

# NEWSLETTER

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December

Nineteen hundred and thirty-three

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

GUY C. WEST ..... Editor  
312 Mt. Pleasant St., Fall River, Mass.

HOWARD D. FARRANT Business Mgr.  
132 Russett Rd., West Roxbury, Mass.

December, 1933

Vol. 5, No. 12

"When a bit of sunshine hits ye,  
After passing of a cloud,  
When a fit of laughter gits ye  
And ye'r spine is feelin' proud,  
Don't forget to up and fling it  
At a soul that's feelin' blue,  
For the minit that ye sling it  
It's a boomerang to you."  
from "The Boomerang"  
by Capt. Jack Crawford.

#### NOTES FROM THE PROVIDENCE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

At this time of year, I don't see how anyone can refuse to write a few notes about his course. I like to review my work once each season and believe that one issue of our NEWS LETTER should be devoted to news of the work done at the several courses represented in our organization.

A municipal course is in a class by itself. Although it is a public course, its problems are different from those encountered at a privately owned public course or a private club.

My work at the Providence Municipal is twofold: (1) Operation, or the regulation and supervision of the players, and (2) Maintenance, or the upkeep of the course and grounds.

The operation organization includes two cashiers, two starters, who start the players and assign caddies, and two rangers who regulate play out on the course. Three of these men are on duty at one time. At a privately owned public course, there would probably be three instead of six in the operation organization, but they would be on duty

longer hours. This is just one of the many differences between the municipal and the private or the privately owned public course organization.

This year our fees were 50 cents for 18 holes on week days, and 75 cents for 18 holes on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. There are no memberships or season tickets, and nobody plays free. In this way, I find it easier to treat everyone the same. Fair treatment for all the players, with no special privileges for any, is the first commandment in successful municipal course operation.

Last season there were 33,398 players. This season, with two days to go before December first, official closing date, there have been 32,759 players.

On weekends and holidays, the players used to be held up at the short holes. Now I have signs at the short hole tees which read: "When you reach the green, allow players following to tee off before you putt." This has successfully relieved the congestion and, so far, no accidents have been reported.

It is difficult to get the players to replace divots. "Please Replace Divots" signs were placed where 200 yard markers should be, but there is no way of estimating the extent of their appeal. However, I am going to leave the signs until I can find a better system. Each morning our caddies go out with the ranger and put the divots back. To compensate them for this work, they are allowed to play golf on Monday mornings. The boys are willing to do this work for us, and they enthusiastically await the arrival of each Monday. In years to come, some of these boys are going to be right in the running for golfing honors.

The maintenance of the course and grounds is to me the most interesting part of the job. My greens average 6400 square feet which sounds large enough, and yet I have three greens that are much too small for the amount of play. These have only 4000 square feet and I find that cupping space is scarce. Any public course certainly needs plenty of cupping space. Here the cups are changed almost daily. My No. 7 green has always been too small so this fall I enlarged it by 1400 square feet, using turf from my nursery. Although it would have been better to have laid the turf in September or early October, it was necessary to wait until November when there were not so many players.

I have had very little trouble from weeds in my German Bent greens. Clover, crab grass, and yarrow have been the most persistent. I do not consider *Poa annua* a weed here. Although the greenkeeper can not always get sufficient help to pull the weeds, especially the three mentioned, I believe that they can be most successfully controlled by constant weeding in the spring, and when the greens are young. Of course it is necessary to take all precautions against re-infestation through top-dressing and weed seeds getting on to the greens from the edges. It is possible to drag seeds or pieces of clover stems onto a green while working in the top-dressing with steel mats if the mats are pulled off the green and back on again. There is heavy clover on the edges of some of my greens so that it is best to drag the mats round and round on the greens instead of cross ways.

This year I topdressed the greens only three times because the players find fault everytime this work is done.

Most of the greens here showed a pH of between 4.0 and 5.0 when tested this spring so I spiked these and applied limestone at the rate of 25 pounds per 1000 square feet. The compost that I will use for topdressing is one year old now and has a pH. of 6.5. The sand is all mixed in the pile and there is enough for five years.

I like my Buel Perforator and use it often, especially on the smaller greens which become packed and impervious to water unless they are spiked. These small greens are spiked before being topdressed. In this way, I hope to get some of the compost down into the holes, although it is certain to be a slow job.

