



NEWS LETTER

I wish to be simple, honest, frank — natural, clean in mind and body, unaffected—ready to say “I do not know”, if so it be, to meet all men on an absolute equality—to face any obstacle and meet every difficulty unabashed and unafraid—to cultivate the hospitable mind and the receptive heart.

—Elbert Hubbard.

JANUARY

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.

GUY C. WEST Editor
Rhode Island Country Club
West Barrington, R. I.

GEORGE J. ROMMELL, JR.
Business Mgr.
54 Eddy St., West Newton, Mass.

January, 1939 Vol. 11, No. 1

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.

At the annual meeting, the following members were made Contributing Editors of the NEWSLETTER:

R. A. Mitchell
Frank Wilson
Howard Farrant
Charles Parker
Homer Darling

Each of these members is to contribute or secure an article a month for the NEWSLETTER, we hope, we hope!

A recent letter from Carl Treat points out that a recent report from New Jersey in the NEWSLETTER might be misinterpreted. Arsenate of lead is being used for Japanese beetles at rate of 250 pounds per acre with success in many cases, but more often at the heavier rate, especially where there are heavy clay soils or where heavy infestation is expected. Thanks, Carl, for this correction!

We are reporting rather fully in this issue on a recent important meeting of the New Jersey greenkeepers, because the subjects under discussion are of interest to all of our readers. This report has been made available through the cooperation of Kent Bradley, who

writes, "I have been a less than more frequent contributor of late, due to the fact that I have three other publications on my contribution list. My 'kibitzing' column is being discontinued, and material turned over to Don Young, who is starting 'Why'. His writing is like champagne, opens up with a pop, bubbles with vitality, and leaves the reader stimulated."

BOOST SENATE BILL NO. 38

The eleventh annual Short Course in Turf Management will be held at the College of Agriculture of Rutgers University on Feb. 13 - 18, 1939. As usual, the course will be under the supervision of Dr. Howard B. Sprague. Anyone wishing to enroll should apply to F. G. Helyar, Director of Resident Instruction, College of Agriculture, New Brunswick, N. J.

The 1939 Recreation Conference at the Mass. State College will be held on March 10, 11, and 12th. Keep these dates in mind!

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Greenkeepers Club was held at the Waltham Field Station on January 9th. Officers and committees reported for the year.

John L. Counsell of Salem Country Club was elected president. He succeeds R. A. Mitchell of Kernwood.

Others officers elected included:—Homer C. Darling, Juniper Hill, first vice-president; Arthur Anderson, Brae Burn, second vice-president; Charles W. Parker, Wianno, third vice-president; Philip I. Cassidy, Needham, secretary; Frank Wilson, Charles River, treasurer; W. D. Maxwell, Marshfield, trustee for three years; Samuel Mitchell, Ponkapoag, chairman entertainment committee; Lloyd G. Scott, Meadowbrook, chairman golf committee, and Henry C. Mitchell, Walpole, and Thomas F. Burke, Cohasset, auditing committee.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1938

To the Greenkeepers Club of
New England,

Fellow Members:

First, I wish to thank all the officers and committees who have cooperated in carrying out the work of the year 1938.

The most important piece of work which we have undertaken during recent years has been the endeavor to get an appropriation to start research work here at the Waltham Field Station of the Massachusetts State College.

The Greenkeepers Club of New England has shown their interest is real by appropriating to the cause a considerable portion of their Club savings.

Ahead of us is the job to keep this project alive and growing until it produces a crop; namely, turf research at Waltham.

The Winter Classes for Greenkeepers held at the Waltham Field Station was a successful venture of 1938 and should help the first mentioned project.

The preponderantly educational programs which the Club desired the Entertainment Committee to put on are strictly in line with our Club aims.

The part taken by the Greenkeepers Club of New England at the Recreational Conference is along the same track.

When anyone tells you that skill and science combined with common sense have no market value when selling a Greenkeeper's Services, "Don't you believe it."

It has been said that Greenkeepers are the "World's Louisiest Press Agents."

