

Pacific Coast Gossip

By ARTHUR LANGTON

UNUSUAL weather in the form of a windstorm within the last month was sufficient to do many thousands of dollars worth of damage to Southern California golf courses in the way of fallen trees and scattered debris. However, in all fairness to California's highly-publicized climate, it must be said that this over-ambitious breeze was unusual.

It has been a long standing joke among visitors to the Golden State that the natives call all weather which does not represent absolute perfection "unusual." It also must in justice be said that the wind would have passed unnoticed in many areas less placid, but out where the billboards are a little weaker and where the trees are top heavy with shallow roots, it was classed as a minor catastrophe.

But no amount of rationalizing will cure the damage already done, and local greenkeepers as a consequence have had to do as much work as if a veritable tornado had swept their fairways.

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At Pasadena Country club in Altadena just a short time before its annual open tournament, L. T. Parker was confronted with the task of cleaning up the mess caused by three hundred trees being uprooted and their

leaves and branches being scattered broadcast. Most of the trees so treated were the highly-decorative acacias, peppers, Carolina poplars, and carobs.

At the Flintridge Country club also in Pasadena it will take Jimmy Lyon and his men all the rest of the winter season to destroy most of the effects caused by the blow because this course is surrounded and traversed by groves of oak trees, many of which were blown down. The major portion of one huge oak freakishly fell into the Flintridge swimming pool, necessitating the use of two men and a truck for two days to make it fit for swimming again.

At Los Serranos Country club the wind dropped a eucalyptus tree neatly across the tennis courts destroying the fence. On the same course leaves, seeds, sticks, and other debris were scattered over the greens where they imbedded themselves in the grass, making putting difficult. At Red Hill club in Uplands the greenkeeper's shop was blown down.

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So far this season the rainfall has kept up to normal in spite of the depression, around three inches having fallen. This is a slight contrast with a report that comes from a greenkeeper in the Hawaiian Islands who stated that in two hours recently he had over 10 inches of rain fall.

Nevertheless, Greenkeeper Beaver at the Virginia Country club of Long Beach, California, is having piles driven into the bed of the now dry Los Angeles river in the attempt to prevent as much of his fairways as possible from being washed out into the broad Pacific when the heavy rains come later.

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A scourge taking the form of legions of beetles has attacked the Sunset Fields course until the turf literally swarms with them. The insects somewhat resemble the Japanese beetle but are reported to differ from this type in a few respects.

The only successful method of combating them has been to take up the turf, sprinkle arsenate of lead, and then relay the turf. Merely putting the chemical on top of the turf had no apparent effect.

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Word comes from Palm Springs, California, which is in the desert, that the men there are playing golf clad in a pair of shoes, a pair of shorts, and a coat of tan. This

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system has many obvious advantages, but unless the barebacked players want to ruin their epidermis, it behooves them to make tracks for the nearest shelter when one of the local sand storms is in evidence. This is said at the risk of bringing down the wrath of the chamber of commerce of the desert health resort.

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The current business depression, even if it is as the statesmen say, "a figment of the imagination," has been such as to make the Del Mar club close its gates for the time being and throw in its lot with the Rancho Santa Fe Country club. Kenneth MacLean, formerly greenkeeper at the Del Mar course, has returned to Bonnie Scotland in the meantime.

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This may not enter into the realm of greenkeeping, but it is a safe bet that greenkeepers have had to supply the labor: Now is the time when local golf courses with lakes attached are draining them and restocking them with fish.

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A Southern California greenkeeper asks any Eastern contemporary to think of him as he snuggles up under warm blankets at ten o'clock in the morning. Out here the turf expert has to be up with the sun to see that the night men haven't flooded the greens for the annual tournaments.

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West Penn News

By John Quail

THE Greenkeepers' Club of Western Pennsylvania held their annual meeting on December 8, 1930. The election of officers took place and the results were the same as before. All re-elected. John Pressler of Allegheny Country Club was elected for his sixth term. Fred Jacobs is vice-president and John Quail, secretary-treasurer.

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The club presented Fred Jacobs with a solid gold watch-chain and knife, and would have made the gift complete with the watch only Fred is going to Switzerland to have his old one repaired. He says his watch is like his motorcycle. When it's gone there will never be another one like it. The club wishes Fred a pleasant journey and a safe return.

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Bill Key of Longvue is still trying to figure some way to spend the club's money. Bill says if we have over a quarter in the treasurer we should go out and buy apples with it to help out the unemployed. Noble thoughts, Bill, but we have some Scotch members.

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The greenkeepers are beginning to think about the Penn State College Course. Quite a few are going to attend. It has done a lot of good for the boys and they appreciate the advantages of getting some scientific knowledge.

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It looks like a sell out at Columbus as far as the Western Pennsylvania boys are concerned. All of them have expressed their intentions of going.

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Kenny Goit, the long-coupled Sales Manager of Toro, was in town to introduce the new Toro representative in Pittsburgh. He threw one of those well-known Toro parties and a good time was enjoyed by all. Kenny knows his piano like he knows Toro products. And he knows both of them pretty darn good.

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Charley Nuttall of Fox Chapel says the only thing that was missing was Scotty McLaren. We all agree with him but it was impossible for Scotty to make the trip at this time.

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The Greenkeepers' Club went on record as having instructed the secretary to wish Col. John Morley a speedy recovery and send flowers to him. Col. Morley is our next door neighbor and we always feel that he is one of us.

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