



NEWS LETTER



The wisest men that e're you ken
Have never deemed it treason,
To rest a bit — and jest a bit,
And balance up their reason,
To laugh a bit, and chaff a bit,
And joke a bit in season.



JANUARY

1941

This NEWSLETTER is published 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.

GEORGE J. ROMMELL, JR.

Editor and Business Mgr.

54 Eddy St., West Newton, Mass.

Henry Mitchell, *Assistant Editor*

January 15, 1941

Vol. 13, No. 1

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.

A CHANGE

The NEWSLETTER has changed its policy, and is putting out only nine issues for the year 1941. It is considered advisable to do this, as advertisers are reluctant to advertise during November, December, January and February, and articles coming from the greenkeepers are so few that we feel by eliminating a few, we may be able to give more quality and less volume.

We are planning to run a January number, to break into the long stretch between, October and March.

IT'S A GIFT

Eleven years ago, a young man with a gift to write, began to edit a little magazine called "The Newsletter," today the name of Guy West has become practically synonymous with the "Newsletter."

This "Newsletter" was nursed and handled like a new born baby, by this same "Guy," who travelled and rode many miles of highway, through good weather and bad, that he might be there to get the news. You and I read that little paper, through many years, but few if any have appreciated the work and the heartaches that go with a job of that type.

Yes, this little paper has grown, to be known and respected all over the country and even to outlying countries.

It was the artery through which the life blood (knowledge and information) flowed, to keep the greenkeepers' club alive.

So like the heart that has had a great shock, "The Newsletter" skipped a beat in December, when the strong hand that guided this paper was no longer there.

It is a long way back to May, 1929, when this little publication started, and I dare say, many of those "oldtimers," who were in the club at that time, can still remember that first number.

But, if you can't let's refresh your memory and reminisce with Guy.

Mr. Wilson and Mr. McCormick were associate editors.

There were six articles written by six members.

1. "Maintenance of Stolon Greens," by James McCormick.
2. "Brae Burn Velvet," by John Shanahan.
3. "Winchester Bent," by Tom Fahey.
4. "Changing Fescue to Bent," by Frank Wilson.
5. "Soap for Ball Washers," by Guy West.
6. "Poultry Manure at Woodland," by Carlton Treat.

So with this little quotation from Mr. West's November issue, "Give me the man who instead of always telling what should be done, goes out and does it," we salute you Guy and hope that it is only "au revoir," but not goodbye. *Old Sod.*

HERE ARE SHORT COURSE DATES

The third annual short course for greenkeepers at University of Maryland will be held January 27 and 28.

Penn. State's annual fine turf sessions are scheduled for February 19-21.

The 13th annual short course for greenkeepers will take place February 17-21 at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J., instruction by Leader, Dr. H. B. Sprague, Dr. J. S. Joffe, Prof. E. R. Gross, Dr. S. J. Toth, Dr. F. E. Bear, Prof. H. R. Cox, Dr. S. A. Waksman, Dr. R. L. Starkey, Dr. J. W. Shive, Miss J. G. Fiske, Dr. E. R. Biel, Mr. T. C. Longnecker, Dr. C. C. Hamilton and Dr. P. P. Pirone.

GREENKEEPERS CAN NOW HOLD THEIR HEADS HIGH

Remember Emil Maschocchi, what a guy. He's gone and done it again, but, and how.

I think Emil has done something that mighty few pros could do. We ought to be proud of him. Emil is only 33 years old, and has won the New England Greenkeepers' championship 3 times and then walks off with the G. S. A. championship and makes it look easy.

Just look these facts over:

1. Led the field by sixteen strokes.
2. Was 7 strokes under par for 36 holes on a course where many sectional and state events have been held without approaching this record.
3. Was under even fours for 36 holes.

4. Had a total of 20 pars, 10 birdies, 5 bogies, and 1 eagle.

5. All on a 6700-yard championship golf course from the rear tees.

Morning Round

Par Out	.....	4	4	4	4	3	5	4	4	3	—35
Mash Out	.....	5	4	4	4	3	4	4	5	3	—36
Par In	.....	4	5	4	4	3	4	3	4	5	—36—71
Mash In	.....	4	5	4	4	3	4	3	4	5	—35—71

Afternoon

Mashie	3	4	4	2	2	4	4	5	3	—31
Mashie In	3	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	—33—64	

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR 1941

This is the list of scheduled speakers for the next four months at our Greenkeepers meetings.