If this association belongs to that class I hope that in trying to change that reputation the facts will be well presented to the Public but without any stretching, that readers may learn to know that what we say is not ballyhoo, but are dependable facts, needing no grain of salt.

Those who think that the Club should provide something, lest "All work and no play make Jack a dull boy" had their way in 1938 with an enjoyable occasion at the Weston Club.

In spite of floods in July, a once in a century hurricane in September with a tidal wave, you who suffered little or were hard hit carried on and will in 1939.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Mitchell.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow members:

I want to congratulate our retiring president on the fair and conscientious manner in which he has administered the office of president of our club for the past two years.

I want to thank you for the honor you have conferred on me. I appreciate the duties and responsibilities of the office and I will discharge them to the best of my ability. I will endeavor with your assistance to elevate our profession and our organization so that we will obtain the recognition we deserve.

I think our club should receive more publicity and that all of our meetings and activities should be given the proper kind of publicity. In this way we can contact the members of golf clubs so that they will become conscious of the fact that we are organized to educate the greenkeeper, advance greenkeeping, and to provide improved playing conditions on the golf course.

Your Entertainment Committee has provided a fine educational program, and every member should take advantage of this opportunity to benefit himself by attending our Winter meetings.

Let us continue to keep our club free from internal dissention or harmful outside influence, and conduct ourselves in a manner that will reflect credit upon us and the Greenkeepers Club of New England.

—John Counsell.

The annual convention of the Greenkeeping Superintendents' Association will be held at Kansas City, Mo. on Feb. 7 - 10.

GREENKEEPING GOES TO (NEW YORK) TOWN

A special business meeting of the New Jersey Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held on December 19, 1938 at the Suburban Golf Club, Union, New Jersey. Considerable business was discussed relative to local affairs and efficiently dispatched.

Discussions were opened on certain business of joint interest to individual greenkeepers, this and other local organizations, and the national association.

Certain views were expressed by and as individuals, motions were made and passed on some of the topics which were mentioned. As a reporting greenkeeper the author attempts to give you a cross-section of what occurred.

It was felt that membership and officials of the various organizations should be made aware of the fact that the national organization as such has distinct obligations to individual greenkeepers and local clubs whether they be "affiliated", or "charter affiliation" or not allied with the policies of the G. S. A. Numerous criticisms were made and practical recommendations offered. The more important ones, to quote, were:

"A local association should not have to bear expenses of bringing a convention to its area for getting morale and other support." It was questioned if a local should be called upon to finance entertainment of visitors. "Inasmuch as the national organization profits financially and in other ways, all expenses of a convention should come out of convention income."

Qualifications for candidates of the national organization were discussed. "Members who show their worth by attendance and activity in local meetings are usually candidates for local office." "After such men have held office in their local, they become conversant with association affairs." "These men should be those best qualified for G. S. A. posts." "Consideration should be given to the amount of time a man could devote to G. S. A. work and his ability to get around and handle correspondence." "The fact that there are directors already in office from a district

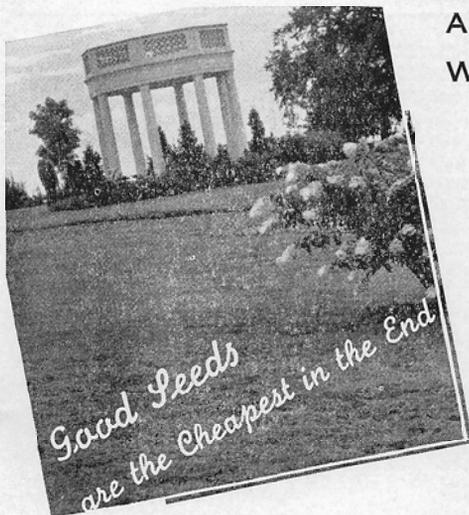
where another man qualifies for a new candidacy should not prevent the new man being nominated if he is of definite value." "All local organizations should be represented at frequent and semi-formal meetings along the lines of a greenkeeping congress."

"G. S. A. Board action should be based on the recommendations of the majority of the congress. The local organizations should pick their own representatives and the national bear some of their congressional expenses."

