

A Last Tribute to My Friend, W.J. Rockefeller

By AL SCHARDT, *Greenkeeper*
Wanakah Country Club, Buffalo, New York

Yes, boys, "Rockie" is dead but his spirit will never die in the hearts of those who knew him. I had the honor to escort his remains from Toledo, Ohio, to his old home in Harford Mills, New York, where he will be buried in the family plot in a little cemetery, among the hills, where he roamed as a boy.

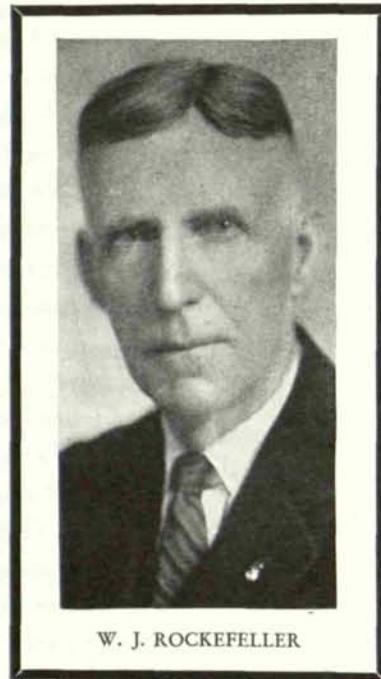
As I left the portal of his beautiful estate to take him on his last long journey homeward the fine old stately elms seemed to bow their heads just a little lower; the magnificent pines looked just a bit more dreary; the marvelous links which forever will stand as a monument to his stewardship looked a little more bleak—all in respect to the fine old man who planted, cared for and mothered them for the past thirty years.

Life didn't hold much for "Rockie" after the green and fairways of Inverness which were almost a part of him, passed out of his competent hands. Some men are like that. "Rockie" helped build the famous Inverness course almost thirty years ago and he remained in active charge of the beautiful links until just before the National Open last summer. From the day of his retirement he started to decline.

"Rockie" had a varied career, including twenty-three years on a farm, a musical education, chemist and later drifted into hospital work at Binghamton, New York, and Toledo, Ohio, finally ending by taking up green-keeping at Inverness in 1903. In the early days at Inverness he was considered an outstanding player of that district and the many cups and medals he won kept him in the spotlight for many years.

By virtue of Inverness' place in golf and the national attention it attracted because of its perfect turf and historic greens, "Rockie" became a figure of importance in the sport. He was a valuable aid to the government in his grass experiments and many a test was made there for many years. He was an important adviser to the United States Golf Association Green Section and was recently made a member of the Executive committee. He was a Charter member of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America, having served as Secretary of that organization for some time.

"Rockie" would have given anything to have died on



W. J. ROCKEFELLER

the course with a rake in his hand, but it wasn't to be. Still in his last days he could look out across the great stretch of rolling land that remained beautiful in its gown of winter snow and know he had done more than any other man to change it from a farmer's meadow into a historic playground.

"Rockie" may not have been happy in the end but he had glorious memories that somewhat helped to alleviate the pain of disappointment and grief. Abraham Lincoln once said, "stand by your principles, and victory complete and permanent is sure at last." And what greater victory than friendship, all who knew him were his friends and all his friends loved him.

WILLIAM J. ROCKEFELLER

An Appreciation

By SYLVANUS PIERSON JERMAIN, President
Toledo District Golf Association

IN THE beautiful little valley, overlooked by the clubhouse, nestles the historic eighteenth green at Inverness, Toledo. Nearby a solitary figure, in the dusk of life, lingers and fondly looks and looks again as turning he comes wearily up the eastward slope and passes on into the shadows. It is his last "good night" to the world-famous green—product of his heart and hands.

This green and all greens at Inverness, were built by William J. Rockefeller, who died at his home, adjoining the course, on Monday, February 9th, 1932, in the sixtieth year of his age. He was born at Dryden, New York, where his remains were taken for burial.

His services as keeper of the greens at Inverness, covered a period of nearly thirty years. Greens construction and maintainance was the highly useful and inspiring profession to which he loved to devote himself. During this period he also designed and supervised the construction of the two eighteen-hole courses at Heather Downs Country club, Toledo, and was frequently called into consultation concerning betterments of other courses in the Toledo district.

The National Association of Greenkeepers of America, which was organized at the Sylvania Golf Club, Toledo, in 1926, elected him its first Secretary.

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Golf Course Watering

Now is the time when the wise greenkeeper is checking over his equipment and plans for the coming year in order to withstand the dry siege that is always a part of the summer season. Any lack of adequate water equipment or breakdown in the course's irrigation system is certain to mean so much lost grass.

There are two times in the life of any plant which are the most critical. They are the period of germination, and the stage of growth just when the young plant is becoming established. And water plays a very important part in both of these critical periods. Water must be provided before the process of germination can even begin. A continuous supply must be maintained after the young shoot emerges or death will result.

Early spring is a vital season as far as watering greens and fairways is concerned. Since grass seed is planted very shallow because of its small size, the difficulty of maintaining the moisture content is therefore very great. Thus should newly planted areas be watched most carefully and supplied with the proper amount of moisture at the proper time.

