

Meditations of a Peripatetic Golfer

Golf playing, golf architecture, golf course construction, and greenkeeping or turf culture are four widely different subjects. It is a rare man, indeed, who is expert in more than one of them.

For a whole month no changes were made on the course of the Columbia Country Club. Something must have happened to Dr. Harban.

An exclusive golf club on a midweek day is about as cheerful as a morgue. For the good of golf every such club ought to have a limited membership class who are permitted to use the course except on holidays and at week ends.

They sowed their new course in spring and expected to play on it the same season. Faith may be able to move mountains, but it doesn't influence grass much.

About half the bunkers on any course may well be deep grassy hollows. Where sand is scarce or expensive the grass-floored bunkers are much cheaper to maintain.

Putting-greens in May apparently pure *Poa annua*! Watch them carefully and note how the bent grasses gradually recover as the *Poa annua* wanes in June and July.

On cleared land of good quality a first-class golf course should be built at from \$1,000 to \$1,500 a hole. It is wisest to allow at least 2 years for completion if first-class turf and properly placed bunkers be considered.

One golf course we know was greatly improved by absolutely reversing the direction of play. Another was greatly bettered by laying off a new course at right angles to the old one. It pays to study the topography with great care.

A hard-surfaced road across a fairway about where a good drive should land. If the ball hits the road—sowie!

A putting-green divided into four quadrants each on a different level, one of the back ones lowest of all. The effort was to secure novelty, but the result is absurdity.

"I do not believe in sowing grass seed until the ground is nice and warm," declares a theoretical greenkeeper. "That's when we plant corn." The trouble with this theory is that the fine grasses do not act like corn nearly as much as they do like winter wheat. Except in the northernmost tier of states, the fellow who sows winter wheat in spring will reap but a scant crop.

Don't offer prizes for good work. Don't be liberal in figuring time of workmen. Don't allow extra time for work done Sundays. Pay wages that are fair and just and do business with your men on a business basis—the same as other employers.

"Yes, we seeded this with the regular putting-green mixture," said the chairman of a green committee. Evidently he did not know that nothing else in the world is quite so irregular.

An heroic bunker—invisible on account of an intervening ridge—guarding a full one-shot green. Certainly the architect wasted an opportunity.