Every year I keep a record for each green. This shows me how much top-dressing, fertilizer, insecticides and fungicides have been applied and when and under what conditions the applications were made. At the end of each year, I know how many times a green has been topdressed, how much nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash have been used on a certain green, as well as the amount of arsenate of lead and mercury.

Tees are a problem on any public course. At the Municipal, grass tees were built. I tried to keep grass on them by changing the marks and by resodding, but it was useless. Most of the

players disregard the tee markers and always tee up at the front of the tee. I tried an 8' x 8' frame sunk in the ground to the tee level and filled it with a clay loam. This was an improvement, but required too much attention to keep in condition. The final solution was to put the entire forward half of each tee in clay loam without the frame, which gave a teeing space approximately 12' x 12', and which left the rear half of the tee in turf to be used for special events. These tees are smoothed every morning and it is necessary to add screened loam only three times during the season.

The fairways are easier to keep in condition by mowing only when absolutely necessary and by cutting  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". There is a large percentage of fescue in my fairways and I have noticed this grass does better if not clipped too closely. By cutting a little high, the fairways do not dry out and bake up so easily in summer. I have noticed clover patches on some of the fairways that have been attacked by some fungus. A yellow ring about 1" - 2" wide appears in the clover, and underneath this ring is a thick, creamy-white mold. So far there has been no damage, but if anyone can tell me what this is I would like very much to know.

My roughs were bad. Rocks and stumps were very popular, but last winter I had a gang of welfare workers and we cleaned up these roughs so that it is now possible to mow them with 3-gang fairway mowers. This reduces the maintenance cost of the roughs considerably and makes it almost impossible for the players to lose balls, which helps a great deal to speed up play and relieve congestion.

I have done much landscape work on the course and around the club house and parking grounds, but it is too long a story to tell here.

Besides enlarging No. 7 green this fall, I have done considerable drainage work. The biggest job was laying 600 feet of 8" tile through No. 4 and No. 6 fairways, with two 18" catch basins in the roughs to take the surface water under, instead of over these fairways. Last spring this whole area was wet until June first. Next year we shall see what we shall see. I have also built concrete hose boxes near the spikets at each green. These keep the hose and sprinklers out of the sun and out of the players' way when not in use.

I still have several hundred welfare workers. They have built my compost

pile, and have helped to clean the rocks out of the roughs. Just west of the course, the Park Department, under which my course comes, has about thirty acres of land. The welfare workers have built nearly two miles of stone wall and have finished about one-half the grading work on a football field and a brace of eight tennis courts. The welfare workers here have been a big problem. I hope that when this C. W. A. gets under way, it will be possible to organize them properly.

Come down some time and let's talk over some of our mutual problems. I hope to be here at the Providence Municipal all winter.

Everett J. Pyle.

### PAKACHOAG HILL NEWS

Pakachoag Hill, (in Auburn, Mass.) enjoyed a fairly successful year, it being the second full season that it has been open. Our play has been rather satisfactory, considering we have a nine hole layout, (3355), averaging about 20,000 rounds each for the two seasons, and we feel that our location is ideal, being about three miles from the center of Worcester.

The greens fees for the past two years have been a dollar a day, or thirty-five cents a round on week-days, and \$1.50 or fifty cents a round on Sundays.

We have had very little trouble with our greens, which are stolon, believed to be a cross between the Washington and Metropolitan strains. An attack of scald in the middle of the Summer, and another in the latter part, were remedied by hand spiking. A slight attack of sod web worm was controlled and checked, I believe, by a heavy application of lead in our early Summer topdressing.

Improvements to the course were limited to a few spots here and there, mainly grading a few steep knolls, and filling in, to improve our fairways, and to better tractor mowing conditions. We also set out over fifty red pines, mostly in the rough, to more definitely outline our fairways. Eventually we plan to plant many more trees of various kinds, but that will come later. An improvement we anticipate is to build a small dam to improve a water hazard; we have one on our last hole, and feel that another would add interest.

I have been cutting our greens and fairways higher than normal, to give both a chance for quicker improvement; there has been no criticism from golfers, and I feel sure that this has been a big factor in the rapid improvement of the playing conditions on the course.

Thomas T. Mattus.