"Qualifications for G. S. A. officials should not be based on personal notoriety, popularity or the influence of the district they come from. If these be qualifications, they should be of secondary consideration."

"The New Jersey association is dedicated to better turf culture through education, cooperation and professional improvement of its members and sharing information to others interested in fine turf management.

Opinions were voiced on the method of selection of annual conferences. "Inasmuch as directors are elected by national vote, they should be impartial in the selection of a future convention site." "They should consider things in the light of THE ASSOCIATION, not 'my district'." "The Board should realize that in the so-called New England and Middle Atlantic States, comprising Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York, there are, according to the figures of May 6, 1938, 381 clubs belonging to the U. S. G. A., or 47% of the total membership in all states, the Hawaiian and Philippine Islands. The highest state outside this district, with 59 U. S. G. A. clubs is Illinois." "Ohio has 56, California 39, Michigan 28 and other states from but one to 19 clubs." "As of October, 1937, there were 851 private clubs in this region that have greenkeepers and 916 have Greens Chairmen who receive 'Golfdom' magazine. The circulation of 'Golfdom' in these areas as of June, 1937, was 95,744. This was nearly one-third of the total private golf club reader list of this well-known publication." Some of these figures were obtained from "The Golf Market" issued by the publishers of "Golfdom", the business journal of golf and "Golfdom", the national players magazine.



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"The G. S. A. should financially aid this and other sections so that personal contact could be made to local greenkeepers and club officials. In line with big business and other golf organizations, this district is in need of an official representative of the G. S. A. with office facilities."

In going over the list of membership of the New Jersey organization whose members belong to the G. S. A., some questions arose. It has been learned that certain men belonging to the national organization have not yet applied for membership or attended meetings in this local district. "These men should be advised by the G. S. A. of the local organization when it is found that they are not members of their sectional club." Some men may be G. S. A. and local members. They may be in good standing with the G. S. A. and in arrears with their local dues. Some regular members of the New Jersey association who did not see any advantage of their supporting the present and past G. S. A. program felt that if it were necessary for the local to have the required 80% G. S. A. membership, they would resign. This was met with alarm as some of those who would make this sacrifice regularly attend the local meetings.

PART II.

Re. Turf Research

The resolution of the G. S. A. supporting the so-called "Federal Turf Re-

search" was brought up. Disapproval was voiced on the practice of an individual who, when addressing a group of greenkeepers and chairmen, casts aspersions upon the sincere efforts and findings of turf research men connected with various State Experiment Stations and colleges. Such procedure was deemed, "Very embarrassing to those men who report to their club officials basing their facts on recommendations of their local and other men connected with state turf experiments." "A person who, by inference and implication when in general statement, condemns our reliable firms and supply agents was considered not to be using good judgment."

It was felt that, "Our commercial friends render us valuable service and help, support our efforts of professional advancement by advertising in magazines that bring us valuable information and aid our periodic gatherings by exhibiting their wares." It was questioned if there was any value in some of the recent reports on certain types of turf work. These included artificial tinting of turf that was off-color due to various causes. "The fact that turf is blighted when in poor health is an indication that more than superficial treatments are needed." "So long as one has a natural color indication, the condition of turf can be determined, and resorting to unnatural means of coloring of the plant surface hinders one from knowing the state of its recovery." "It was questionable if chemical treatment for weed eradication is entirely practical, particularly when there are physical soil conditions which contribute to weeds being present."

Some reports on research have been duplications of experiments made elsewhere and on earlier dates.

"If the U. S. G. A. Club members are not interested enough in turf research," it was asked, "why should club employees attempt to go over their heads in order to secure Federal aid?"

