



# NEWS LETTER

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He who is silent is forgotten; he who abstains is taken at his word; he who does not advance falls back; he who stops is overwhelmed, distanced, crushed; he who ceases to grow greater becomes smaller; he who leaves off, gives up; the stationary condition is the beginning of the end.

—Amiel.

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**JUNE**  
**1940**

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.

June, 1940

Vol. 12, No. 6

#### Contributing Editors

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

*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.*

The Salem Country Club opened a new practice putting green on June 8th, approximately 5000 sq. ft. in size. This green and surrounding area is watered from a fairway valve in the middle of the green.

The experimental green at Ponka-poag (remember the story of this green by Sam Mitchell in a recent issue?) was recently opened for play as a practice putting green. Sam is anxious for as many players as possible to "rate" the various grasses and strains in this green, so drop around when in the vicinity and look it over.

Homer Darling reports that his efforts to arouse interest among his players concerning birds and their economic value has met with considerable success. Signs placed at two points around the course note bird and wild life sanctuaries. Articles on the bulletin board tell why the birds help the greenkeeper. A chart on the bulletin board notes the name of bird seen and time of arrival. Many players are asking for information and otherwise showing interest.

How about getting that neighboring greenkeeper to join your club?

#### MISS MORAN BRIDE OF R. D. MANSFIELD

The marriage of Miss Evelyn Moran, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Moran of Readville, to Richard Dexter Mansfield, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert P. Mansfield of 400 Salem St., Lynnfield, took place in Emmanuel Episcopal Church, at eight o'clock, Saturday evening, and the Rev. Stewart Clark Harbinson, M. A., performed the ceremony.

Clifford S. Mansfield, brother of the bridegroom was best man, and Miss Norma Bennett of Readville, was maid of honor.

The reception, immediately following the ceremony, was at the home of the bride, 236 Neponsit Valley Parkway, Readville.

Mr. Mansfield, who is Superintendent of the Mink Meadows Golf and Country Club, Vineyard Haven, was graduated from Wakefield High School in 1930 and the Massachusetts State College in 1933. His bride was graduated from Hyde Park High School in 1931 and the Palmer School of Boston in 1933.

After a wedding trip, Mr. and Mrs. Mansfield will make their home on Daggett Ave., Vineyard Haven.

The Green Section recently issued leaflets giving important seasonal information on Webworms, Brownpatch control, Dye for grass, Experimental greens, Japanese beetles, Crabgrass, and Pyrethrum. The Feb., 1940, Vol. 2, No. 1, TURF CULTURE, was also issued. Notice was given of the annual turf meeting sponsored jointly by the Green Section and the G. S. A. at Arlington Turf Garden on September 16 and 17.

Your club should be a member of the United States Golf Association!

Three simple rules for advancement:  
STOP to think.  
LOOK for advice.  
LISTEN to others.

It is the easiest thing in the world to apologize when you are in the right.

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## THE PLACING OF CUPS

by George C. Thomas, Jr.  
(Reprinted from Golf in Australia)

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The scientific and practical placement of the cups on the putting greens is a most important part of course condition and playing value. There are necessities governed by the amount of play as connected with traffic, while flag positions should be controlled by this as well as by the type of play; but par and its worth must also be considered. Pin placement should be located for both strategy and upkeep.

Too often upkeep is the sole aim, and strategy forgotten and eliminated; at times strategy is made of too great importance and natural factors of green-keeping overlooked.

It is unsatisfactory to place pins so that many good shots are penalized; it is a mistake to locate them so that poor shots usually are able to score pars.

Perhaps a listing of the generally accepted theories relating to placement will clarify the whole situation.

For general play the cups should be in easier positions than for tournament competition and the type and character of players must be taken into account for all occasions.

The arrangement of the markers on the tees affects the situation of the pins on the greens, and wind direction and force are fundamentals which help to determine both locations.

In a country with a generally prevailing wind, tee placement is more constant, but too seldom does the average greenkeeper set markers and pins so that together they logically will work out the playing value.

Everyone agrees that the markers should be well back with a following wind, forward with a headwind, and the pins should conform to the same rule. Side winds determine which part of the tee should be used and the carrying of a hazard on the drive usually means that the flag is more open to a second shot from that section of the fairway.

