

NEWS LETTER

*But words are things, and a small drop of ink, falling like
dew upon a thought, produces that which makes thousands,
perhaps millions, think.*

—Lord Byron

APRIL

1937

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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
312 Mt. Pleasant St., Fall River, Mass.

JAMES McCORMACK Business Mgr.
450 William St., Stoneham, Mass.

April, 1937

Vol. 9, No. 4

APRIL SHOWERS

Certain reports included herewith have been gathered and sent in to us something like April Showers; like April showers they come to help us with our Spring work. A bowling green, 120 by 40 feet, started last Fall at Bear Hill, is now being finished by Ted Swanson and gang. This bowling green is being sodded with Piper velvet bent; we'll almost wager a few pennies that this will be the first Piper velvet bent bowling green in the world. . . . The Bellevue Golf Club of Melrose has installed a new fire sprinkler system in their club house this past Winter, also a new shower room for the men's locker room. . . . The "Mark-it", for marking a ball's location on the green when ball is lifted, is well worth your attention; careless golfers do much harm yearly to greens when marking by means usually used, a scratch of finger, tee, putter, or other sharp object. . . . The Golf Committee would appreciate hearing from members as to clubs available for meetings, suggestions for prizes, etc. . . . Paul Wanberg reports Weston to be in good condition as a whole after the mild Winter. Improvements include a new 17th tee, lengthening hole from 122 to 147 yards, a new path from 9th green to 10th tee to be named Robert Winsor Path after the Mr. Winsor who did so much for the club, a new stairway from the 7th tee with 41 stairs. Work during the Winter also included rebuilding the bridge at 9th tee, cleaning up the woods in the rough, with pruning to allow for better growth. Some thirty apple trees on the course were also pruned. . . . The 8th tee at Marshfield was recently enlarged, reports Mort Maxwell, and two wet areas on the course have been drained with the necessary tile installed. . . . Frank Hammond writes, "The 1937 season will see several new bowling greens in operation. Interest in this

sport 'Bowling on the green', is rapidly increasing. Think it over". . . . Frank Wilson says that skeet shoot season was a great success but Winter sports not. He is making a 75 yard practice pitching course at Charles River. Greens and fairways came through the Winter in fine shape and regular greens were in play on April 4th. . . . Jack Counsell reports from Salem, "Our fairway watering system is almost completed, practically all pipe and valves are installed. We still have some cleaning along the trenches and about 3½ miles of sod to replace. We hope to finish the work on the system by the end of April. Our parking space is being enlarged"

. . . . Sam Mitchell reports from Ponkapoag that the turf there has come through the Winter in excellent condition with the exception of new seeding done late last Fall, which is heaved considerably from frost. Course dried up early. Practically no snow mold seen this Spring. . . . George Rommell tells us that the Wellesley Country Club has enlarged the 3rd tee, extending it out in front about 30 feet at a level about 2 feet lower than old tee. Fairway watering system, with Universal pipe and Buckner heads is being tried on 2nd and 4th fairways. The 2nd green is being lowered and indented. . . . What sounds like good news to the golfing world is the report from the Toro Manufacturing Company that shipments for month of March were the greatest in their history. . . . Joe Johnston writes the following, "We are looking forward to a very good year at the Minute Man; the greens came through the Winter in very good shape and appear to be ready to take a good hard play and still hold their heards up! We here hope for a good Golf year not only for Minute Man but for all neighboring clubs; so let's get together and put 1937 over the top"

. . . . Reporting from Juniper Hill in Northboro, Homer Darling writes, "The greens now appear to be in better condition than we ever have seen them on April 1st. The turf is very much alive, healthy, and seems ready to grow into wonderful turf. Some minor changes are being made but nothing drastic. We anticipate a definite increase in play this season. More beginners are expecting to take up the game and many of those who have had to curtail their playing because of financial conditions now expect to play more this season than any time since 1932." . . . We are also adding a few more lengthy showers.

The Marlboro Country Club has just finished planting a large number of red pines in beautifying its golf course. It also rebuilt two traps and cleared a large area in front of rear tee on the 6th hole that consisted of brush, so that traps in fairway are now plainly visible to golfers playing from rear 6th tee. Former assistant pro, Steve Golbert, who holds course record of 68, is now pro.

