



NEWS LETTER

That should be long considered
which can be decided but once.

--Publius Syrus

MAY

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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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.

MAY MEETING

The regular monthly meeting was held on the 8th at the Wellesley Country Club, Wellesley, Mass.

Winners of the golf tournament were:

Sam Mitchell—100-30-70.
Nick Bruno—81-11-70.
Joseph Dinardi—101-30-71.
John Counsell—90-17-73.

Joe Johnston has brought to our attention an interesting picture in the Pictorial Section of the Dundee, Scotland "The People's Journal", of a golf match in Egypt. The picture shows a player dressed in the native costume of that country holing out in a match of the All-Egyptian Golf Championship at Cairo. A very aloof spectator to this golf match is a camel. The caption to the picture does not state whether the camel is for carrying the clubs and caddy, or for transportation of the player between shots!

The well-known W. W. would write that the Joseph Oldfields "threed" on April 11th. We extend our congratulations on the arrival of Peter Joseph.

EDUCATION IN GREENSKEEPING

by

Anthony J. Sperandio
Leicester Hillcrest Country Club
Leicester, Massachusetts
(A Recreation Conference Paper)

Honored guests, alumni of the Massachusetts State for Greenskeepers, and my fellow students:

Most papers given by the students in the past have dealt with cultural practices, such as watering, cutting greens and disease. Today I would like to give my ideas on what a greenskeeper should be qualified to do. I know you didn't come up here just because this is another conference. You are here to see, also, what education has to offer the greenskeeping profession. Knowing that you are professional men who believe in education and have an open mind, you will think these facts over, which I am presenting to you.

Now, what is a golf course? A golf course today is a manufacturing plant which produces a product called grass. This industry has a thirty-one billion dollar investment with a yearly business of five hundred million dollars. With an investment like this, there should be no excuse for so many clubs on the verge of closing in the past few years with trained and experienced men.

Now let's look back, during the last 20 or 30 years, and see how golf courses have developed. Courses built during this time ran away with ideas. They borrowed money, built large club houses, and tremendous tees and greens. Thinking nothing of the future, and the greatest per cent of money was spent on the club house, the nineteen hole which is the downfall of most clubs. These courses are faced with the problem today as to where they are going to get the money to continue. The old saying was, "Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we may die." Great ideas they had to be sure, but what a problem they have left for us today, and what a sad future they have in store.

What are they doing to solve this problem? Some are hiring new managers, others are combining and making pro-greenskeeper job, and still others are firing the greenskeeper and hiring a common laborer who has no knowledge of golf course maintenance.

When an unqualified manager takes over a club, he may cut the budget used in operating the course. He sees no tangible return for the money he spends on turf. A new, hard-wood floor in the club house is in his mind an adequate reminder to the club members that they are getting something in return for their money. The same with a pro, and common laborers who have not the necessary knowledge of the working problem and product.

Now what happens, the club is now producing a lower grade product, as in factory, lowering the standard of the product. As the years go by, they won't be able to sell and they will have to close their doors. Any business, whether it is golf, making shoes, boots, or tires, would do the same thing unless it had a trained and educated man to make the product by the best managing he knows.

The biggest and only solution I think depends on the professional greenskeeper. Now, what is a professional man? A professional man requires an education which comes from schools and colleges, such as attending winter schools. This should make them qualified to take complete charge of a golf course. Because of this education, he has the golf course to heart, which may not exist in any other man in charge of the course. He will see where all the money is spent, and nine times out of ten, will find that the club house is his biggest headache, which I have referred to as the nineteen hole. Doesn't it seem funny that this extra hole takes more than its share? He will solve this problem, and cut down the overhead on this hole and make the product of the other eighteen holes worth selling.

Big businesses, and golf courses are surely such, are cutting down there overhead, but not on the product. They are tearing down and closing their buildings to cut taxes, insurance and upkeep, but always producing a first-grade product. Why can we not do the same on the golf course if it can be done, to reduce the overhead? It is the grass plant on the eighteen holes that the customer wants. Millions of dollars are saved every year by trained and experienced men in business.

The golf course is a business enterprise today and should be run as one.