In view of the recognized importance of an early start in the spring conditioning of greens and fairways, the Double Rotary Sprinkler Company, of Kansas City, Missouri, is now issuing their new literature, urging an early start in irrigation. For the past thirteen years the Double Rotary Sprinkler has been recognized as one of the most efficient sprinkling devices on the market.

There are, of course, two principal sources of water on golf courses: natural rainfall and irrigation by a proper artificial device. And one idea that all greenkeepers should keep in mind is that the natural rainfall *must be supplemented* by artificial means.

The fact that grass seed is planted shallow makes it necessary that the artificial watering device used in sprinkling does not wash or pack the soil or newly planted area. Greenkeepers say that this has long been one of the recognized features of the Double Rotary Sprinkler. Distributing water more nearly like gentle rainfall than any other mechanical means yet devised, the Double Rotary Sprinkler at one setting will cover a circular area up to 80 feet in diameter (more than 5,000 square feet), giving an even, equal distribution over all the area.

The water by its pressure through the nozzle, causes the aluminum distributor wheel to rotate at a high rate of speed. This, in turn, by a system of self-oiling reducing gears, causes the entire sprinkler head to rotate six to eight turns a minute. This at the same time breaks up the water stream into a linear shower of small drops. Thus, any one point in the sprinkled area gets its water at intervals of seven to ten

seconds, the intervening time allowing absorption without soil washing or packing.

Another thing about which greenkeepers must be careful in selecting an artificial watering device is to be sure the device will not cause puddling. Surface or sub-surface puddling is dangerous to the life of grass. Any area saturated in this way becomes soggy and the air space in the soil is closed up. Greenkeepers who have tested the Double Rotary Sprinkler on their own courses say that it will not puddle even in a strong wind. Its even, equal distribution of water is always constant.

The Double Rotary Sprinkler is sold on a ten-day trial basis with a guarantee of satisfaction backed personally by Lou E. Holland, president of the company.

McClain Products for Turf

McClain Brothers Company, 129-2nd Street, of Canton, Ohio, are this year introducing their product Fungo for brown patch and vermin control.

Fungo is a product specially prepared, combining in a single preparation proper fungicidal elements for prevention and control of brown patch and fungus diseases together with the unique feature of the prevention and eradication of soil vermin, including grubs, earthworms, sod webworms, etc. It is packed in powder form in 9-pound glass jars and needs no further compounding on the part of the greenkeeper. It may be applied with sprayer, sprinkler cart or sprinkling can or it may be mixed dry with fine sand or soil and applied by hand. It is understood this combination product is a great economy in green maintenance from the fact that the purchase of additional chemicals for vermin eradication becomes unnecessary when Fungo is used regularly.

McClain Brothers have also brought out their water soluble fertilizer Veg-e-tonic. This is a "no filler" product supplied in air-tight steel drums, and in comparison has five to eight times the fertilizing value of ordinary "filler" fertilizers. It is a perfectly balanced grass food; nitrogen, 21—phosphoric acid, 13—potash, 10. It contains no inert fillers or substances and is applied in solution or liquid form with sprinkling can, sprinkler cart, proportioner or sprayer.

Particular claims for Veg-e-tonic is that its concentrated form saves storage space, time and labor in handling, is clean, causes no streaks or burning, and that it is extremely economical.

Greenkeepers will be particularly interested in the new monthly schedule system as devised by the McClain Brothers company for regularly timed applications of Fungo and Veg-e-tonic to putting greens. It is estimated this schedule system will effect tremendous fungi-

cide and fertilizing savings to every greenkeeper using it. It is printed on heavy cardboard, size 10" x 13", ready to hang in your office, tool house or workshop.

McClain Brothers company will gladly send it free of charge to any greenkeeper requesting same.

Rockefeller Tribute

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William was the recognized leader in his profession in the Toledo district and had such a general standing in the nation that Chairman Ganson Depew of the Greens Section of the United States Golf Association, selected him as a highly useful member of his committee. This membership he held at the time of his death. A further recognition had come to him in recent years from the Inverness club. He was made one of its honorary members for life.

In speaking of death it can be truly said that a man "lives on" who has built such a playground as Inverness! This course, and its greens, has been a daily joy to its members for a generation and has twice been the course where the World's Open Championship has been held. In that larger sense, which we all love to cherish, his spirit abides as his living monument at Inverness.

The Eighteenth Green! He shaped most of it with his own hands. And what a stage it became for the most dramatic scenes in all golf's history. As there will never be another 72 hole play-off of a tie in the National Open of the United States Golf Association, William J. Rockefeller has the unique distinction of building the stage whereon occurred this supreme act of Golf's greatest drama. Thus it will take its unchallenged place at the very pinnacle of Golf history.

What contrasts life presents! That beautiful green surrounded by milling thousands, the whole atmosphere charged with excitement and then the never-to-be-forgotten climax! Its human interest was intense as the brightly shining afternoon sun revealed it all with electric sharpness.

That was last July—and now? In the dusk of life a solitary figure lingers at the Eighteenth green and looks and looks again as turning he comes wearily up the eastward slope and passes on "into the shadows."

GREENKEEPER — desires position. Prefers 9-hole course. Many years experience in construction and golf course maintenance. Can furnish best of references.

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