Narry Sperandio.

GETTING THE GREENS PREPARED FOR SPRING

Spring starting is our greatest ambition. We enjoy it because it is our busiest time of the year. One of the problems to be solved is the condition of the greens. We have a lot of traffic on our course, due to being open the year round; this affects our greens a great deal. It is our main problem to get them in trim for the opening season.

The first thing we do is to put an average of ten pounds of fertilizer to a thousand square feet. After the fertilized greens have soaked in quite a bit of rain we roll them. This results very satisfactorily.

I am getting quite a bit of information by attending the greenkeepers' meeting every month.

Nick Bruno,
Norfolk C. C.

HOW TO OPEN UP THE GOLF COURSE

We usually start off by clearing the rough, such as raking the leaves and burning them and also composting them, and clearing away debris. We then repair bridges and overhaul any equipment which might be left undone in the fall.

Orders for new equipment and materials are placed at about the first of March.

Any planting of trees and reforestation is done as early as possible.

When the fairways, tees, and greens are in the right condition, they are rolled.

If we have not enough loam screened we proceed to screen enough for the season.

Any bare spots on greens, tees and fairways that can be brought back by seeding are seeded as soon as the ground will accept it. Where sodding must be done it is handled at the earliest possible date.

The watering system is put together and turned on about the 20th of April.

Fertilizer for the fairways is put on about April 15.

Sometime between April 20 and May 1, we begin to topdress tees and greens.

George J. Rommell, Jr.

THIS BUSINESS OF GOLF

During the past fifteen years numerous golf courses have been built and each year the players have demanded better equipment and better courses. No doubt some will recall the day when all that the player wished for was an open space, a mound of dirt for a tee, and a fairly well-mowed space for a green, three or four clubs and he was contented.

Today, if the tees are not equal or better than the greens were not so long ago, and the present greens like velvet, there is plenty of criticism for the green keeper.

The latest demand is fairway irrigation. I say demand, because it is just that. The average player feels that any golf course worthy of the name must have good tees and greens. Now comes the demand for fairways that have good turf throughout the playing season. This can only be accomplished by watering fairways regularly.

All of us know what a sorry looking sight some of our fairways are during the dry season. We at the Riverside Golf Course were faced with the alternative of watering our fairways or losing more of our membership. We called in the Pump Sales & Service Company, Allston, Mass., who made the layout for us and supplied our equipment. This year Riverside will have nine of our fairways ready for watering when the season opens. The rest will be finished later.

Will the golfers next demand illuminated courses for night playing. or what?

Harold A. Mosher.

FIFTY YEARS OF GOLF IN AMERICA

By James McCormack

Supt. Unicorn Country Club

There are many interesting and fantastic tales told about the origin and development of golf in the United States. One of the most reliable accounts dates back to the year 1659, and is found in an ancient Dutch ordinance of Fort Orange forbidding the playing of golf in the streets, on account of the damage to property and the danger of personal injury to the inhabitants of the village of Beverwyck.

More than a century later, in 1779, an advertisement appeared in the Royal Gazette in New York, announcing that, "the season for the pleasant and healthy exercise of golf is now advancing and that gentlemen could obtain excellent clubs and golf balls at the printer's whose name was Rivington. It seems, however, that the growth of the game was retarded in some way, and although there are definite records of golf clubs and scattered courses, especially in South Carolina and Savannah as early as 1794, it is not until the latter part of the nineteenth century that the game of golf really began to attract attention. The past fifty years have witnessed its phenomenal growth in popularity, due to its own merits and the fascination of the sport, rather than any definite effort to promote it as a national game.

The first golf club in the United States originated at the home of John Reid, who is known as the father of American golf, during a dinner party in Yonkers-on-the-Hudson. It was composed of five men who had just come in from a near-by pasture after a round of golf. They organized, and laid out a small six-hole course under the name of St. Andrews, after its famous namesake in Scotland. On this occasion a toast was drunk to the health of Robert Lockhart, the first active member of the club, and thus it seems, the now famous nineteenth hole came into existence.