Another great asset in business is its organization, which meets and works for the welfare of its members. It brings

new material to them in its particular field. This is brought on by research and study. The medical society brings to their members the new discoveries of the past year. What is its object? A good professional organization is to promote education in its particular field. No one section of the country is trying to outdo the other. They are working for the general interest of the country as a whole. In these organizations they are not dictating what a member or group should do or asking for salaries. What would happen to study and research work, to medical society if the professional doctors started to dictate and fix salaries? But he is working for the good of the profession. Now, in the greenskeeping profession, we have a national club and sectional clubs. Would it not be wise to get together for the welfare of the profession of greenskeeper as a whole. Was it Lincoln who said, "Together we stand and divided we fall".

The greenskeeping profession lies in our hands and it is up to us to decide whether it will survive or not. The professional man will have to be qualified to handle the job of taking complete charge of the golf course and answer to only one as a check. This is the board of directors. When a professional greenskeeper receives the education and training, he can be on the same par as a chairman, who has also been educated and trained in his particular field. Industry has men qualified to produce its product because they are educated men. Can a man who is untrained give efficient orders? It is like electing a man, who has been breeding horses all his life, to the chairmanship of an aeroplane factory. What does he know about flying an aeroplane? Well, the same thing may happen on a golf course when they elect a chairman or hire a greenskeeper. Another example; a chairman orders his greenskeeper to buy equipment or build a green at a certain location. Who pays the price if this equipment or green does not come up to standard? Who suffers? Not the chairman; but the greenskeeper and nobody else. In a factory a man who is doing the buying knows the machinery and the making of the product. They don't have the board of directors, president or treasurer pass judgment, but the expert who has received the training on that machine and product places the order. On the golf course, the well-informed greenskeeper

would never be asked to pay the price of a chairman error, because he is a professional man.

Times have changed and it is time we had a change in our golfing industry if we want to survive.

In a good business they don't have a new man in charge every few years to give orders. The man that is giving the orders knows all about the product that is being sold in his manufacturing plant.

A professional greenskeeper must receive an education. The center of education is schools and colleges. He must train and encourage other men to be qualified to take his place. The greenskeepers who are holding the youth or man back, by not giving him this chance at education in this profession, is not a professional man. What would happen if every professional man practiced this? You don't hear a doctor or lawyer holding back a youth who is trying to qualify himself to take his position when the time comes. Why shouldn't we encourage an individual who is interested in this work to take his place when the time comes? Then, greenskeeping will be ranked as a profession where it rightfully belongs.

If I had more education in the preparation of speeches and delivering addresses, my thoughts would be more clear to you today.

Education is our greatest asset.

THE PERSONAL EQUATION IN GREENKEEPING

by Paul J. Lynch

(Paper presented by Jack Gormley at Recreation Conference)

1—Attitude toward job:

Our attitude toward our job can be illustrated by the story of the three teachers. When asked what they were doing the first said "I'm earning \$100 a month." The second said, "I'm giving children knowledge," while the third said, "I'm helping to mold the future America". How do we visualize our job? Are we just making a living, are we just trying to get by, or are we striving for perfection? Our aims are always changing. What might be perfection today becomes obsolete tomorrow. This makes an adventure out of

our job, keeps us on our toes, and certainly does not permit monotony as far as conditions to be met are concerned. Our reward for constant striving is the greatest happiness known to mankind through self-expression in creative activity.

2—Attitude toward your employers:

The "Are we men or mice?" attitude may be carried too far. Frequently over-assertiveness is due to an inferiority complex. The soul-satisfying knowledge that you really know your job and are capable of carrying it out effectively, should provide you with a positive and dignified bearing in your personal contacts with your employers. This does not mean bluff and bluster, but tact and tolerance. The "Excuse me, sir" bathroom episode best illustrates tact, and Thomas Edison, calmly accepting the criticisms of a second year electrical engineering student, tolerance. Human nature being what it is, a know-it-all attitude is disgustingly irritating and instinctively arouses a sense of antagonism in other people.

