



NEWS LETTER

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1931

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312 Mt. Pleasant St., Fall River, Mass.
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330 Waltham St., West Newton, Mass.

November, 1931

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THE END OF THE BATTLE

The season's over—the game is won
But the Greenman's lot was not all
"fun".

Of all the seasons that we've had
This one, just past, has been mighty bad,
That is, as far as turf is concerned,
And many the lessons we have learned.
Too much rain, or too little, it seems,
Just made a night-mare of our dreams.
I guess, *all* the diseases under the sun
Caused many a greenkeeper lots of
"fun"

With "Pythian", "Scald", "Brown-
Patch" and the rest
Combined to off-set the Greenkeeper's
best.

But, at last, thanks to the Powers-That-
Be

Turf goes into winter as we like to see.
But again I wonder, as the golfers play
If they ever think of the things *our* way
Or even wonder what trouble it seems
Can pile up on the man who keeps the
greens.

Carlton E. Treat.

SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting was held at Horticultural Hall, Boston, on November 16, to enable the members to meet with the Executive Committee of the National Association of Greenkeepers.

President Treat introduced Colonel John Morley, President of the N. A. G. A. Colonel Morley said in part:

To the officers and members of The New England Greenkeepers Association, Greetings.

"Inasmuch as I had the pleasure and opportunity to address this association at the Massachusetts Agricultural College at Amherst, I do not think it is again necessary to repeat in detail,

how the National Association of Greenkeepers of America came into existence, and this afternoon I do not care to take up too much of your valuable time, for I am very anxious to have you hear a few words from each member of our executive committee.

"The members of this committee cover a large territory, and I believe that after they have all given a few remarks, you will observe that we are practically all of one mind. They represent some of the largest districts in America, and like your association have practically one object in view, and that is—to promote Golf Course Maintenance to a Higher Standard.

"But before proceeding further, I desire to call to your attention, that our coming into your territory had only one object in view, and that is to extend to you the right hand of fellowship. We knew before we came that we would be bestowed with what New England is noted for, the spirit of brotherly love. While our members are well acquainted with your President, Mr. Carlton Treat and a few others, by their previous attendance at several of our recent Golf Shows and Conferences, very few of our Executive Committee have had the opportunity to meet the Grand old man of our profession, John Shanahan. When I received the announcement that John Shanahan was appointed on the advisory board of The Green-Section of The U. S. G. A., I informed Ganson Depew, Chairman that he had made an excellent choice; and I trust that he may live a good many years to enjoy the honor conferred upon him.

"Believing that among those present here this afternoon, some may have been absent from hearing my address at Amherst, I will roughly outline a few of our Aims and Objects. In the first place I may state that The National Association has nothing whatever to do with district associations. We believe in home rule for districts; our association simply deals with the individual greenkeeper and pro-greenkeeper whom we believe are worthy of membership into our organization. A greenkeeper before making an application for membership in our association must have at least three years experience; likewise a pro-greenkeeper must have five years experience. Our main object is to advance the art and science of greenkeeping, to cement the greenkeepers of The United States and Canada into a

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Show Committee.

closer relationship with each other, to collect and disseminate practical knowledge of the problems of greenkeeping with a view to more efficient and economical Maintenance of golf courses, to provide direct financial benefits to families of greenkeepers who die or are disabled.

"It is now over five years since we were first organized, and since that time we have planted our association into 32 States, and 4 Provinces in the Dominion of Canada. We have a substantial membership, and during this business depression we are holding our membership well in line. Our financial resources are well over \$10,000, and we have no liabilities. We pay to the beneficiary of a deceased member the sum of \$250 immediately upon satisfactory proof of death. We give to our members in distress financial assistance.

"We have played a prominent part along practical lines and have aided a number of our members who have lost their positions in securing new courses. We are doing all in our power to promote the interest of greenkeeping. Each year we stage our annual Golf Show Conference and Convention. This year we will meet in New York City, commencing the week of Jan. 19th, 1932, having secured The Hotel Pennsylvania for all events. Everything is being done to make this occasion one of the best in our history. We are very anxious to have the members of The New England Greenkeepers Association, as well as all those interested in golf maintenance from the Eastern States, to attend our Annual Golf Show and Conferences. We are pleased to state that the manufacturers are co-operating with us, and from present indications, The Golf Show will be the largest in point of exhibits that has been held in The United States.