Tom sends us this news from St. Petersburg, Fla. where he is spending the Winter. Look him up at 670½—12th Ave. S., you who are in Florida this Winter.....Ed.

### NEWS FROM WAMPANOAG

After getting off to a poor start two years ago the outlook at Wampanoag is much better, with play nearly doubled the past season over the previous year, and difficulties are being ironed out with time.

Although having no traces of brown patch or other turf diseases this season we did run into a lot of trouble on the greens with angle worms. We overcame these with a heavy application of arsenate of lead (about 10 lbs. to 1000 sq. ft.) which was applied with a carrier of milorganite and finely screened compost and broadcast in a heavy rain.

The improvements next year will be mostly in the tees. This will be done by digging up the sod on the front quarter of each tee and replacing with screened medium bodied loam levelled off and tamped. The grass part of the tees will then be subjected to less wear and tear from beginners, who, although perfectly eligible to use the latter will not desire to lose those precious few yards. This has another advantage in that it allows players to see precisely the distance of the ball from the ground which cannot be judged as accurately from grass; they are also easily kept in perfect condition.

Our rates this year were 50c week days and 75c Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Algernon M. Barney.

Don't forget the date of our anniversary celebration, the 5th of February, at the Woodland Golf Club, Auburn-dale, Mass.

WELCOME  
NEW ENGLAND  
GREENKEEPERS and CHAIRMEN

to the

EIGHTH ANNUAL  
NATIONAL GREENKEEPERS'  
Golf Show                      Convention

and

Educational Conference

to be held at

THE WILLIAM PENN HOTEL

Pittsburgh, Pa.

January 30 - February 2 - 1934

The National Association of Greenkeepers  
of America

Fred A. Burkhardt

Secretary

## DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting was held at the Statler Hotel, Boston, on the 4th. The program was in charge of Chairman of the Entertainment Committee Mitchell. Various subjects of interest were discussed—sod web worm, scald, clover control, depression budgets, etc.

At the business meeting, the Nominating Committee reported the following slate of officers for 1934:

President	Guy C. West
1st V. Pres.	Howard Farrant
2nd V. Pres.	Ted Swanson
3rd V. Pres.	James Sullivan
Secretary	Charles Parker
Treasurer	Frank Wilson
Trustee, 3 yrs.	James McCormack
Trustee, 2 yrs.	Robert Mitchell

### Entertainment Committee:

Homer Darling  
Alec Ohlson  
Ray Granger  
John Latvis  
George Volmer

### Golf Committee:

Paul Hayden  
Emil Masciocchi  
Joseph Oldfield  
Thomas Galvin  
Arthur Anderson