I wish to state emphatically that by the foregoing remarks I do not mean that a greenkeeper should be a "Caspar Milquetoast." Fawning fear never produced a good job. The business and professional men who comprise your board of governors respect the man who firmly backs up his convictions without being pig-headed about possible improvement of his own ideas. The glorified farmer and labor foreman called 'A-1' is out, but the greenkeeping superintendent with the knowledge and ability to back up that title can say "Yes, sir," in a different tone of voice than the servant ordered to black his master's boots. Knowledge with ability, dignity with respect, and sincere friendliness with reserve will, I believe, solve the personal equation with your club members. I have emphasized this factor because even the biggest and best undertakings need a public relations counsel.

3—Attitude toward your employees:

Friendship with respect breeds loyalty. The loyal employee, all other things being equal, is the best employee. The hail-fellow-well-met attitude toward your employees may make it superficially easier for the boss but seldom in itself produces maximum results. Workmen will respond better to someone they respect than to just a good fellow. The greenkeeper should merit this respect by

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thoroughly knowing his job and assigning all tasks and seeing to their execution with absolute impartiality and fairness. After fifteen years as an employer of from 1 to 100 people, I have found that absolute impartiality and centralization of authority are the most important factors in employee satisfaction. Nothing will break down morale faster or more completely than contradictory orders from two or more sources. If you are fortunate enough to have a labor foreman see to it that all orders are issued through him. It is often much easier to do a thing yourself but, if you are going to delegate authority, for goodness' sake don't weaken it by promiscuous orders of your own. "How many bosses do I have to listen to?" is the aggrieved cry of too many dissatisfied workers. Be fair and don't fail to acknowledge an exceptional piece of work. Everybody likes a pat on the back when he has accomplished something out of the ordinary and your employee is no different from anyone else. A four-flusher, buck-passer, or incompetent can never gain respect. Set the example for your men by conscientious work and fair dealing and respect is bound to come.

4—Attitude toward yourself:

Self-respect is the corner stone of any career. By this I do not mean egotism but an undistorted realization of your abilities and faults. The intricacies of raising fine turf make ours a worth while and difficult profession to follow successfully. **Be proud to be associated in this work.** Your attitude toward yourself reflects itself in your appearance and manner. Why, if you want the recognition sought after by the men in our profession, have two strikes against you before you start by a slovenly appearance? Our job is not one for dudes but neither is it necessary to go around looking like a lodger in a dime flop house. Thousands of men's jobs demand clean shaven faces and regular hair cuts. Can we afford to meet our members with a two day's beard? Suitable clothing does not mean white flannels but neither does it mean overalls that are ready for the ash man.

Self-analysis is a great thing if not carried too far. It has resulted in many of us constantly striving to increase our store of knowledge. Hence the many greenkeepers in actual service and with years of experience who are attending the various short courses. Ade-

quate compensation for our work is something we are trying to bring about. Let's make ourselves so valuable that this reward must follow. But for Heaven's sake don't just bellyache and do nothing about it. Self-pity is the most deadly attitude any man can acquire. Let our attitude be one of pride in our profession and determination to raise our standards. One of the visible factors of this attitude is membership in our local and national greenkeeping organizations. Get behind them with all your strength and this personal equation will be a long way toward solution. I thank you.

THE EASTERN SECTIONAL MEETING

by Kent Bradley

On Monday and Tuesday of June 5-6th, there will be held a meeting of greenkeepers and greens chairmen at Canoebrook C. C. in Summit, N. J. The gathering is jointly sponsored by the National Greenkeeping Superintendents' Association and Eastern Affiliates. These consist of the Mid-Atlantic Greenkeepers Association, The Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents, The New Jersey Association of Golf Course Superintendents, and the North Eastern N. Y. Greenkeepers' Association.

The operation of this event boils down to three items: The G. S. A. will pay the program bills, the affiliates will run the show, and we hope all our friends will justify the combined efforts by attending. Some 2000 circulars and posters are being sent out, to greenkeepers and club officials.

At the Kansas City Convention of the G. S. A. in February last, the N. J. Association recommended that such meetings be held in different parts of the country during the maintenance season. Items of timely interest could be discussed among those interested. This, the first event of its kind will be held at Canoebrook C. C., as the club offered to cooperate with the instigators, by so telegraphing the N. J. delegates at the Kansas City Convention. The dates chosen are convenient to those wishing to see the N. Y. World's Fair, or attend the open tournament in Philadelphia, the latter part of the week.

