

U. of Mass. Meet Pays Tribute to Dickinson, Turf School

By GEOFFREY S. CORNISH

Almost 300 superintendents from all sections of the United States, Canada, and Mexico attended the annual University of Massachusetts Turf Conference to pay tribute to Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson on the silver anniversary of the founding of his Turf Superintendents School.

At the annual banquet held at Hotel Northampton, superintendents cheered the presentation of a number of awards to the man who taught them turf culture. Homer C. Darling of Juniper Hill presented Prof. Dickinson with a check for \$1,500 on behalf of hundreds of his admirers in the turf world. Agar Brown, secretary of the GCSA, presented the well-known turf expert with a scroll. On behalf of the present Winter School, Carmen Ceo of Seneca Falls (N.Y.) CC, presented Dickinson with a guest book, autographed by all attending the banquet and containing photos of instructors, class members and conference speakers. Richard Williams, student at the university, made a presentation of a golf tie clasp on behalf of the Two Year turf men.

Among the speakers at the banquet were Orville O. Clapper, pres. of the Clapper Company, West Newton, and Arthur Anderson, superintendent of the Brae Burn CC. Entertainment was provided by 40 members of the University Chorale group, directed by Prof. Doric Alviani.

Dr. Ralph A. Van Meter, pres. of the Univ. of Mass., opened the formal part of the conference. He stated that the contributions of the University to the world of turf have been great and will be continued. As the national economy turns more and more to machinery, the need

for golf becomes increasingly important. Pres. Van Meter recalled that some 20 years ago, when he was Prof. of Pomology at this university, he spoke to the winter school on the subject of preserving old apple trees as ornamentals on golf courses. Rather than taking them out altogether, the dead wood could be removed and the tree fertilized with nitrate of soda to make one of the most beautiful flowering ornamentals of the Northeast. An objection raised 20 years ago was that the falling fruit cluttered up parts of the course. Today any orchard grower can advise you of chemicals available to prevent fruit formation after blossoming, removing the objection to preserving these beautiful old trees.

At the end of the conference certificates were presented to those men who had successfully completed the annual Ten Week Winter School.

Summaries of conference addresses follow:

Grass Seed Impurities

Sometimes a retail seedsman will sell impure seed, in good faith, believing it to be of high quality, according to Dr. M. T. Munn, Div. of Seed Investigation, N. Y. State Agri. Exp. Station. A variety of seeds were obtained for testing and planted side by side at the Experiment Station. The results in some cases were different than was expected due to impurities in the seed. Unreliable seedsmen are to blame. It is very important to buy seed from a reliable dealer, and to observe the tag carefully. Dr. Munn showed slides depicting results from use of seeds of various crops. Although these were not of turf grasses, he emphasized that the



Superintendents and turf officials who attended the 25th Annual Turf Conference of the Univ. of Massachusetts to honor Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson, founder of the first school course for turf superintendents.

principles involved were the same for all seeds.

Dr. Dale H. Sieling, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Horticulture, reviewed higher education in the United States since 1790 and the development of Land Grant Colleges as a result of the Morrill Act and the signing of the Bill by Abraham Lincoln. He noted three phases of Agricultural education—teaching, research, and extension—noting mankind



Homer C. Darling, supt., Juniper Hill GC, representing superintendents and admirers, presents Prof. Dickinson with \$1,500 check.

has benefited immeasurably from agricultural research. State Experiment Stations carry on research, and extension men carry this knowledge to the farmers and turf superintendents, who also gather at conferences to obtain the latest scientific information.

Turf in 1951

Of particular interest to all turf men were the slides shown by Dr. O. J. Noer depicting different turf conditions in 1951. Noer reported 1951 on the whole was a good season for turf except in Oklahoma and Texas where they had high humidity and high temperatures.

He cited some of the machinery that was causing wear around greens, including caddy carts and player transportation vehicles. It was also shown that where a large enough turning area was not provided on aprons, power greensmowers were causing wear on the edges of the greens.

Many courses had trouble with sand layers. Two common causes of this were excessive use of sand as a topdressing and traps being too close to the greens. Aerating machinery was being used with success to break up the layering.

An athletic coach told Dr. Noer that better turf on athletic fields is reducing injuries.

Dr. Noer showed an interesting slide of a green that had been over-rotilled during construction with the result that the

soil structure was broken up. Fine particles on top of the greens eventually formed a hard layer impervious to air and water penetration.

In answer to a question, Dr. Noer stated that the new Polycross Bent developed by Dr. Musser at Penn State was producing outstanding turf without grain-in. Only a few hundred pounds of the seed are now available.

