

# Pacific Coast Gossip

By ARTHUR LANGTON

**A** NEW angle on what the up-to-date greenkeeper will keep in his shop in the future is revealed by the State College of Washington zoology department.

According to the professors of that institution the man who has charge of any considerable area of gopher-infested land could scarcely do better than to raise a few broods of Swainson's hawks. It seems that the value of this method of gopher control is that it is always working, not only on the premises of the golf course, but in the surrounding land that is less carefully kept and from which greenkeepers derive about ninety per cent of their gopher troubles. That the hawks have an incentive to work which is applicable elsewhere may be understood readily; no work means no food.

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The Washington savants state that Swainson's hawks should not be classed as pests because cases in which they have attacked livestock are rare enough to be unusual. The local greenkeepers, however, are more interested in knowing whether or not this type of bird is liable to mistake moving golf balls for edible prey.

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A suggestion of interest to public golf courses has come down from Canada. A group of California greenkeepers were discussing how hard it is to make public course players replace divots, keep where they belong, and in general obey the etiquette of the game.

Mr. Bert Gee of the Edmonton, Alberta, municipal course, who is spending the winter in the Golden State said that troubles on this score on his course had been reduced to a minimum by the simple expedient of delegating about a hundred trustworthy players to warn violators of the fact that their actions had been noted and that further violations would result in fines or dismissal. The course officials backed up their statements with actual penalties with the result that players now keep in surprisingly good order.

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One Southern California greenkeeper in the attempt to keep straight the pay-as-you-enter players on his course, has affixed the following sign on all of his 200-yard markers, "Make Sure That the Ball You Are Playing is Yours."

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Another Pacific Coast college professor is taking a professional interest in the game of golf; this one from an entirely new angle. Dr. Emory S. Bogardus, head of the School of Social Welfare at the University of Southern California, wrote a monograph, "Golf Galleries as Social Groups," for a recent issue of *Sociology and Social Research*. In this article the U. S. C. professor puts that group of people who run across the greens and traps under his microscope and tells what he sees.

He says, "A golf gallery is an unusual type of social group. It is neither a crowd, nor an assembly, nor a public, and yet at times it manifests characteristics of all three." It is to be noted that Dr. Bogardus excluded the word "mob," but any greenkeeper who has ever handled a tournament can say that a gallery sometimes deserves even this appellation.

\* \* \*

In this regard the writer says, "It is necessary to hold the crowd back by ropes, although there is rarely any rushing of the ropes." He continues, "As in any audience there are persons evidently present more to attract attention to themselves than to watch the game. There is quite a flair for conspicuousness manifested by a few which gives them notoriety rather than increased status . . . No rowdies or ruffians such as frequent baseball crowds are in evidence; the police are rarely if ever needed."

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The professor in a personal interview stated that he would like to hear from as many sources as possible in regard to sociological aspects of the game of golf. In

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view of the fact that many greenkeepers have expressed themselves quite strongly at times in regard to players and galleries, he would be very much interested in hearing from them.

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The Southern California Greenkeepers' Association recently held their annual election and meeting. As a result C. W. Hazlett of the Bel-Air Country Club of Brentwood succeeds Robert S. Greenfield of the Wilshire Club of Los Angeles.

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At the time of writing rain has been falling in the Los Angeles district every day for over a week. Although the downpour has not been continuous and golf has not been seriously interrupted the novelty of the fact that rain has been in the vicinity for that length of time is surprising the natives.

## New Jersey Greenkeepers Meet

By JOHN ANDERSON

The Association of Greenkeepers of New Jersey held their regular monthly meeting in the Newark Athletic Club, Newark, New Jersey, Monday, February 9. Chairman Isleip called the meeting to order at 8:00 p. m.

After the ordinary business was taken care of, the monthly talk was given by Greenkeeper Reilly of Rock Spring Country Club on "Spike Rolling of Fairways." Mr. Reilly gave an excellent talk on this subject, con-

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vincing his listeners that on heavy clay soil, fairways are benefited by periodical spike rolling.

The boys were all anxious to hear about the Convention, so I did my best to tell them all I could, in a very short time, touching on the high spots. Everyone was interested in the fact that the next convention is to be held in New York. I am confident that we will get the hearty cooperation of the New Jersey Greenkeepers to assist us in making the 1932 Convention a great success.

## Indiana Says Hats Off

By CHESTER COVAL, Secretary

**H**ATS OFF! for the 5th Annual Convention of the National Greenkeepers' Association held in Columbus, Ohio, February 2-6.

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The committee in charge proved themselves to be royal entertainers from start to finish. I feel free to say that this Convention was the best that I have ever had the privilege of attending. One of the outstanding features being the lectures on various topics given by such able speakers.

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The numerous displays were both beautiful and instructive and well worth the time spent in looking them over.

\* \* \*

The banquet and entertainment following was one of the most enjoyable features of the entire meeting.

\* \* \*

The Indiana Greenkeepers regular monthly meeting was held at 10 o'clock a. m. Thursday in Room 229 at the Deshler-Wallick hotel with twelve members present. This was a very interesting meeting as we had the pleasure of adding two new members of our organization, both of whom gave very interesting talks.

\* \* \*

On behalf of the Indiana Greenkeepers' Association we wish to express our thanks to all who took part in making this Convention an instructive and entertaining meeting.

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