



NEWS LETTER

"Wise men know that the glory
of spring is near."

MARCH

1939

This NEWSLETTER is published monthly by the Greenkeepers Club of New England, and sent free to its members and their Green's Chairmen. Subscription price ten cents a copy, or a dollar a year.

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54 Eddy St., West Newton, Mass.

March, 1939

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The ideas and opinions expressed in the subject matter of this NEWSLETTER are not necessarily those of the Editor or the members of the club as a whole.

OUTDOOR RECREATION CONFERENCE

The Sixth Annual Outdoor Recreation Conference was held at the Mass. State College, Amherst, Mass. on March 10, 11, and 12. Although heavy snows and storms at this time made travelling difficult, a large number of enthusiasts enjoyed the Show and the fine programs presented by the various sections of the Conference. As usual, the Golf section drew the most attendance, and many turf men from several states listened with attention to the various speakers and took part in the various discussions. Space does not permit us to record the various addresses here, but we hope to present some of the outstanding papers from time to time in these columns.

A feature of the Golf Section was the participation and cooperation of the Greenkeeping Superintendents' Association, the N. J. Association of Golf Superintendents, the Connecticut Association of Golf Superintendents, the Northeastern New York Greenkeepers

Association, the R. I. Greenkeepers Association, and as usual, the Greenkeepers Club of New England. It seems fitting in passing to note that all these associations, and others with members present, have a keen interest in the Conference, and possibly could be better tied together by a joint program, rather than by scattering the various representatives of these associations through the three day program.

The program in general followed closely the advance program as given in the February NEWSLETTER.

The Fifteenth Anniversary of the Club was celebrated with a Ladies' Night program on February 25th at the Arlmont Country Club, Arlington Hts., Mass. President Counsell, acting for the club, presented the club's past presidents with suitably engraved gavels, in appreciation of their services while in office. An evening of dancing and games rounded out the program.

The regular March meeting was held at the Waltham Field Station on the 6th. Final revisions to the By-Laws were voted, and considerable business discussed.

From the Boston Record of January 23rd, we glean the following:

Golf Gold

NEW YORK, Jan. 22—They have a "million-dollar" golf course at Juneau, but players in the Alaska capital want a new one.

Ike P. Taylor, chief engineer of the Alaska road commission, who played some winter golf on Pacific northwest courses explained Juneau's course gets its high-priced title from the fact it is situated on a beach where waste gold is washed out with sand from the Alaska-Juneau mine.

"It makes a fine golf course, if you like sand," Taylor said, "but some of the holes are under water when the tide is in."

Boss: "You know the importance of punctuation?"

Stenog: "Oh, yes, I always get to work on time."
—Ex.

KANSAS CITY NOTES

by Kent Bradley

We learned at the Kansas City Convention of the GSA, that some items brought out in the January report did not check with all readers. While the report as a news item was correct, some of the things brought out in the informal discussions may have been from misinformed sources. An invitation is extended to those familiar with the entire situation, to clear the air. The writer's apologies go to any who may have been caused embarrassment in this matter.

However, Greenkeeping will "go to New York Town", in 1940, when the GSA will hold its 14th annual educational conference and equipment show in the east. Strong bids are being made by Columbus, Ohio, and Detroit, Michigan, for 1941, and some bets are being made that 1942 will see the show in California.

But back to Kansas City:—Missouri, called "The Heart of America," due to its approximate geographical center, described locally as "Where the East ends, and the West begins, and the North meets the South."

The equipment show and lectures were given in the Municipal Auditorium, and the last registration figure we obtained showed 478 in attendance. The annual banquet and floor show had an assemblage of 250 persons in the Hotel President, the convention headquarters.

A high spot of the speaking program was a talk by Herb Graffis, Editor of GOLFDOM magazine. In colorful linksman lingo, we got the low down on how to build up our status with golfers and club members—the ultimate consumers and bill-payers of the entire golf business, from bunker raking to ball making.

Graffis observed that in the past six months, greenkeeping received more public attention through the press and radio, than it has in the total of the last 15 years.

Credit for this is due largely to Charles A. Burns of Good Park Golf Course, Akron, Ohio. We recall that Herb Graffis said at a NEGC meeting that "Greenkeepers were the world's louisiest press agents." If this still is the rule, then this Charlie Burns is the exception that proves it. Sports writers,

telegraph messenger boys, press photographers, 'phone calls, in, and out, were a constant scene around the Burns room! And the man did it only for the fun and love of it!

