



# NEWS LETTER

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It is a mistake to fancy ourselves greater than we are, but a crime to value ourselves at less than we are worth.—*Anon.*

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**JULY**

**1939**

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

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July, 1939 Vol. 11, No. 7

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*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.*

**WHAT SHALL THE STANDARDS BE?**

by Charles W. Parker

A few months ago in an article of mine I suggested that the idea being advanced by the Greenkeeping Superintendents of America of having some standards for qualifying members in that organization other than type and length of service in their respective jobs appeared to have considerable merit. It was not my intention or desire to go any further at that time and I was quite content to launch my opinion and await returns, if any.

In-so-far as I am aware there have been no returns. Apparently the thought died aborning. Now, that is worse than if this opinion of mine had brought forth a mighty clamor of accusation and reproach. One's self-esteem can always be salvaged, in such a case, by saying, "At least I got some action," but when the brain child perishes after one weak, puling cry—My! that is bad, and gives one cause to ponder. Perhaps the idea did "stink". Was the timing poor? Maybe some preliminary build-up should have been carried out. What was wrong anyway?

All that I can do after that experience is start at the beginning as to how this

idea came into being and why, to me, it still has many possibilities that, if soundly developed and administered, should go a long way toward pushing the Greenkeepers toward their mythical goal. That state of millenium that we all like to talk about, but seem unwilling or unable to do any constructive thinking on or to take positive action toward starting us on the right road.

During the winter months it is my custom to follow the winter sports trail. The fact that I do this entirely from my arm chair in front of the open fire is no reflection on my genuine interest. The development of the skiing sports industry is well worth considerable study by anyone who is interested in luxury sports promotion. We Greenkeepers are vitally interested in the promotion of a luxury sport, golf, and there most certainly is a close sports relationship between skiing and golf. No club is a poorer field for winter sports development than is mine, so my interest is far from direct, but is, nevertheless, just as lively as though we had winter sports possibilities at Wianno. It is my belief that a large percentage of winter sports enthusiasts are either active or potential golfers. This idea is born out by the many names that keep cropping out in the winter sports news that are known to me to be golfers also. My idea has received further confirmation since our season has opened up this year by observing the suprising number of off Cape and out of state cars that are now equipped with ski racks. If I were actively engaged in the promotion of golf at a summer club or resort course I most certainly would plug golf in all the winter sports centers.

From time to time during the past winter, considerable space in the winter sports news was devoted to the development of a code to which all skiing teachers must conform if they were to receive a certificate of approval from ski associations, the reason for this being, to quote one writer, "Briefly, the sudden growth of skiing popularity led to a sudden appearance of many self-styled skiing instructors, many of whom were totally incompetent \* \* \*".

Maybe the application of the above to us Greenkeepers is not quite obvious. Perhaps it may appear to apply to the golf professionals and for all I know they may well take a page from the skiing instructor's book. Whether far fetched or not here is where I believe

we Greenkeepers can well pause and consider this forward looking action on the part of those who have chosen a kindred luxury sport as their means of livelihood. Skiing, as we now know it, has sprung up in a very few years and is increasing in popularity with amazing rapidity, and yet in its very infancy definite progress has been made in setting up a code to which those who intend to make skiing their source of livelihood must conform.

By comparison, we Greenkeepers, who have chosen for our life work the maintenance end of a luxury sport that was a gray beard before organized skiing activity began in this country, are still groping in the darkness and making little or no headway in developing for ourselves a code of standards and ethics which will be not only of inestimable value to us but will reflect many benefits to golf as a whole. It is almost inconceivable that to-day, when there is a very definite second generation of Greenkeepers, as we know them, becoming more and more active, that almost nothing is being accomplished for self-promotion through intelligent cooperation. It is doubly shameful that in New England, where the oldest organization of Greenkeepers in the world has its being that nothing has ever been accomplished in real foundation building. A few foundation stones were laid and then construction was begun on the second story. . . Is it to be wondered at that up to now every forward looking policy or activity conceived and put into action by the New England Greenkeepers Club has either been taken away from us or has died a discouraging and discouraged death through lack of active support by the very ones who fathered the idea?