Different tees which cause variation in length or require different placements on the drive demand a pin location to agree with same.

Speed of fairway and of green are vitally important to both markers and cups. A fast course controls driving

distance. A fast green requiring pitch is more difficult to hold than a slow surface, but should the green be open for a running shot, such an effort is easier on fast ground.

Watering of fairways and greens controls this speed situation to a great extent and should be done in conjunction with placements on tees and greens. Traps guarding greens regulate the play and therefore help to specify the position of cups and markers.

Long shots to a green must not be penalized by a pin too near a trap while on short seconds after good drives the flag may wave closer to hazards.

In all cases the length of hole coupled with driving carry or placement should be analysed in connection with length and character of shot to green, together with size of green, location of hazards and green reception.

Markers are governed by the physical condition of tees as defined by stance and grass surface as well as by surrounding topography, including bushes or slopes nearby which affect the driving swing or the flight of the ball. Never should markers be located so that adjacent objects or ground contours enter the equation.

Pin position must be judged by the putting surface as exemplified by grass perfection and by slopes or rolls near the cup, and by both such considerations as affecting approach shots to the flag. This includes any irregularities or change of grass growth or texture, as well as old cup holes which replaced earth and grass, the latter sometimes having edges which do not give a smooth joint and which therefore interfere with the ball's roll as it approaches the hole. Cups should never be on ridges or inclines, but if possible situated in low ground rather than on hog backs.

In medal tournaments or qualifying rounds there is a general feeling among players that the placements of cups should be in the centre or easy parts of each green, although long distances from back tees are not objected to. This is mainly because of the extreme value of the putt by reason of the fact that there are more shots with this club than any other. For example, in a par of 72, there are supposed to be 36 putts and 36 other strokes, which allows 50 per cent of the play to the putter. Further, it is often the case that many players are more likely to miss putts than other efforts, and owing to the value of the

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putt, this shot counts for more than any other equation in the game. The desire for low scores is another vital factor which demands easy putting.

In match play rounds of tournaments the pins may be in more difficult positions, although it is the custom to increase the severity of the placement each day until in the final the greatest skill is required in holding the ball near the pin in a shot to the green. It will be realised that in an event where there will be several medal rounds on different days or where there will be first a medal round possibly of 36 holes and then match play rounds, a committee in charge of placements must map in advance the several spots on a green needed for the different pin locations and adjust the tee markers to synchronise with them.

The final round of a medal competition demands the most perfect location; the other rounds, their proper selections for the cup. Tee placements should vary the play and increase the difficulty as the tournament progresses.

In the case of an important fixture it is customary and wise to outline far in advance just what part of the tees will be used and to keep daily play from disfiguring such spaces by placing markers elsewhere. For the same reason it is logical to preserve those parts of the green needed for tournament pins from general play, so that other cup cutting will not mar anything near them.

If markers and flags are placed the day before a match with the anticipation of the same weather conditions obtaining for the play, it is necessary to change such selections if the wind shifts or speed of fairway or green changes or the weather varies the playing value. Usually a small peg is driven in the ground on each green so that the cup cutter may orient the proper spot, but these should be checked before placement because players using the course the day before the tournament may unwittingly remove these pegs and they are lost. Sometimes golfers take out the pin and drive it in the ground elsewhere.

It is the custom of the writer to make a diagram of each green long before any important tournament and arrange thereon the various spots of the flags for the different days, making such sketch on the ground and leaving it with the greenkeeper for reference.

The tee locations are reserved to conform to the cup arrangement, and if the weather changes other positions may be selected for altered conditions.

There is little chance for appreciation and lots of room for criticism in the placement of markers and cups. No one man should undertake this duty and assume the entire responsibility unless he has full charge and authority without interference. It would seem a better plan to have a committee to do this work, and such body must meet in advance and studiously weigh the entire question and all go together and personally stake the locations the day before or very early on the morning of the play. They must meet before the tournament starts, to reset any placements affected by change and check the work on the course to see that their arrangements are being carried out to the letter.

For a women's tournament where the par values are different from the usual par it would seem that a women's committee should be in charge.

The entire question of tee and green placement affects the golf course to a tremendous extent and no one set of players should be considered, and no arrangement should be made which does not make allowance for the interests of all types of players.

