

1956

## Spring 1956

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**Authors**

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# TURF *Clippings*



A Publication of The Stockbridge School Turf  
Management Club - University of Massachusetts



## TURF CLIPPINGS

Published by

The Stockbridge Turf Management Club  
of the University of Massachusetts

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To form a bond of common interest between the Turf Management Club, the alumni of the Stockbridge and Winter School Turf Majors and all interested friends of the University of Massachusetts Turf program.

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Vol. 1 No. 1

Turf Management Club  
Agronomy Department  
University of Mass.  
Amherst, Mass.

Editor  
Stan Boraski  
Advisor  
E.C. Roberts

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### The Turf Club Publication

This year the newly organized Turf Management Club has undertaken the publication of a booklet featuring various aspects of turf work. Through this we are attempting to present material that will be of interest to those who are familiar with the Massachusetts Turf Schools. At the same time we hope that it may have some educational value by presenting the view of both those of us on the job and others engaged in research and in promotion and selling.

The publication will include information about the current years winter school and turf conference, articles about some of the professors here at the University who are responsible for the course work, reports about activities and honors earned by the Stockbridge Turf Majors while on campus; and reports on research in fine turf conducted here at the University of Massachusetts. There will also be articles written by men connected with turf work such as yourselves and articles written by staff members at the University.

The main objective of this publication is to form a bond of common interest and friendship between the alumni and other friends of our turf schools. Those of us who graduate this year are looking forward to getting the news from the University in years to come. We hope you feel the same.

With any type of project such as this there is always the question of financing. This issue has been financed by contributions from Country Clubs and from individuals affiliated with turf work and by students of the winter school and Stockbridge turf major. At this time I wish to personally thank all those who helped to make the publication of this booklet possible.



In the future plans are to finance the publication by making subscriptions available at a cost of one dollar for two years. We are also looking into the possibility of additional finance by way of advertisements. It will be noted that this issue has been mimeographed. In the future it is hoped that a little more elaborate type of publication can be made available. We would appreciate your personal comment on this booklet with all criticisms or suggestions you may have concerning the future of this work.

Finally, the editorial staff wishes to thank Dr. Eliot C. Roberts, advisor to the Turf Club for his valuable assistance in making this booklet possible. He came back many evenings to help with this issue and also spent many hours making arrangements for the publication. With men like Dr. Roberts here at the University our feeling is that the turf schools will continue to do good work and that they will have a very bright future.

Many thanks to you Dr. Roberts.

Stan Boraski  
Editor-in-Chief

Massachusetts Winter School  
March 8, 1956

WE OF THE GRADUATING CLASS FEEL HONORED AND PROUD TO  
BECOME PART OF PROF'S MILL!

TODAY marks the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the golf course superintendent's Winter School by Prof. Dickinson. Except for three of the war years, this work has continued without interruption since its beginning and its graduates now number 443 golf course superintendents, many of them holding important jobs at top clubs all over the United States!

APPLICATIONS for the 1956 course totalled 64---an all-time high, and sufficient evidence of the growing prestige of the turf work which Prof. Dickinson pioneered and which is being carried on by its founder and key men from the agronomy and other departments of the University of Massachusetts.

THIS YEAR the 25 men admitted to the Winter School came from eleven states and two provinces of Canada. To name just two outstanding members of the present class we have:

Jack Patroni, pro superintendent at APAWAMIS COUNTRY CLUB, Rye, New York, well known as the scene of the annual United States Seniors' Golf Championship, and

Dave Miller, assistant superintendent at SAUCON VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, one of the show places of American golf.



The professional character of the winter school class makes it possible to eliminate much introductory and purely theoretical material from the curriculum and to concentrate on practical problems and late research developments. Class discussions make for invaluable exchange of ideas and methods. As Prof. Dickinson has insisted---this is NOT a course in greenkeeping, BUT a course FOR greenkeepers.

On behalf of the graduating class and myself, I wish to say how beneficial the course has been to all of us. It would hardly be fair to single out as most important any one subject--whether agrostology, agronomy, managerial problems, entomology, irrigation, surveying, equipment, or horticulture, --- or any one instructor, for we have had the benefit of many of the best minds in New England on these subjects!

Each and every one has contributed to make all of us, regardless of background, better qualified in our chosen profession. We leave here equipped with new tools to tackle the many and everchanging problems of providing fine turf for the golf course consumer.

We also leave here conscious of a very great debt to Prof. Dickinson and the Turf Tradition he has founded. We believe it of the greatest importance that this work be carried forward without let-up, and, that conferences such as these, where the latest developments in turf research and experience may be made public, continue to attract not only the graduates of Prof's Mill, but interested golf course men from the entire Eastern United States.

Tomorrow afternoon, most of us will be on the way back to our respective golf courses--some headed as far west as Iowa, some as far North as Cape Breton Island -- all of us bearing in mind Prof's axiom:

THE PURPOSE OF THE WINTER SCHOOL IS TO PREPARE THE SUPER-INTENDENT FOR THE EDUCATION TO FOLLOW!

Arthur Mersch  
President 1956 Winter  
School for Turf Managers

### Agrostology and Massachusetts

The occasion of a first issue is always a memorable one. It may commemorate something in the past or take a definite stand for the future. The first issue of the Turf Management Club Publication does both. It recognizes and honors the work of Professor Lawrence S. Dickinson and the program in Agrostology that has developed at the University of Massachusetts during the past 30 years. It is a tribute to the leadership he has maintained in this field. But it is more than that. It is the manifestation of an idea by the Stockbridge Turf Major Students that the



future of Turf management should be a bright one. It is the optimistic outlook of youth and is founded on the premise that where the fruits of scientific findings and the practical know-how of experienced men are working together, there will be found the best in quality turf. This is an aspiration or a goal worth seeking. It is a spark worth kindling, and this is the prime objective of this magazine.

The publication to be issued late in the Spring of each year or oftener if there is an opportunity to do so, is to be composed of articles concerning research at Massachusetts and discussions of topics which have been dealt with by Speakers at the University. It will give some of you who are not able to attend out annual turf conference an idea of what goes on. It is hoped that the publication will encourage those of you in turf management to keep in touch with the University by visits, letters or articles on any topic which is felt would be of interest to others. These will be published and should be of value to all. Further, since this will be distributed to and supported by alumni and friends of the Massachusetts Turf schools (for the most part) it is hoped that we may have the benefit of your suggestions concerning our work and also references to men whom you feel would make good timber for our Stockbridge Turf major or 8 weeks winter school. We firmly believe that the better the men that become engaged in turf work the higher will be the standards of turf maintenance and the greater the prestige for the superintendent. This in turn reflects that bright future which lies ahead.