1. Dr. Thomas Longnecker of the State of New Jersey. He will speak the first Monday of February at the Statler Hotel.

2. Judge James M. Hurley former State Fire Marshal also former Civil Service Commissioner will be the principal speaker in March.

3. In April, Professor Lawrence S. Dickinson Head of the Greenkeepers School at Mass. State College.

4. At our first outdoor meeting in May, Dr. John Monteith of the United States Golf Association Green Section will meet with us at the Experimental Pie Green at Ponkapoag Golf Club at Canton, Mass.

15th NATIONAL TURF AND EQUIPMENT SHOW

The Greenkeeping Superintendents' Association will hold its 15th National Turf and Equipment Show in Detroit on February 4, 5, 6 and 7th, 1941.

It will be held under one roof at the Book-Cadillac Hotel.

In addition to commercial exhibits the Department of Agriculture will show their animated educational display of Japanese Beetle Control.

Along with this the government bureau promises a new display covering the preparation against and elimination of the dread Dutch Elm Disease.

BITS OF INFORMATION

"Mae" West puts on her hat before her dress.

This year's evening gowns, marvelous products of the laboratory, are made of air, water, and coal dust. The water and coal dust are new materials.

1. The average motorist is a perfectly logical person, who wants to park in the city where there is no room and to drive like mad in the country where there's plenty of room.

"WHY I SHOULD ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE GREENKEEPERS CLUB"

Do you attend all the meetings of the Greenkeepers Club of New England? Do you fully realize what you have lost by failing to attend? Do you wish to punish yourself with sleepless nights wondering about the turf under your supervision? Do you wish to broaden your knowledge on these vital matters? In answering these questions, you probably realize that you have not been fair to yourself, to your employees, and most of all, to your course. It seems that the gaining of knowledge, usually brings up the question of money. However, you may rest assured that the cost simply entails your regular attendance at all our meetings.

May I bring out some of the points of interest gained from the outdoor meetings in the past spring, summer, and fall. The tours of inspection taken, the examination of equipment, supply sheds, and the ways and means of different greenkeepers in the upkeep of their courses. From such experiences, one can put into practice on their own course, some of the ideas obtained at no or very little additional expense. Some ideas given may help you to see how small changes will greatly improve the beauty and playing surface of your course.

In addition, during the winter months, the club does not remain inactive as some may have thought. On the contrary, it engages some of the finest speakers to be had from the leading universities of the country. They come prepared with enlightening talks which are often made still more interesting by movies. These talks are followed by informal questions by greenkeepers which are answered by the speaker.

This year's winter program began with a movie in which Lowell Thomas was the commentator. Some of the scenes showed experiments of the actual effects of the applications of different formulas of fertilizers on plants. It showed the effects of the lack of nitrogen and potash on grasses even with all the other necessary ingredients present. Another scene brought in the proper construction of seed beds. The feature of the movie showed rough ground being prepared for the development of good turf. It brought in testing, liming, rolling, seeding, and watering the turf. In closing, the movie showed different types of turf renovations, including the renovation of a crab grass infested area.

A very important item which very seldom is brought forth is the golfer's point of view. You should acquire it by playing the game. This will not only broaden your scope but will also improve your health. While playing you can actually test the putting qualities of the various strains of grass. You will

realize just how high the rough should be. You cannot help but note the differences between watered and unwatered fairways and the values of the proper type of fertilizers to use on your greens and fairways. While inspecting tees, you can see the effects of the constant use of small tees, in comparison to large ones; and consequently realize its importance to the golfer.

Surely you do not encounter an opportunity such as this very often. Surely you cannot say that it is not worth your while, because as you will note from one single meeting, that its benefits are worthy of your regular attendance.

May we expect you at our next meeting?

REMARKS

I may be out of order as perhaps an old man's ideas are not wanted in this new day and time, but as I have been a silent observer of "The Greenkeeper's Club of New England" since their birth, and over this period of years, times have been good and then very poor, yet through it all you have had your monthly meetings and your NEWSLETTER has been a source of enjoyment, although at times it was on the thin side.

You members of this club are to be congratulated for having the courage to hold together, you have done a lot for turf work in general. With budgets cut and small crews to work with, you have proven to be the type of men this country needs to face the many problems that have now confronted us.