Although St. Andrews at Yonkers was the first club organized in this country, the one known as Shinnecock Hills near Southampton, Long Island was the first to be incorporated. This was in 1891, and the following year an attractive clubhouse was built on the site of the new twelve-hole course, which attracted many of the fashionable set from Tuxedo and Newport.

To a great extent golf was really a rich man's game in those early days, when the Vanderbilts, the Goulds and the Astors cavorted on stylish links planned by the famous Willie Dunn, when the ordinary golfer's lunch consisted of champagne and raw oysters, and even a casual tournament was a society event. But golf has come a long way in the last twenty-five years, reaching out its tempting bait to persons of all classes and of every age and occupation. It has heard the challenge of youth since the day when a lad named Francis Quimet conquered the might Ray and Vardon, and when youngsters of the type of Jones, Sarazen, Hagan, Farrell, and a host of others gave notice to the golfing world that youth was not to be denied.

The first international team match was played between this country and Canada in September, 1895, at Niagara and was won by the American team. Inter-club matches stirred up interest in the game and memberships in golf clubs were increasing. With the greater number of golfers and their steady improvement in the game, came changes in equipment as well as a greater demand for better golf courses. Old clubs such as the baffle, the cleek and the field iron were replaced by the modern clubs, as has been the old gutta-percha ball used in the early days of the game.

Golf courses are now maintained by men specially trained in the profession of greenkeeping. Manufacturers of golf course equipment have kept up with the times, and are supplying modern machinery which not only gives better results, but also lowers maintenance costs.

Previous to 1930 we had an era of lavish spending on country club buildings and de luxe golf courses. New courses were constructed all over the country and old courses were remodelled to compete with the new ones. It was about this time that golf began to get really popular.

During the last few years, however, country clubs have greatly curtailed their spending. This was necessary, owing to reduced incomes, and made possible by the combined efforts of the professionals, the greenkeepers, and the golf associations.

The United States Golf Association was organized in 1894 for the purpose of promoting the interest of the game in this country and to establish a final authority in all matters pertaining to the sport. It is responsible, more than

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any other factor, for the popularity of golf and the dignified position it enjoys. The golf business is now one of importance in this country. In 1931 golf goods registered a value at the manufacturers' plants of about twenty-three and a half million dollars and it is probable that the annual expenditure for golf in the United States is now two hundred and thirty-five million dollars.

It is estimated that there are about three million active golf players in this country, but no definite figures are available. Some authorities believe that there are nearer six million people who enjoy the game.

With the increased number of leisure hours at the disposal of our people, some way of spending this extra time had to be found and many take to golf for their recreation.

The state and municipalities provide this outlet for playing by supplying golf courses for this purpose. This is a commendable service which our government is rendering so that people of all ages may enjoy the wonderful benefits of the game, played out-of-doors under ideal conditions.

It is significant that doctors who are

the guardians of the health of the nation, invariably prescribe golf for their own recreation.

Nowadays it is not uncommon for champions to appear suddenly from the ranks of the unknown, the poor, the professional and the business classes, as well as from among those who devote their lives to the game. It is a fact that our own country has really become the adopted land of golf, since it has on the whole, more and better courses, both public and private than any other land.

New England is particularly well suited for golf, with its numerous attractive courses, its beautiful rugged landscape and the natural competitive spirit of our sportloving people. And there are few cities in the United States that can compare with our own city of Boston in regard to the number and fine quality of its golf-courses. Within twenty miles of the city there are some of the best public and private courses that can be found anywhere, so that tournaments for Juniors and Seniors, as well as for the middle-aged are regular events. Several clubs have kept open this year throughout the winter, and the demand for club memberships, even this

early, promises to make 1937 one of the best years in the local history of the sport.

It might interest you to know that it was a young lady from France who first introduced golf in Boston. Unfortunately, her name is shrouded in the mists of oblivion, but the fact that she had brought over a set of clubs, and found no place to use them, prompted her to demonstrate her skill on the estate then owned by Arthur Hunnewell in Wellesley, where she was a visitor in the summer of 1892. Her enthusiasm resulted in a small seven-hole course on the adjoining land, and indirectly on the now famous country club in Brookline.