### Auditing Committee:

Philip Cassidy  
Paul Wanberg

## "TANK OR TANKS"

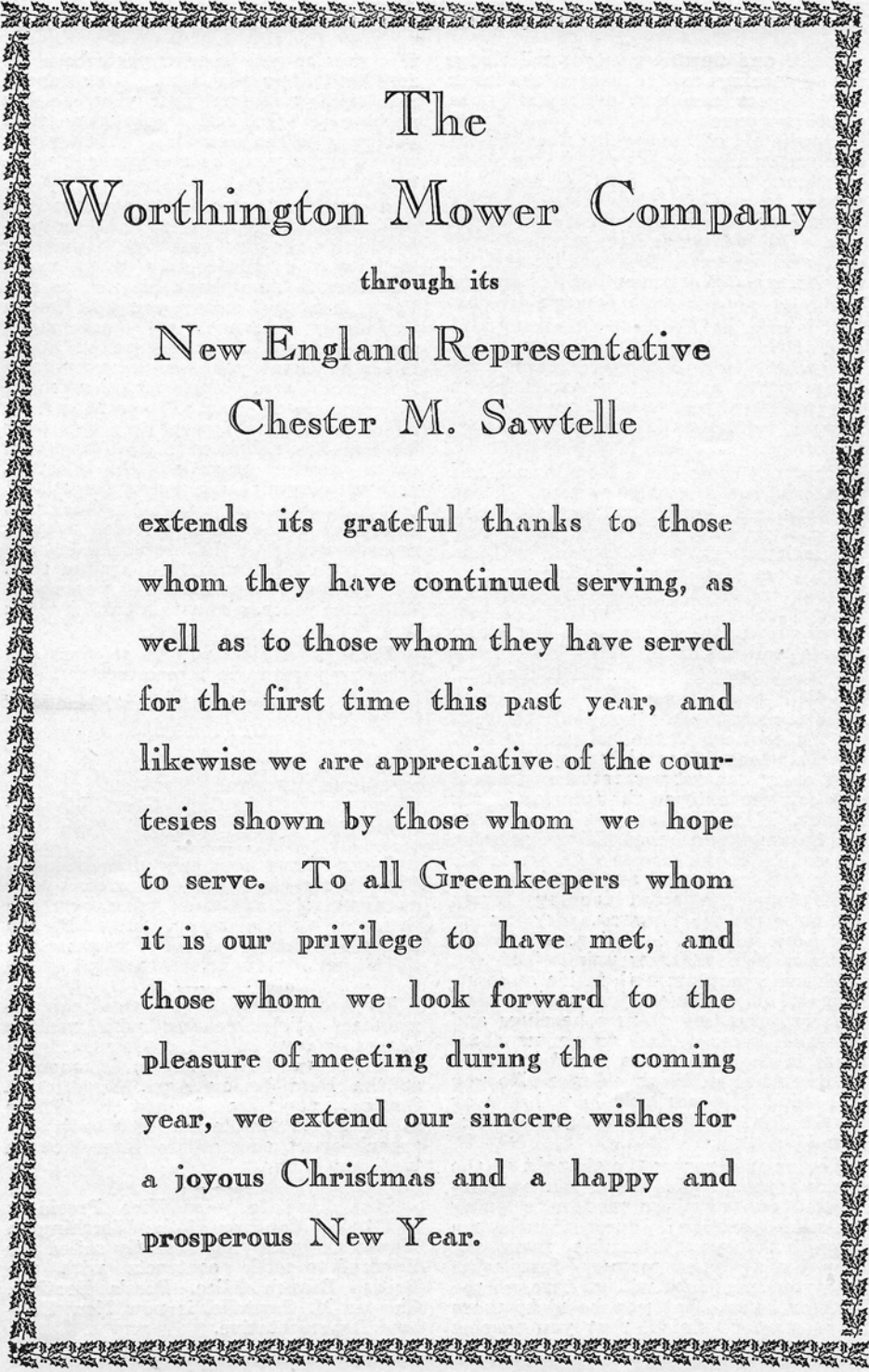
I have often wondered if the average lawn mower owner stopped to consider what the term "Modern Equipped Service Station" means in terms of invested dollars and if the proper application of these "Modern Equipments" benefits him. Does he wonder too just what special items come under a heading such as "Modern Lawn Mower Equipment". I could name quite a group of special machines but to my mind the most important one is a battery of "CLEANING TANKS."

You will note that I say cleaning tanks and not just cleaning tank. It's plural and decidedly so. It makes little matter how much care is exercised in the opening, inspecting, reassembling,

grinding, painting and touching up of a mower if the interior (heart and lungs) parts are left to work in a bath of grit and perhaps old grease mixed with some new grease and a few drops of cleaning solution. The degree of thoroughness in both cleaning and flushing predetermines the life of these gears and bearings. No manufacturer should be blamed for the errors and omissions of a service man of whom he has perhaps never seen or heard.

I have perhaps visited as many repair shops as most men in this repair field. I have seen equipment of all kinds. The average service man strives to better his equipment in order that he may better his work for you. He may select a series of discarded bath tubs, he may heat them with open fires. He may flounder about with all kinds of mixtures to secure his desired cleaning solution (there are many excellent materials on the market at reasonable prices). To my mind the best equipment that I have seen to date is a battery of two large steel tanks, each connected to a boiler of sufficient size to maintain both tanks of solution at a boiling temperature no matter how many pounds of castings are in them and how quickly removed. One tank contains a cleaning solution which will strip the paint and emulsify the oils or greases, this tank is also equipped with a mechanical agitator to keep the fluid flowing in and out of the parts immersed therein.