It is then a pleasure to greet you on this special occasion which marks the further development of our work in Agrostology. It is hoped that the establishment of the Turf Management Club and its Publication will function as a service to you and as a means through which much enjoyment may be realized. Let us hear from you as both Prof. Dickinson and I are sincerely interested in your efforts to make the little grass plant grow better.

Eliot C. Roberts  
Advisor, Turf Management Club

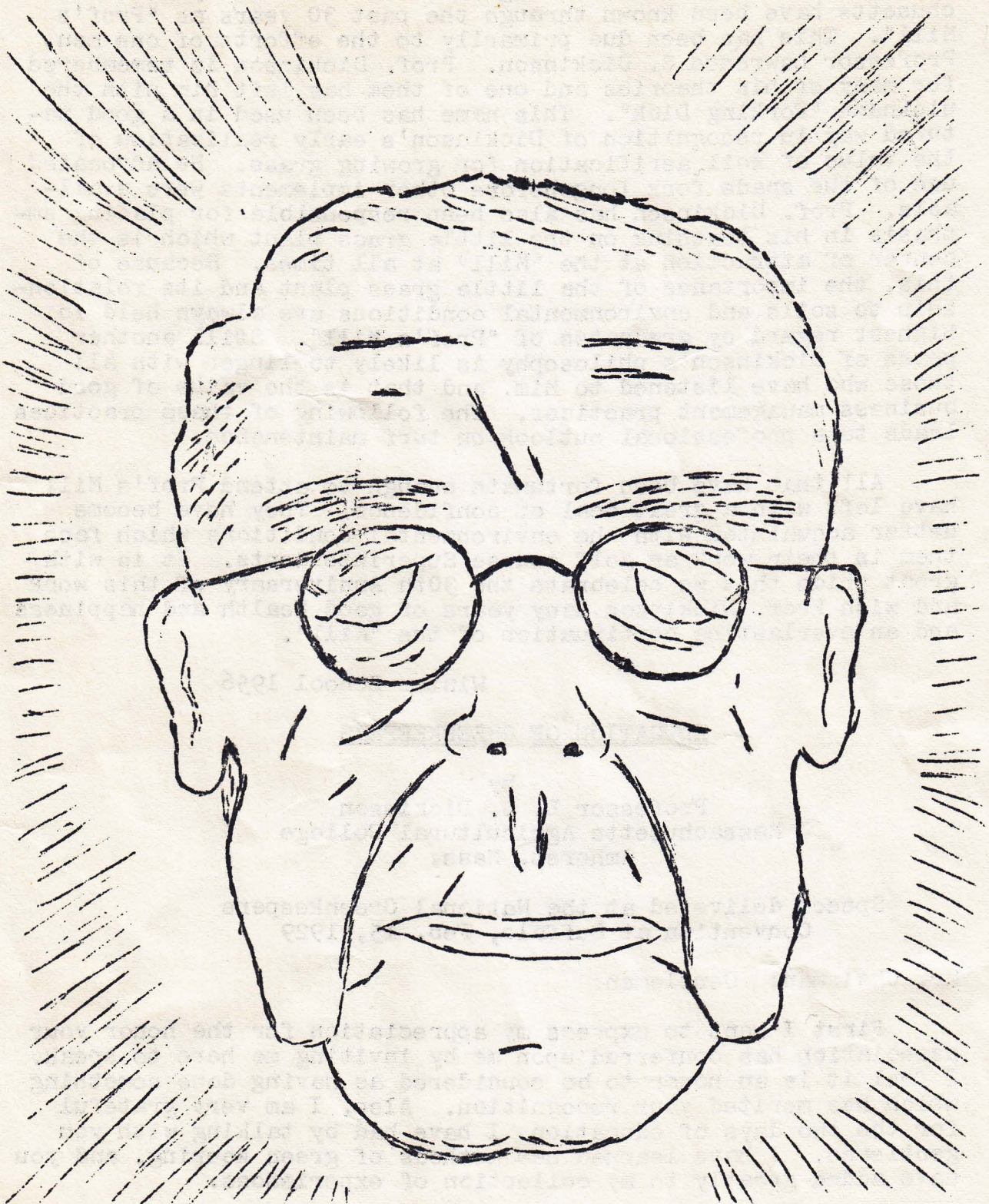
#### Dedication to Prof. Dickinson

We, the Class of 1956 (Stockbridge and Winter School Turf majors) are very proud and honored to have had the experience of instruction from this fine man. Our thanks and gratitude with that from all who have come and gone before us goes to Professor Dickinson. In this small way we would like to celebrate with him this 30th year by dedicating Turf Clippings to the one man who has made it possible. Every time from here on in when we look upon our turf, we will think of Prof and remember that the little grass plant wants to grow.

Class of 1956



Turf Managers Course-1956



30th Anniversary of Prof's Mill



## Lawrence S. Dickinson

The courses for Turf Managers at the University of Massachusetts have been known through the past 30 years as "Prof's Mill". This has been due primarily to the efforts of one man, Professor Lawrence S. Dickinson. Prof. Dickinson is remembered for many of his theories and one of them has left him with the nickname "Forking Dick". This name has been used in a good natured way in recognition of Dickinson's early realization of the value of soil aerification for growing grass. He advocated use of the spade fork long before other implements were available. Prof. Dickinson has also been responsible for placing emphasis in his teaching on the little grass plant which is the center of attraction at the "Mill" at all times. Because of this, the importance of the little grass plant and its relationship to soils and environmental conditions are always held in highest regard by graduates of "Prof's Mill". Still another phase of Dickinson's philosophy is likely to linger with all those who have listened to him, and that is the value of good business management practices. The following of these practices leads to a professional outlook on turf maintenance.

All that have been fortunate enough to attend Prof's Mill have left with a great deal of confidence. They have become better acquainted with the environmental conditions which face them in their work as golf course Superintendents. It is with great pride that we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of this work and wish Prof. Dickinson many years of good health and happiness and an everlasting continuation of the "Mill".