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There will be no equipment demonstrations inasmuch as this first event is a trial proposition. Many interested observers hope the attendance will warrant more sectional meetings, especially further north along the Atlantic Coast States. This may be achieved by additional membership representation and cooperation of those not as yet affiliated with the G. S. A. policy of recognition of the greenkeeping business by the public.

The program at the meeting at Canoebrook C. C. will consist of:

Monday, June 5th:

- 9.30 A. M.
Registration.
- 10.30 - 12.00
Inspection of Canoe Brook Golf Course.
Field Demonstration of Parasitical Control of the Japanese Beetle Grub.
- 12.30 P. M.
Lunch at Canoe Brook Country Club.
- 2.00 P. M.
Bus Trip to New Jersey Experimental Plots.
"Field Experiments on Fertilizers and Soil Conditioning for Golf Grasses".
Dr. Howard B. Sprague (on the plots)
N. J. Agriculture Exp. Station.
- 6.30 P. M.
Banquet at Canoe Brook Country Club.
- 8.00 P. M.
"Turf Insect Pests".
Ernest N. Cory, State Entomologist,
University of Maryland.
- 8.30 P. M.
"Fairway Grasses".
H. B. Musser, Associate Professor
Experimental Agronomy, Pennsylvania State College.
- 9.00 P. M.
"The Business of Manufacturing Pleasurable Golf".
Professor Lawrence S. Dickinson,
Massachusetts State College.

Tuesday, June 6th:

- 9.30 A. M.
Bus Tour of Typical Golf Courses.
- 1.00 P. M.
Lunch.
- 2.00 P. M.
Dr. John Monteith, Jr.
- 2.30 P. M.
Round Table Discussion.

Committee

Edward B. Cale, Chairman
J. A. Gormley Joseph Ryan
Robert Mitchell John Anderson
Eberhard Steiniger

THE TOOLS WE WORK WITH

by Charles W. Parker

(presented at Recreation Conference)

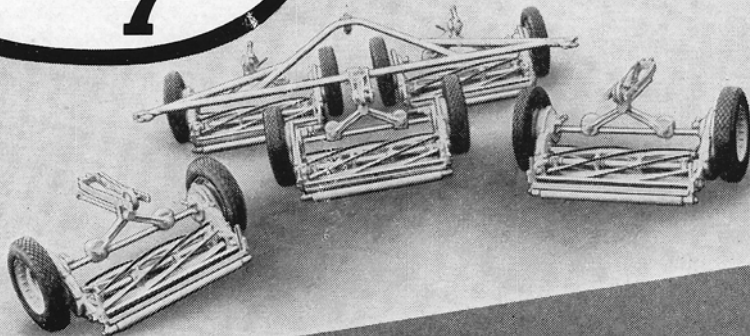
What are the tools we work with?

The answer to that question appears to be so simple that to put it to you verges on an insult to your intelligence. Rakes, shovels, hoes, mowers, tractors, yes! fertilizer, seed, fungicides and so on. But what of them? Nothing! True it is that they are the means by which we produce results, both direct and indirect, but it is not these tools that I am particularly interested in. We have, also, other tools. The tools of human relations. How we fit ourselves into the Club where we are employed. How well we work in harmony with other departments of our Club. How smoothly we manage our labor. How successfully we cooperate with our chairman and other golf officials. These tools are vastly more important than the other ones I have spoken of but it is not of these either that I care to talk. Any or all of these tools are found in innumerable lines of work, but there is one set of tools which is found only in Greenkeeping. If we are not equipped with these tools we can never be successful Greenkeepers and without these tools I doubt very much if we will care to remain Greenkeeping indefinitely. These tools are the particular ability, the peculiar temperament and specific intuition for Greenkeeping that is ours naturally. These tools may be developed but they cannot be injected into us. Without these tools none of us would be here this afternoon and since we are here it is self evident that we have the tools we work with. It is of these, to me fundamentally essential tools we work with that I am going to talk.