In the last six or eight years we have seen some discouraging, not to say cruel, dismissals and curtailings of some of our fellow members. Perhaps some of us have actually experienced such hardships and while as individuals we have weathered these storms rather better than have others in different lines of work, as a body we have failed and failed most definitely. Why have we failed as a body? Nearly all these cruelties came to pass not through some individual working out a personal grudge but were conceived and carried out, often unwillingly, by groups of honest, intelligent, successful men, albeit often ill advised, who believed that economy alone dictated their actions.

Did we Greenkeepers have a sound code of standards and ethics to which any and all individuals engaged in Greenkeeping must conform before becoming eligible for membership in an organization it would be self evident that such a membership carried with it far more than a name and that only the most serious reason could justify the elimination of a Greenkeeper in good standing to be replaced by an inexperienced individual who did not have the certification of a Greenkeeping organization.

That is but one phase, the personal, the selfish phase. Here is another angle. How much crack-pot turf experting and other wasteful practices that we are familiar with might have been curtailed or eliminated had we developed an organization on such a sound basis that the backing of this organization would reflect such strength and stature on its individual members that instead of having to stand by with hands tied while some partially developed theory was being tried out on our turf, we would be in a position to say, "This is my turf, not a laboratory. I do not question your theories but develop them where they can do no harm." This is a phase that means dollars and cents to golf clubs. A phase where hundreds of dollars have been squandered because some individual or individuals who have not the ability, the temperament, the intuition for Greenkeeping happen to be in authority while we must stand idly by, hoping for the best, but anticipating the worst, which all too frequently proves to be the outcome.

An honest survey of the fifteen years existence of the Greenkeepers Club of New England is not too encouraging, demonstrating as it does that in comparison with skiing here is a luxury sport hardly out of its swaddling clothes, but which has voluntarily developed a code which promotes and protects the sport itself, those who participate in it, and those who work at it, while Greenkeeping after far too many years to contemplate with complacency, is still being lead around by whatever old bellwether who may choose to step to the front and say "Follow Me".

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Born to Dr. and Mrs. J. A. DeFrance on May 31st, a daughter, Eleanor Van Vorst, at Kingston, R. I. Congratulations, Jes!



**G. S. A. TALK AT CANOE BROOK  
C. C. DURING  
EASTERN SECTIONAL MEETING**

**June 5 - 6, 1939**

By President F. W. Ermer

It is altogether fitting and proper that we of the G. S. A. should have selected an eastern location for this, our first outdoor sectional educational conference. The first organized golf club in the United States, the St. Andrews Golf Club, was started not far from here at Yonkers, New York, about 51 years ago. In fact, most of the best things in our national life have had their inception in this eastern section of our great country. It was here that our forefathers landed . . . here that the decisive battles were fought which led to the founding of our nation.

As I ponder over it I sometimes wonder how our civilization ever strayed so far west and guess it must have been in order to find more cow pastures which could be turned into fairways. It certainly couldn't have been to improve the human strain, for surely the courtesy and efficiency demonstrated here at Canoe Brook the past few days could never be improved upon.

Since the earliest days of the game of golf in Scotland it has been a democratic sport. Almost everybody played it, from the village cobbler to the Lord of the realm. As most of you know, the first courses in Scotland were public. They were laid out across a tract of land by the seashore over which every inhabitant of the community had some right. Even today, the golf courses of Scotland are community projects rather than private undertakings. Their championships are always decided by golfing skill, never by the design of a coat of arms.

Perhaps it is this heritage of democracy which inspired someone to say that golf is the soil of fine friendships, happy meetings; gives you the chance to play the man and act the gentleman. The game is a combination of all the pleasant things in life that make for harmony in living. It is both physical and mental. It calls for skill, courage, strategy and self-control. But above all, the game brings men closer together . . . helps them to know each other . . . increases their store of human understanding.