Since then, women have played a prominent part in the sport in this section, and their tournaments are keen enough to make the men look to their laurels.

Incidentally, it is not a lack of galantry, but rather on account of tradition and a desire for privacy that we have in greater Boston a course exclusively for men, known as the Unicorn Country Club in Stoneham, which I have the privilege of representing. I understand that there are similar courses reserved for the ladies, so that seems to square matters.

It has been truly stated that golf today in America has the largest active following of any sport. Actually the players generally outnumber the fans, and in a few weeks, hundreds of green hills and valleys will echo the familiar "Fore" of countless golfers who know how to mingle work and play in a safe and sensible manner.

In conclusion may I recall a brief but genuine appreciation of golf, attributed to Mr. David R. Forgan: "It is a game, and a science of endless possibilities. It is a test of temper, a trial of honor, a revealer of character, it affords a chance to play the man, and act the gentlemen. It is a cure for care, an antidote for worry. It promotes health, fosters friendships, demands courtesy and consideration for others. In a word, it is a natural outlet for energy and a continual source of surprise and pleasure. It is a game a person may play enjoyably, regardless of his score, as long as he has the strength to walk or the courage to lose gracefully."

(Ed. Note: The above "Fifty Years of Golf in America" was presented by Mr. McCormack over the radio station WCOP, Boston, on

March 1st, as a part of a WPA Adult Recreation Project. A few lines of a letter from Mrs. Inez M. Tehan, Supervisor of Radio, are of interest, as they explain this project.)

"For the past two years the Lecture Division of the Adult Recreation Project, Works Progress Administration has been presenting educational programs through the various radio stations in Boston namely: WEEL, WCOP and WORL. We have had some very outstanding speakers in the community representing all walks of life, College Professors, State and City officials, Lawyers, Historical Research Personages and numerous others. We try to plan to run these talks in series of four, which was the case on the series on "golf". Our speakers give the time and effort without charge for they feel that we are doing a worth-while piece of work on the Adult Recreation Project. Mr. McCormack very graciously assisted me in preparing the golf series. He opened it himself on March 1, with a very interesting talk which I am enclosing. March 2, Roland Hancock, Melrose City Municipal Golf Course talked on "Tournament Golf"; Leslie Cottrell, Bear Hill Country Club in Wakefield gave a "Lesson in Golf" and Mr. Orville O. Clapper of the New England Toro Company concluded with "How the Game of Golf Has Helped Industry." This entire series was met with great success judging from the inquiries we have had."

TALKS ON TREES

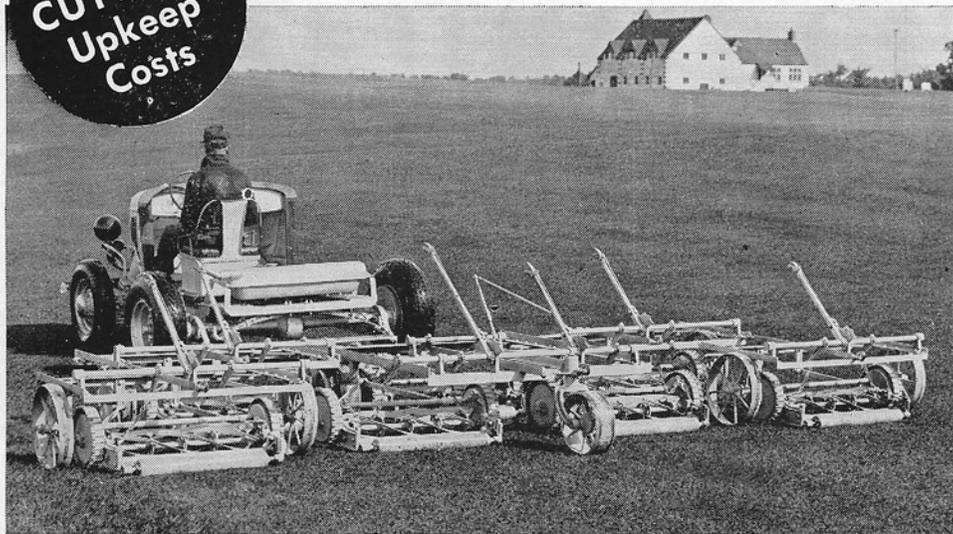
By E. Porter Felt

Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories
Stamford, Conn.