Among the local members, indications were that they were in favor of considerable review, compilation and bringing scientific matters up to date, this material to be published in practical form for greenkeeping application. "Research should continue, but not from any centralized point or under the control of any one individual but by and through State Experiment Stations close to the local problems." "If such research were asked from Federal Headquarters, the



MONEY-SAVING MACHINES THAT KEEP MEMBERS HAPPY



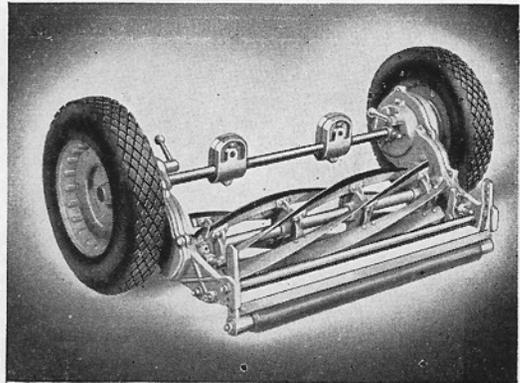
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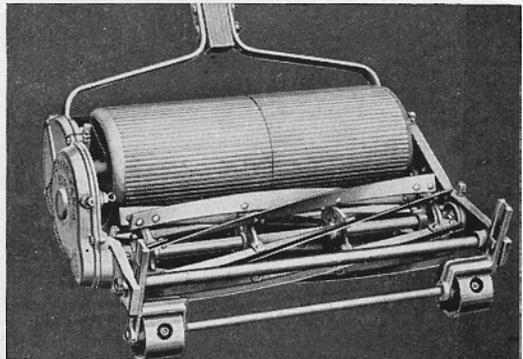
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request should be explicit in detail as to amount of money needed, for what kind of research, and under whose advisement and direction."

"The fact that 'research' comes to the greenkeepers to 'lobby' for it indicates that it has little value as a source of publicity and recognition." "The average man takes but casual notice of so-called 'scientific men' and their activities." "When one meets with a difficulty on his course he is expected to use his head and the knowledge accumulated therein and the alibi that we need more research is a lame one." "We are expected to remedy things when they go wrong or make practical attempts and not make excuses."

"When a greenkeeper is not certain of procedure, it is better policy to call in another greenkeeper for practical consultation rather than rely solely on the advice of one who has not supervised the full operation of a golf course."

He who helped draft the resolution should have advised against the wording, "Whereas the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture has rendered considerable technical assistance to the growth of various plants but has **apparently** overlooked the study of turf forming plants" "It is apparent that this and other Federal Departments do look into turf research." "We have such indications as:

- "1. Some turf gardens, laboratories and offices now used for turf work are Federal property.
- "2. State colleges and Experiment Stations are land grant institutions of the Federal Government. Here are Reserve Officers Training Corps for the United States Militia. Cars used by various individuals of the U. S. G. A., Greens Section, are marked with U. S. Dept. of Agriculture registration plates. Various books and bulletins have been written by men who definitely have had connection with Federal turf research."

"The G. S. A. Resolution on Turf Research is too vague—it was not sufficiently specific as befits an organization of men whose profession largely involves the maintenance of fine turf."

"It is not in accord with traditional greenkeeper economy to 'get our share of Government money since others are

doing it.'" "Such spending will also have to come from the pocketbooks of greenkeepers."

A few years ago we were asked to and did donate funds from our associations to help keep up the U. S. G. A. Greens Section experiments. We have had no accounting on how this money was spent. "The frequent mention by turf technicians that we are 'forgotten' or 'unrecognized men' is a woeful and self-sympathetic attitude which does not make for inspiration or lead to professional progress."

The U. S. G. A. has a committee of its members on the Research Board. It has been heard that, "these men have not been called to meeting for a number of years." The G. S. A. has had some of its distinguished members on the U. S. G. A., Greens Section Advisory Board but no publication in the official magazine has been made of any recent matters upon which they have been called upon to advise or represent the opinions of their associates.

"The signing of blank checks and indiscriminate spending," was not looked upon with favor. "The G. S. A. and locals should stress the importance to club officials of winter school attendance by greenkeepers." "Club officials should be urged to aid and permit their men to attend local meetings, winter schools and conferences of national scope." "We are doing considerable fence-mending in the education and stimulation of interest among greenkeepers." "We should finish one job before starting any others that will mix up this, our professional course."

All remarks, observations and opinions were made with kindness but in firm consideration of attending to our own business.

Order prevailed throughout the meeting. Each regular member present, who wished to speak his views, was given the opportunity. There were no Honorary members present.