The Official Board of the GSA for 1939 consists of:

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(new elections)

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(ending second year of term)

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John Gray, Sandwich, Ontario, Can.

Robert Lee Mitchell, as Delegate of the North Eastern New York Greenkeepers Association made a proposal of merit, dealing with the matter of representation of district affiliates. Briefly, that each district organization chose its representative to be on the Board of Directors.

Edward B. Cale, President of the New Jersey Golf Course Superintendents' Association proposed sectional meetings during the golf season months. He suggested these be sponsored by the GSA, and open to anyone interested in golf maintenance.

Suggestions from the GSA Membership are being used as a basis for vocational qualifications, and trial tests were suggested to be made through volunteers. Results obtained from these tests will serve as a guide in recommendations for the special committee on qualifications.

Many of those attending the Kansas City Convention wore green ties, a fast-growing vogue among golf maintainers.

A model green-building contest was held on the exhibition floor, open to district affiliates of the GSA. Three teams entered, and the winners in order were:

The Mid West (Chicago District) Association, The Ohio Golf Course Superintendents' Association, and third, the Heart of America Greenkeepers' Association (Kansas City Region).

This was the first time the GSA held an annual meeting west of the Mississippi River, and symbolically made the greatest step toward national advancement in every direction of the Association.

WIANNO FAIRWAY IRRIGATION— A SEQUEL

by Charles W. Parker

In the February issue of the Newsletter of last year I gave an account of the installation of a fairway irrigation system at Wianna Golf Club in which I said that what the final cost would prove to be and how successful would be the results obtained would have to wait for the future. That future is now the past and it is possible to go on from where I left off.

The cost was estimated to be going to be between \$10,000 and \$10,500. That has proved to be a very fair guess. When direct and related costs were totaled and the system actually in operation the total cost was a little less than half way between the two estimated extremes. Now do not say that Wianno Golf Course was able to install an irrigation system for less than \$10,500, consequently another Club can do the same. Quite true; we did install irrigation on twelve fairways and revamped the watering system at thirteen Greens and Tees but there were several factors which enabled us to do this that might not apply for any other installation. We were able to get pipe at a very favorable price. For the runs to Greens and Tees we were able to salvage a considerable footage of pipe already on hand. Digging, laying pipe and back-filling was done for less than average unit cost largely because of soil conditions plus an average labor cost of 43 cents per hour. With the exception of the fee for the lay out and a small fee for a consulting engineer in connection with preliminary surveys, in all less than \$500, it was not necessary to incur any expense for engineering. All problems that came up as the job progressed were worked out by us, and the pump houses, pump installation and pipe lay out in the pump houses were conceived and completed without outside advice or assistance.

This was not a one man job in its conception and execution for we have within our regular working force one or two men with considerable native ability and ingenuity, thus making it possible to solve many problems that came up without having to seek outside advice.

The results have been most satisfactory, in fact have exceeded our fondest hopes and the player response has been that of unqualified praise.

What has one season's operation demonstrated to us? Many things. Water alone will not grow grass in competition with average mid-summer temperatures, bright suns and warm drying winds, at least on our soil. This was clearly shown on many areas known to be growing on thin, hungry soil. After a certain point in the watering program has been reached, the turf on these areas ceased to respond to further applications, whether, light, medium or heavy. In the early Fall as the days grew shorter, and more favorable growing conditions prevailed, these areas appeared to take on a new lease of life and from casual inspection appeared to have caught up with the surrounding turf. Actually the grass is still thin and hungry.

Our first season of watering has been backed up with a generous application of Milorganite and we hope to continue this practice annually although we expect that we will vary the material from time to time.

No serious mechanical troubles have developed other than a few valves being out of plumb either from careless installation, frost action or being hit by mower wheels. A few of the outlets were so out of plumb as to cause sticking of the sprinklers but this proved to be more of an annoyance to the man operating the watering program rather than a serious defect. All valve outlets have been carefully re-plumbed and after another season we will have determined just what the reason for this is.

The pressure tanks which we had to use, ones that had been on the old water system, proved as we expected to be, too small and also developed minor leaks because of the increase in maximum pressure. The smallness of the tanks makes for loss of operating efficiency requiring by-passing excepting when small amounts of water are being used or the full capacity of the pumps is being drawn. The small leaks

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—Say you saw it in the NEWSLETTER—

in the tanks have not proved serious as, fortunately they are below the normal water level and so no direct air pressure loss is experienced.