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## AND SO IT GOES

by C. Kaiby

Padcel Plains Country Club.  
November 14, 19--

Memo to: A. Grasgroa, Greens-Keeper  
From: Ludwig J. Wham, Chairman of  
Greens-Committee.

It was reported to me that on Friday, November 11th, a threesome of daily fee players on reaching the green found Sam Muhr about to change a hole. They told him to wait until they putted out, but he deliberately proceeded with the work and acted very arbitrarily. The players claimed they approached the green, played to the pin and of course when Muhr moved the hole it was not there, which made a difference to them, thereby adding a couple of strokes to their scores.



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Now I am Greens Chairman, and I don't want to be bothered by such matters any more than I can help it, and you have to remember that we are a semi-private club and we've got to cater to the people that have \$2 to spend for greens fees at our course.

One of the players was very mad about the whole thing. I would like you to investigate this matter, and give me all the details on why and wherefores, so I can write to the players and tell them why the thing happened, if we have a justifiable alibi.

Padcel Plains Country Club.  
November 15, 19--

Memo to: Mr. Ludwig K. Wham, Chairman, Green Committee

From: A. Grasgroa, Greenkeeper.

Re. your memo on complaint on hole-changing by S. Muhr on 11/11.

There was a heavy frost that morning. Our water system has been turned off for the season, so we could not wash the frost off the greens before mowing. As the frost melted, we had a heavy fog in the valley, and the greens were slow in drying out after poling when frost melted. The day was a semi-holiday, and a lot of players waited around until the fog lifted before going out to play.

The men were sent out to do various jobs, such as raking traps, until the frost melted. Muhr finished the trap work at 9 a. m. He overheard some players complaining that the greens were too wet to putt on, so he poled all them in his section and finished this at 10 a. m. By this time the fog had cleared, and the players come out in a bunch. Muhr then started mowing, and he was delayed a lot waiting for players to get off greens, while he was cutting them. Ordinarily this job takes 4 hours, but this day it took him 5 due extra play, and the fact that we have laid two men off for the season, as you ordered at the end of last month.

This meant extra greens for Sam to mow, and I was out working at the same thing at the other end of the course. So I know what Muhr was up against.

Sam finished mowing at 3.30 p. m. and still the holes had not been changed. He put his mower away and started out changing holes and re-locating tee

markers, as there was a lot of play and proportional tee and green turf wear. He could not change them in the morning very well, as the top inch of the turf was frozen, and his feet would have caused the frosted turf to bruise and blacken if he had done so. Now this hole and tee changing work usually takes an hour and a half, but the play continued heavy, so Sam had to do his work between groups of players. So he had to rush around, and do the best he could. Even at that, he was 15 minutes late in quitting work that night, for which he doesn't get paid. I asked him what delayed him, and he said the above things did, and told me about the run-in with the players. Here is his story, and I believe him, as he is a good worker and takes his job seriously.

Markers were moved on the 6th tee, and then he went to the 5th green to change the hole. A threesome came up on the 5th tee, just after he cut the new hole. He waited until they drove off. This is a short hole as you know, it's the one where you made the Ace last year. Well, none of these players even reached the green, two balls landed in the rough, and one in the brook. While the players were walking toward the second shot, Muhr finished changing the hole before they drove on to the green.

By this time a foursome came up on the 5th tee, and one hollered fore to the threesome ahead that Muhr had the trouble with. One of the latter hollered back to the foursome on the tee, "What in h--- is your hurry, can't you see the sign there saying when balls are on green stand aside to let the next players drive?" By this time Sam was on the way to move the markers on the 5th tee. But since the threesome was coming toward him, he stepped to one side of the fairway. All three men then pitched for the green, two balls landed on the green, then bounced off again into the rough. The third man drove his ball into the right side trap. By this time they were hopping mad. The fellow who landed in the trap tried to putt out, but the ball rolled back into the sand, and his next shot went across the green into the left side trap. The other two men then drove, and landed on the green, - - - oddly enough near the new cup setting. By this time Sam was near the 5th tee, and the foursome on it, hollered to the threesome ahead to take the lead out of their pants. Well, they eventually holed out, and the man

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whose ball went in the trap on the second shot came after Muhr, hollering that he took a 7 on a 3 shot hole, because Sam changed the cup. Sam apologized, and tried to explain and smooth the matter over, but the man asked his name, and reported the incident to you.

