

## Fessenden Golf Writers' "Man"

Maynard G. (Scotty) Fessenden, pres., Western GA., has been awarded Golf Writers Assn. of America Wm. D. Richardson memorial trophy as the man who made the outstanding contribution to golf in 1948. Fessenden has been spark plug of big drive for increase in Chick Evans Foundation caddy scholarships. He also heads PGA advisory committee and is pres., Bob O' Link CC (Chicago dist.) and former pres., Chicago District GA. Following Fessenden in the voting were Bing Crosby, Mayor Jim Rhodes of Columbus, O.; Fred V. Grau, director, USGA Green section; Ted Payseur, National Intercollegiate AA golf chmn., and Bob Hope.

## Iowa Greenkeepers Hold 15th Annual Meet at Ames

By H. L. Lantz

One-hundred-fifty greenkeepers and turf men from many midwest states, California and Texas registered for the 15th annual Greenkeepers Conference at Ames, March 14-16.

A wide variety of up-to-the-minute topics were discussed including reports on bent grass strains, new grasses, new fungicides and insecticides, tissue tests for greenkeepers, fertilizers, soil aeration, how plants utilize fertilizers, college training for greenkeepers, etc.

The turf garden at Ames jointly sponsored by the Iowa Greenkeepers Association and the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station was the lead-off subject of a report by H. L. Lantz, of Ames. Lantz described the development of the turf garden and briefly outlined a proposed expanded program of research. Approximately 30 strains of bent grass are growing in replicated 6 x 6 foot plots. The USGA furnished 10 strains, another 10 strains were furnished by the Pennsylvania State College and another 10 strains were added later from assorted sources. The first set of plots were planted in 1939. Each year of observation has indicated that the strains Congressional (C19), Arlington (C1) and Old Orchard (C52) were well adapted and superior in performance to the other strains in the garden. These three strains are being planted on a number of golf courses in Iowa, and have been giving a good account of themselves.

Dr. H. H. Knight, entomologist at Iowa State College told the group about how to use the new insecticides on the golf course and the clubhouse. Numerous questions kept Dr. Knight busy for another 30 minutes. Among the new chemicals for insect control is chlordane which

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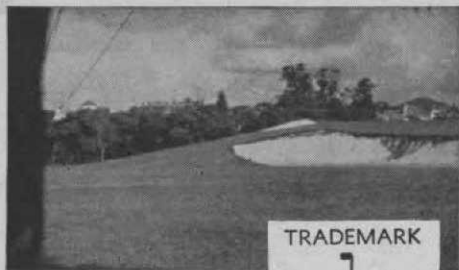
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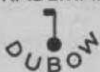
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if used correctly will control practically all those insect pests which pester the golf course and other turf areas.

### Tissue Testing on Bent Grass

Dr. G. N. Hoffer, Manager of the Midwest Potash Institute, Lafayette, Indiana, made his first appearance on the Iowa conference program. His discussion and demonstration of tissue testing on bent grass was very well received, and immediately there were numerous inquiries as to whether and how the necessary chemicals could be secured. When asked for a show of hands of those who were interested in equipping themselves for tissue testing, practically every one in the room put up his hand. Dr. Hoffer explained that it would be possible to assemble a kit of the essential chemicals which could be purchased at a nominal price.

Dr. Hoffer explained another feature about bent grass which was new to the Iowa audience. He reported that during the evening and at night when the evaporation rate declines, bent grass roots keep on pumping water and sloutes into the leaves, which cause "sweating" and that this "sweat" carries soluble nitrates which spread out over the surface of the grass blades. Next morning when the sunshine warms up the grass, the nitrogen compound changes to a form that may damage the bent grass. A simple method of pre-

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venting such damage is to wash this nitrogen material off the grass by a light hand watering in the morning. There is a simple test that can be made by the use of Brays powder to determine when the grass is "sweating" out those dangerous nitrogen compounds.

The chances are fairly good that well fertilized greens provide optimum conditions during the summer for "sweating" out nitrates. This new discovery has the earmarks of being exceedingly useful on diagnosing a condition not previously understood.

No Iowa conference would be complete without those two wheel horses of turf management, Dr. O. J. Noer and Dr. Fred V. Grau. Noer explained the fundamental and practical reasons for the need of a balanced fertilizer program on greens. Grau has some definite suggestions about watering trees, greens, and fairways, effectively. Soil that is porous and not compacted takes water readily, and requires less frequent applications than does compacted soil. This holds for fairways as well as greens. This discussion led up to and nicely introduced Tom Mascara of West Point, Pa., who gave an illustrated talk on the use and accomplishments of the West Point Aerifier when used on compacted greens and fairways. There was no

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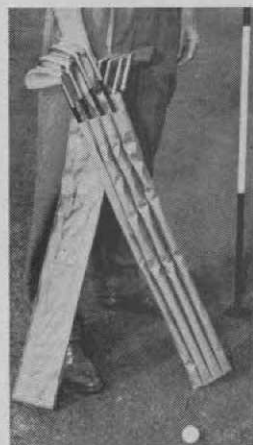
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disagreement among the turf experts as to the value of the Aerifier in rejuvenating greens and fairways.

### New Competition for Crabgrass

Crabgrass has a new competitor that can compete on more than even terms with the pest. On lawn and fairways where crabgrass ordinarily takes over and smothers out bluegrass, Fred Grau related that Alta fescue if planted early in the spring would by the second year form a strong firm turf that would conquer crabgrass. Furthermore Alta fescue will stand one-half inch mowing, and grow well during the hot dry season of the year. The USGA Green Section under Grau's direction has found a strain of hardy Zoysia matrella, and has a new strain of bluegrass B27, which is resistant to helminthosporium. Other grasses are also being screened for possible use in the various turf areas. A new era in fine turf appears to be here.

The Rhode Island Experiment Station at Kingston has taken a leading interest in the development and testing of new fungicides. Prof. John Rowell presented two illustrated talks to tell the conference how the work was done and what the results were. Prof. Rowell passed out a mimeographed summary of the results of the 1948 trials which was a feature that was

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greatly appreciated. Briefly, Rowell reported that the cadmium compounds gave excellent control of dollar spot, copper spot and pink patch and that the bent grass on the cadmium treated plots suffered no setback in growth or color following the applications.

On a 30 plot fungicide experiment at Ames, Lantz reported results which were very similar to those reported by Prof. Rowell.

Weed control on golf courses and other turf areas is a most important feature of good management. Herbert A. Zuhl of the Dow Chemical Co., Midland, Michigan, explained how the several forms of 2,4-D behaved. While the ester forms of 2,4-D had proved to be the quick killers, Zuhl warned that the ester form might injure plants at considerable distance from the sprayed areas due to the drift of volatile portions of the herbicide. On the other hand he pointed out that the danger of 2,4-D drift could be avoided by using either the sodium salt or the amine formulations of 2,4-D.

Numerous other items were discussed on the program. Dr. I. J. Johnson, Head of Agronomy at Iowa State College, discussed specialized college training as a possibility for young men who wish such training in preparation for a career in greenkeeping.

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