Winter School 1956

### EDUCATION OF GREENKEEPERS

by  
Professor L. S. Dickinson  
Massachusetts Agricultural College  
Amherst, Mass.

Speech delivered at the National Greenkeepers  
Convention at Buffalo, Feb. 15, 1929

Mr. Chairman: Gentlemen:

First I want to express my appreciation for the honor your association has conferred upon me by inviting me here to speak. I feel it is an honor to be considered as having done something which has merited your recognition. Also, I am very grateful for the two days of education I have had by talking with you gentlemen. I have learned new methods of green keeping, and you have added greatly to my collection of experiences.

No one appreciates more than I do, the delicacy of the subject I have been asked to speak upon, "The Education of the Greenkeeper". However, whatever general opinion is, I believe one should speak with the conviction of mind, and let others judge the merits.



I will begin with a story. It does have a point, but you may not even laugh at it, yet unlike some of the other stories, it can be applied directly to the subject of the lecture. "Little Tommy was asked by his uncle, what he learned in school that day. 'I learned lots of things,' replied Tommy, 'And one of them was that this world is round and turns on a swivel thing like the great globe in the schoolroom.' 'Did you', asked his uncle, 'What do you think of that.' 'I think,' said Tommy after pondering awhile, 'That teacher is asking me to believe a good lot for a small boy.'"

Tommy's answer showed that he had not been properly prepared for the phenomenon or he would have accepted and understood the fact without doubt. He believed it, because of faith in his teacher. A demonstration would have given him more confidence. The teacher, however, had a complete understanding of the child's mind, his handicaps, and joys, and with such an understanding created the confidence. Later on in life "Tommy" learned the scientific principles involved.

The turf experts advice in many instances obviously seems a "whole lot for me to believe". The Greenkeeper believes the advice either because he has faith in the expert, or because he can think of no counter argument, or because the chairman tells him to believe it. If the advice works, faith in the expert is increased, all is well. If for some reason such as, poor manipulation, carelessness, or because the expert failed to have a complete understanding of the whole situation, the advice failed, faith is weakened and confidence lost. Who is at fault? The expert is as much as the greenkeeper, for a complete understanding by him would have instilled confidence into the greenkeeper and made him realize the necessity for proper technique and carefulness.

Who is qualified to be a teacher to educate the greenkeeper is the next logical question. This should be decided upon before any educational work is undertaken. A most important qualification is that the teachers must be none but those who can actually "feel" the greenkeepers part - the sorrows, joys, disappointments, and praises. The teacher must have felt the workman's emotions. He should have had actual experience with pick, shovel and mower. Those are the first set of requirements for a teacher.

The second set requires that the teacher should have had practical experience in handling men, especially small groups of men, for I think it is more difficult in many ways to successfully boss a gang of twelve men than five hundred.

The teacher must also have technical training, all he can get, and in as many lines as possible. Don't belittle the value of technical training. But! the teacher must use the technical training only to the point of its practical application to the work at hand. That point of practical application varies on every golf course and with every greenkeeper. If the teacher goes too far beyond that point he loses the confidence of the practical mind.



Accepting these qualifications or specifications for a teacher, where are you going to get them? Very few men are available, because of the present condition of the golfing universe. The greenkeeper who started 20 years ago is the logical man, and will well qualify. But! are you going to leave your position to become a teacher at a salary of three-fifths or two thirds your present wage? Of course you are not, for you are automatically eliminated by the attractiveness of your present position.

The college man who has been on the job for three years qualifies well in all ways but the first requirement - that of complete understanding. He also lacks experience.

The elimination of these two men, places the responsibility to furnish teachers upon the colleges and the men must come from their staffs. There are many practical men on college staffs.

Perhaps you have raised the question, "Shall or should the greenkeeper be taught or educated, whichever you may call it.

Your answer is - certainly greenkeeping is a profession (it most certainly is) and men are educated in the other professions.

Business concerns that spend \$20,000 annually, employ trained men and a greenkeeper spends at least that amount.

Greenkeeping is comparable to farming, fruit growing or floriculture and men are taught to become farmers, pomologists and florists.

Your arguments appear sound, but I believe greenkeeping should not, at least at the present time, be taught. In other words, one cannot teach greenkeeping. The accepted meaning of "teaching" is "to tell how". A teacher of greenkeepers cannot do that, too many influencing factors that are unknown to the teacher are involved.

Greenkeeping - if it cannot be taught, what can be done? you ask. Greenkeeping should be acquired or assimilated, might be a good word. The broad meaning of the word teaching should be used. That broad meaning is "to give intelligence concerning". To use my pet phrase, "Our course at the Massachusetts Agricultural College is for greenkeepers and not in greenkeeping.

I had a very flattering letter the other day from a chairman who wanted a greenkeeper. He wrote "I understand that you give a course which considers the greenkeepers problems." He is right, and a course with that idea will be successful. It certainly is at M. A. C.

To whom shall the opportunity to receive education be given? Any one? NO! Absolutely not! Because the education for the position of greenkeeper is just starting, now is the time to make careful and strict prerequisites. If that is done and continued the supply of qualified graduates can be controlled as to quality and numbers.



Three groups appear qualified. One, the active greenkeeper and assistant greenkeepers. The majority should come from this group. A school for these men must of necessity come in the winter.

Two - caddies, sons of chairmen, sons of greenkeepers, and professionals. Young men who have not had much experience as workmen on a golf course, yet who have been reared in golfing atmosphere. A different course can be offered these men. Should they have four years of college? Yes, if they can afford the money and time. They will be broader visioned men if they do take it. Do they require four years of college? NO! a two-year course can be made sufficient, providing the first summer of such a course is required to be spent working on a golf course under a successful greenkeeper. Such a method is practiced at the Massachusetts Agricultural College.

The third group - new men or new blood. This should be the smallest group in numbers but is very important, for new blood is always healthful. It is poor practice to inbreed. These young men should be picked from applicants who are attracted to the profession because of the love of the soil, and a sincere desire to become greenkeepers. They should be discouraged by all the doleful tales possible, told of all the trials and tribulations of a greenkeeper, and then, if they still desire to come, take them for they will make good greenkeepers.