Without a recording flow meter for each pump we can only estimate how much water we are using at any one time or for the entire season. When Greens and Tee watering is being done it is absolutely necessary to by-pass to prevent the cutting in and out of the controls too frequently which if allowed to persist will result in serious and costly trouble. So, while we may have our pump pressure at 100 lbs. and the rated capacity of the pump at this pressure is 250 gpm we really have no exact knowledge of how much water is going out to the sprinklers because we are by-passing an unknown quantity. Of course we might start at the other end by taking the individual sprinkler pressures and consult performance tables for this make of sprinkler. We might then say that we are delivering so much water; however, we feel that there is too much chance for error on our part under this method of figuring and prefer to say that we have been able to lay down sufficient water, where we have wanted it to meet the requirements of the turf. How do we know that we have not used too much, we don't; excepting that we have very little to worry about on that score on Cape Cod. We hope that some day we may be able to install flow meters and under more exacting conditions we would feel some doubts about operating an irrigation system where we are guessing at the amount of water we are actually delivering. Guess it is for 55 gpm looks just about the same as 80 gpm as the water comes tearing out the nozzle of a high pressure sprinkler.

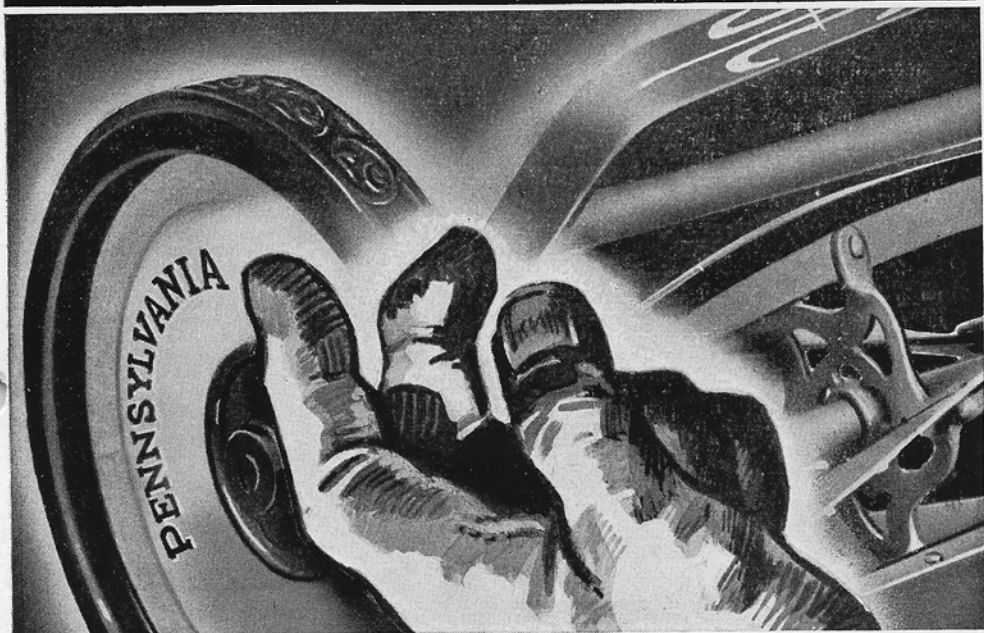
Our program of watering was laid down as two nights of eight hours each for Fairways, a night for Greens and Tees and then two nights for Fairways. Actual operation was the same as on any other golf course, adjusted to meet the needs of the turf and the program was followed or modified accordingly.

From the maintenance and turf improvement end we find, after one season, chiefly this. Upon request we have had to mow the watered Fairways three times a week and at no time have we been to let them go with one cut a week or even less as was often the case before irrigation was practiced. The five unwatered Fairways came in for

some criticism and it was suggested that we pay more attention to watering the landing areas on these Fairways to minimize the fact that we had no general irrigation system on this unit of the course. As for turf improvement too little time has elapsed to draw any conclusions on end results. September and October were very generous with rain and favorable growing weather extended well into October and while the irrigated section of the course received no artificial watering after September 6 there was through the Fall and there is to-day a noticeable difference in the density of the turf on the watered and unwatered Fairways. This is simply a statement of fact, not an argument in favor of watering, and still less a prediction.

