beautiful golf course of Brae

Burn just in time to witness the opening of the National Amateur Tournament. We immediately went in search of John Shanahan, its efficient greenkeeper, and after locating him it did not take long to observe the generosity and good will of the Dean of the Greenkeepers of New England. Later on, we found the course to be exactly what the leading sport writers had stated previous to the tournament.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Shanahan we were extended the freedom of the clubhouse. After luncheon he drove us to observe another excellent course, the Woodland Country Club, which is situated just a few miles from Brae Burn. While there I was able to learn that John Shanahan was born in the County of Tipperary, Ireland, where the grass is green the whole year round. He came to America about forty-one years ago. Previous to adopting greenkeeping as a profession he was by trade a stone mason. For twenty-seven years he has been identified with his present club, and it is needless to have me state that every member of Brae Burn is justly proud of him.

The putting greens which Mr. Shanahan has tenderly nursed these many years are mostly velvet bent, the soil being a sandy loam. The fairways are seeded to bluegrass, red top and creeping bent.

When we arrived back to Brae Burn after visiting Woodland, knowing how busy a greenkeeper is during a National tournament, we started to look around and it did not take long to observe the familiar faces of a number of people we know. There was Jack B. Mackie of Inwood, New York and Tom McNamara of Brookline, both old timers in the game. Harold Weber of Inverness, Toledo, Ohio, veteran Ohio golfer; W. C. Fownes, Jr. of Oakmont and an honorary member of the National association; Robert E. Power, president and editor of the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER; James B. Hur-

lock, the genial treasurer of the Worthington Mower Company; Kenneth Welton a member of the research staff of the Green Section at Washington, and a number of others too numerous to mention.

Our visit to Brae Burn would not be complete without stating that we were introduced to the president and secretary of the United States Golf Association, and both of them later commented on the good work our association was doing in the interests of golf.

Brookline—An Old Course

ON TUESDAY morning we started out to visit a few courses around Boston and finally landed on one of the oldest courses in this country, Brookline Country Club, which was built in 1882. Here we found H. F. Farrant, its greenkeeper who was up to his neck in work changing the last nine holes. The fairways upon this course were splendid. In fact Number 14 putting green was taken from turf off the fairway. Mr. Farrant had very little brown patch this season, in fact he used very little fertilizer, using sulphate of ammonia spring and fall and relying on topdressing during the hot summer months. After inspecting this well laid out course Mr. Farrant drove us over to Charles River Country Club, Newton Centre, where we were introduced to its able greenkeeper, Frank Wilson. Here we observed a golf course run along scientific lines, for Mr. Wilson had eight years of college training studying landscaping and agriculture. His course showed the benefits which often come through training along theoretical as well as practical lines.

Mr. Wilson does not believe in night watering for he is of the opinion that it encourages brown patch. In fertilizing his putting greens spring and fall he uses sulphate of ammonia, twelve pounds to a putting green and puts it on the greens by the use of a power sprayer. He also uses a fertilizer containing 8-6-1 with cocoanut meal for a filler. After spending a pleasant hour in his company at his club he drove us over to Brae Burn where we finished the third day of our trip.

We Visit Fall River

ON WEDNESDAY morning we bid good-bye to old Boston and proceeded on to Fall River, Mass., to visit with Guy C. West, greenkeeper of Fall River Country Club. Here we met our first disappointment for Mr. West had gone to Brae Burn. However, after going over the course made famous by Mr. West one of his assistants drove us to see the Rhode Island Country Club, Nagett, Rhode Island, and here, too, we found that the greenkeeper had gone to Brae Burn, but we were favored by having one of his right hand men to take us over the course. This course is situated on the shore of the Atlantic Ocean. The putting greens are fine, mostly velvet bent. The course itself is considered admirable for State and National tournaments, there being no less than five difficult water hazards on the course.

We then proceeded by train to Providence, Rhode Island where we decided to take a night boat for New York City. That evening we embarked and to make a long story short neither of us appeared to enjoy the trip from the fact that it had been a long time since we had taken a boat that rocked to and fro. So, early on Thursday morning found the two of us on deck observing the skyline of New York while going under the Brooklyn bridge. After securing suitable hotel quarters and had our breakfast we started out to visit with our friend, Hugh Luke, greenkeeper of Garden City Golf Club. After friendly greetings Mr. Luke drove us over to see the Garden City Country Club, Long Island and Cherry Valley. At the latter club we were very much pleased with the reception tendered us by John Seaman, the greenkeeper of this noted club. John does not believe in topdressing during the summer months and never used any fertilizer on his putting greens all summer.