If we were using these tools as they should be used, if we had a complete understanding of how to use these tools, or if we would but appreciate the value of these tools we work with, Greenkeeping would be in a much healthier state.

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What do I mean by that?

Ever since Greenkeepers have worked cooperatively for the advancement of Greenkeeping, both scientific and material, the spirit of "Don't look now but I think we are being followed" has been all too evident in their deliberations and actions. It is much too clear that the moving spirit of the Greenkeepers is, more often "What is this going to do for me?" rather than will cooperation and concerted action bring about results leading to advancement of Greenkeeping as a whole.

The scarecrow of job competition from others in the golf field is continually being stuck up before us. That bugaboo of offending someone in authority by our action and the bogeyman of scientific and research competition have all been built up into such hobgoblin proportions that it is a never ceasing wonder to me that we Greenkeepers have not a permanent crick in our necks from watching over our shoulders for this motley crew of monsters, fearful that they will catch up with us, trample us under their feet, and eliminate us from our jobs.

How silly this all is.

What an utter lack of appreciation of the tools we work with has allowed us to reach this sorry state of mind. It is a state of mind, not a state of affairs. We have a particular ability; we have a peculiar temperament; we have a specific intuition that dedicates us to Greenkeeping. We have these characteristics definitely, and just as definitely no one outside of Greenkeeping has them. Fellow Greenkeepers, we hold the cards. If, as too many of us seem to feel, someone is playing our cards for us, it is because we are "dummy" and are allowing them to. I do not believe this to be the actual fact, but if such is the case, golf maintenance is suffering and has suffered for many years for the cards are then being played by inferior minds. The cards are then being played by minds which have not the tools of ability, temperament and intuition for Greenkeeping that we have, for if those players did have the tools we work with they too would be in the Greenkeeping fold.

How stupid it is to allow ourselves to break out into a cold sweat of fear whenever job competition from the Golf Professional or the Manager is discussed. This fat and lusty scarecrow has been stuck up before us for so long

that I wonder that no one has stripped the clothing from it and exposed it for the straw man that it is. A golf professional is a golf professional because he too has a set of tools with which he works. He has the tools of specific ability, peculiar temperament and particular intuition for playing and teaching the game of golf. So also has the Manager his set of tools with which he works. If circumstances force these men into combining Greenkeeping with their other duties there can be but one result. If the combination job stands the test of time it is because the Pro-Greenkeeper or the Manager-Greenkeeper knowingly or unknowingly is having his Greenkeeping cards played for him. This is not a happy situation and one which does not occur excepting rarely, and it exists solely because we Greenkeepers have not used the tools we work with to their utmost capacity.

Let us now consider the scientific or research competition. That bogeyman over which we solemnly shake our heads and declare that the old days were the best after all is, when considered in the light of the tools we work with, just another stuffed shirt. Men who are pursuing research in golf turf have the ability necessary for successful Greenkeeping; that no one can deny, but they lack, absolutely, the temperament and intuition for it, and without these two, ability is as nothing. These men have not the temperament and intuition for Greenkeeping because research work has a temperament and an intuition just as peculiarly its own as has Greenkeeping. Therefore these men are dedicated to research just as surely as you and I are dedicated to Greenkeeping. The leopard cannot change its spots nor can the camel pass through the needles eye. I cannot conceive of anyone who has an established reputation in research work considering that a change to Greenkeeping offers any attraction or advantages whatsoever. If there is such an individual I will gladly swap jobs with him and I have no fear in making the prophecy that my failure as a "researcher" will be no more immediate and no less complete than will be his as a Greenkeeper. The tools of ability, temperament and intuition will not be denied.

Before I give you my final thought on how we have allowed the lack of understanding of the tools we work with to get us into this spirit of defeatism

which is so prevalent among Greenkeepers I want to demonstrate misapplication and neglect of the tools we work with.