The World's Fair site at Flushing, N. Y. is a proving ground for trees and their possibilities.

The fair authorities are planning to move and plant 10,000 native trees and shrubs and thus bring into being almost over-night, as it were, the possibilities of beauty and human comfort along avenues and walks destined to be thronged with millions in the near future. Grand old elms, some over seventy years old, will doubtless be included in the planting. It is quite possible that somewhere upon the grounds there may be a magnificent elm shaded street so characteristic of older New

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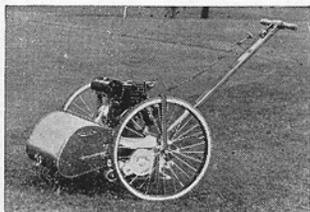


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England villagers. The sugar maples will doubtless occupy a prominent place since both the elms and the maples are among the favorite and most useful shade trees in the northeastern United States.

The aesthetic or beautiful will not be overlooked. That charming, early-blooming native, the flowering dogwood, is listed among those to be planted. It is within possibilities that one or more minor avenues will be set with these trees and visitors coming to the fair in early spring will be charmed by a beautiful setting to be found at the present time in only a few specially favored localities.

The oaks are splendid shade and ornamental trees and although not so readily moved as elms and maples, it is presumed that at least a few grand specimens of some of the more important species, especially the white oak, the scarlet oak and the pin oak will be included in the planting.

The transportation of these large trees and their successful establishment in a new locality is an undertaking which can be carried out successfully only by those who have at their command the experience and resources developed from years of successful operation. The transplanting is logically followed by the care necessary to enable the trees to speedily establish themselves.

The World's Fair, among other admirable objectives, may demonstrate in a startling manner, the possibilities and the place of trees at expositions.

The tragedy of the suburban woodland trees in built-up wooded areas is costing the country millions. The tree expert in saving trees saves expense to the owner.

The trees sell the property. The purchaser loves trees. The owner puts his home among the trees. The man planning the grounds misses the cue. The trees gradually weaken and die. They do not die of old age, although they may be over seventy. The death of many trees is inevitable under the usual conditions in such areas. The owner spends large sums for unsatisfactory replacements. The cost for one good tree may exceed a thousand dollars. This outcome is unnecessary. Relatively inexpensive changes in the plans may reduce greatly the loss of valuable trees. Purchasers frequently buy developed property without realizing that the trees

which attract them may have a most limited life expectancy as a result of earlier, unwise changes in growing conditions. This is still going on.

The above reads much like a fantasy which goes way beyond the bounds of reason. Many owners have learned with sorrow that many trees, in woodland developments, gradually weaken and die. It takes years for most trees to die, consequently the connection between earlier operations in developing the property and the unfortunate condition of the trees is not readily appreciated. There is a current notion that the trees die of old age. In most cases these woodland trees are dying because of changes, frequently unnecessary changes, in growing conditions. They are the underlying causes of much of the trouble and as a result, the owner is forced to spend large sums for unsatisfactory replacements, whereas recognition of tree requirements when laying out the grounds and provisions to meet them so far as feasible would have made it possible to avoid much of this loss.

Working with Nature means vigorous, long-lived trees at relatively small expense.

Both the trees and the insects have reacted strangely to the unusual winter so nearly past.

A number of the earlier starting trees and shrubs, such as the red maples, the willows and lilacs pushed their buds partly out in January and February and a few in specially sheltered places actually bloomed, this last being true of a Weigela at Stamford, January 17th. In early March elm buds had commenced to swell. The general absence of snow along the Atlantic coast is favorable to an early spring. Just a little warmer weather and the leaves of trees and shrubs may begin to appear.

The insects are also responding to the mild winter conditions. The moths of the fall cankerworms have been flying and crawling in mild days throughout much of the winter. The eggs of these pests and those of the closely related spring cankerworms may be expected to hatch within a few weeks. Here and there hordes of inch worms will exact tribute from the trees. Examinations at this time will give a good idea of what may be expected.