Training for this group should be two terms in college studying general maintenance problems, such as roads, walks, shrubbery care, and fundamentals in soils and grasses. These two terms should be followed by six months training on an approved golf course. The greenkeepers taking these men should be entirely in sympathy with the college idea, and should endeavor to give the boys as much practical training as possible. However, the boys must not be favored in any other way than being given a variety of jobs. If they fail to satisfy the greenkeeper, fire them from both the course and college. If they live through the ordeal, they should be required to return in October for a full college year of technical training. Again, the Massachusetts Agricultural College is used as an example.

The responsibility for the selection of this new blood should be equally divided between the colleges and the greenkeepers.

What are the duties of a teacher, or what shall be taught? I'll describe briefly our methods at M. A. C.

The winter school for active greenkeepers is an intensive course. The men work in class room or laboratory eight hours a day, five days a week. The subjects studied are motors, water systems, equipment, grasses, grass seeds, soils, fertilizers, landscape arrangement, cost keeping and analysis, (you know your costs are not worth much unless they are analyzed) and managerial problems. Every bit of the work is done with the practical results in mind.

In the two year course, the men are given enough golf



architecture to make them appreciate their unfitness to become golf architects (that is a profession of its own) and to also realize how golf architecture and maintenance costs are allied. We do not teach golf architecture.

Should there be any hard and fast rules given by the instructor?

NO! But of course there are chemical formulas that are fixed, and mechanicals laws that cannot be broken, and all the fundamentals of the various subjects should be given as hard facts.

Why no facts? Because every tee, every fairway, every green, yes, every trap on every golf course presents an individual problem.

Every possible condition should be noted for each general problem. In other word the instructor must be the "Pros" if the "Cons" are the students and the "Cons" if the "Pros" are to be educated. One must go around the entire 360° of the circle. Such training will permit the greenkeeper to be better able to diagnose his turf, machinery, cost, or water system trouble, and properly prescribe for the particular problem.

In the study of equipment it is particularly necessary for the instructor to refrain from any influencing talk, yet he must see that every good and bad feature of a machine is discussed. I want to say there that if it wasn't for the help and cooperation given us by all equipment manufacturers, seedsmen and all the departments of our college, we could not possibly do the successful job that is being done now.

With such a training as I have briefly described, given in a practical atmosphere, the greenkeeper will be able to meet the problems with intelligence and confidence.

Gentlemen: In closing I'm going to quote from Elbert Hubbard because I think he sums up the whole situation:

"The only time a man grows is when he is green. The moment he thinks he is ripe, he starts to get rotten" and who wants to be rotten?

#### Fred P. Jeffrey Directs Short Courses

In September 1954, Fred P. Jeffrey assumed the duties of Director of the Stockbridge School upon the retirement of Roland H. Verbeck. Prof Jeffrey is from Pennsylvania having graduated from Penn State University. He has taught at Rutgers University in New Jersey, as well as at the University of Massachusetts. Director Jeffrey has emphasized many times the fact that Turf Maintenance is one of the important specialties at the University and that further, it is the aim to strengthen this work in all areas, i.e., teaching, research and extension. Best wishes are extended by Prof. Jeffrey to all short course alumni.



## Roberts Assists Dickinson

Two years ago Dr. Eliot C. Roberts joined Prof. Dickinson in Agrostology to help with teaching as well as to re-emphasize turf research. At that time Prof. had begun to work on the organization of a group of recognized student clubs and activities. This has brought demands for so much of his time that much of the turf program has already been turned over to Prof. Roberts. The winter school as well as the turf conference were under his direction this year as Prof. Dickinson was kept busy with teaching the Senior Stockbridge courses and the winter school.

Despite this temporary lack of staff the past year has seen new developments in the turf work. First, a new course in turf irrigation given by Mr. Edward Piera of Agricultural Engineering has been very successful in helping to meet the needs for information in this field. Second the turf management club was formed and the publication made available. Third a research program is now well founded and interesting results of this work should be available each year. Through contributions from research the instruction and extension phases of the turf program should be strengthened.

## Annual Turf Conference Attracts 150

The annual turf conference held at the Hotel Northampton on March 8, 1956, high-lighted by the graduation of 25 winter school students, attracted 150 Superintendents, greenkeepers and business men despite stormy weather.

Dr. Eliot C. Roberts was M.C. and greeted the group on behalf of the Agronomy Department. Deans Dale H. Sieling and Fred P. Jeffrey spoke on behalf of the College Agriculture.

The conference featured the theme "Relationships between Construction and design of turf areas and subsequent Maintenance". Speakers Eugene F. Wogan and Alfred H. Tull treated subject matter on Design and Geoffrey S. Cornish and William F. Mitchell dealt with Construction. Further considerations of these topics were handled through a panel discussion. Those participating included: Lawrence S. Dickinson, Agronomy Department, U. of M., William G. Colby, Agronomy Department, U. of M., Eliot C. Roberts, Agronomy Department, U.ofM., Eugene F. Wogan, Design and Construction, Manchester, Mass., J. A. DeFrance, Agronomy Department, University R.I., Geoffrey S. Cornish, Design and Construction, South Amherst, Mass., William F. Mitchell, Design and Construction, North Sutton, N.H. and Robert Montayne, Golf Course Superintendent, Tuxedo Park, N.Y. The many questions asked from the floor created an enthusiastic atmosphere among those present.

Guest speaker at the banquet was Dr. Shannon McCune, Provost at the University of Massachusetts. His topic was "The People of Asia". Arthur P. Mersch, president of the Winter School presented a 400 day clock to Prof. Dickinson in recognition of the 30th anniversary of the Turf School.



On March 9th a seminar on turf research conducted at the University during the past year was held in Stockbridge Hall. Dr. Roberts reported on Liquid Fertilizers and their effects on lawn turf during the summer of 1955. Following a question and answer session an informal gathering was held as a conclusion to the conference.

### Winter School Graduates Twenty-five

Twenty-five men from eleven states and Canada graduated from the Winter School for Turf Managers on March 8. This concluded eight weeks of intensive study of insects, soils, fertilizers, equipment, surveying and leveling, ornamental trees and shrubs, and fine turf grasses with their many maintenance problems. The men attending were chosen from a total of 64 applicants, from all over the United States. New York state was best represented with 7 men; Massachusetts following with 5, while Vermont, Illinois and Canada had 2 each. Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio and Pennsylvania claimed 1 each. Over the years close to 450 men have graduated from the Winter School. They have come from 28 states. Massachusetts has been best represented and is followed by New York, Connecticut, Illinois, Ohio and Pennsylvania respectively. This years graduating class is listed below.