Grass Seed Harvesting

Mr. Henry S. Bannister of the Whitney Seed Company, Buffalo, New York showed a movie on seed harvesting, testing and processing.

Mr. Bannister stated that conditions in summer cause shortages of grass seed. This season the supply of bents, bluegrasses and fescues for turf is low. Some fescue seed is coming from Europe but for turf this is inferior to the home grown.

Merion bluegrass is high priced because there is a limited supply and a high demand.

Value of Record Keeping

Casper McCullough, Supt., Banff springs GC in the Canadian Rockies stated that too many superintendents are afraid to talk to their chairmen. The superintendent is supposed to know more about his job than any club member, therefore he should not be afraid to talk to anyone in the club about his work.

Mr. McCullough stated that to be businesslike one must keep records. Before he took Professor Dickinson's course in the early thirties he had not considered this phase of greenkeeping. Since then he has established a set of records that have proved invaluable. Facts are strong weapons in dealing with one's employers.

Just a year ago the Banff course was flooded and the greens were covered several feet deep in silt. This was removed with bulldozers and by hand except on one green where it was washed off with a fire hose. This was the only green that was lost.

History Repeats

Prof. Dickinson stated that during the past thirty years golf courses have been periodically affected by wars, depressions, player fads, scientific enthusiasms, commercial pressures and club members who persistently undervalue the superintendent and the golf course.

Very few clubs actually met the influencing factors. A majority just let the influence grow by their passiveness in action and practicing the use of expediences. Then they paid the price, bankruptcy, money assessments, big drafts on cultural reserves of the golf course as well as loss in membership.

The superintendent was partially—only partially—at fault because he did

(Continued on page 90)

old balls "whiter-than-new" in 3 minutes!



GOLF BALL Spray-New

- 1 Keeps Shag Balls WHITE.
- 2 BIG PROFITS selling SPRAY-NEW
- 3 EXTRA PROFITS servicing members' golf balls.

Golfers get more play life out of each new ball!

Scientific formulation that sprays a new surface on golf balls that looks and acts like a "brand new finish."

See your pro jobber or write

GOLF BALL SPRAY-NEW

(Division of Federal International Co., Inc.)

50 New Street

New York 4, N. Y.

IOWA TURF COURSE

(Continued from page 67)

of oak wilt and the two fatal diseases of the elm. Insect pests that are troublesome on recreational areas can be banished by the use of one or more of the modern pesticides, according to Dr. Harold Gunderson. He also described how to control moles and gophers, harpoon trapping for moles and poison for the gopher. Paul Burdette described the type of spray machinery used to control insect pests in large shade tree areas. A color movie illustrated how to do it.

A new idea in drainage was presented by Dr. Glen Schwab. The new idea under extensive test by the college is to pull a perforated plastic tube into a mole constructed drain, and at a saving in cost over tile drains.

Last, but not least on the program, Charles Wilson and H. L. Lantz reviewed the past season's results secured by chemical control of crabgrass. By proper dosage and timing, three chemicals gave an excellent kill. At the two leaf stage, sodium arsenite and the phenyl mercury acetate compounds did a good job. Potassium cyanate gave best results when applied at the period of seed head formation. It appears that chemical control is

feasible, but both speakers stressed that chemical control should be accompanied by a fertilizer program that will promote the kind of turf that is able to compete successfully, with weeds and weedy grasses.

Tom Mascaro took a tape recording of the lectures, and in addition gave an illustrated talk on how aeration can be used to help rejuvenate fairways and tees.

U. OF MASS. MEET PAYS

(Continued from page 58)

not forcibly inform the club members and directors of the costs—particularly cultural cost—involved in following a fad or popular demand. The club officials should take the major portion of the responsibility.

It is unfortunate that the business management of golf courses is far behind the requirements. The golf superintendent is comparable to the superintendent in charge of production in the business world. He has the knowledge and interest of the club at heart and his opinions should be given and considered.

Golfers want good fairways with thick turf, clipped at a height of 9/16 of an inch. By all means give it to them, but

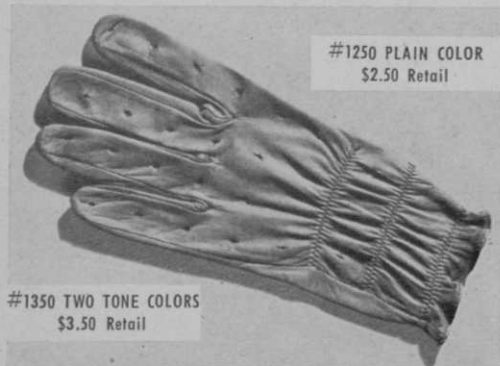
"GLOVES that FIT LIKE GLOVES"

PROS have been asking for a high quality Golf Glove that retails for \$2.50 and \$3.50. Now available in Men's Sizes only • Left and Right Hand • Full Finger and Thumb • Thin, Tacky Cabretta Leather • Stitched with Nylon Thread.