Our experience based on tests and trials made with several types of tanks, solutions, temperatures and methods has evolved itself into this simple and thorough procedure. The mower should be first scraped of its mud and clippings, (some owners forget and leave this material on the machines), then given a thorough flushing with cold clean water under high pressure. It should then be taken apart and similar metal parts immersed into the boiling solution tank and to remain in this agitated boiling solution until paint has been loosened and greases emulsified. It is then quickly lifted to a rack and flushed with a high pressure stream of clean cold water (this removes the paint and greasy residue). It is then immersed into the boiling clean water tank and allowed to remain there until it (the parts) are heated through. The parts can then be removed and allowed to cool. They will be dry long before they are cool enough to handle with the bare hands. Unless the machine is first



The  
Worthington Mower Company  
through its  
New England Representative  
Chester M. Sawtelle

extends its grateful thanks to those whom they have continued serving, as well as to those whom they have served for the first time this past year, and likewise we are appreciative of the courtesies shown by those whom we hope to serve. To all Greenkeepers whom it is our privilege to have met, and those whom we look forward to the pleasure of meeting during the coming year, we extend our sincere wishes for a joyous Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

scraped and flushed the grit will lodge in the bearings and corners of the inner side of gear cases; unless agitated the solution cannot enter the cases and carry the old oil out; unless flushed with cold water after cleaning, the chemicals old scum of paint and grease will adhere to castings and destroy a new paint job; unless immersed and heated in a clean hot water bath the parts will rust and water is liable to remain in the corners, gear cases and bearings and later cause severe damage.

It is only natural that a cleaning process of this nature will mean a renewal of gaskets and packings. These are minor parts and quite inexpensive in comparison to gears and bearings which may be ruined unless properly cleaned and dried.

This may seem like a lot of work, and that you can beat the system. It can be done and here is a way to do it. Dip a completely assembled mower into a solution tank, any old tank will do, then from that into another tank of hot water, or if you do not have the tank of hot water just flush with a cold water stream and set aside to dry. Quite simple and a lot of time and labor saved. A cheaper job, but is it cheaper? Let us see.

In the first place you left the dirt on the mower, if the solution took it off then the dirt is either in the solution or in the mower interior parts if any solution entered the interior of the mower. If it did then you have grit in the bearings and gears. If the solution did not enter the mower then the inside has not been cleaned and you have just camouflaged the job of cleaning. If you did not heat the mower to dry it then you have allowed rust to form which will not help the new paint. You can wash many mowers both inside and outside and do a perfect job for less than the cost of a set of new bearings and internal gears. And to renew these parts in the midst of a growing season is sometimes an inconvenience. Do you still think it is worth while to half way do the job? I think you agree that it is not?

Let us just renew the thought in the opening paragraph. Have you ever inspected one of these modern cleaning tanks in operation? If not, then let me suggest that you determine from the shop having your mowers just what date your machines will go through the bath or baths, that you be right there from start to finish, that you inspect

the exterior and interior parts both before and after the bath. Your repairman will welcome your visit, he has nothing to hide, and at the same time you may gather some ideas of how you will arrange your own equipment when that time comes.

Remember that this equipment did cost the shop some money, all in proportion to the size and type equipment installed. It will take a great many cleanings to fund back his investment. Remember that today you can get a thoroughly cleaned and overhauled machine for a labor charge of about the same as you paid for just grinding a few years ago. Machinery has made this possible for you. The word service added to a shop means the customer's interest has not been forgotten. This extra service preceded the demand yet you pay nothing extra for it. In fact it is given to you, and to back this statement I have just referred to past records and find that repair sales are actually less per unit in operation than sold for these same machines years ago. Will your records bear this out? I think they will.

The next subject will be grinders and grinding if you are interested.

"A Service Station Manager."

Marston Burnett has recently been appointed General Manager at the Wyantenuck Golf Club, Great Barrington, Mass.

Oscar Pierce, formerly of the Acoaxit Club, has recently become greenkeeper at Kittansett, and thus takes over the duties of his late father, "Mike" Pierce. Edward Phinney of the Paskamansett Golf Club is now at Acoaxit.

We are in receipt of several mimeographed articles dealing with various phases of turf culture on lawns, issued by Dr. Howard B. Sprague, Agronomist at the New Jersey Agri. Experiment Station, at New Brunswick. These sheets are available for distribution to greenkeepers and others interested in turf for lawns.

Ross Sawtelle, now Vice President and Sales Manager of the Worthington Mower Company has recently sailed for England to settle contracts with the British Branch Office. Ross's Brother, Chester M. Sawtelle, is now New England Representative.