As regards the irrigation system, its installation, operation and the results, actual or anticipated, that is about all there is to say excepting to reply to the thought that is uppermost in everyone's mind that 1938 was hardly a year to test a newly installed irrigation system. Cape Cod weather conditions are not comparable to any other part of New England for while most of Massachusetts and other sections of New England were having all sorts of trouble because of excessive rainfall we on Cape Cod found the season not so far from the normal as to occasion turf troubles. May, June and July did have more rain than the previous year, the greatest amount being 5.5 inches of rainfall in June, but in none of these months was any one rainfall greater than 2.06 inches. The cry of a wet July was heard here on the Cape but actually it was an echo from the "mainland" for the total rainfall was 2.3 inches which was spread over eleven days of the month. That, of course, is where the rub came for people who were vacationing. A third of the month was rainy and probably more than half of the eleven days in which rain fell were week-ends. In a recreation area such as Cape Cod such a distribution of rainfall is bound to create the impression that we did have a wet season. From August 1 to September 6, inclusive .89 of an inch of rain fell with .23 of an inch falling in one twenty-four hour period. This means that in a 36-day period we had one rainfall of slightly less than a quarter of an inch and five other showers averaging .152 of an inch per shower. For turf purposes we had at no time within that period of 36 days

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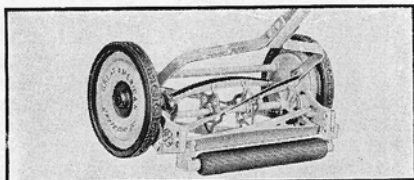
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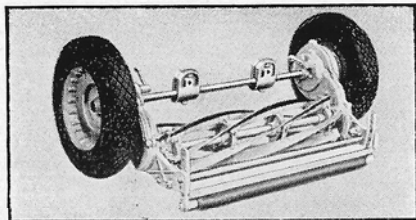
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enough rainfall to protect the turf for more than the immediately following twenty-four hours, provided the temperature did not go above seventy degrees, or the sun did not shine strongly for a few hours, or the South-west wind did not blow freshly from 10 A. M. until sun down. There may be days in mid-summer when none of those three drying out factors is active on Cape Cod, but I have yet to experience such a day.

Consequently we feel that this 36-day period in addition to the intermittent watering required in June and July has given this irrigation installation a testing sufficient to indicate clearly that it has justified itself in every way and that for its cost is capable of producing results that more than justify the investment.

TALKS ON TREES

BY E. PORTER FELT

Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories
Stamford, Conn.

What to do for shade trees is a question of general interest in the hurricane swept area.

One local paper advocated planting a tree for each one destroyed and another went so far as to advise the planting of twice as many. It is possible now to obtain a better idea as to what the storm really did. There is no question but that large numbers of extremely desirable and highly valuable trees were destroyed. The loss in many cases is not so severe as appeared at first. There are wide gaps in previously symmetrical plantings but in many cases the removal of some trees did not seriously affect general appearances. The desire indicated by these recommendations, namely a speedy restoration of the beautiful shaded areas in sections where storm damage has been severe is appreciated. It is believed that the more satisfactory course is to make fewer replacements and plan to grow stronger and more beautiful shade trees.

There is one statement in a local paper deserving comment. It was to the effect that "no upkeep" was necessary after the planting of the trees. This may be true with small trees. A general survey of shade tree damage indicates that many large trees had been

wrecked largely because there had been no "upkeep". It is a mistake to think that shade trees can be planted and left to care for themselves. Many shade trees grow in such a way that they are readily broken by wind storms. A large proportion of the shade trees in cities and villages are injured and frequently seriously weakened by the ravages of leaf eating insects, fungous diseases and the consequent invasion by wood rots following attack by borers. There should be upkeep, not necessarily expensive upkeep, throughout the life of the tree. There is more need for this than many realize.

There is a general desire for well grown beautiful shade trees and within reasonable limits it is entirely possible to secure such throughout much of the United States.

Midwinter is a good time to plan insect control work for early spring.

The dormant spray application to shade and ornamental trees is a standard practice which has given excellent results in the past and the value of this treatment should not be overlooked even if certain scale insects have not been especially numerous. A dormant spray has a protective value also for a number of minor pests usually overlooked and capable of causing material injury.