Returning to the Garden City Golf Club for lunch with Mr. Luke we accompanied him around his championship course which we found in the pink of condition. As I was very desirous for my companion, MacGregor, to see Lido Golf course, Long Beach, Long Island, which was only a few miles from Garden City, Mr.

Luke very kindly consented to drive us over to Lido. Upon this trip we were favored by having Mrs. Luke accompany us.

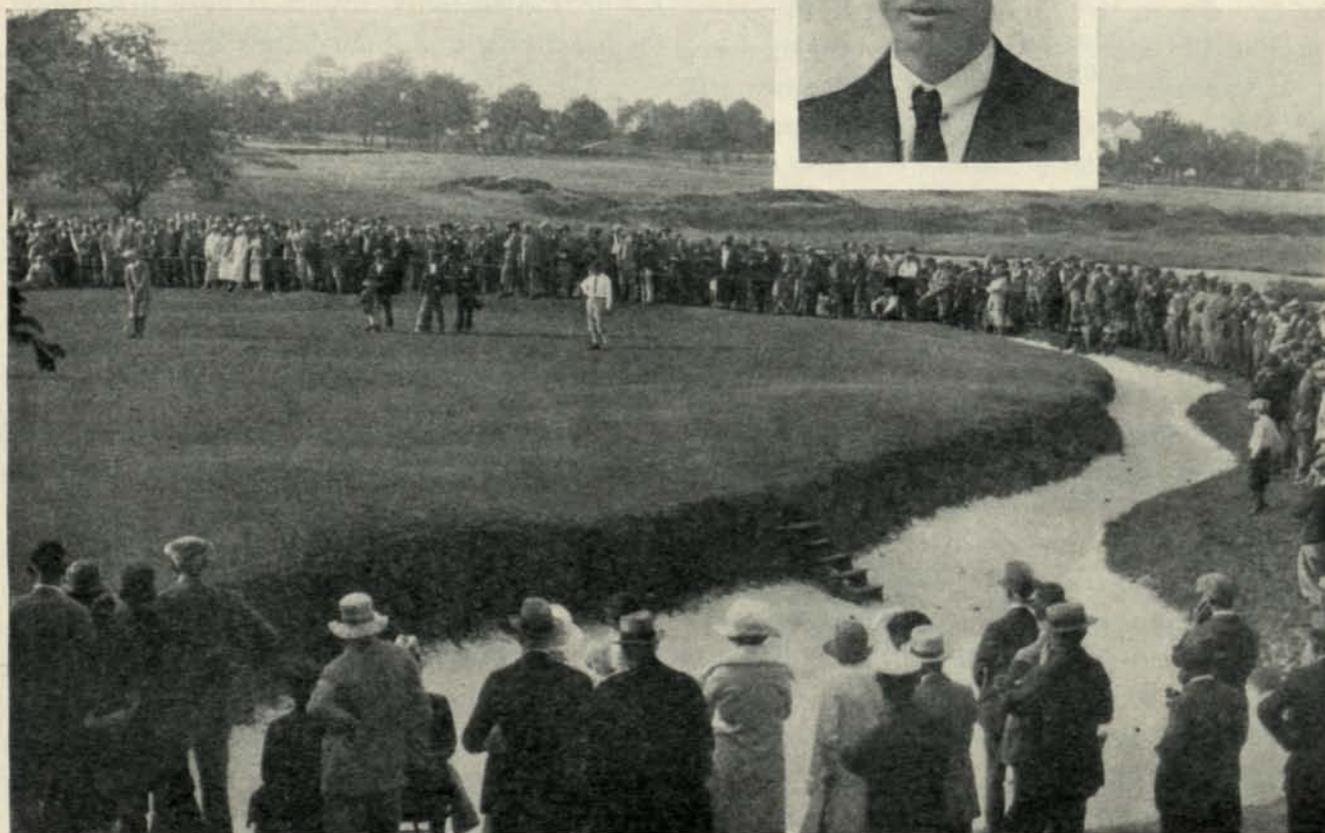
Lido is Remarkable Course

ARRIVING at Lido we soon met another old timer in the game, Andrew Brown, pro-greenkeeper. The course is remarkable in many ways—all the holes are named and patterned after famous holes in Great Britain and Europe. It had been my privilege to visit this course a few years ago along with my friend, Jack Mackie of Inwood and to observe that the week preceding my visit a violent storm from the Atlantic ocean had taken half of a putting green and half of a fairway into the ocean.

On Thursday evening we were favored with a visit at the hotel from Alfred E. Lundstrom, chairman of the committee on the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER who invited us out to dinner which offer we were glad to accept. After dinner we proceeded with Mr. Lundstrom to the Crescent Athletic Club of Brooklyn, New York where he holds the position of superintendent. This club has a membership of two thousand.

