Detroit Awaits Annual Turf Show
By Karl Sutphin

Book-Cadillac will be headquarters for superintendents’ four-day meet.

GREENKEEPERS will play a return engagement when they move into Detroit, Mich., Feb. 4-7 for the fifteenth annual National Turf Conference and Equipment Show of the Greenkeeping Superintendents Assn. Detroit was the scene of the national greenkeepers first convention 14 years ago.

This No. 1 greens affair is now strictly ‘big time’; it’s a conference to which many clubs annually send their greenkeepers at the clubs’ expense, figuring the investment as a definitely profitable maintenance item.

Because last year’s conference and show in New York City was one of the largest in the association’s history, Detroit district greenkeepers, who will be convention hosts, know they have a big task ahead if they are to surpass that one in point of numbers. But they’re working confidently to that end, and are receiving the 100% cooperation of the Detroit District Golf Assn., and its secretary, Edward L. Warner. The Book-Cadillac hotel in Detroit is convention headquarters; exhibits, meetings, the educational program and the banquet will all be held in the confines of this famous 1,200 room hotel.

General chairman for the conference is Herb Shave, silver-haired veteran of the famous Oakland Hills CC, site of the 1937 National Open. Assisting Shave, of course, is John Gray, GSA president, who resides right across the Detroit River in Windsor, Ontario. Members of the educational commission in addition to Shave are: Bruce Matthews, Green Ridge CC, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Jim Provan, Red Cedar GC, Lansing, Mich.; Ben Bertrand, Burroughs Farms GC, Detroit, and Hiram Godwin, noted turf expert of Detroit.

The conference and equipment show will be opened Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 10 a.m. by the Hon. Mayor Jeffries of Detroit, and the balance of the day will be devoted to inspection of the displays. Exhibit space sold to date equals that of last year’s show in New York, and a new all-time high is expected to be set in number of exhibitors. GSA officials are also planning a contest this year that requires attendance at each of the display booths in order to qualify for a shot at the prizes.

Program Features Listed

Educational program begins Wednesday, Feb. 5, with lectures each day thereafter starting at 2 p.m. The following program is purely a listing, as the order of appearance has not yet been determined:


Educational chairman will be Dr. James Tyson, Michigan State College; honorary educational chairman will be M. E. Farnham of the Philadelphia (Pa.) CC.

Annual greenkeepers banquet will be held Thursday evening, Feb. 6. Harvey Campbell, vice-president of the Detroit Board of Trade, will perform as master of ceremonies. Among the speakers scheduled for the banquet session are
One of the most elaborate and largest American golf club publications was the 50th anniversary number of the Tee Leaf of the Ridgewood (NJ) CC. The book had 104 pages and cover. Much historical data was presented, together with many views of club facilities and events.

Edgar A. Guest, of “Heap O’Livin’” and “Just Folks” fame, and Herb Graffis, editor of GOLFDOM.

In charge of the banquet and general entertainment is Dave Kennedy, Birmingham (Mich.) CC, assisted by Hugh Murray, Bloomfield Hills CC, Detroit. The welcoming committee is headed up by the president of the Michigan-Border Cities Golf Supts.’ Ass’n.—Clarence Wolfrom, Maple Lane GC, Warren, Mich.; Reuben Scott, Detroit muny courses; Ward Cornell, Walnut Hills CC, Lansing, Mich.; and Roy Jones, Lansing CC, Lansing, Mich.

Reuben Scott (on the welcoming committee) has been with the City of Detroit for 22 years, built 4 of their 5 courses and promises to tell how they play better than 200,000 rounds of golf per year over them.

Business sessions of the GSA board of directors will begin Sunday the 2nd and continue through Friday with the annual election of officers slated for Friday morning’s session.

Charley Burns, Good Park GC, Akron, who has done such fine work in publicizing recent greenkeepers annual conventions, is again on the job, which is tantamount to saying that what the greensmen do and say in Detroit will be common knowledge throughout the country. Assisting Charley is Willie Smith, sup’t at Detroit’s Red Run GC.

Burns informs GOLFDOM that for entertainment (the publishing variety), trips through Detroit’s famed motor plants, a visit to Ford’s noted Greenfield Village, visits to local department stores, and a ferryboat cruise through Hiram Walker’s distillery across the river in Maple Leaf Land, are available.

Large Equipment Exhibit Sure


Chairman of the Show Committee is Don Boyd, Portage CC, Akron, Ohio.

CHICAGO is to have two Open tournaments in 1940. The Chicago District GA Open will be played about the third week in July at a club to be named later. CDGA Open prize money will be $5,000. The Tam O’Shanter Open will be played Sept. 4-7 at the Tam O’Shanter club where the Chicago Open of 1940 was won by Dick Metz. With $11,000 prize money it now stands as 1941’s top money event. CDGA and Tam O’Shanter club officials are cooperating closely on both events.

Keiser Shoots 60 at Portage—Herman Keiser, assistant to Al Espinosa at Portage CC, Akron, O., has set a new course record of 60 over the par 71, 6120 yd. course. No aces were on the Keiser card. There were two 84s and an 89 in the foursome with Herman’s 60.

Al had the former record of 62. Espinosa declares that when the Keiser boy gets accustomed to the fire of tourney battle he will be sensational.