

First Edition

HERE we are on the first teeing ground. It's pretty much the same course we've been playing since we took up the game in 1894, and it has stood up well all this time, as many old things do.

But we have some new playing equipment—this modest publication, "USGA JOURNAL, combining TIMELY TURF TOPICS;" but let's just call it the JOURNAL, for we're eager to tee off.

You'll remember what we used to do—every now and then the USGA put out bits of original information, one bit at a time, in addition to answering questions from individual clubs and golfers.

Now it has seemed well to collect all this under one cover, enlarge upon it, and make it available periodically for all USGA Member Clubs and Courses and for golfers generally.

In the JOURNAL we shall be mainly concerned with two things—the play and conduct of the game, and the improvement of golf course maintenance.

As for the play of the game: We propose to provide a meeting place for golf-lovers to exchange useful ideas and a medium for USGA decisions, comments and information, on such subjects as the Rules of Golf, tournament procedures, handicapping, USGA Championships, amateur status, golf balls and clubs, and new trends in the game.

We'll also touch on golf history and background. Successful players will give hints on how to play.

As for golf course maintenance, each issue of the JOURNAL will contain a section entitled TIMELY TURF TOPICS. This will be the same sort of information previously issued by the USGA Green Section in a separate publication of the same title. (TIMELY TURF TOPICS as a separate publication was discontinued with the March issue.)

For more than 25 years the Green Section has been advising the Member Clubs on course upkeep. Its work has been a major factor in developing many of the best greenkeeping practices now standard on many courses. The Green Section's advice has been invaluable in terms of improved playing conditions and economical

maintenance—elements which are important to all golfers.

The TIMELY TURF TOPICS section of the JOURNAL will serve not only to assist green committees and golf course superintendents but also to acquaint golfers generally with problems of course upkeep which are little appreciated by many players.

The JOURNAL thus will help further to unify these two major spheres of interest—how the game is played, and where it is played.

We propose to publish the JOURNAL seven times a year. After this first Spring issue, there will be others in June, July, August, September, Autumn and Winter.

One copy of each issue will be sent gratis to every USGA Regular Member Club and Associate Member Course and to subscribers to Green Section service.

Items for Publication

Additional subscriptions may be entered at \$2 a year by Member Clubs and Courses and by individual golfers. As the JOURNAL is an integral part of the USGA's activities, it will perforce be a non-profit enterprise, as is the USGA as a whole. Subscriptions are cordially invited.

We said the JOURNAL would be a meeting place for golf-lovers to exchange useful ideas. That being so, we welcome contributions of articles, notes and photographs which may be of general interest. Such items should be sent to the USGA Executive Office, 73 East 57th St., New York 22, N. Y., except that material about greenkeeping should be sent to the USGA Green Section, Room 307, South Building, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. If by chance we cannot publish or acknowledge everything that is sent in, we hope our friends will understand our limitations.

Just one thing more, and then we'll play away: Our aim will be to hit the ball down the course, even though we may not hit it far. We'll probably be bunkered every now and then, and maybe even stymied. But we'll always try to serve the interests of golf and golfers.

And now, let's drive off.
It's your honor.