#### Canada

John W. Buijs  
Lingan, G & C.C.  
Sydney N.S. Canada  
c/o Grand Lake R.D.P.O.  
Cape Breton N.S. Canada

Henry Dubiel, Pro  
Lachute G.C. P.Q.  
Montreal, Canada  
7953 Stuart Ave.  
Montreal 15, P.Q. Canada

#### Connecticut

Walter W. Lowell  
Canton G.C.  
Canton, Conn.

#### Illinois

Arthur Mueller  
Glen View Club  
Golf, Ill.  
4306 W. Ainslie St.  
Chicago 30, Ill.

Peter A. Mirkes  
Gleneagles C.C.  
801 State St.  
Lemont, Ill.

#### Iowa

Arthur P. Mersch  
Clinton C.C.  
Clinton, Iowa  
1600 S. Bluff Blvd.

#### Maine

Richard L. Bearor  
Purpoodock Club  
Cape Elizabeth, Maine  
26 Upland Ave.  
Portland, Maine

#### Massachusetts

Leo R. Brown  
Commonwealth C.C.  
Newton, Mass.  
65 John Mooney Rd.  
Revere, Mass.

T/Sgt. William O. Lyles  
Westover A.F.B., Mass.  
Box 62  
Wake Forest, N.C.



## Massachusetts

Charles Abell  
Municipal G.C.  
Braintree, Mass.  
17 Holden Road  
East Braintree, Mass.

Ralph L. Roberts  
Hatherly C.C.  
30 Turner Road  
Scituate, Mass.

Ross Russell, Pro  
Leicester C.C.  
Leicester, Mass.  
12 Boynton St.  
Worcester, Mass.

## New Hampshire

Peter Keane, Pro.  
Hanover C.C.  
East Weebleck St.  
Box 173  
Hanover, N.H.

## New Jersey

Alex McGugan, Jr.  
Moorestown F.C.  
428 E. Second St.  
Moorestown, N.J.

## New York

Richard J. Cook  
Fishers Island C.C.  
Fishers Island, N.Y.  
R.F.D. #7  
Norwich, Conn.

John A. Feola, Jr.  
Auburn C.C.  
Auburn, N.Y.  
113 Bungalow Terrace  
Syracuse 4, N.Y.

Robert E. Heffron  
Ridgemont, G.C.  
Rochester, N.Y.  
117 Bungalow Terrace  
Syracuse, N.Y.

## New York

Jacques Patroni, Pro  
The Apawamis Club  
12 Overlook Pl.  
Rye, N.Y.

John G. Moore  
Lyndon G.C.  
501 Clarendon St.  
Syracuse, N.Y.

Thomas E. Topp  
Bellevue C.C.  
Syracuse, N.Y.  
309 Tompkins St.  
Syracuse 4, N.Y.

Robert H. Tuthill  
Shaker Ridge C.C.  
Louponville, N.Y.  
35 Union St.  
Brockport, N.Y.

## Ohio

Bruce D. Pickering  
Kettenring C.C.  
Defiance, Ohio  
703 Perry St.

## Pennsylvania

David O. Miller  
Saucon Valley C.C.  
Bethlehem, Pa.  
1929 Laubach Ave.  
Northampton, Pa.

## Vermont

Malcolm H. Hayes  
Scituate C.C.  
Scituate, Mass.  
21 Western Ave.  
Brattleboro, Vt.

John Lombardy, Pro.  
Ekwanok C.C.  
Manchester, Vt.



### Nine Stockbridge Turf Seniors Finish This Year

One of the largest classes to complete a Major in Agrostology will leave campus this June. As freshmen the class enrollment was 14 and out of that number, 9 have survived. They are:

1. Stanley (Stan) Boraski is from Dalton, Mass. His usual greeting is "You should see the snow on the 9th at Wahconal." He has taken a position as Superintendent of the Wahconal C.C. in Dalton.
2. William (Bill) Edlund comes from out Cape Cod way or as he calls it "God's Country". Bill isn't set on his future plans yet but would like to get situated either on a course on Cape Cod or in Florida.
3. Lawrence (Larry) Gerrior hails from Arlington, Mass. He is at present the Asst. Superintendent at the Winchester C.C.
4. George H. Houschel has been Superintendent of the Rockingham Golf Club of New Market, New Hampshire for the past 3 years except for an interruption when he served in the Army.
5. Martin (Marty) Joy, a native of Amherst received his placement training at the Orchards Country Club in Holyoke. Marty wants to work in golf course construction after graduation.
6. Gerald LaBeau, from Bennington, Vt. plans to return to Mt. Anthony Country Club where his grandfather is Superintendent.
7. Edward (Murph) Murphy has accepted the position of Superintendent of the Lexington Country Club. He was formerly employed at the Belmont Country Club where his uncle is Superintendent.
8. Louis (Louie) O'Keefe is from Peabody, Mass. He took his placement training at the Kernwood Country Club under the guidance of Albert L. Allen. Louie is undecided as to future plans.
9. James (Smitty) Smith will be at Lake Sunapee Country Club in New London, N.H. Smitty has had previous experience at the Sagamore Spring Golf Club in his home town of Lynnfield Center, Mass.

### Turf Club News

On December 8, 1955 the freshmen and senior members of the fine turf maintenance course at the Stockbridge School met for the purpose of organizing a Turf Club. It was decided that the name would be The Turf Management Club. Elections were held with the following results- President, Henry Homan Jr., Vice-President George Hauschel, Secretary-Treasurer, James R. Smith, Faculty Adviser, Eliot C. Roberts. This was the beginning of an organization which for some time has been needed to properly identify and emphasize the importance of the turf program at the University.



In the weeks that followed many programs of interest were arranged. Speakers at various meetings included the following:

Prof. Roberts Subject	Agronomy department Liquid fertilizers
Prof. Dickinson Subject	Agronomy department Education of Greenkeepers
Prof. Colby Subject	Agronomy department Grass Seed Production
Prof. Livingston Subject	Botany department Experiences in Turf Research
Mr. Henry J. Homan, Sr. Subject	Lake Sunapee C.C. Tips for future Golf Course Superintendents

Movies were shown on:

The 6 Famous Holes of Golf  
Maintenance Practices at Saucon Valley C.C.  
Lawn Care  
The Growth of Plants  
Meyers Zoysia

Many of these meetings were held with the winter school men. It was hoped that in this way evening programs of interest to them could be provided and that during the social and refreshment periods that followed both Stockbridge and Winter School men could get to know one another better. This proved very successful.

