

Irrigation Comes to Long Island

BY T. H. RIGGS MILLER, *Greenkeeper*

Richmond County Country Club, Staten Island, N. Y.

ON a recent day in June, Wendell P. Miller gave a demonstration at the Pomonok Country Club, Flushing, L. I., N. Y. of fairway and green irrigation.

This is the first installation in the Metropolitan District by this enterprising firm Wendell P. Miller & Associates, Credit for this is due in no small measure to "Bill" Joy (whose name parallels his nature) greenkeeper, of Pomonok who was solely responsible for this innovation, and had the confidence of his President, Chairman and Board of Directors sufficiently to put it over.

Then instead of trying to do it himself, he went out and got the foremost authority in the States in this line, and said to him. "Look here Wendell, the club does not expect to be here more than ten years at the outside. I personally would like to see a full California system in here, but I feel it is uneconomical for the club to do so at this time. Work us out the best system for the least possible cost. One that will save the extra cost of running laterals into the fairway, and the pop-up or snap



A single installation of a "pop-up" type of rotating sprinkler used to irrigate a tee



Two sprinklers, adjusted to a certain arc of coverage, irrigate the green thoroughly and completely

on valves all over the place, not that I do not believe these to be the best systems, but as I said before the life of the club here, does not warrant the extra expenditure."

The results speak for themselves, and only go to show how much more can be accomplished when the club leaves these matters in the hands of practical men, than by employing these self-styled amateur specialists.

The mains parallel the fairways with snap-valve outlets every 150 ft. Attached to each is 100 ft. of 1 in. hose with Buckner sprinklers, do the work economically and efficiently. Every tee, has one of

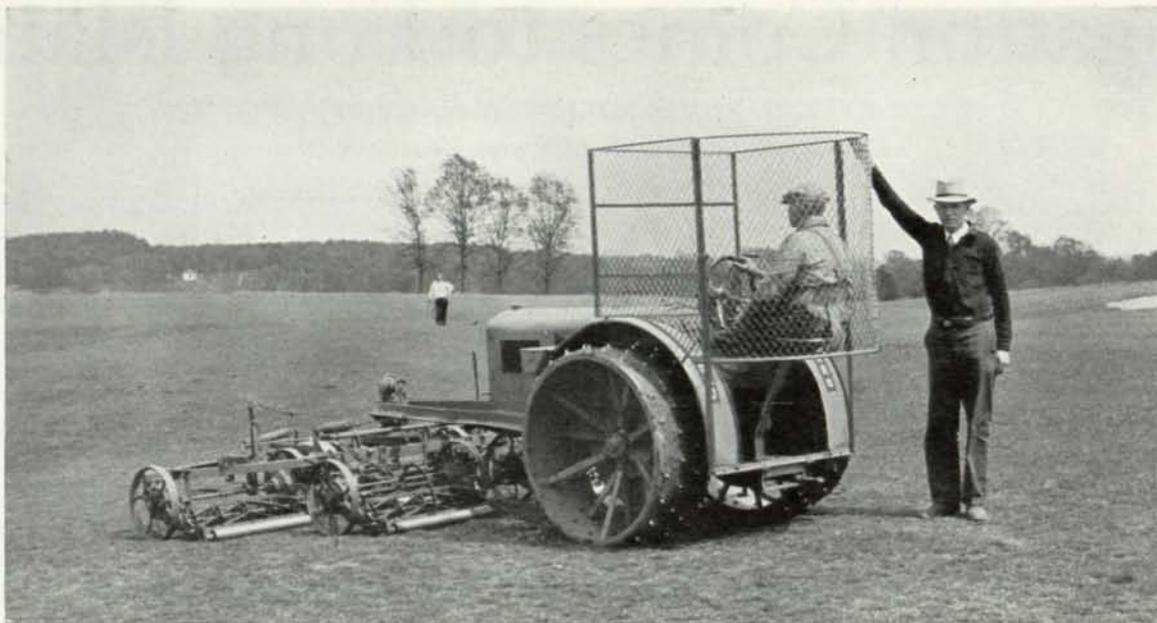
Wendell P. Miller's own pop-up sprinkler heads, some of the greens have sprinklers placed alongside of the green itself, two of these are sufficient to water the entire area.

The water supply is taken from the city mains, a pump house and booster pump is capable of supplying six fairways, greens and tees at the one time. To anyone who has to maintain turf, the sight of six entire holes being irrigated at one time brings gladness to the



METROPOLITAN GREENKEEPERS AT THE POMONOK DEMONSTRATION

Photo by H. B. Smith, Flushing, New York



TORO TRACTOR WITH WIRE CAGE ENCLOSURE FOR THE OPERATOR
This device is used by George Post, greenkeeper at Franconia Club, Springfield, Mass.

heart, more especially at the time of writing, when nearly every fairway in the metropolitan district is looking like a piece of toast.

The day chosen for the demonstration was a little unfortunate on account of threatening rain, and the forty interested spectators had hardly sat down to lunch in the club house as guests of Mr. Miller when it began to rain in earnest and never let up all day.

After lunch Mr. Miller went over some very interesting statistics, regarding seasons rainfall in New York Metropolitan District. He brought out the fact; that although, the average rainfall is sufficient for crops, it is not distributed evenly enough throughout the year to keep turf green, and it is these periods of drought that irreparable damage is done.

Top Dressing Approaches

The necessity for true and more mellow approaches is an important question with every golf club. This means topdressing and the Ohio Humus Products Company, London, Ohio is calling the greenkeeper's attention to the value of their hardwood humus for this purpose.

Most of the courses are reseeding their approaches this fall and working in one-half pound of humus to each square foot before seeding.

Protecting the Tractor Man

WITH balls flying thick and fast almost continually at Franconia, Springfield's municipal course, greenkeeper George Post has devised this wire cage enclosure for the protection of his tractor operator, Ralph Preston.

This outfit was built by the Cheney Bigelow Wire Works, Springfield, Mass., who state that they intend to build these cages so that they can be shipped knocked-down, all crated, for \$75.00, f. o. b. Springfield.

Many rigs of this type have been made up with the chicken wire or wire not much heavier. Greenkeeper Post feels that he has hit on the right kind by getting wire of the grill type which requires a frame only heavy enough to fasten the ends of the wire.

The height of the enclosure was carefully considered. It goes easily under any of the trees on the course.

It was found that it was out of the question to have any grill work in front of the operator. "Sea sickness" was the inevitable result. Anyway, the real danger is from the side and rear.

There is one more change to be figured out. The enclosure fits to the mudguard which is none too stable a foundation. The next refinement will be to fasten it to some solid part of the tractor.

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