We who make our livelihood in the business of golf . . . Are we so close to the fairways that we have become immune to golf's magic power to draw us together? I think not. I prefer to believe that the members of the green-keeping profession are too intelligent not to make use of the lesson in harmony and understanding which golf teaches.

We are all willing to admit that in unity there is strength. Nor do any of us question the power of cooperation, the value of exchanging ideas. Yet during the 20 years I have been active in this profession, I have seen our progress continually hampered by minor differences which were caused, not by cross purposes, but simply by a lack of harmony and understanding. Have we learned our lesson? Are we ready to apply the truths which we know make for mutual progress? I repeat it, friends. I think we are ready.

No doubt most of you have witnessed Tommy Armour in his disgustingly frequent act of laying a long iron shot dead to the pin. It's really quite simple, so he tells me. You just grab a club, stand up to the ball—it's really quite simple. It looks simple, anyhow. Tommy's body seems to turn on ball bearings. His clubhead flows through like oil draining from a crank case and the ball splits the pin all the way. That, my friends, is harmony. Every bit of effort and mechanical skill at Tommy's command dovetails in his execution of an iron shot, with the result that each shot is a masterpiece of performance. That same dovetailing of effort and mechanical skill will enable the G. S. A. to split the pin all the way, too. Each of you has one or more special ability related to greenkeeping. Some of you know how to keep your eye on the ball. One may have the proper stance, and someone else the proper grip. Still others of you may know just which club to use. And lastly there are those who excel on the follow through. All we have to do, then, to bring off the shot is to roll these special abilities into one. And when we do, our co-workers in other branches of this grand game will marvel at our smoothness. They will say the same thing as they say now when Tommy Armour lays one dead to the pin. They will say, "These greenkeeper guys sure make it look easy. I wonder how in hell they do it?"

The answer, of course, will be that we have learned to use the game of



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—Say you saw it in the NEWSLETTER—

golf not only as a means of livelihood, but also as a design for living. I don't know if Webster was a golfer, but he certainly hit the nail on the head when he defined harmony as the "adaptation of parts one to another, so as to form a connected whole". That definition fits harmony no matter whether you are describing the harmony of a golf swing or the harmony of a great military machine engaged in war. In troublous times, nations—and greenkeepers—must pull together or perish.

The splendid spirit and cooperation shown here at this conference is proof that the eastern section of the green-keeping fraternity is already pulling on its oar. It is my hope that future events of the G. S. A. are handled as capably as this one has been.

Those of us who have come here from other sections of the country are looking forward to more of your hospitality and good fellowship at the annual convention next winter in New York. Meanwhile, we wish for you every success in your work here and invite you to share more and more in the benefits which will accrue to all of us as our organization grows in strength and gains in experience.

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Bill McBride and Guy Paulsen of the Nashua C. C. won the annual John Shanahan Memorial tournament on the 17th at Brae Burn with a score of 80-70. Competition for the Memorial Shield is decided on a net basis. Second net award went to Frank Wilson and John Bernardi of Charles River with 83-71. The gross prize went to Emil

Mashie of Oak Hill and Elmer Reed of Brae Burn, this team combining for a fine 74. Thirty-seven teams competed, and found the course very tough for this tournament.

Scores of leading teams follow:

Guy Paulsen and Bill McBride, Nashua, N. H., 37-43-80-70.

John Bernardi and Frank Wilson, Charles River, 40-43-83-71.

Tony Manero and Jack Counsell, Salem, 38-42-80-72.

Elmer Reed, Brae Burn and Emil Mashie, Oak Hill, 36-38-74-77.

George Ford and Phil Cassidy, Needham, 39-41-80-73.

Howard Farrant and Ian Anderson, The Country, 42-41-83-74.

Joe Rustic and Joe Denardi, Bellevue, 43-44-87-75.

Les Cottrell and Ted Swansen, Bear Hill, 38-44-82-76.