## HOWDEN

Wishes to thank his many Friends  
for their Faith and Patronage  
throughout this trying year and  
wishes all a Happy Christmas and a  
New Year of contentment and  
prosperity.

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as a

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to your

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on the links for the whole club.

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for 1934.

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**RHODE ISLAND STATE COLLEGE**  
Kingston, R. I.

**WINTER COURSE FOR  
GREENKEEPERS**

January 29 - February 2, 1934

The second annual short course for greenkeepers has been arranged as a one-week course of lectures and laboratory work designed to assist those interested in the development and maintenance of golf courses in solving the many problems which arise in this work.

An applicant for this course must be a member of a greens committee, a greenkeeper or have had experience in the work connected with the care and management of golf courses.

No entrance examinations are required. The number of students is limited to twenty-four. A registration fee of \$3.00 will be required of all attending the course.

As accommodations make it necessary to limit the number taking the course, registrations will not be accepted from residents of other states previous to January 15, 1934. Applications for registration from non-residents will be received previous to January 15, and will be accepted in order of receipt if the enrollment is not complete on that date.

All lectures and laboratory exercises will be held in Agricultural Hall.

Lunch may be obtained at the college cafeteria.

**2ND ANNUAL GREENKEEPERS' SHORT COURSE**

**RHODE ISLAND STATE COLLEGE**

JANUARY 29—FEBRUARY 2, 1934

**Monday, January 29, 1934**

9:30 - 10:00	Registration—Room 31, 2nd floor	
10:00 - 10:15	Greetings	Dean G. E. Adams
10:15 - 11:00	Composition of Soils	John B. Smith
11:00 - 12:00	Fertilizer—Kinds and Use	T. E. Odland
1:00 - 4:00	Soil Tests and Problems	L. A. Keegan

**Tuesday, January 30, 1934**

10:00 - 11:00	How Plants Grow	H. W. Browning
11:00 - 12:00	Grasses for the Golf Course	H. F. A. North
1:00 - 2:00	Planting Greens and Fairways	H. F. A. North
2:00 - 4:00	Identification of Grasses and Weeds	H. W. Browning and staff.

**Wednesday, January 31, 1934**

10:00 - 11:00	Landscaping the Golf Course	L. A. Keegan
11:00 - 12:00	Selection and Care of Trees	A. W. Dodge Bartlett Tree Expert Co., Boston, Mass.
1:00 - 4:00	Greenkeepers' Problems	Kenneth Welton U. S. Golf Ass'n., Washington, D. C.

**Thursday, February 1, 1934**

10:00 - 11:00	Insect Pests and Control	G. B. Durham
11:00 - 12:00	Diseases of Grasses and Their Control	L. E. Erwin
1:00 - 4:00	Golf Course Machinery	Dean R. L. Wales and staff

**Friday, February 2, 1934**

10:00 - 11:00	A Permanent System for Maintenance of Putting Greens	H. F. A. North
11:00 - 12:00	Computing Fertilizer Mixtures	L. A. Keegan
1:00 - 2:00	Cost Accounts for the Greenkeeper	Guy C. West
2:00 - 4:00	Round Table Discussion of Problems	Guy C. West, Editor N. E. Greenkeepers Club NEWSLETTER

Application blanks may be secured by writing:  
Dean G. E. Adams, R. I. State College, Kingston, R. I.

## The Season's Greetings

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**MODERN LAWN MOWER  
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Winter-hardy, Acclimated

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We emphasize that we are more than mere factory trained assemblymen. We know lawn mowers and are equipped to do **Real Repairing**.

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The complete taking apart of mowers and power mower engines, the removal of old paint and dirt, assembling after repairs and replacements are made, and repainting are standard practices with us.

### Special Exclusive Methods

**Bottom Knives.** Precision ground on front and top edges with a wet wheel. This means longer life from each blade and the wet grinding saves the temper.

**Reel Blades.** Double ground (Back pitched and cylindrical ground). We are the only service shop in this section equipped and practising this type of reel grinding which is standard with most mower manufacturers.

**General Repairing.** We are equipped to do Brazing, Welding, and general machine shop work. We can save you many expensive replacements.

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**And**

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