Now it is evident that these players weren't so hot as golfers, or they would have made the green in one shot—it certainly is big enough to hit, even if they don't split the pin like you did last year. When these players get more experienced they may become more tolerant. Golf is supposed to be fun, and not taken too seriously. Some dubs are jittery and by not relaxing like you do, they play an erratic game, due their being tense. It is rare that we get complaints, and this one, I think you will agree was not justified.

If in heavy play, the holes are not changed before one foursome, they have to be done after them, and before the next group. So I leave this matter up to the judgment of the men working in the interests of the majority.

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Padcel Plains Country Club  
November 18th, 19---

Memo to: A. Grasgroa, Greens-Keeper  
From: Ludwig J. Wham, Chairman of Greens-Committee

I have received your memo of Nov. 15, and have written to the player that made the complaint, and offered to play a round with him at his convenience, free of charge for greens fee, but he called me up on the phone and said he was on his way to a business trip and would take me up on it next spring.

Meanwhile I have received another complaint. Last Sunday, two foresomes of our own members had a little match on. The first foresome drove off the 18th tee. Then the man who you had ranging the course moved the markers from the back of the tee to the front, before the second foresome came on the 18th. On the 17th green, both foresomes were even-up, but the second foresome won the match.

I happened to be in the locker room when they came in, and overheard their comments. This matter I will attend to personally, so don't worry about it. However, the next time I hear of or see

you doing any work that is the jobs of greensmen, you are going to get a d---- good bawling out. Your job is to supervise the maintenance work on the course, and I want to see you dressed the part of an executive employee of the club, not as a manual worker. If you do not have men available, tell me, and I'll see to it that you get them. So go about your own business, and I'll be the buffer between what you are doing for the club as a whole, and the duffers that don't appreciate or know what you are doing for them.

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Padcel Plains Country Club  
Nurtsville

November 19th, 19---

Dear John:

Say, of all the tin-horn sports, you take the prize. So you lost your little match last Sunday. And you blame it on a workman that moved the tee markers up, thereby giving the other foresome behind you, exactly 31 feet shorter driving distance on the 18th hole.

If you kept your mind on what you were doing and not looked back, you would not have seen those markers moved, nor would you have pressed your second shot on the 18th, and then landed in the woods. Chet sliced his tee shot and landed in the right hand fairway trap, and the other boys of your foresome 3 putted.

Yes, I know there were some leaves on the green. But whose fault is it but your own idea that we lay off all but two of the greens force for the season, and therefore could not keep the greens swept frequently?

I was in the locker room when you guys came in beefing, and you were making so much smoke you did not see me in my bay, while you headed for the showers.

Now this Greens-Keeper, Grasgroa is a good man, he knows his business and the men in his line that he associates with think he's top notch. So don't go panning his honest attempts to run things on the course, with little money. I notice you buy a new car every year or so, and yet you killed the plan to replace our tractor that's ten years old.

I don't like the tone of your letter, and I'm answering it likewise. When guys like you who are stockholders of



the club start bellyaching around where daily fee players can hear you, it does our club no good. We have a pretty good layout, it is well kept, considering the budget you fellows allow the greens department. So if you want the greens swept, the traps raked, and every other frill you demand, then kick in toward the cost of getting these things, or pipe down.

Don't think for a minute this Greens-Committee Chairman job is a cinch, because if I hear any more of that kind of stuff from you, you will get an invitation to be on that committee next year. I noticed how you ducked out of it at the annual board meeting last spring. And another thing, that painting our greens force did in the locker room on rainy days is going to be charged to the house budget, and you are Chairman of the House Committee, so don't think you can put one over on us that have the main thing - - - the course to worry about.

Yours,

LUDWIG.