In the memory of all of us and in the experience of most of us here the Sulphate of Ammonia era is still quite fresh. Here was a specific tool. A tool which would produce direct and immediate results. A tool conceived so plausibly and with such authority that it soon acquired a reputation of being the "must" tool of Greenkeeping. The tool without which no Greenkeeper could hope to survive. How all this came about is of no moment. What is of supreme importance is the fact that the tools of ability, temperament and intuition for Greenkeeping were not used in developing the Sulphate of Ammonia theory. I say they were not used, more than likely they were entirely absent in the minds of those who seized upon this wonderful new tool and from their positions of authority forced its unrestrained use upon golf maintenance. We all know the results which came from the lavish use of Sulphate of Ammonia. Many of us suffered from our neglect of the tools we work with, thereby allowing ourselves to be stampeded into the unrestrained use of Sulphate of Ammonia. Others of us have suffered because we have had to pick up the pieces after the explosion and the resulting job loss by some Greenkeeper who paid dearly for not using the tools we work with. Sulphate of Ammonia is but one of the many specific tools which have done much harm when used without first tempering them with the tools we work with. There will be more as potentially dangerous.

It is particularly fitting that here and at this time we consider how the defeatism arising from the lack of appreciation and use of the tools we work

with has built a barrier between we Greenkeepers and winter schools for Greenkeepers to the distinct loss of both the Greenkeepers and the schools. Please note—I make no distinction between schools. While some educational course in some other state is receiving our approval we may be damning the Winter School for Greenkeepers at Massachusetts State College, and while the school at Massachusetts State College is receiving the approval of another group of Greenkeepers, they too are damning a short course in their section of the country. This condition may be dismissed as a matter of perspective. It is not that it is a complete lack of appreciation and a total neglect of the tools we work with. We Greenkeepers are allowing the tools we work with to lie idle in the corner gathering rust. The schools are not using their tools to the best advantage. In the early days of The Winter School for Greenkeepers, when the homely, earthy atmosphere of the "Question Box" prevailed, we, the Greenkeepers and they, the school, gave very hopeful indications of developing the cooperative use of our specific tools of ability, temperament and intuition for the betterment of Greenkeeping. That this situation does not now exist is needless to point out. It is not within my province to go into the whys and wherefores. I simply want to indicate that this antagonism has been allowed to become a fact solely because we have not considered the problem in the light of the tools we work with. When we do consider the whole picture of winter schools and short courses from the view-point of the tools we work with, it becomes as clear as a crystal that such schools can do but one thing. Help us. Quite true, qualified Greenkeepers are apt to be in minority in the classes of these schools.

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What of it? For many good reasons it is impossible for enough qualified Greenkeepers to take time off to create an enrollment large enough to rigidly restrict the eligibility. Consequently the majority of the enrollment of these schools is made up of men who we believe are not potential Greenkeepers. For that reason we say these schools are not justifying their continued existence, they should be discontinued. It is quite possible that concerted action on our part could bring about this eventuality. To do so would be the most serious mistake ever made by we Greenkeepers. It has been well said that all any school can do is help a good man become a better man and make a fool a bigger fool. We want these schools so that a good man can have these opportunities for self betterment, and since the number of good men who can avail themselves of these schools in any one year is so limited that the required enrollment cannot be obtained, we need the others, the type of men that we have used as arguments against these schools. The type of men who have not the ability, temperament and intuition for Greenkeeping, but who believe that it can be injected into them and so, year after year, enroll in these schools. They deserve our thanks for making these schools possible, thus giving to the good men of Greenkeeping opportunities to make themselves better men. That is but one half of the picture—important enough in itself but not so important as the following half. These men who have not the tools we work with, the ability, the temperament, the intuition for Greenkeeping may step into a Greenkeeping job because of a school background as against some other applicant who has a Greenkeeping background but who has not been able to attend a short course. I say may—and if such a man is chosen we will soon see what is meant by the saying that “all that a school can do is make a fool a bigger fool”. This man who is lacking in the tools we work with has not the ability, the temperament, the intuition for Greenkeeping through which he may apply the specific tools which his studies have placed in his hands. They thus become not tools but dangerous weapons and all too soon their use becomes apparent in results. What is the final result of all this? That is not for us to worry about. Schooling can never create the tools we work with, it can and does put specific tools into the hands

of many men who should never be permitted to handle them, and if these men do get Greenkeeping jobs it is nothing to be alarmed about. Their tools will betray them. The results can never be otherwise; they do not possess, they can never possess the tools we work with and without the tools of ability, temperament and intuition for Greenkeeping their life as a Greenkeeper is definitely limited.