"It probably is not necessary to state that one of our chief objects is education, especially along practical and scientific lines. You will agree with me that the golf season just past has been one of the worst, so far as golf turf is concerned, we have ever had, and it does seem to most of us that each succeeding season brings to us new types of disease and insects. While we are able to discuss these problems in our local districts and at various times are able to help one another to combat these troubles, we find that we are better able to make greater progress when a combination of districts are brought together. With this in view, The National

Association in connection with its Golf Show, devotes three days to discuss 'pro' and 'con' at our conferences all of the leading subjects necessary for further progress toward economical maintenance. Never in history has a greater array of talent been selected than the one to be heard at New York. You will enjoy listening to those who will speak along Scientific lines, as well as to hear the experienced greenkeepers tell in their own ways the best methods to prevent and control the various turf troubles, and methods to destroy the many insects and bugs that infest our golf grasses. Everything possible has been done to make those that attend comfortable and enjoyable. The Hotel Pennsylvania is noted for its hospitality to its guests. We are very anxious to have you and your friends spend a few days with us as our guests, when we meet in New York City. We will try and make your visit a pleasant one. It will be a Gala week for all greenkeepers that attend. It will probably be a long time before we are again able to hold another such gathering in the East, for we now have at least 17 cities seeking our Annual Golf Show, Conference and Convention.

"As time goes on, our minds, desires, and circumstances change. And we are desirous to consider any suggestions or plans, whereby we can with safety give greater service to those of our calling in life. Let us put our Ideals to work, so that the friendly dealings which characterize our daily activities shall always govern us. Let the qualities of goodness and reliability which we seek in our profession, which we are continually building, be a monument to our calling. Let us endeavor to make new friends and above all keep the old, especially those that have proven worthy. Let us have a better understanding among one another. Calvin Coolidge says, 'The basis of good understanding which the world so much needs to day is deficient, because those in authority do not have a first hand knowledge of the people and conditions with which they are attempting to deal'. The officers of our institution are anxious to obtain first hand knowledge, especially from those that are desirous to cement the spirit of co-operation. We are pleased that we have come into your territory, so that we may know each other better. We know that the welfare of one is the concern of all, in union there is strength, especially when

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sphere a better place in which to live.
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secondary to the spirit in which it is
thought, and if, at the end of the road,
the door through circumstance remains
closed, no man can say success was not
yours, for you have tried, and in that
trying made good.

"In conclusion:

"In behalf of the officers and mem-
bers of The National Association of
Greenkeepers of America, I extend to
the Officers and members of The New
England Greenkeepers Association our
sincere appreciation for their generous
hospitality to us on our visit to the City
of Boston. And I assure you when it is
time for us to leave for our respective
homes, we will carry back with us the
many pleasant recollections of our visit
and the kindness shown by its officers
and members."

Other members of the Executive Com-
mittee present, all of whom spoke
briefly, bringing greetings from their
sections were: George Davies, John
Quaill, John MacGregor, Fred Burk-
hardt, Wm. J. Sansom, Robert J. Hayes,
John Anderson, and Walter E. Knowles.
All discussed the problems of the past
season, which evidently have troubled
greenkeepers everywhere. Attention
was called to the yearly Golf Show, to
be held in New York in January.

The Executive Committee was enter-
tained at a dinner meeting at the B. A.
A. Monday evening, and at the various
clubs around Boston on Tuesday.

COOPERATION

In 1924 the Greenkeepers Club of
New England was formed, the first or-
ganization of its kind in the country.
Since then we have held in the neighbor-
hood of 160 meetings. We have played
golf on a great many courses, have had
indoor meetings at which speakers took
up the problems of the golf course. In
June 1929 the first issue of the News-
letter was published. In that time,
nearly eight years, have we progressed?
Has there been any cooperation? Are
golf courses any better kept? Are we
any better greenkeepers?

In 1924 the only scientific research
along golf lines was done by the Green
Section at Washington. Since then we
have had experiment work undertaken
at the State College, a school for green-
keepers. Much of this work has been
undertaken because of the demands of
the greenkeepers.

The Newsletter so ably edited by Mr.
West has been an added factor in our
progress. Go back through your files
and observe how many valuable articles
are printed in its pages.

What is the next step forward?
Whatever it is, we have done pretty well
so far, so why not tackle it ourselves
and not sit around hoping some one will
solve our problems for us. Most of us
live with our golf course the best part
of the year, we know it intimately, we
know the poorly drained greens, where
brown patch will strike first and a hun-
dred and one things that no expert can
tell us. It is knowledge acquired through
experience. Is that experience valuable?

