

THE SUPERINTENDENT'S SECTION

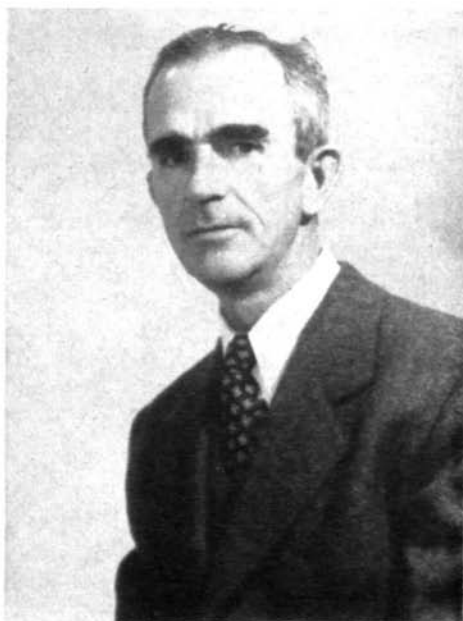
If you were to visit the Baltusrol Golf Club, in Springfield, N. J., you would not need to be told that an experienced superintendent is in charge. The superb conditioning of a beautiful turfgrass cover gives this fact away. Meet veteran Edward J. Casey, superintendent. He has been in charge at Baltusrol since 1945.

Ed Casey became interested in golf-course work in 1921 when he coaxed an old model front-end chain-drive tractor over the fairways at the Somerset Hills Country Club, in Bernardsville, N. J. In 1923 Ed moved to Westchester County, N. Y., and supervised work successively at Green Meadows Country Club, in 1923 and 1924; at Rye Country Club from 1925 through 1928; at Broadmoor Golf Club from 1929 through 1933, and at Wykagyl Country Club from 1934 until he took over the reins at Baltusrol.

Ed vividly recalls the strong imported influence in American golf and golf-course management in the 1920s. In those days, he remembers, the standard recommendation was to bury greens under 3/4 inch beach sand or humus each fall. The belief was that the sand or humus would work its way down through the topsoil before spring. Resultant layerings of greens were difficult to overcome at a later date when it became known, through research, that layering was detrimental to the production of good root systems of turf grasses.

Ed's experiences also brought him through the difficult 1930s when cook stoves brewed lubricating oil and kerosene emulsions for the control of chinch bugs and sod webworms. We have come a long way in the attempt to meet the exacting demands of the increasingly popular game of golf, and Ed has moved right along with this progress.

Down through the years Ed has enjoyed close contact and an interesting association with fellow superintendents on local and national levels. Presently, he is a member of the New Jersey Association and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Ed was President



Edward J. Casey
of Baltusrol

of the New Jersey organization in 1951 and 1952 and was a member of the Board of Directors of the national organization in 1947. At present he is Chairman of the Turf Advisory Committee which cooperates with the turfgrass program of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station of Rutgers University. He regularly attends many turfgrass conferences and field days each year.

The keen and genuine interest that Ed Casey displays in the management and maintenance of golf-course turfs is an inspiration to all who come in contact with him. Besides long experience in the practical side, he studied economic botany at the New York Botanical Gardens and Turf Management at the University of Massachusetts.

One of the expedients that he employs to keep his sharp edge, turf-wise, is to have the challenge of a new yearly project to work out over and above the regular maintenance and management work.

This year Ed is revitalizing some turf

areas around sand traps adjoining his putting green areas. On heavily played courses, it is not uncommon for these areas to become thin, worn and sometimes devoid of turf grass cover. The constant spray of sand over the turf caused by blast or explosion shots result in sand layering; constant traffic over these areas further weakens the turf. Ed's policy has been never to allow such problems to reach the critical stage. With good long-range programming, Ed takes such problems in stride and plans to complete the re-soiling and resodding of these areas before this spring. The project was started last fall.

Baltusrol has two 18-hole courses, each one a championship lay-out. Many of the golfing greats of our time have competed there. The Amateur Championship was played there in 1904, 1926 and 1946. The Open Championship was held there in 1903, 1915 and 1936 and this year's Open also will be held at Baltusrol. This truly is a magnificent record at a truly magnificent club.

Ed is taking his Open assignment in stride and well he may. When one works hard at producing fine turf every day, the application of tournament regulations will perhaps be his only concern.

TURFGRASS, NOT TURF

Numerous persons have voiced the opinion that the word "turf" carries racetrack connotations and therefore is not the right word to characterize the turf conferences, turf research programs, turf associations and turf committees that have to do with the growing of grass.

The Turfgrass Committee of the American Society of Agronomy, in its annual report at the Society meeting in Dallas, proposed a change in terminology. In accordance with this proposal, the word "turfgrass" would be substituted for "turf". Thus we would have turfgrass conferences, turfgrass research programs, turfgrass associations and turfgrass committees.

The Society voted to accept the report. The Turfgrass Committee of the American Society of Agronomy is now the correct

COMING EVENTS

Feb. 22-25: Seventh Annual Cornell Turf Conference. Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. J. F. Cornman.

March 1-3: Mid West Regional Turf Conference. Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind. W. H. Daniel.

Mar. 8-10: Twentieth Annual Short Course for Iowa Greenkeepers and Turf Association. Ames, Iowa. H. L. Lantz.

Mar. 10-12: Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association Turf Conference. Curtis Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn. Roy W. Nelson.

Mar. 15-16: Ohio State Turfgrass Conference. Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. R. R. Davis.

Mar. 17-19: Central Canadian Soils and Turfgrass Conference, sponsored by the Royal Canadian Golf Association and Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ontario, Canada. C. E. Robinson.

Mar. 29-30: Prairie Conference, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. C. E. Robinson.

Apr. 5-6: Southern Turf Conference, Country Club of Jackson, Miss. Reg Perry, P. O. Box 2057, Memphis, Tenn.

April 21-22: Eighth Annual Southeastern Turfgrass Management Conference. Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, Ga. Glenn W. Burton.

name for this group. Local groups should consider this matter and decide whether or not their conferences and associations would be characterized more accurately by the word "turfgrass", rather than "turf".

ENOUGH SAID

The golf-course superintendent at a Club which entertained one of our Championships has written to say:

"The players were very good sports and took very good care of the course. In fact, they were more considerate of the course than some of our members."

Which brings to mind the fact that Canterbury Golf Club, in Cleveland, incurred a cost of only \$25 in restoring its course after the 1946 Open Championship.