#### YE EDITOR FILLS SOME SPACE

Due to the usual condition that some of our promising but slightly slack contributors failed to send in copy this past few weeks, ye editor must try to fill a little space with a few thoughts and observations, and possibly a little news! . . . the usual monthly meeting was held at the Grand View Country Club (formerly Wachusett), West Boylston, Mass. on June 3rd. Prizes in the tournament were won by Sime Braio and Homer Darling. The New England Toro Co. demonstrated some of their power mowing equipment prior to lunch . . . we liked the old name of Wachusett, even the Grand View certainly expresses the sight from the club house and many parts of the course . . . mercury has taken another price jump; let's hope for little brown patch this season . . . "smiles are no less contagious than frowns" . . . have you tried a "soil-soaker" for that bank of the green which dries out so fast? . . . the Directors met at the Waltham Field Station on the 10th, a well-attended meeting with plenty of business discussed and decided . . . "the wise man selects his road before he starts to travel" . . . we

recently heard that Carl Treat's son, well known to many of our members, was wed early in the month in Chicago. . . . several weeks ago when we received a copy of "Golf in Australia" and read the article "the Placing of Cups", we decided that this article contained much information of value to our readers, and would be an excellent article to reprint in the NEWSLETTER. Soon after we noticed that the article was reprinted in the GREENKEEPERS' REPORTER. We still think it well worth your reading! . . . plenty of insects of all kinds around this year . . . course budgets are still too low at practically all clubs . . . "the best evidence of ability is achievement" . . . we have seen some greens recently on which the grass was growing along the ground and not upright; possibly due to lack of brushing up or raking, this probably due to insufficient labor to do the thousand and one tasks on the course . . . we usually praise a club which attempts to promote other activities than the golf course for its members. but we have seen some clubs which are promoting activities in which only a few members participate, to the detriment of the golf course, the life stream of the club . . . One of our contributors sends in the following interesting news:

#### New England "Invades" New Jersey

(as told to Ciande Monfils)

Seven men who formerly worked New England Courses are known to be members of the New Jersey Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

Listed alphabetically they are: John Anderson, Kent Bradley, Joseph Flaherty, Arie Hannenberg, Charles Laing, Sherwood Moore, and Carleton Treat. Bradley, Laing and Treat originally were members of our GCNE, Flaherty is the son of the greenkeeper who was at Brookline C. C. before Howard Farrant took over. "Young Joe" also worked under Charles W. Parker at Wianno. Anderson was originally at a course in Massachusetts, Hanenberg at Toy Town Tavern Course, Moore worked at a private school links, then under Bradley when he graduated from Stockbridge School of Agriculture. Laing was a charter member of the GCNE, and we know about Carl Treat's record.

All of these men also are members of the Greenkeeping Superintendents' Association.

At the Directors meeting Monday, February 5, 1940 topics of real interest which would be written up by the members for publication in the NEWSLETTER were suggested.

The following are the topics suggested and approved and either taken by members present to write up or designated to some member who might find the topic selected of special interest.

Tees .....	F. Wilson, S. Mitchell
Construction of Greens .....	S. Mitchell
Winter Sports .....	F. Wilson
Landscaping .....	A. Anderson
Water Systems .....	F. Wilson
Educating Members when to Start Spring Play .....	N. Bruno
Gang vs. Sectional Method .....	H. Farrant
Height of Cut on Putting Greens .....	F. Hammond
Height of Cut on Bowling Greens .....	F. Hammond
Are the landscape values of trees near greens worth the damage they do to the greens? .....	P. Wanberg
Landscape Appreciation .....	R. Mitchell
Winter Protecting Cover for Greens .....	H. Mosher
Liming .....	J. Counsell
Outstanding Troubles .....	L. Stott
Application of Mercurials, Dry vs. Wet .....	L. Wildgust
Rates of fertilizer applications on putting greens .....	T. Burke
Is upkeep cheaper on new or old equipment? Why? .....	G. Polhamus
Disease on Turf .....	R. Mitchell
Tennis Courts .....	R. Mitchell, E. Hanson, A. Anderson
Top Dressing Methods .....	S. Mitchell, J. Oldfield
Rainy Day Work .....	H. Farrant
Changing Soil Texture to Improve Turf .....	A. Anderson
Various ways of developing the members' interest and co-operation in the greenkeepers job .....	C. Parker
Compost building with cheap organics, building, how soon to use and application rate thereof .....	P. Wanberg
Should practice putting green be lighted? .....	A. Anderson
Why A Diary? .....	F. Wilson
What to do about skunks on the golf course .....	H. Darling
Spring Kill .....	A. Smith
Care of Traps and Bunkers .....	P. Hayden
Top Dressing Methods .....	N. Sperandio

(Kindly write these articles and send them to Editor West as soon as possible)