Such opinions we have given herein, and while mentioned on the floor, should be construed as individual thoughts expressed by those in close contact with greenkeeping matters, and are not necessarily those of the author of this report, or of the membership of the association as a whole.

As to governmental turf research, a motion was unanimously carried by those present to the effect that, "After considerable discussion and careful thought,

turf research be continued, and increased by the personnel OF and AT STATE EXPERIMENT STATIONS, where golf course superintendents or greenkeepers cooperate, find the need of, and are LOCALLY consulted with their problems. The N. J. Association does **not** approve of Federal Department control of turf research at or from any centralized office, laboratory or field, or by any Federal appointed or selected individual or persons. The N. J. Association DOES, recommend, however, that Federal Government Agricultural Agencies, Bureaus, Departments, and Institutions, give all aid within their respective means, and in all manner possible to STATE Experiment Stations, if, and as requested by Directors of State Experiment Stations, for the public in their respective States."

—Kent Bradley.

THINK THIS OVER

by Charles W. Parker

Times and customs change much as we dislike to admit it and perhaps the time has come for The Greenkeepers Club of New England to change its custom of rejecting, immediately and vehemently anything and everything that comes before it that has the label of the Greenkeeping Superintendents Association (National Association of Greenkeepers of America) attached to it.

There is no denying that the old N. A. G. A. had the faculty of saying and doing the wrong thing whenever The Greenkeepers Club and it came in contact with each other. N. A. G. A.'s initial approach to The Greenkeepers Club resulted in a fiasco. What the details were has gone from me and may it be suggested that these be permitted to pass from the memories of others who still appear to cherish recollections of the contretemps of long ago. Again at the N. A. G. A. convention in New York several years ago relations were not improved. Finally when the directorate jazz band of the old N.A.G.A. descended on Boston to high pressure us into the fold the breach was widened—some of us rather enjoyed the furtive gentleman who seemed continually slithering in and out of the hotel suite leaving behind him a refill. Yes; this was in the dry era—and from

that day to this there has been a tendency to place the thumb and forefinger to the nostrils whenever N.A.G.A. is mentioned.

Whatever the reasons may have been for this quite general feeling about the N.A.G.A., should we not bring ourselves up to date? When the Cleveland bank situation started a conflagration that all but consumed N.A.G.A. did not this purge by financial fire render a distinct service to those who were and are interested in forming a representative national organization of Greenkeepers? Was not this financial loss a blessing in disguise and is not the present G.S.A. risen phoenix like from the ashes of the Cleveland holocaust, cleansed of its weaknesses?

It has never been conclusively proved that a national organization of such a specialized group as Greenkeepers are can justify itself other than on the score of sociability, and a very expensive sociability it will have to be with such a relatively small potential membership scattered over such a far flung area as are these United States. Be that as it may; while it is true that it has never been demonstrated that such an organization can justify its existence, neither has it been proved, to date, that such an organization cannot be developed. Witness the G.S.A.

So in the spirit of changing times and customs, can we not afford to open our minds to this latest attempt to further the interests of Greenkeeping? Not to the extent of clasping it to our bosom unreservedly, but at least to the point of giving the organizers the benefit of the doubt, and perhaps—shall it be made a very small perhaps—granting that we may cooperate with them in policies for the good of all. Why not go a little further and extend to this group the hope, even though it may be completely unofficial, that they will be able to convince us that their aims and purposes are of the highest and that it will be to the mutual advantage of us all to enter into a common organization. Or must the East (of the Connecticut River) remain effete forever and the "splendid isolation of New England", prevail once more.

If one accepts the belief that an open mind is a sound mind, a healthy mind and a progressive mind, the opinion expressed in an article in the last number of the Greenkeeper Reporter by one Leo Fezer merits applause.