I do not ask you to accept the present set-up of Winter Schools and short courses whole heartedly, nor do I expect you to agree with me unreservedly on the other controversial matters that I have touched in, but I do ask you to stop worrying about them and I suggest that instead of bucking the schools, the job competitors and the research men, we all polish up the tools we work with to see that a better cooperation leading to the advancement of Greenkeeping may be developed.

All that I have said this afternoon has been quite abstract. I have told you nothing definite. I have given you nothing concrete to take away with you, but I think that I can give you something which will clarify what I mean by the tools we work with. It is contained in a poem that was printed in *Golfdom* last year. The poem starts out as a typical lament of the Greenkeeper, but in the last few lines there is a summing up of the tools we work with. Here it is.

I'll take the cuts they hand me and
try and keep alive.
I'm waiting to be told just how
two men will work as five
Or how the kids can be kept dressed
and Missus looking neat
When pay-checks shrink from month
to month, it sure will be some feat.
But just the same I'll play along
until that very day
The old man with the scythe swings
once and cuts me down to hay.
I'll try and keep up with the boys
who know their thus and so
I'll plug and read and study and
forget about the dough.
The wise boys say, "You're nutty",
perhaps they're right, Alas!
I just can't think of laying down, you
see I love my grass.

TALKS ON TREES

By E. P. Felt

Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories
Stamford, Conn.

The wind and sleet storm of March 12 was reported as causing more damage to street and park trees in New York City than the hurricane of last September.

The above is not necessarily alarming. It shows what a local storm can do. New York City was on the edge of the hurricane area of last September and escaped with comparatively little damage. It cost the relatively small town of Brookline, Mass., \$65,000 to repair the damage caused by the hurricane. What would equivalent damage have amounted to in the much larger New York City?

The significant feature in this later storm is that it is typical of injury likely to occur anywhere in the United States though usually in a relatively small area. Tree damage results from ice storms as well as from winds and in some cases it is a combination of both. These natural tests of trees cannot be

avoided. Their recurrence over larger or smaller areas raises a question as to the possibility of growing stronger, more storm-resistant trees. The development of an adequate root system should enable most trees to resist all but the most violent wind currents. This is well shown where trees have been fed over a series of years. There are also the possibilities of pruning in reducing storm damage from both wind and ice. Excessive height and too many branches are favorable to storm breakage.

It is also advisable to go back to original causes and choose trees carefully for street and park purposes. Carolina poplars, soft maples and willows are among the more common storm victims. They are planted frequently because of supposedly more rapid growth. This is true to a certain extent and yet more durable trees, given good growing conditions, really grow quickly.

The hurricane has brought to attention possibilities of tree damage and to a certain extent the desirability of trees. It should eventuate in a decided improvement of the tree program for many cities and villages.

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Arbor Day with its stimulus to plant trees is near at hand.

Many communities lost great numbers of valuable trees in the hurricane of last September. Naturally there is a strong desire to replace the losses and in one eastern city the statement was made that two trees were to be planted for every one destroyed. This does not solve the problem. Such a policy would in many cases mean larger numbers of trees in sections which were previously overstocked and there is a probability that with the planting of greater numbers less attention would be paid to individual trees.

It is evident that one well grown shade tree is much more satisfactory than several crowded or poorly developed trees. The tree enjoying ample space is more sturdy and storm resistant. Why not grow them that way? Thick planting is justified by some on the ground that it is easy to thin. Theoretically this is true, practically it is rarely done.

The shade trees of the future should be planted far enough apart so as to permit satisfactory development, and where physical obstacles occur, such as on narrow streets, restrict selections to relatively small trees. Some regard should be given to the type of tree. Many wishing immediate results in years past planted large numbers of Carolina poplars and soft maples. There are statements to the effect that the hurricane was impartial in its destruction of trees and to a certain extent this is true. Nevertheless, the City of New York lost over 12,000 trees in the hurricane and nearly 6,600 of these were silver maples or poplars. A similar condition was reported from Newark, N. J. Immediate effects are a minor consideration and in case desirable varieties are not available this spring, it might be wise to delay planting for a year or more.