I think we all will grant that scientific
research work is as important in our
line of endeavor as in any other. We all
welcome it and no one is kicking about
any knowledge which will help him out
of his troubles. Where is the proper
place to conduct golf experiment work?
A golf course. A fairway experiment on
a piece of turf which has never had a
tractor run over it or a greens experi-
ment on a plot that has never had the
wear and tear and tramping of golfers
over it, tells very little. So lets get to-
gether and compare notes. We may
make snap judgement but some one will
check us up. Some of our troubles of
the past summer were the uncontrollable
weather conditions. Some were due to
inefficient methods. Lets check up and
see if we were as efficient as we might
have been. I learned a lot this past sea-

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son and feel that perhaps I would get by a little better the next time another one hits.

I read with interest Mr. W. E. Langton's article in the September Newsletter. It was written by a man who is evidently able to observe accurately and put two and two together and get four. Mr. West's column in the same issue headed "An Idea" hit the nail on the head. Let's take Mr. West's suggestion and form a research committee which will get information together from the members on various subjects and present them to the Club for discussion once a month. Let this committee work with the Green Section in Washington, the experiment station at Amherst or any other agencies where they can get information. In other words—lets help ourselves.

F. H. Wilson

CHANGES AT THE COUNTRY CLUB

We have made numerous changes during the past year here at the Country Club. Four greens have been changed, not in location, but in shape, size, and contour, with various traps worked into the picture. On two of these greens we used turf from our nurseries, on the others the original turf was used.

We have done a great deal removing knolls and, as we are mostly on ledge, it is work that takes time, but we feel these changes have made the players much more satisfied. We have changed over a number of traps on the course, built a number of new tees; also by changing the lines of our fairways, we have brought into play traps which were before out of line.

Along the first of July we decided that any watering we did was to be done at night, that is from six o'clock to ten or eleven. On the twenty-seven holes, three men handled it very nicely; of course, we had considerable rain this season, but three or four times water was needed, and from the results that night watering gave us, we are all for it. The greens had a much better cushion effect, and looked better in every way than when we used to do early morning watering. I also feel that night watering has kept us practically free from scald. We had some brown-patch, but I do not blame it to night watering. I do think one can over-water to do serious harm, but to me the

dampness in the soil lasting as it does for so much longer than at any other watering time, means life for the plant. Then again, I am frank to say that another season may change my mind, but up to date, night watering has given us the best results. I have heard some speak in favor, others against this time for watering, perhaps this note will arouse some other member to tell us why the time they water is best for them.

Knowing that the Editor of the NEWSLETTER has often had difficulty in getting sufficient material from the members, I am sending along these rambling notes to help. A hearty wish that the Newsletter continues, and let us all get behind it and help!

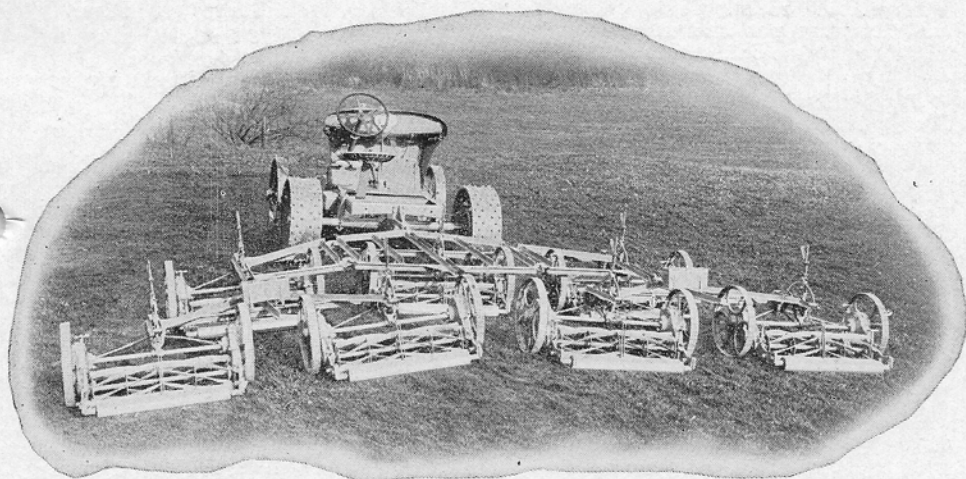
Howard Farrant

NEW WORK AT THE MINUTE MAN

The Minute Man Golf Club, situated on Concord Avenue, Lexington, was opened in June 1931. Nine greens were put into play and in August, work was started on the last nine. To date, four greens and three fairways have been completed and are going into the winter with a fine coat of grass, thanks to the Fall seeding which responded splendidly.