Reports have come of tent caterpillars hatching the middle of February at Riverdale, just north of New York City.

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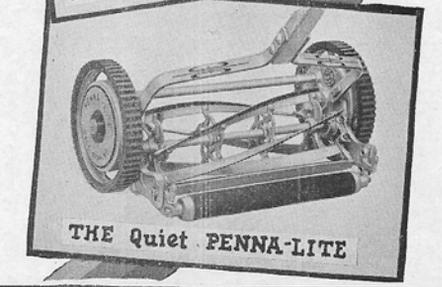
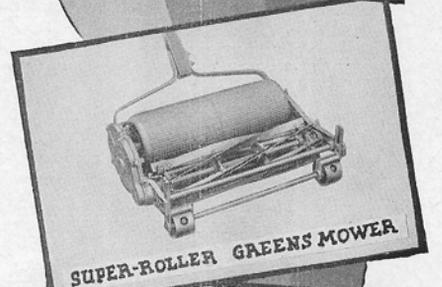
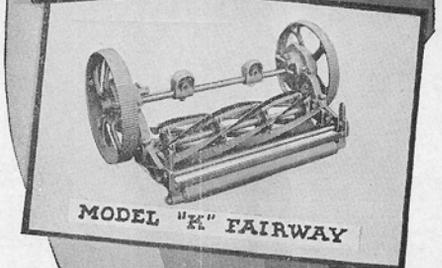
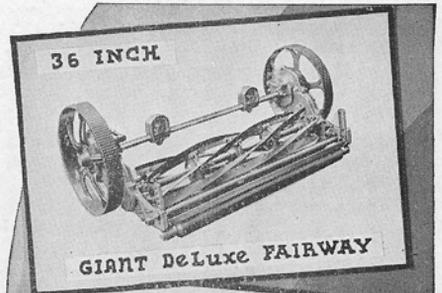
One size only. Similar in most respects to DeLuxe Fairway except Model "K" is of conventional cast iron construction and lower priced.

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THE QUIET PENNA-LITE

Tough aluminum alloy construction makes this machine $\frac{1}{2}$ lighter in weight, therefore ideal for bunkers and terraces. Rubber tires and roller make it noiseless. For all 'round work, the Penna-Lite represents the latest in lawn mower construction.



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LAWN MOWERS
PRIMOS PENNA.

Ordinarily these caterpillars, although well developed within the eggs in the fall, do not eat their way out until just before the leaves of wild cherry and apple trees start in the early spring. There is a probability that this conspicuous pest, the tent caterpillar, will not be nearly so abundant as last spring, though here and there the nests may be somewhat numerous.

The starting of vegetation is welcomed by most people. They are not so appreciative of the insects. Both are important parts of the varied and interesting life which surrounds us on every side. We can not have one without the other. The important point is to conserve the attractive and beautiful and this, in many cases, can be done only by recognizing the probability of injury by pests and preparing for the enemy.

APRIL MEETING

The regular April meeting was held at the Waltham Field Station on April 5th. The meeting was devoted to a discussion of club affairs, and of methods by which greenkeepers could help their clubs to better advantage.

It was decided to maintain the usual Summer meetings, with an educational feature at each meeting in addition to the golf tournament.

It is hoped that club officials will see to it that their greenkeeper attends these Summer meetings. There seems to be a danger to a greenkeeper, who stays too close to home, losing his sense of perspective. The best greenkeepers are those who contact their fellows and gain much from the contacts.

WINTER SCHOOL FOR GREENKEEPERS — MASS. STATE COLLEGE — 1937

First Year Group:

- Edward J. Casey, Wykogyl Country Club, New Rochelle, N. Y.
- Geoffrey Cornish, West Vancouver, B. C.
- Robert J. Cronin, Glens Falls Country Club, Glens Falls, N. Y.
- Henry J. Duval, Municipal Golf Club, Schenectady, N. Y.
- Alex Ferguson, Claremont Country Club, Claremont, New Hampshire.

George Holbrook, Clinton Country Club, Clinton, Iowa.

William Lord, Sidney Golf and Country Club, Sidney, N. Y.

