

# 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.

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### Anderson Keeps Within Budget

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



JOHN ANDERSON  
*Who knows conditions in New Jersey*

**M**OST 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

the balance for material and supplies was carefully apportioned so that the greatest good might be had for the greatest number so to speak.

Fortunately in the past we had a liberal budget and our greens, fairways and tees were in A-1 condition. It was decided we could not afford to neglect the greens so that meant that fairways, tees, rough, etc., could not have the attention formerly given. Of course construction and improvements were out of the question. Our seed bill was cut 75%. The fertilizer 50% and as it turned out to be an exceptionally dry summer the rough did not want much trimming.

But while the drought gave us a break in mowing, there was extra watering to be done and our members gave us to understand that no sprinklers could be on the greens during play, which I am convinced is as it should be both for the players and the greens, but that meant watering had to be done

either evenings or early mornings and at extra labor cost. We decided to water the greens in the evening between 6:00 and 10:00 p. m. and the tees and approaches in the early morning.

No overtime rate was paid for watering, only extra hours. The result on August 31—we are still well within our budget with a fairly liberal amount to give some fairways a fall topdressing and seeding to remedy the condition brought about by the prolonged drought.

But, alas, the treasury is depleted and until it is replenished somewhat, this will have to wait, but just how long can it afford to wait? Certainly not another year, and if not taken care of by next spring the playing condition of the course will not be so good, and we will be liable to lose members, and certainly some income from green fees. What will be more serious, still a much larger amount will have to be spent to put it in the same A-1 condition.

## Moore Says South Is Smiling

By HUGH C. MOORE, *Greenkeeper*  
Radium Springs, Albany, Georgia



HUGH C. MOORE

**Y**OUR letter of September 7th received and I will do my best to answer your questions.

The past summer with the Southern greenkeepers has been a very good season, owing to the fact that we have had plenty of rain. As for maintenance, the Southern courses have suffered, I believe, more than the

majority, as they have lost many members, which means the loss of money.

My course in the past year has not been up to standard, as the traps have been neglected; the fairways have suffered somewhat, more or less for fertilizing; the rough was left to grow much longer and the tees were not cut as often.

We decided to save on these areas as we believed they could be neglected better than any other part of the golf course. The greens have been kept up

to standard, for that is one part of the course I do not neglect. We have also saved on watering.

We have been very much pleased in regards to the very few complaints which the members have made. I believe that the majority of them realize the struggle which the greenkeepers have had to go through and also conditions of the past two or three years.

I am also pleased to say that conditions are much brighter throughout the Southern states and there seems to be more play at the present time and the people as a whole are smiling more.

### Mohawk Uses Only Experienced Men

By JAS. K. THOMSON, *Pro-Greenkeeper*  
Mohawk Golf Club, Schenectady, N. Y.

**Y**OURS of the 7th at hand with reference to golf course upkeep during this year of low appropriations.

Last year I felt we were in for a bad 1932 year and made sure I had all my machinery in first-class