Joe Stein and E. Buecher, Manchester, N. H., 41-40-88-76.

Bob Crowley and Nick Bruno, Norfolk, 41-39-80-76.

John Gilholm, Jr. and Ed Ohlson, Taunton, 42-42-84-76.

Art Wedgeworth and Morris Ryan, Merrimac Valley, 36-41-77-76.

Carl Burns and R. W. Peckham, Sachuest, R. I., 41-39-80-77.

Charles Malloy and J. Oldfield, Furnace Brook, 41-43-84-77.

Jack Reid and Tom Mattus, Paka-chog Hill, 42-42-84-77.

Jack Sheehan and Henry Mitchell, Albemarle, 43-46-89-77.

Arthur Gusa and John Latvis, Tatnuck, 44-46-90-78.

Roy Bronsdon and Arthur Anderson, Brae Burn, 46-44-90-78.

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### CHARLES RIVER NOTES

This seasons work, outside of our regular upkeep, has been repairing last July's flood and September's hurricane. Three thousand trees to remove was a very tall order and much remains to be done deep in the woods. About 200 cords of wood already cut up, hundreds of stumps pulled out and the holes filled, and I don't know how many hanging limbs removed.

The July flood killed out the apron of the fourth hole, removed a bridge and washed and heaved the ground, which was under water three times last year, out of shape. The fourth is a pond hole, the pond fed by a swamp on the left of the fifth and the river on the right, and is 153 yards long. A large trap has been built in the apron of the green, and the rest of the approach graded. The space where the bridge washed out filled with gravel and rock with a conduit to take water in and out of the pond as the river rises and falls. This has greatly improved the hole and lessened the upkeep. An arm of the pond is later to be filled and made into a huge trap.

The greens came through the winter in very good shape. The cold wet spring was ideal for the growth of Poa Annua and we were blessed or cursed with plenty, the last remark depending on whether it stays in or departs. Up to now the greens are very good. (Knock wood).

The fairways received 25 tons of milorganite last fall and went into the winter in fine shape and were in the same condition this spring and by the use of plenty of water from May on have continued in that condition. We are still mowing three times a week.

This spring we purchased a new Toro fairway tractor and put the old one on the rough tractor pulling three Toro super mowers. This rough outfit has materially reduced the cost of rough upkeep.

Up to date we have had little trouble with brown patch, spraying only once on July 1st. This has not been a brown patch year up to July. Plenty of time yet, however.

This spring we changed our fertilizer formula from an 8-6-2 to an 6-8-4 and think we are going to like the results, however, it is too early to tell definitely.

Perhaps by this time next year I will

have ceased to see fallen trees, stump holes and hanging limbs in my sleep and be back to normal.

Frank Wilson.

### MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING

As instructed by the By-Laws I am publishing this list of members in good standing, July 1, 1939:

Edward Ohlson  
 Manuel Braga  
 A. E. Anderson  
 L. G. Stott  
 J. S. Latvis  
 Alex Ohlson  
 P. G. Wanberg  
 G. C. West  
 W. F. Mitchell  
 George Volmer  
 John Clinton  
 S. S. Mitchell  
 C. T. O'Keefe  
 John Counsell  
 G. R. Johnson  
 Leslie Wildgust  
 James Lawson  
 Valentine Flood  
 Ralph Thomas  
 T. F. Clark  
 R. W. Peckham  
 A. Sperandio  
 N. J. Sperandio  
 E. A. Masciocchi  
 Louis Marratto  
 E. J. Pyle  
 Richard Mansfield  
 W. F. Lerner  
 G. J. Rommell  
 H. B. Cottelle  
 Simeone Braio  
 M. S. Ryan  
 T. T. Mattus  
 Thomas Brennan  
 H. A. Mosher  
 Henry Mitchell  
 M. D. Maxwell  
 Nicholas Bruno  
 H. D. Farrant  
 Joseph Oldfield  
 H. C. Darling  
 Arthur Fontaine  
 P. F. Hayden  
 Eugene Mauro  
 W. W. Partridge  
 T. P. Anderson  
 James McCormack  
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The regular monthly meeting was held at the Field Station, Waltham, Mass. on the 10th. Maurice S. Ryan of the Merrimac Valley C. C. was elected an Associate Member.