William G. Mitchell, Onondaga Golf and Country Club, Syracuse, N. Y.

Thomas P. Newlove, Syracuse Yacht and Country Club, Clay, N. Y.

Lloyd Russell, Woodbridge Hills Country Club, Woodbridge Hills, Connecticut.

Arthur F. Smith, Nabnasset Lake Shore Country Club, Westford, Mass.

Lawrence R. Sperry, Cedar Glen Golf Club, N. Saugus, Mass.

Emery Thomas, Locust Grove Country Club, Rahway, N. J., now at Red Hook Country Club, Red Hook, N. Y.

Advanced Group:

Alfred Berghorn, Normanside Country Club, Elmsmere, N. Y.

James W. Hart, Holyoke Country Club, Holyoke, Mass.

Alfred Sesperance, Westmoreland Country Club, Wilmett, Illinois.

Henry C. Mitchell, Kernwood Country Club, Salem, Mass.

Robert L. Mitchell, Edison Country Club, Rexford, N. Y.

Sherwood Moore, Pasaic County Golf Course, Paterson, N. J.

Vivian L. Payson, North Dartmouth, Mass.

Frank Tick, Cohasse Country Club, Southbridge, Mass.

Robert Williams, Bellaire Country Club, Wanconda, Illinois.

Earl F. Yesberger, Homelinks Golf Club, Olmstead, Ohio.

SERVICE SECTION DINNER

The joint dinner and meeting of the Mass. Golf Association Service Section and the Greenkeepers Club was held at the Charles River Country Club, Newton Centre, Mass. on April 12th. Some hundred and more club officials and greenkeepers were present and enjoyed the following program:

Welcome Address

S. Harold Greene, President
Charles River Country Club

M. G. A. Activities for 1937

Erastus B. Badger, President
The Massachusetts Golf Association



The Sign of Good Seeds

How to have better greens and fairways

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Preparing the Golf Course for a New Season

John H. Counsell,
Greenkeeper, Salem Country Club

Guest Speaker

"Jim" Kimball, President
South Shore Country Club

Publicity by the Press

"Bill" Whitcomb
Golf Editor, Boston Globe

Service Section Committee Chairman Albert Goodhue presided. It was worthy of note that both President Greene of Charles River and President Badger of the M. G. A. stressed strongly the co-operative work which has been and is being done by the Service Section. Both also congratulated greenkeepers in general for the fine work which has been done on golf courses by the greenkeepers. Pres. Badger also made a strong plea that courses be improved from the standpoint of looks, that they be beautified.

Jack Counsell's paper will be presented in a later issue of the NEWSLETTER.

It is with much regret that we announce that Senate bill No. 33, to start turf work at the Waltham Field Station, was killed in the House a few days ago. This bill passed the Committee on Agriculture, and then went to the Ways and Means Committee, where its hearing appeared to be very favorable. It was finally reported favorably, with the recommendation that it be referred to the next session. There seems little doubt that if this recommendation had been left off that the bill would have passed the House and also the Senate. The truth in politics is often hard to find, but in this case, it seems that pressure from the Western part of the State was put on the Committee to prevent its passing.

However, the fight is still on! Frank Wilson and his Committee are empowered to keep working, and the bill will be re-entered this coming Fall. With the experience gained during this Winter's fight, and with the help of all the present friends of the work proposed, there seems little doubt that another year will tell a different story. Your assistance is required; help this committee as they ask it.

The Board of Directors desire at this time to thank all chairmen, club officials,

dealers, turf men of all kinds, who worked to try to put this bill across. The assistance of the hundreds who backed this bill did a great deal to publicize turf work with its many problems, and all this work that has been done will help to bring success another year.

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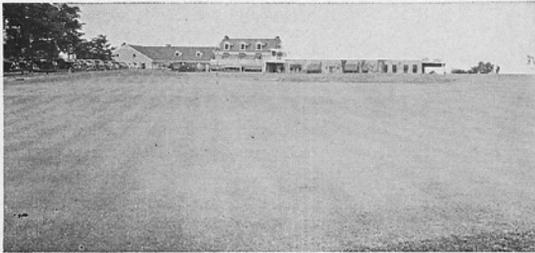
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