### OFFICERS' DIRECTORY

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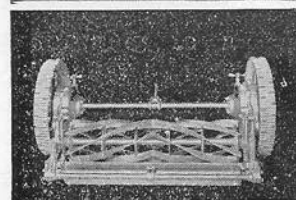
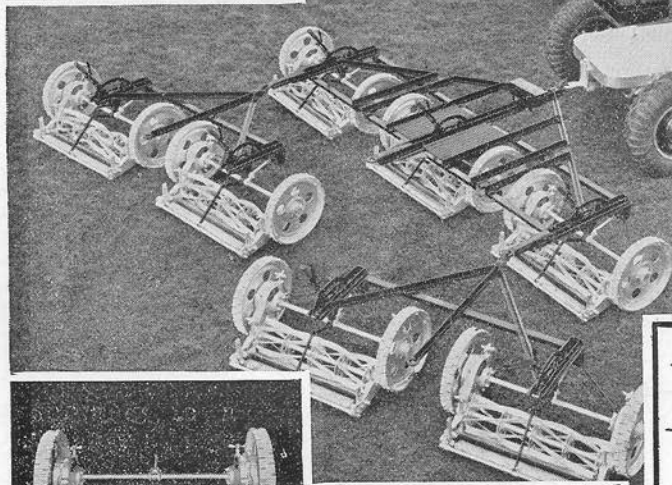
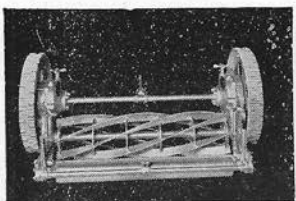
NEWSLETTER officers, see page two.

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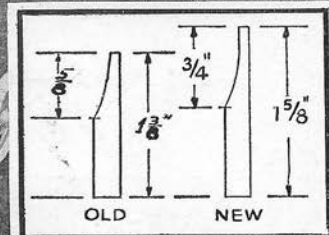
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Note size of new fly-knife steel section above. It is a special heat-treated, oil-tempered alloy steel with a minimum Rockwell hardness of 40-c, allowing for greater wear and greatly lengthening the life of the reel.

# This Is A STANDARD Year

Don't take chances — Play Safe — Standardize on Standard — the golf equipment line that gives you more of everything at reasonable cost.

**"QUALITY" Flag Poles**—made of spiral seamless steel tubing, finished red and white or orange and black. Price with aluminum ferrule and brass flag swivel, \$2.25.

**"ALUMINUM" Signs and Markers**—will not rust, corrode or tarnish. Furnished with any wording. Direction sign, \$5.00. Entrance sign, \$12.00. Parking sign, \$8.00. Rule sign, \$3.50. Yardage Marker, \$1.75. Practice Green Marker, \$1.50. Tee Marker, \$1.75.

**"ONE-PIECE" Putting Cups**—fully reinforced, scientifically tapered and absolutely true and correct in size with  $1\frac{1}{8}$ " pole socket. Aluminum, \$1.75; Cast Iron, \$1.00.

**"CUP SETTER"**—levels cup edge and sets to proper depth. \$2.00. **"CUP EXTRACTOR"**, 60 cents.

**"AGROMETER"**—turns your green upside down and shows you the soil structure, shipped with full instructions for \$3.00.

**"CUTS TRUE" Hole Cutter**—conforms to U. S. G. A. regulations, cuts true and clean. Made with plain, saw-toothed or scalloped edge. Price, \$8.00.

**"DIVOT REPAIRER"**—cuts uniform plug  $2\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ ". Price, \$9.00. **"TURF REPAIRER"**—cuts 8" plug. Price, \$12.00.

**"SHUFFLE HOE"**—The handy new tool that does everything and more than any common hoe will do with half the effort and in half the time. Price, 6", \$1.00; 7", \$1.25.

**"SIX BALL" Washer**—operates without slushing, splashing or slopping. Price, \$15.00. With stand, \$18.00.

**"BALL RACK"**—with 24 ball capacity, \$5.00. Mounted on cast iron base, \$8.50. **"BALL RETRIEVER"**—made of aluminum, \$1.25 without pole.

**"TEE CANOPY"**—with canvas top, 8' 6" by 9' 1" long, complete with framework, ready to install, \$18.50.

—and remember—every STANDARD product is Guaranteed to give satisfaction or you get your money back.

## New England Toro Co.

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