The oyster shell scale is likely to be abundant and destructive on ash, lilac and poplar as well as injurious to apple. It was this insect which was numerous on woodland beech in the Berkshires last year, killing many of the branch tips.

The cottony maple scale on soft maples and the tulip tree scale may both cause most unsightly conditions in midsummer. These two insects winter on the underside of the branches of their respective food plants as minute inconspicuous young. Both species are readily controlled with a dormant oil spray in the early spring. This is vastly better than any treatment which can be given in midsummer.

Soft maples are frequently infested with greenish or reddish sack-like leaf galls about one-eighth of an inch in diameter. Occasionally the galls are so numerous as to distort much of the foliage and lower the vitality of the tree. The cause are tiny plant mites which winter under the bud scales. They are readily killed with a dormant oil spray.

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The same is true of the ugly hickory leaf stem gall except that it is produced by a plant louse instead of a plant mite. The eggs of this aphid are deposited in cracks and crevices near the tips of the branches. They hatch just before the buds swell and actually make their way under the bud scales and start galls in the developing leaves within the bud. A dormant spray is an effective control. It is recommended for hickories which have suffered greatly from this pest in earlier years.

The above are only a few of the insects and mites most readily controlled by early spring applications, known as dormant sprays.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL SHORT COURSE IN TURF MANAGEMENT

Conducted at Rutgers University, February 13 - 17, 1939

The Eleventh Annual Short Course in Turf Management, conducted at Rutgers University, February 13 - 17, under the leadership of Dr. Howard B. Sprague, was one of the most successful courses at that institution. Approximately 70 persons attended the course, 68 of whom received certificates for faithful attendance throughout the entire week. Although the course of study was similar to that in previous years, the subject matter was brought up to date, with the result that considerable new information was presented. The attendance at the course showed the following distribution from a geographical standpoint: New Jersey—46, New York—12, Massachusetts—5, Pennsylvania—4, Ohio—1.

Although the golf interest continued to dominate the course, there was an

appreciable number of other professions represented. Of the 68 who received certificates, 37 were connected with golf courses, 14 with landscape architecture, 8 with parks, 5 with commercial concerns, and 4 unclassified.

The entire class visited the new athletic plant of Rutgers University on the last day of the course. Particular interest was shown in the details of construction and planning of the new Rutgers Stadium, which has received such favorable comment. It was in this stadium that Rutgers defeated Princeton in football for the first time in fifty years. As a fitting climax to the week of intensive study, a dinner meeting was held, at which consideration was given to the problem of human relations in greenkeeping. This topic was presented in excellent fashion by Prof. L. S. Dickinson of Massachusetts State College. Prof. Dickinson pointed out the necessity for golf course superintendents and others concerned with greenkeeping, considering their work from a strictly professional standpoint, and adhering to high standards, both in daily practice of their professions and also in the ethical standards which govern relations with those whom they are serving. The certificates of attendance were presented by Prof. F. G. Helyar, Director of Short Courses, at the close of the evening program.

"We must do somepin' to remedy de status quo."

"Brudder, tell me what am de status quo?"

"Dat's de Latin term fo' de mess we's in."

"They say your new fellow is moon-faced."

"But it makes him that much more romantic."
—Ex.

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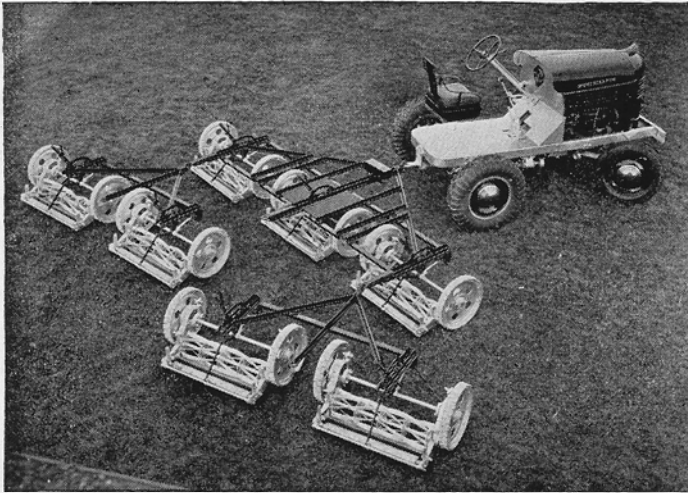
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