Now it is not my idea to make "Greenkeepers" think they are the "Berries," you, like the rest of us have many faults. I am not speaking as a group, but as I have met various ones around some of the golf courses, I have found some people will grumble if they had all the golden eggs the goose laid. I have talked with some men who think they have a tough time because they have it so easy in the winter. Others are so busy the year around they hate to take time off to talk to you, and in most cases they are serious and courteous and in mentioning their chairman's name or men on other courses, will address them as "Mr." and not by a first or some other nick name. Some of the fellows have all the answers before the question is asked, while others have some deep secrets that are worth a pot of gold and this type is surely brotherly love. In all my years as a chairman and being around a golf course I would much rather hear a Greenkeeper say "I do not know" to some question rather than beat around the bush and give some far-fetched answer to try and prove his knowledge.

With
every good wish for
Happiness
in the New Year

BRECK'S

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THE SIGN OF GOOD SEEDS

Of course, we have in some cases members at a club who are in charge of the golf course, when they should be working in a shoe store, but I do feel that as a rule the Chairman and Greenkeeper have a pretty good understanding and in most cases get along very well.

Seven years ago I was asked for an article for the NEWSLETTER but feeling it was your own outlet for news I refused, I heard recently that articles were wanted so being sort of on the shelf I thought may be the old bird's few notes would be welcome. I say old bird, as I was coming around the club house porch one day I overheard one workman tell the other "the old buzzard don't know beans" the rest I heard, informed me I was on the pan, so I still feel I don't know beans about this work. But you fellows of the Greenkeepers Club of New England have done a fine job, I hope you will continue. Every good wish for the coming years from

AN OLD TIMER.

ANNUAL MEETING GREENKEEPERS CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND

The meeting was held at Huntington Chambers, Jan. 6, 1941, on Huntington Avenue, Boston.

The reports of committees were accepted as read.

Mr Counsell, our retiring president, read his report. It was as follows:

President's Report January 6, 1941

To the Members of the Greenkeepers Club of New England:

It is customary at this time for your president to review some of the activities of our Club during the past year.

Our Entertainment Committee was successful in providing us with some very interesting speakers at the winter meetings.

The Round Table Meetings held at the Waltham Field Station during the latter part of March were a success and the Committee in charge of these meetings is to be congratulated for their efforts.

The Annual Dinner Meeting of the Service Section of the Massachusetts Golf Association and the Greenkeepers Club of New England was held at the Charles River Country Club in April. Dr. E. E. Evaul discussed the relationship between the green chairman and the greenkeeper.

At our outdoor meetings we had the privilege of playing some very fine golf courses and we appreciate the courtesies extended to us by the officials of those clubs.

There was a noticeable improvement in the NEWSLETTER during the past year due to the fact that some of our members

responded to the editor's plea for interesting and instructive articles.

Let us continue to make an earnest and sincere effort to sell ourselves and our organization to the golfing public, so that they will become conscious of the fact that we are organized to educate the greenkeeper, advance greenkeeping and provide improved playing conditions on the golf course.

A man usually becomes a member of an organization because he feels it will help him in various ways. It provides him with the opportunity to come in personal contact with a group of men with similar interests. The payment of dues is only a part of his obligations, he should take advantage of the opportunity to attend and take an active part in the meetings. Your organization is like your job, you will benefit from it only in proportion to what you put into it.

In conclusion I wish to thank the directors, all committees and fellow members for their co-operation and support during the past year.

I wish to express my best wishes to the incoming president for a very successful administration and please accept my thanks for the honor and the privilege of serving as your president.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN L. COUNSELL, *President.*

Next came the election of officers. The following were elected:

President, Samuel S. Mitchell; 1st Vice-President, Homer C. Darling; 2nd Vice-President, Arthur Anderson; 3rd Vice-President, George Rommell; Secretary, Philip I. Cassidy; Treasurer, Frank H. Wilson; Trustee 3 years, Edward Hansen. Entertainment Committee Chairman, N. J. Sperandio; Golf Committee Chairman, Thomas Mattus; Auditing Committee, Harold Mosher, Edward Murphy.

Mr. Mitchell our newly elected president told us how he plans to carry on the club for the next year. The gist of it was that he plans to carry on in much the same as in the past, but that he will try to build up our Club on the strong foundation which has already been laid.

After the business meeting Mr. Counsell was presented a gavel, with his name and tenure of office as president engraved on a silver band around it. This was given in grateful appreciation for the work which he had done as president.

The Golf Tournament Committee has promised a new deal in 1941.

Our treasurer suggested that we try to get some of the old members back in the club. He also suggested that we have a better distribution of finances.

Everyone had a very good time at the party where we had a swell steak dinner, a floor show and dancing.