Here we find set forth the almost revolutionary idea that all present day

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A. N. PECKHAM
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Greenkeepers are not necessarily qualified Greenkeepers simply because they have satisfied the yardstick measurement of experience in course maintenance. Here is suggested that the time is ripe to study seriously methods and ways for determining who is and who is not sufficiently grounded in all that goes to make up a qualified Greenkeeper, and from the results of such a study limit membership in any Greenkeeping organization to those who can demonstrate their competency. A minimum standard must be set up to which we must conform before becoming eligible for membership in a Greenkeeping organization.

No elaboration of this idea of a code of standards and ethics is necessary here, other than to point out that such a departure from present day practices opens up a vista interesting and alluring, if viewed seriously, dispassionately and objectively.

If one has a mind not fitted with a "zipper" and still persists in applying the thumb and finger to the nose because of the source of this embryonic idea the subject will be dismissed once and for all, and if any comment is made it will be that of the dancing master in, "You Can't Take It With You"; "Confidentially. It stinks."

But does it?

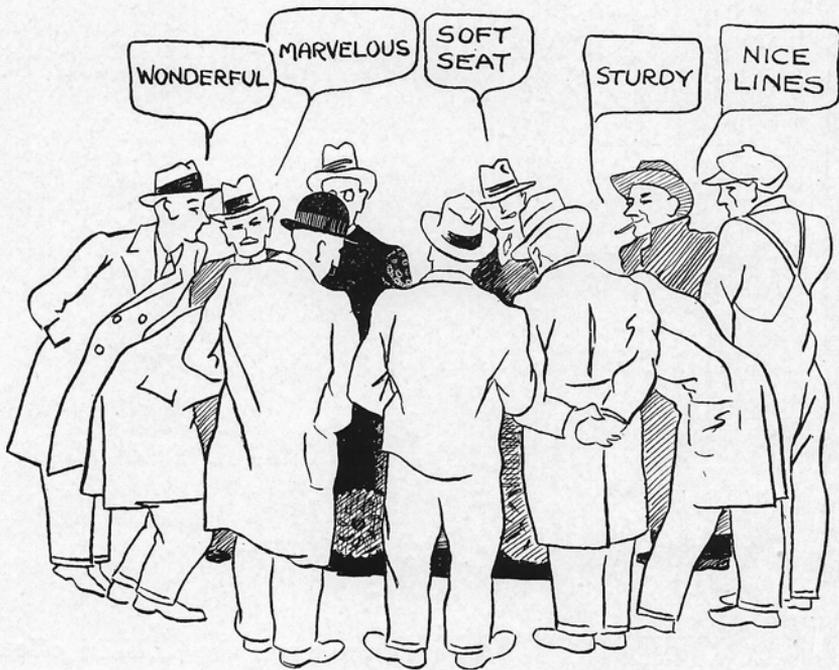
The Rhode Island Greenkeepers' Association met on January 16th at the Narragansett Hotel, Providence. At the business meeting, it was decided to sponsor a short speaking program at the Recreation Conference at the Mass. State College on March 10, 11, 12. Among those present was Lawrence Hay, who has been greenkeeper at the Agawam Hunt Club for the past thirty-nine years. Moving pictures of former greenkeeping activities were shown by Woodworth Bradley, and others of Rhode Island State activities and football games were shown by the R. I. State official photographer, George Gee. The next indoor meeting of this association will be held on March 20th. The annual Field Day for this year will be held in September instead of the usual May date.

It is with regret that we announce the death on January 11th of Mr. Purdom Carpenter of Barrington, R. I. Mr. Carpenter was the owner of the Carpenter Tool Company, maker of the Carpenter Grinder, and well known to many of our members.

OFFICERS' DIRECTORY

- President John Counsell, 5 Ellsworth Rd., Peabody, Mass.
- Secretary Philip Cassidy, 45 Grosvenor Rd., Needham, Mass.
- Treasurer Frank Wilson, Charles River C. C., Newton Centre, Mass.
- Chairman Enter. Comm. Sam S. Mitchell, Ponkapoag G. C., Canton, Mass.
- Chairman Golf Comm. Lloyd G. Stott, Meadow Brook G. C., Reading, Mass.
- Chairman Welfare Comm. Paul Wanberg, 8 Curtis St., Waltham, Mass.
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NEWSLETTER officers, see page two.



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