That we were generously entertained while in Mr. Lundstrom's company is probably needless to say.

Friday morning good and early found us on our way to Purchase, New York, hoping to have a friendly chat and visit with one of our vice-presidents, Captain David L. Rees, who has charge of the Progress Country Club, the home of Bobby Cruikshank. Imagine our disappointment when his energetic wife informed us that he had been called to Staten Island. We were, however, immediately taken care of by Mrs. Rees and Captain Rees's assistant, Mr. Wilder, who escorted us around this magnificent golf course and what a remarkable course it is and only one year old. The landscaping beset with beautiful linden trees was very pleasing for the eye to look upon.



TOURNAMENT DAY AT THE GARDEN CITY GOLF CLUB
Above is Hugh Luke, greenkeeper of this famous Long Island course

Fenimore Looked Fine

AFTER a very friendly chat with Mrs. Rees who, by the way, has all the qualifications of a greenkeeper, Mr. Wilder drove us over to visit with his brother Albert Wilder, greenkeeper of the Fenimore Country Club. Here we found another up-to-date course in charge of one of the youngest greenkeepers we had met on our entire trip. The putting greens were beautiful and green with a remarkably good nap to them. I do not know who the architect was that designed these putting greens, but he certainly knew how to make them artistic, yet natural. I was so impressed with the formation of one of these putting greens that I took the time to make a sketch of it hoping that at some future time to build one like it. This is the home club of Bill Melhorn.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilder have for their neighbors the Duncan Sisters, leading and well-known vaudeville stars. Mr. Wilder drove us to see one of the oldest courses around New York, Apawamis Country Club. Here they were holding the National Senior Golf Championship. We soon found Mike Vuhole, its greenkeeper, who like all others immediately guided us over to his course. The formation of Apawamis makes it a very hard course to maintain, but Mike is equal to the occasion. We also found the turf on the putting greens above the average, in fact I took a piece of the turf home with me and planted it in my nursery at the club.

Here I found a greenkeeper who held one of my views on brown patch. Too much fertilization and water during hot and humid weather. Here I observed another misrepresentation of facts. It appeared that some smart agent claiming to represent a certain golf publication seeking subscriptions stated that all articles pertaining to golf turf, etc., were turned over to me for approval. The greenkeeper of this club subscribed and probably others did likewise, paying four dollars for one year's subscription, and have up to this time never received a single copy.

Having time to visit another club Mr. Wilder took us to the course that nearly every golfer has read about, but few have seen. There was

a reason we learned, as it was the first time that an officer stopped us from entering, but after a great deal of discussion he finally allowed us to enter with the understanding that we would not trespass in the club house. We were soon on the putting greens of the Westchester-Biltmore Country Club, Rye, New York. Here we found they have a practice green that would make five putting greens. It contains 45 holes and is lit up at night by electric lamps so that they can putt in the evening. We did not spend much time at this club for it was commencing to get dusk so Mr. Wilder drove us to White Plains where we boarded a train back to New York City.

White Plains is an old historical town and dates back to the time of the Revolutionary War. It is also the county seat of Westchester County. We passed the court house where most of the high-brow divorce cases are held, including Peaches Browning.

On To Philadelphia

SATURDAY morning found us on our way to Philadelphia. We lost very little time upon arriving and immediately started for the



JOE VALENTINE
Merion Greenkeeper

little town of Ardmore, the home of the Merion Cricket Club. The Greenkeeper of this club is Joe Valentine, another vice-president of our National association. We were unable to locate Mr. Valentine until around noon, and after partaking of an excellent lunch with him we inspected his well-known course. Joe, as we all call him, is the Dean

of the Greenkeepers of the Philadelphia District. Here is a course in the pink of condition. At this course I witnessed for the first time a putting green composed entirely of velvet bent which he had previously vegetated in his nursery. Joe always keeps an up-to-date nursery

for he gets a lot of enjoyment and valuable information out of it.

Being anxious to visit one more course before we left Philadelphia, Mr. Valentine drove us to the Cedarbrook Country Club, Mt. Airy, the home club of our treasurer, Lewis M. Evans. It is needless to state that he was glad to meet us as was Mrs. Evans for we had all previously met at the home of our vice-president, John McNamara, Pittsburgh. Here for the first time I was able to see the destructive work of the Japanese beetle that destroys the roots of the turf on the fairways. They were lying on their backs chewing away the roots and were there by the million.

