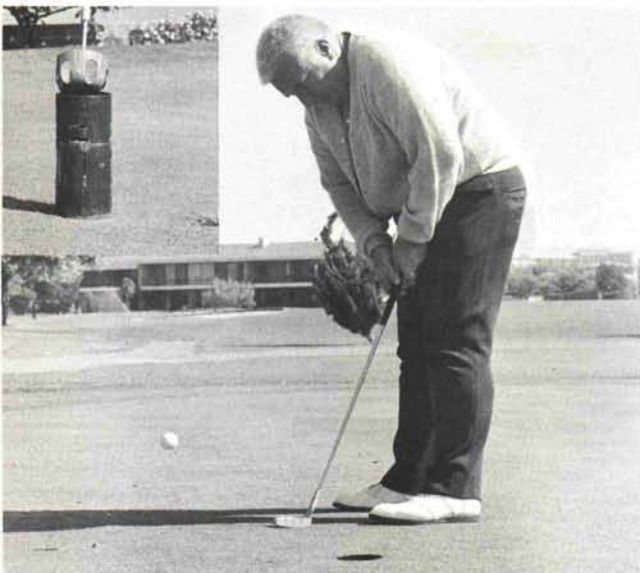


A TURF TIP FROM *GENE*:



Gene Stoddard, Superintendent at Irvine Coast Country Club, Irvine, Calif., has been working with a new device to save wear around the hole. It is an automatic ball ejector which enables the golfer to retrieve his holed putt without damage to the critical area surrounding the hole. When the flagstick is in place, no ejecting action can take place. The removal of the flagstick permits a ball that falls into the cup to trigger an electronic ejecting signal. After a slight delay, the ball is cast about 30 inches from the hole. Result: less foot traffic concentration around the hole and presumably better putting green turf.

A Success Story! The Green Section Educational Program at Oakmont

Over 100 people from 14 states attended the first USGA Green Section Educational Program held last month at the time and site of the 1973 U.S. Open Championship. Oakmont Country Club, Oakmont, Pa., was the perfect host. Grounds Committee Chairman Fred Brand, Jr., Superintendent Lou Scalzo, and Harry Gray, Club Manager, took time from their busy schedules to conduct the group on an early morning tour of the course and described maintenance operations. The "fastest greens in the country" were seen and matched by equally outstanding turf on fairways, tees and roughs.

Following the tour, a full day of informative papers and discussions by the Green Section staff and audience contributed to a memorable event. Topics included the latest information on new fungicides, equipment, automatic irrigation, carts and paths, course grooming and maintenance of bunkers.

Elbert S. Jemison, Jr., Birmingham, Ala., USGA Green Section Committee Chairman, received many favorable comments from those in attendance and promised to look into the possibility of future U.S. Open programs of this sort dealing with championship turfgrass management.



Testing the 17th green at Oakmont Country Club just before the 1973 U.S. Open Championship gets underway is Robert V. Mitchell, Superintendent of Portage Country Club, Akron, Ohio. Mitchell is also a member of the USGA Green Section Committee and Past President of the GCSAA.