The August meeting will probably be held at the New Bedford C. C., a joint meeting with the R. I. Association.

We are indeed sorry to announce the deaths of Frank D. Shenk, Chairman of the Green Committee at the Belmont Springs C. C. for many years, on June 30th, and of Dr. Burt L. Hartwell, Director of the R. I. Experiment Station from 1912 to 1928, on July 12th. Both of these men are well known to green-keepers, and have attended many of our meetings.

### TALKS ON TREES

By E. Porter Felt

Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories  
Stamford, Conn.

A child may care for a kitten. An elephant is a serious responsibility for an experienced adult.

Trees are giant plants. They need much the same conditions as many of the smaller plants. Their large size make the comparatively simple operation of pruning hazardous to the unskilled. Insecure footing in a tree may result in serious injury. There is also the question as to how the tree should be pruned. The experienced worker has a distinct advantage in this respect. The average suburban resident, his superintendent or other employee is at a disadvantage in a tree top.

Spraying large trees is as different as pruning for most suburbanites. They

do not have adequate equipment as a rule. They have not had sufficient experience to make good coverage the rule, and this is necessary if one would secure satisfactory results. The work itself is disagreeable and therefore likely to be shirked. The materials used may seriously injure plants if applied in excess or improperly. The tolerance of trees to sprays varies greatly in different species. Some spray materials are deadly to animal life. None are efficient if applied in the wrong way or at other than the right time. Real proficiency is necessary to spray a tree properly.

There is also the problem of the weak or ailing tree. It may be suffering from malnutrition—plain starvation. This is much more common than many think. The trouble may be due to winter cold, excessive heat, extended drought, unsuitable soil, poor location, or any one of a long list of injurious insects or devitalizing plant diseases. The treatment selected should be one which will alleviate the trouble. This means accurate diagnosis, and the right prescription. The possible complications approach these which confront the physician. Many are easily remedied provided one knows what to do. This is where the tree expert can render valuable service.

Let children play with kittens, but do not put them in charge of elephants.

### DON'T FORGET

L A W N D A Y

MASS. STATE COLLEGE

JULY 27th.

### OFFICERS' DIRECTORY

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NEWSLETTER officers, see page two.



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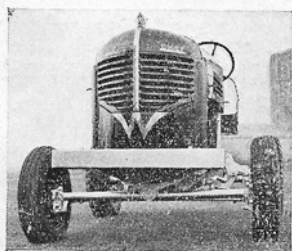
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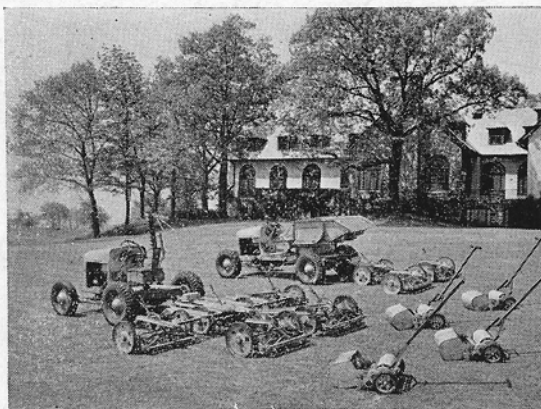
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Pomonoak Country Club of Flushing, Long Island, New York, scene of this year's P.G.A., uses this battery of Worthington equipment to give its members and guests a championship course. Maintenance is under the management of its able superintendent, Mr. Joseph Sylvester.



Here's Joseph Sylvester, Superintendent of Pomonoak, in the driver's seat. Photograph taken in May with the course already rounding into shape for the playing season.



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