After returning from the course we bid goodbye to our old friend, Joe Valentine, and accepted an invitation to have dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Evans. Immediately after dinner we were honored by a visit from Alex Duncan, pro-greenkeeper of the Philadelphia Cricket club, Mr. Duncan being an old friend of John MacGregor's.

Having practically crowded two weeks into one and completely worn out we decided to take one day's rest before returning home and through the kindness of Mr. Duncan he drove us to Philadelphia where we boarded a train for Atlantic City and Sunday morning found us on the famous board walk. The weather being warm and balmy excursion trains were coming in from every direction, and the board walk was soon a mass of humanity. Being very tired we spent most of the day watching the bathers on the beach until evening when we both took trains to our respective homes.

What We Learned About Brown Patch

THIS story of our trip to the East would not be complete without stating that it was our desire to make it educational as well as one of pleasure. One of our chief objects was to get data on the brown patch disease. Every greenkeeper that I met I asked him to be brief and let me know what in his opinion caused the brown patch disease, and the readers must understand that the greenkeepers that are quoted were above the average in experience with this disease.

It may seem strange to relate after consult-

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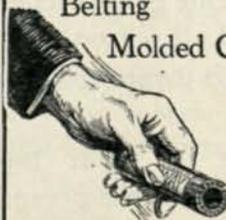
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ing with so many greenkeepers on the subject, the situation appeared to me more complex and confused than it was before I left home. One would state over-watering, another too much fertilizer, and yet another would quote atmospheric conditions, while others sulphate of ammonia. One greenkeeper claimed we did not have so much brown patch when we used lime and another could not understand why one course that had *Poa Annua* and bent putting greens that the *Poa Annua* got the brown patch and the bent did not, while on another course it hit the bents and left the *Poa Annua* alone. A few claimed the disease was caused from the lack of air. Another could not understand why with two putting greens only a short distance apart—both greens out in the open, both receiving the same treatment, one of these greens got the disease and the other was immune.

I have simply quoted the above to show how most of us are so far apart in our views. Yet in my interviews I failed to have any greenkeeper state that the disease may be caused by top dressing, either from dressing not properly treated and aged or that the disease may be caused by poisonous substances in the soil.

Let us stop and analyze a few of these opinions. Is this disease caused by the lack of air? I visited two courses that were situated close to the Atlantic Ocean. The winds seemed to be blowing over the putting greens most of the time yet the putting greens close to the ocean were hit harder than those quite a distance away.

Can it be too much water? One greenkeeper tells me that he never watered all season, taking only what Nature gave. His greens got the brown patch.

Another informed me that he never top dresses during the summer months. His greens were infected with brown patch.

Another stated that he had a special fertilizer—his putting green got the brown patch.

Another told me that sulphate of ammonia will cause the disease—yet eight years ago the Columbia Country Club at Washington, D. C., never used it and they, too, got brown patch.

Let us try and be honest with ourselves and

acknowledge that we do not know what causes this dreaded brown patch disease.

Joe Valentine told me of three specialists on fungus diseases, graduates of the University of Pennsylvania that specialize on fungus diseases. They claim that the same fungus disease that is in the soil is often found in the human body, and that it has been impossible for them to find a cure. All they can do for the patient afflicted with this disease is to aid them to prolong a few more years of life.

An Open Letter

My attention has been called to rumors, claiming that THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER is not the official organ of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America, and also that it hasn't the association's support.

I feel, as chairman of the magazine committee of this association, that it is my duty to refute these false charges when and whenever possible, in order to promote the association's welfare.

It is difficult to understand the underlying motives of such falsehoods, if a motive they really have, for they certainly work against the welfare of every greenkeeper, regardless of whether he is a member of the association or not, for, THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER is the first and only periodical exclusively devoted to the betterment of this profession, both socially and technically.

During the past two years THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER readers have benefited materially by the articles printed, these being submitted gratis by the members and officers of the National association and not by paid editors, and all the writers' motives are only to promote the association and its members' welfare,—There's the answer.

A concise understanding was attained between the association and publishers during the Detroit convention and the details of same are on the association records of that gathering.

Again I desire to call your attention to the authors of these articles and ask—Who are they? Upon close study you will find that they are officers and members of the National Association working in harmony with the publishers and without pay and for one reason only that is to help our association and to place our profession where it justly belongs.

This magazine is open to everyone and will publish any article bearing upon the welfare of the association, and I, therefore, suggest that the originators of these rumors submit their knowledge by a signed article and mail same to the National association who in turn will see that same is printed in this magazine and should none be coming then we can draw our own theory.

(Signed) A. E. Lundstrom, Chairman

The National Greenkeeper Committee.