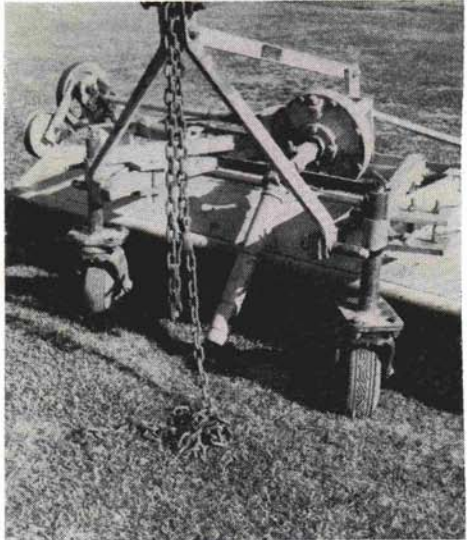


A Modification for Thatching and Mowing Units



Gen. Winston points to bracket and wheel assembly that he devised to prevent scalping of high spots on fairways.



A front view of the bracket, wheel assembly and chain hitch.

By Alexander M. Radko, Eastern Director, USGA Green Section

In September officials of the Somerset Hills Country Club, Bernardsville, N. J. embarked on a program of renovation of some of their weaker fairways. In the process of renovating they made use of their hammer mower machine by substituting thatching blades for mowing blades. This was making good use of a machine already on their inventory but in process of thatching they found that they were badly scalping the high spots. Somerset Hills, like many north Jersey clubs, has rolling and sometimes sharply abrupt terrain. This troubled the Green Chairman, Maj. Gen. John L. Winston, and he modified the mower by purchasing a pair of brackets and dolly wheels (made as standard equipment for a York rake) and

clamped them to the front of the frame of the thatcher. He then removed the upper link of the three-point hitch and substituted a small length of chain in order to be able to lift the rig. **This flexible upper link is a must!**

The result is that instead of having a wheel base of about 5½ feet (from tractor wheels to the thatcher roller) the thatcher has a wheel base of less than 20 inches (from dolly wheels to thatcher roller) and now rides along this short wheel base over terrain irregularities, and independent of the tractor. Chairman Winston believes this modification could also be used to excellent advantage on rotary mowers.