At one of the joint meetings the following resolution was made and passed unanimously after much discussion. "That the Turf Management Club should strive for the recognition of the term Superintendent as replacement for the term Greenkeeper." It was not decided whether the term Greenkeeper should be eliminated from the vocabulary or whether certain personnel on a golf course should fit this classification. (This is a good one for you fellows to write about.)

The final project of the Club this Spring was the publication of this booklet. It is hoped that it brings back memories of your associations here at the University of Massachusetts and that the various articles are of interest. The staff included Editor-in-Chief, Boraski, Circulation Editor-Murphy, Publication Editor-Gerrior, News Editors-Houschel and Smith, Adviser-Roberts.

#### Turf Major Makes Stosag

(Stockbridge Honorary Scholastic Society)

Stosag was established in 1935 to encourage high scholarship. Students whose record for the first three semesters is 88 or better are elected to membership in the Society each June.



This year the Stockbridge Turf Major had 4 men with better than an 85 average. These men were James R. Smith, Lawrence Gerrior, George Hauschel and Stanley Boraski. Boraski was the only one to be above the 88 mark. His average was just above 90 which rates him about 5th out of 180 seniors and thus made him eligible for election to Stosag.

#### Turf Major Receives Football Award

Larry Gerrior received the most valuable player award for the 1955 Stockbridge football team. Gerrior, a guard, was effective all season in helping to maintain a line which was tops in both offense and defense. All agreed that the honor won by Gerrior was well earned. Larry was however, not the only Turf major to earn distinction on last years team. Dick Loynd was the leading ground gainer. Loynd ably filled the half-back slot. These achievements are even more noteworthy in light of the fact that the team had an excellent season of 4 wins, 1 tie and 1 loss.

The team opened against Thayer Academy and rolled over them 18 to 0. The next game was with Vermont Academy which ended in a 6-6 tie. The Aggies then piled up a 42 to 19 score against Monson, a 24 to 6 win over New Hampton, and a 26 to 0 triumph against Michals Junior College. The final game accounted for the only loss as Mt. Hermon Academy won 27 to 7. Coach Steve Kosakowski rated high praise for his work with the 1955 Stockbridge Blue Devils.

#### Thoughts from the Superintendent

The articles included in this section are some of those received from men like yourselves who are engaged in work with fine turf. It is hoped that they will in some measure reflect current thinking along the lines of turf maintenance and that their ideas will be of considerable interest.

#### Know the Condition of Your Greens

As we all know the golfing season of 1955 was a pretty hectic and trying summer. If it wasn't hurricanes it was floods and if not these two it was weeks of endless heat. Most greens-supts. were not prepared for the troubles that occurred and, therefore, some courses were hurt temporarily and some were injured to the extent that it required a complete renovating job to be able to open for play this spring.

In my travels this winter to many conferences and schools of turf management I came to the conclusion that the greatest single factor for all the troubles that occurred was the one thing that we can not live without - H<sub>2</sub>O, water.

To be sure everyone has their own fertilizer programs that they use and with good results. Some have different types of grass and they have to be treated in different ways. Some are troubles with thatch, grain and what have you. Some supts. are



in constant need of good labor and in most cases good labor could be had if money was available. All these factors and many more created or added to the problems of the past year.

I have found that very few of my greens can be treated the same. The soil texture is not the same and the drainage is different on all nineteen. The average size is 5000 sq. ft. Therefore, I cannot water two greens the same without trouble from one or the other.

I will not say that I have the problem solved but I'm going to try a little device that I have made so that each green can be watered as it needs it.

I have taken a 2" x 8" piece of timber and drilled 19  $\frac{1}{2}$ "-holes in it, then I cut the piece of timber in half making it 1" x 8" and get a cross section of the holes. The holes are 4" deep. I then put a glass front on the cross section of the holes. I now intend to take a plug from each green possibly three times a day. I will have to train a man to be able to tell just where the moisture is in these plugs and mark it on the glass front, at the time he takes them from the greens. I think it is important to read the plugs when they are taken as they may dry out while the others are being taken. It will also allow me to read the plugs or glass front some time after they are taken. It is my belief that I can maintain the right amount of water or moisture in each green and take the guess work, so to speak, out of watering. This project will not effect the syringing that I think is so vital in the summer months. (For illustration see page 23)

I can also see just how my greens are progressing below the surface through these plugs. Thatch and grain can also be studied on a daily basis if need be.

This article is not written to make every supt. take my words as the gospel truth but it may be of some help to those who have the labor or trained men to try it. I for one am going to try this device and maybe next year at this time there will be some concrete evidence as to its use in future maintenance of putting greens.

Stanley Priest  
Bedford Golf and Tennis Club

#### Turf Experiences in Massachusetts and Indiana

I have no scientific facts to report to you on turf culture, but can only compare the culture of cemetery turf here and in Lawrence, Massachusetts, where I was in charge of the Municipal Cemetery for 15 years. The problem here is raising turf in a heavy soil. It seems to take longer to establish good turf here with a fibrous root system yet the turf when established can stand a drought a little longer than the eastern turf.

Home lawn owners here are having mixed results in establishing Merion Blue grass lawns, usually make two starts, before they get satisfactory results.

John S. Crouse  
The Lindenwood Cemetery



## Observations from The Warwick Country Club

Your forthcoming turf management club publication sounds most interesting. The following observations may be of some interest and value:

Pennlu creeping bent: Purchased two bushels of stolons in June 1955 from the Valentine Turf grass nursery. This was stock certified by the state of Maryland. From this material 16 propagation rows were planted plus a plot 10' x 6'. This plot was located where it was sheltered from the wind and was shaded nearly half the day. The plot developed into a dense turf in 8 weeks, having been cut at a height of  $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Before the end of the growing season the height of cut had been lowered to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch and the turf seemed promising. The propagation rows also made very vigorous growth despite a hardly favorable summer.