NEW JERSEY NEWS

In tune with the times, the N. J. Assoc. of Golf Course Superintendents in 1940 changed it's name to the N. J. Greenkeeping Superintendents Association. This is the third name under which the Garden State Association has functioned. Original name when organized in 1928 was The Greenkeepers Association of New Jersey.

A new set of by-laws were drawn up by the NJGSA during the 1940 Renaissance Year of Greenkeeping. The revised codes permit wider scope activities, and further encourage membership.

1941 officers were installed December 11, 1940, at the annual banquet held at Suburban C. C. in Union. 56 attended the event, including Lloyd Stott of Massachusetts, and T. T. Taylor accompanied by Kingdon Troensegaard of the Westchester, N.Y. district.

The officers are, President Ed. B. Cale, Canoebrook C. C. Summit; First Vice-President Aleck H. Reid, Twin Brooks C. C. Plainfield; Charles Smith, Second Vice-President, Harkers Hollow C. C. Phillipsburg; Recording Secretary, Chas. Laing, Metucheon C. C.; Financial Secretary, H. T. Islieb, Spring Brook C. C. Morristown; Treasurer, Arthur D. Burton, Mountain Ridge C. C. Caldwell, and 3-year Director, Richard Jordan, White Beeches C. C. in Oradell, N. J.

Four nominees for president declined to run, as a tribute to the excellent work of Ed. Cale, who was unanimously elected president for the third time — a departure in N. J. elections. Treasurer Burton has served in his capacity since the inception of the N. J. organization. No honorary members were elected for 1941.

It is interesting to note the N. J. G. S. A. has shown more increase in numbers of members than any other State group since 1932.

—T I R F

THE NEW SKI TOW AT BRAE BURN COUNTRY CLUB

The New Ski Tow at Brae Burn Country Club was opened on Saturday, January 4, 1941.

Like all undertakings on a golf course, the installation of a ski tow requires special consideration. Tees, greens, and fairways must be considered.

The Underwood Winter Sports Engineers were called in and all the limitations were put up to them.

The tow is 630 ft. long. It was located on the left hand side of the 9th hole on number 2 course.

The house for the drive engine was set in the woods at the left of the tee and a headmast was put in back of the 9th tee on the 8th hole at the top of the ski tow.

The ropes lead to the headmast and go back at an angle of 30 degrees to the partially hidden drive house.

The steel mast is set in a hollow concrete foundation and may be easily removed in the spring. The hollow foundation is covered with loam and sod, thus transforming the ski slope into a fairway for the use of the golfers in the spring and summer. In other words it does not interfere with golf.

Rarely is there a fall or jam on the ski slope.

Safety devices have been added to the ski tow to take care of trouble there.

One safety device is arranged so that if any one straddles the rope or in any way grabs it without being properly set, the switch will automatically turn off, thus the tow immediately comes to a standstill.

The so-called maximum number of skiers is 1,200 per hour. Yet for many hours on the first Sunday, the ski tow was handling 1,800 per hour.

The ski tow is an Underwood and is powered by a 92 horsepower gasoline engine and all moving parts are enclosed by guards. Only aircraft bearings are used. Perhaps this accounts for the lack of noise.

The speed of the tow may be regulated. There is a governor, but this governor should not be used while the motor is in first or second speed.

It is a most beautiful sight at night to stand either at the bottom or top of the slope, after the lights are lit. The landscape effect is a wow! The other thrill is to see people going up the slope almost as fast as they come down.

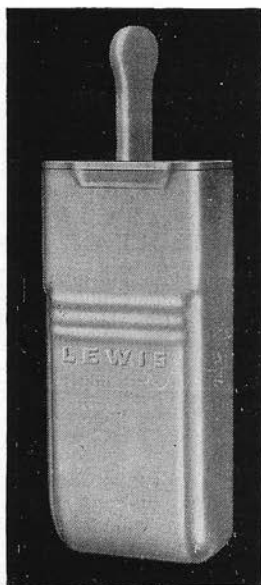
The Slope at night is lighted by 9-1000 watt lamps which are set on the top of 9-30 ft. telegraph poles. These same poles act as supports for the downward travel of the rope, and this is about 20 ft. above the ground.

The best approach to the ski tow is along Fuller Street, from which an ideal view may be had.

A nominal fee is charged for use of the tow and each one who uses it must display their ticket in a conspicuous place on their person.

The trails on Sundays have a traffic approaching 1,200,000 ft. of downhill skiing per hour.

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