It is important to select trees which will reflect the spirit of the community for at least half a century and possibly for two centuries or more.

The cost and value of shade trees is up for discussion in connection with recovery from hurricane losses.

A recent announcement from a nursery gives an idea of values and the cost of replacements. A 10 inch, 35-40 foot high soft maple is listed at \$190, a 7½ inch, 20-25 foot high Norway maple at \$125, a 6 inch, 25 foot high red maple at \$35, and an 8 inch, 40 foot high sugar maple at \$200. It is obvious that replacements with good sized trees run into money quickly and the use of these will be limited mostly to estates where costs are a somewhat minor consideration. The supply of good, fair-sized trees in nurseries must be quite limited in proportion to the demand.

There are united efforts in a number of localities to speed rehabilitation. This is much needed in many places. In one town the initial cost of trees for replacements has been met by a generous donor. Conversely, one local paper reports the appropriation for the care of trees was slashed from \$35,000 to \$20,000. Then there is the claim by a party that the trees in his community could be cared for equally well for 40% less.

Without attempting to pass upon the relative merit of these matters, there is urgent need for replacement and better care of street and park trees. It is possible that reductions can be made in some localities though as a rule more rather than less money is needed. A serious effort should be made in all places to use available resources in money and cooperation to the best possible advantage. Replacements with small trees may be necessary in many localities because of limited finances. There are undoubtedly places where considerably more can be done with the usual appropriation and in view of existing conditions every reasonable effort should be made to increase efficiency along these lines.

This is the time when everyone interested in trees should study possibilities closely and aid in hastening a much needed restoration.

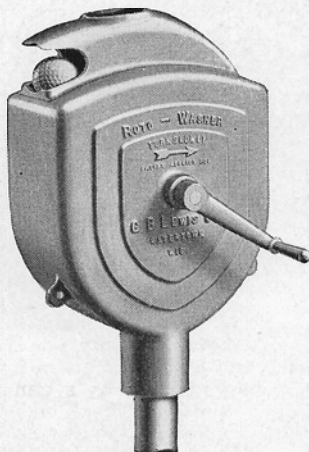
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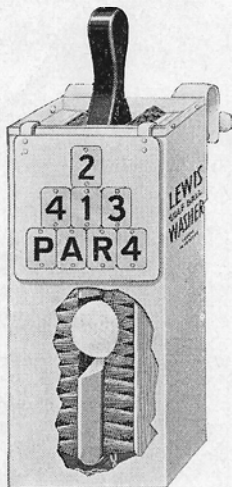
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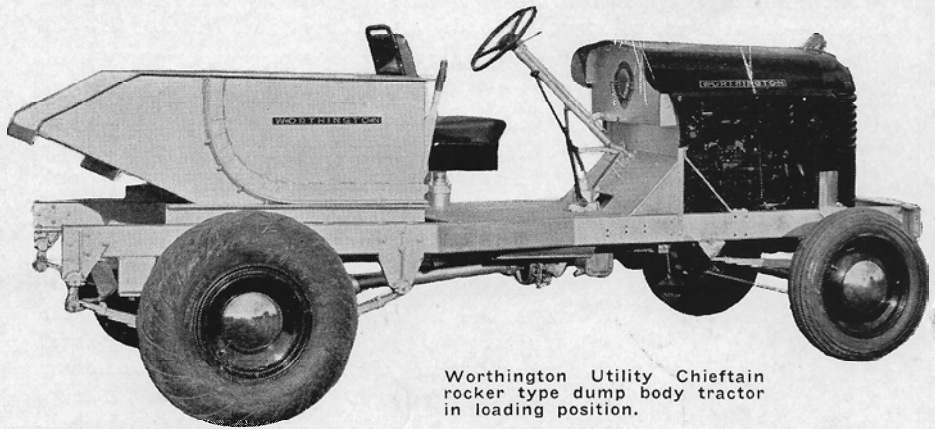
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