At about this time we were ready to plant an 8500 sq. ft. practice putting green. On Sept. 27-28th the green was planted with a mixture of C<sub>1</sub>, C<sub>19</sub>, and C<sub>27</sub> stolons at approx. 9 bu. per 1000 sq. ft. except an area of about 800 sq. ft. which was planted with 7 bushels of Pennlu stolons from the propagation nursery.

The initial catch in general was good due to favorable weather conditions. On about the 1st of Nov. we had our first white frost. The area of Pennlu turned blue-black while the adjacent area of C<sub>1</sub>, C<sub>19</sub>, C<sub>27</sub> mixture held a good green color. This very sharp contrast has persisted ever since and up to this writing has not made a very favorable appearance comparatively. It will be interesting to see if with the advent of warmer weather the Pennlu will show its better merits.

### Urea-Formaldehyde - Vs. Natural Organic

On Dec. 8, 1955 the first green at Warwick consisting of mixed bents and poa annua was divided in half. Milorganite was applied to the front portion at the rate of 20 lbs/1000 sq. ft. A Urea-formaldehyde material (38%) was applied to the rear portion at the rate of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs./1000 sq. ft.

An observation made in late January 1956 showed greener turf where the sewerage sludge had been applied. By the first of April a clear point of division was visible with the area covered with the natural organic showing much better color. The last observation made on April 28th showed less contrast in color and a more uniform growth.

Paul Q'Leary  
Warwick Country Club.

### Renovation Program at Whitinsville Golf Club

#### Introduction

The greens were constructed and designed by Donald Ross in the year 1924. A creeping bent turf derived from stolons was planted. The greens were well constructed and contoured although



maintenance with power equipment was not foreseen. The creeping bent (Washington) covers about 98% of all greens with an occasional piece of Metropolitan. There is very little Poa annua and I believe this is due to many years usage of Lead Arsenate. Greens average about 5200 sq. ft.

The Spring of 1953 found the greens, for the most part, in a starved, root bound, matted or thatched condition. There were scars left from the dying out of crab grass and from a large amount of snow mold present that winter. Root growth was not deeper than 2 inches.

#### Renovation and Maintenance Program

Early in April the greens were brushed with large street brooms and cut with an Atco greens mower with a comb attached. Two pick-up trucks full of old stems, etc., were removed from several of the greens. The greens were next aerified twice over in different directions. The plugs were broken up and the area fertilized with a mixture of 8-6-4 (40% organic) and Milorganite. A top dressing followed. The material used for this was a good sandy loam mixed half and half with coarse sand. This was worked into the green with the backs of aluminum rakes until it made contact with the soil. After this the greens were hand watered to work the soil down still further. The greens looked quite messy and were not suitable for play for 3 days. The results a week later were well worth the delay. This program was carried on three times during the year and aerifying alone was done each month. During the course of the year it was interesting to note the activity and depth of the roots. Growth went from 2 inches to 5 inches and followed the aerifier holes. The watering program was very strict. Greens were soaked when watered, but were not watered until it was absolutely necessary. Almost all nitrogen used on greens was in the form of organics, although Ammonium Nitrate was used occasionally when quick growth and color was required for tournaments. Chlordane has been used for control of sod web worms and it was often noted that they appeared after greens had been aerified. They seemed to move into the holes and fed on the surrounding turf. We found that by spraying late in the evening that excellent control was gained.

#### Conclusion

I am definitely sold on the idea of aerifying both for renovation and maintenance programs. We are now aerifying tees, aprons and fairways at least 4 times a year, and the results have been noticeable. I have found no evidence of an increase in poa annua due to aerifying and that the membership does not complain too much when they are informed of the reasons for aerification. They also count heavily on the results.

Richard C. Blake  
Whitinsville Golf Club



## Rebuilding A Golf Green

The first step in rebuilding a golf green is the removal of the turf and then the top soil. The cheapest method of removal is the use of a bull dozer. Let us presume that proper drainage was installed when the green was originally built, to take care of the excess water. If this was not done then the entire base must now be put in from scratch. The location of a golf green is chosen with several things in mind, namely the drainage, fill, etc. each green having its own special problems.

When the top soil has been removed then comes the preparation of the base soil as each part of the land has varying soil texture. If the soil is heavy then sand must be added to prevent compaction. To test my soils I use a simple hand method of taking a hand full of soil and squeezing it. If the soil clings together on pressure and crumbles and breaks apart on release of pressure it is of good consistency for a golf green. If you find your soil is heavy and good sand is not available then Vermiculite or Terralite serves the purpose excellently as it does not disintegrate or decay over a long period.

Now comes the use of fertilizer which is prepared with the top soil. My experience has been that the best fertilizer for this purpose is pure organic fertilizer, one hundred pounds per one thousand square feet. If soil analysis has been made and lime is required add enough to bring content up to six which will make it slightly less than neutral. Now the top soil must be replaced. It must be well mixed with the necessary lime and fertilizer and put on to a depth of at least seven inches, taking care to spread evenly and to contour where desired. Make certain that the contours care for surface drainage toward the front to rid the green of any excess water. The lack of good surface drainage is apt to cause compaction and shallow root growth which in turn will promote wilt on hot, windy days and winter kill during the cold weather. Wet soil is cold soil and this makes late spring growth of turf and excludes air causing acidity of the soil.

Finally the top three inches of soil is added to your green making at least ten inches of top soil. Fertilizer is again added, the reason for this being, that in the early stages of grass growing, phosphates are required for good root growth and in combination with nitrogen constitute the most important elements in turf formation. Most soils, I believe, have enough potash content for turf growing. I do not believe in using a very high nitrate fertilizer, as in so doing, foliage growth is overstimulated and root growth retarded. I recommend twenty pounds of 4-8-4 per one thousand square feet, which will provide enough nitrogen, phosphorous and potash to push the growth of grass roots down deep enough to reach for more food.

After the top three inches are on your green then the surface must be hand raked three to five times to create a fine seed bed. The last two rakings should be done with wooden rakes with teeth one inch long and three quarters of an inch apart. The more raking done the better the surface is for planting. I advise light



rolling between rakings to show up the high spots and depressions which can be smoothed out after each raking.

Your green is now ready for seed, turf or stolons. At Lake Sunapee Country Club and in New England States we find Velvet Bent the best for turf.

Henry J. Homan, Sr.  
Lake Sunapee Country Club

### Turf Research at Massachusetts

Two projects are under investigation at the University of Massachusetts. Both of these have just been started and since results to date are not conclusive only a brief outline of the work will be presented at this time.

