

## HERSHEY'S "VERTICAL MOWER"



1. Front-side view, Jim Morrison up. Levers regulate depth.



2. Rear view, carrying wheels off the turf. Machine cuts six-foot swath.



3. Cut crabgrass runners picked up by hand before mowing. Discs cut inch deep.



4. Cutting fairways in two directions at right angles cuts turf into two-inch squares.



5. Fairway turf, cut twice, ready for conventional mowing to chop cut runners.



6. Same turf four or five days after mowing. Healing is complete in ten days.

*Photos by Rands*

Many years ago the fairways at Hershey Country Club, Hershey, Pa., were heavily infested with crabgrass. James Morrison, the superintendent, hit upon the idea of "vertical mowing." He spied an old culti-hoe in the corner of the implement shop, and one thing led to another. The hoes were removed and replaced with rolling plow coulters. The axles were remade to space the cutting discs four inches apart. The rear set was out of register so that the discs cut at 2-inch intervals.

A steel top with ends was made so that weight could be added.

For two seasons he used the machine frequently, cutting the fairways in two directions before mowing. The crabgrass disappeared.

The machine is used also in reseeding and fertilizing. In reseeding, the machine is operated in two directions. Seed is sowed with a wheelbarrow seeder, and the sprinkling system is turned on for one to two hours to wash the seed into the crevices.