The subsoil of the "Minute Man" consists of blue gravel, on which was laid the foundation for the greens. After the rough shaping and grading of the greens was completed they were heavily rolled to insure a firm base. To this base was added an eight-inch seed bed, comprising six inches of one-inch screened loam topped with two inches of one quarter inch screened loam. This was allowed to stand for a week to ten days to determine any settling or weed growth that might occur. Just prior to seeding, the greens were firmly rolled and raked and rolled again until the soil was firm, yet not packed. This process decreases the possibility of pockets and unnecessary undulations which might otherwise form. One hundred pounds of superphosphate 16% was well raked into the top layer and the seed mixture containing 40% So. Ger. mixed bent, 40% Chewings Fescue and 20% Red Top was sown at the rate of eight pounds per 1000 square feet. This mixture was carefully raked, lightly rolled, and watered with a fine spray. In four days results began to show and by steady and careful watering the

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grass made steady progress. The late Spring of 1932 should find them in excellent condition for play.

In constructing the fairways our biggest factor to contend with was the removal of rocks. Two caterpillar tractors were put into use and it was but a short time before this obstacle was overcome.

The land was then plowed, disced harrowed, brushed and rolled. Next came a good raking and all small debris was left in piles and collected. The soil was then in a good condition for seeding to which 40% Chewings Fescue, 40% Ken. Blue (21 lb.) and 20% Red Top was sown, averaging 175 pounds to the acre. We were fortunate in having a few light rains just after seeding and that moisture surely worked wonders. The grass obtained a fine foothold and has progressed steadily since.

L. G. Stott

NOVEMBER MEETING

The November meeting was held at the Needham Country Club, Needham, Mass., on Monday, November 2nd. The results of the 18 hole medal handicap tournament played in the morning are as follows:

1st net—James C. Sullivan—93-18-75

2nd net—Carl Treat—95-18-77

3rd net—Philip Cassidy—102-24-78

4th net—E. Fuller—108-30-78

5th net—Wm. McBride—98-20-78

Special guest prizes were won by J. Cishel—91-25-76 and Tom McDonough—91-25-76.

Clifton E. Sowerby

It was dinner time at the barracks.

"Any complaints?" shouted the orderly.

"The stew's funny," complained one man.

"Funny?" queried the officer. "Then why aren't you laughing?"

He was very angry with his tailor.

"Why, the first time I wore this coat it split down the back," he said.

"That shows you how well we sew on the buttons, sir," replied the tailor.

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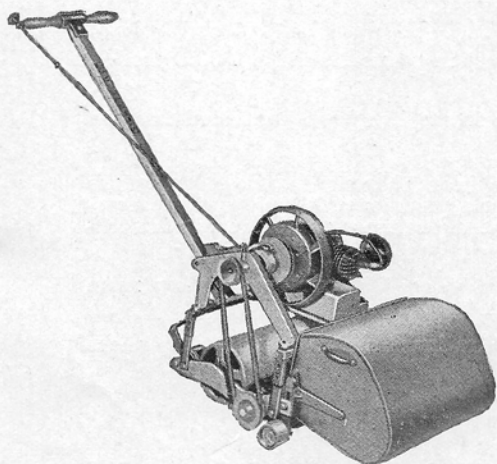
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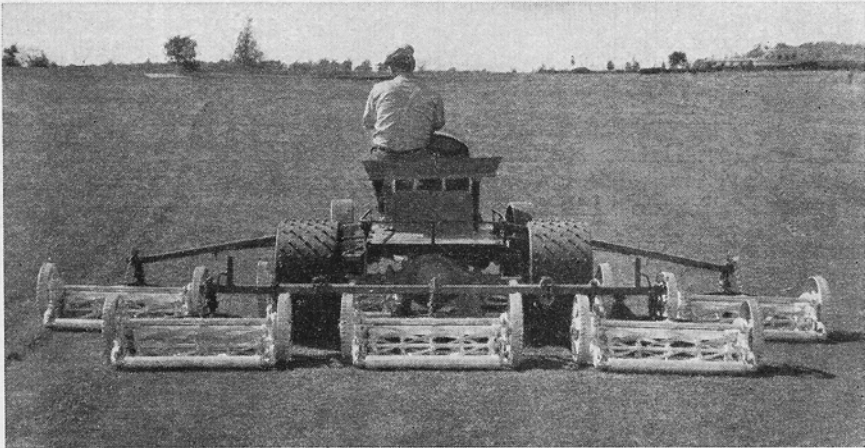
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