A study to evaluate the effect of climatic conditions on the conservation of small amounts of soil moisture is under way. It is believed that the effect of a turf cover on the utilization and loss of soil moisture is important. Since management practices and type of grass used alter the turf cover they would likewise be effective in determining the fate of various amounts of soil moisture. The objective of this work is a better understanding of the needs of turf for moisture and of the soil properties which effect the supply to the plant.

A study to determine the most effective ways to utilize liquid fertilizers has been started. Various formulations of liquid fertilizer materials will be applied to the leaves alone as foliar feeding and to the roots as root feeding. Results of work last year indicate the following:

1. In order for most liquid fertilizers to be as effective as solids they should be applied frequently in small amounts.
2. Applications should be withheld at times when crabgrass is getting started and during hot dry weather.
3. Complete foliar feeding of turf is not effective in maintaining the vigorous growth of grass, however evidence indicates that minor elements are absorbed through the leaf in sufficient quantities to maintain a mature turf. Phosphorous and potassium withheld from the root and applied to the foliage was effective in promoting a particularly dark green color on bluegrass and fescue turf.

As these projects develop more detailed information should be available.

### Sponsors

We wish to thank the following for their contributions to the Turf Management Club. Without their fine support this publication could not have been made available.



Rockingham Golf Club  
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#### Membership in the Turf Club

Active membership is open to undergraduates of the Stockbridge School. They have power to vote on constitutional amendments for the Club.

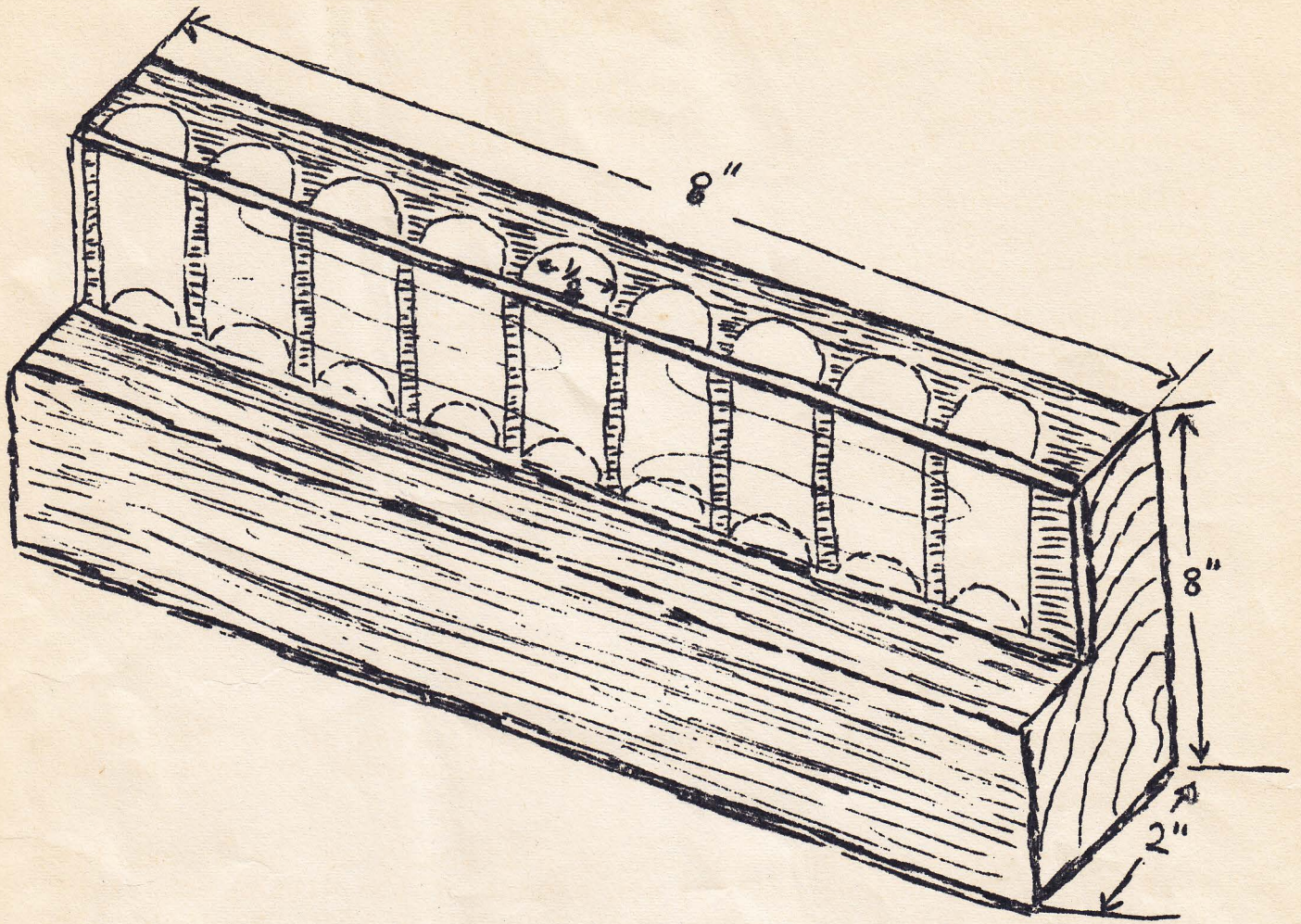
Associate membership is open to all alumni of the Stockbridge Turf Major, all undergraduates and alumni of the Winter School for Turf Managers and all persons, golf courses or concerns interested in the Turf program at the University of Massachusetts.

Honorary membership is open to any individual so honored by the Active membership.

Honorary and Associate members may vote on any policy not affecting the amendment of the constitution.

Dues for Active and Associate members shall be the same except that Active members and Associate members attending meetings shall pay an appropriate fee to cover the cost of holding the meetings. Honorary members pay no dues. Dues shall consist of a fee consistent with the cost of publishing and distributing the booklet "Turf Clippings". It was voted that this should be one dollar for a 2-year subscription. Receipt of dues entitles the sender to a membership card, a copy of each issue of "Turf Clippings" (at present this will be considered an annual publication), and the registration of name and address on the clubs list of those interested in the University's turf program.





The device in which I intend to put my plugs in order to determine the amount of moisture in each green each day. It will be twice as large as I have 19 greens.



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