



How We Overcame

*Colonel Morley Asks the Members of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America for a
Statement of Conditions.*

Colonel Morley Asks About Depression

September 7, 1932.

To the Officers and Members of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America,

Greetings:

Dear Sir and Brother:

We have now arrived at the time of year when we can pause and do a little thinking and realize that the season just passing was one of entertainment and pleasure to some, but a year of hope deferred to others.

Never in the history of greenkeeping have greenkeepers been forced to the acid test as they have for the season of 1932. Most of us have been compelled by necessity to trim expenses to the bone, both as to labor as well as materials. We are very anxious to learn what effect it has produced on the general condition of the golf courses throughout the country along the present economical lines, and especially if these conditions must prevail during the season of 1933.

Won't you please take a little time and send, in your own way, to our official organ, the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER, Caxton Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio, a brief outline on "How You Overcame the Depression of 1932." Do this now so it may appear in the next issue, which goes to press September 15.

Don't throw this request into the waste basket. Write and mail your experiences at your earliest convenience.

I personally know our members will be as glad to read what your experiences have been as you will be to know the experiences of others.

Trusting that you will comply with my request and with best wishes, I remain,

Cordially yours,

JOHN MORLEY,
President.

P. S. Now is the time to commence to lay your plans for our 1933 Convention and Golf Show at Chicago. We are going to open the World's Fair, and we want the support of all members to make it another grand success.

—J. M.

Depression Played Havoc

By JOHN MACGREGOR, Greenkeeper
Chicago Golf Club, Wheaton, Illinois

THE depression certainly played havoc with maintenance budgets during 1932. The loss of members has made it difficult for many clubs to operate at all. According to the best information, every club is working under a reduced budget, some drastic, others slightly reduced.

There is no question about the hardships worked on many greenkeepers; on the other hand it has been the means



JOHN MACGREGOR
One of the outstanding greenkeepers of the United States

of the greenkeeper finding himself. It has made him a better executive, he has had to reorganize his system of maintenance and he is today a more capable man than he was a year ago.

In most cases the golf course is in just as good condition now as it was previous to the depression. This shows that the greenkeeper can be a good business man when put to the test. Now that he has shown what he can do under adverse conditions he will be expected to continue the methods with which he has been so successful.

Citing my own experience I will say that old man depression is grovelling in the dust. To accomplish this partly I changed our system of fairway watering. We had previously used the Boston Park sprinkler as our means of distribution. This sprinkler did excellent work but it was slow. We required three of them and our hose was 2-inch. You can easily understand how slow and laborious the task of irrigation was. It required six men to operate this system, that is, three men worked twelve hours,

e the Depression of 1932

ional Association of Greenkeepers of America for a Frank This is No Time to Conceal the Facts

from six p. m. to six a. m. and three men worked from six a. m. to six p. m. All that could be accomplished with this force was one fairway every nine hours and seven days to complete the circuit of the course.

The cost for labor was thirty-five dollars per day, which meant for the season an expenditure of between two thousand and three thousand dollars. Quite a large item on the maintenance budget. The power bill too was high—running around nine hundred dollars.

In studying means of reducing expense I felt that quite a saving could be accomplished if the system of distribution was changed. I then estimated the cost of changing over, which was submitted to the Board of Directors for their approval and acceptance. Their answer was positive.

I then purchased the necessary equipment which consisted of two thousand feet of one-inch hose, fifteen rotary sprinklers, each capable of distributing twenty gallons of water per minute, eighty-four hydrant reducers from two to one inch, the total cost being a little over seven hundred dollars. The cost of this change has already been saved in labor.

Two men operate this system, as against six in previous years. The sprinkling is done only at night, the course is watered twice a week as against once previously. Less water is used than the old system and naturally the power bill will be reduced in proportion.

It was necessary with the old system to saturate the turf to enable it to hold moisture for one week. This was too much water—more than the grass could use. With the new system less water is applied and the turf is watered twice a week resulting in a more healthy turf, also a more healthy budget. No interference with play during the day which in itself is worth the change.

A ten per cent reduction in wages also helped in the reduction of expenditure. I know we will have

effected a substantial reduction in maintenance at the end of our fiscal year. The condition of the course was not sacrificed by the saving.

I hope others have been successful in their efforts.

Anderson Keeps Within Budget

By JOHN ANDERSON, *Greenkeeper*
Crestmont Golf Club, West Orange, N. J.



JOHN ANDERSON
Who knows conditions in New Jersey

MOST golf clubs in the United States, as well as those abroad, have felt this depression, especially as applied to the maintenance of the course. As regards the restaurant, generally members pay for what they get at the time—or at least monthly, but the maintenance of the course is acquired from dues, green fees, etc.

This season, owing to resignation of members and reduction of green fees the Finance Committees have had a tough job to apportion the available funds so that the course could be kept as near as possible in the condition it has been heretofore.

Here at Crestmont our budget was cut some \$9,000 and so it has been my job to give the members, as nearly as possible, the golfing conditions they had in previous years for \$9,000 less than formerly.

How did we do it? Well, starting in March, we decided just how much we could afford for labor and cut our force accordingly from 12 to 9 men and from \$5.00 per day to \$4.00, which is now the maximum for this class of labor in our state. Then