MORRISON GLOVE CO.

Since 1808

Monrovia, Calif.



#1250 PLAIN COLOR
\$2.50 Retail

#1350 TWO TONE COLORS
\$3.50 Retail

only after acquainting them with costs. There is a wide range in the initial cost of automobiles, yet all cars can give the same basic enjoyment. The great masses purchase the medium and low priced cars. Why do they take the lower priced car? Because they want a car and can't afford the bigger type. Golf will be bought by the same buyers. There are many golf courses that can't afford the cost of "the big car," close clipped fairways.

Dutch Elm Disease

Dr. Malcolm A. McKenzie, Dir. of Shade Tree Laboratories at the Univ. suggested the following program to check Dutch Elm Disease and protect valuable trees:

1. Keep elms free of dead wood regardless of the presence of the disease.
2. Burn or bury this wood immediately. Never give it away. His experience in this regard shows that the receiver is frequently careless in handling it.
3. Spray trees in April and again in early July to kill the beetle that carries the disease.
4. Don't plant elms unless you intend to maintain them properly.

More Golf, More Courses

Professor Cornish summarized the number one problem confronting all interested in golf by presenting figures gleaned from various publications or provided by Rex McMorris of the National Golf Foundation. Quoting from a recent issue of the Wall Street Journal he stated that the number of golf devotees has increased to about 3,250,000 today from 2,800,000 pre-war, and sales of golfing equipment have jumped from \$15 million to over \$40 million. Yet the National Golf Foundation shows a decline in courses from 5,856 in 1930 to 4,970 in 1951. Fred J. Bowman, President of Wilson was quoted in the Wall Street Journal as saying, "The lack of facilities is the top problem confronting the golf world. Interest in sports is at an all time high, but if it takes a man four hours to tee off, his interest in golf wavers and he seeks his recreation elsewhere."

Cornish stated that several important steps have been taken recently to offset the trend to fewer courses. These include:

1. The appointment by the National Golf Foundation of Mr. Hugh Egan who will direct his energies to the promotion of new courses.
2. The important article by Mr. William B. Langford, noted golf architect, in USGA Journal and Turf Management entitled "Why Not Six Hole Courses?"
3. The increase in popular golf facilities other than standard courses such as night golf, chip and putt, pitch and putt, putting, and par 3 courses.
4. The expansion of many nine hole layouts to eighteen.

He pointed out that one reason some

Now Available! **WESTALL** **RUBBER FLOORING**

- PROTECTS CLUBHOUSE FLOORS FOR YEARS!
- LONGER-WEARING, TOUGH, FIRM!
- SO SMOOTH, SAFE AND EASY TO CLEAN!
- NO CEMENTING TO UNDERFLOOR!
- DOES NOT BUCKLE OR CRAWL!
- SMART APPEARANCE!
- CHOICE OF COLORS: GREEN, BLACK, SAND AND TERRA-COTTA!
- COMES IN ROLLS APPROXIMATELY 57 IN. WIDE, 5/16 IN. THICKNESS, 29 FT. LENGTHS!
- WE WILL CUT TO WIDTHS OF 2 FT., 2 1/2 FT. AND 3 FT. — NO EXTRA CHARGE!

Write for Samples and Details:

HENRY WESTALL COMPANY

944-960 Merrimon Ave., Asheville, N. C.

BARGAIN IN AERIFYING MACHINES

Available at substantial saving
a limited number of

PERRY'S GREENS SPIKERS

All brand new Perry machines of the model just previous to current model. Perry's Greens Spikers of this particular model are accomplishing excellent turf improvement results at courses throughout the country.

A real bargain in Better Turf. First come, first served, while the limited supply lasts.

For prices and descriptive literature
write direct to

PERRY'S GREENS SPIKER
1340 Prescott Road, Memphis, Tenn.

McKenzie Super-NITROGEN PEAT

PERFECT FOR FAST GROWING

Contains over 3% organic Nitrogen, Dry Basis,
Plus Many Other Important Trace Elements.

A STERILIZED PRODUCT

NO weed seed, fungus diseases, etc.

FORTIFIED with a cultured bacteria favorable
to healthy plant growth.

Use our pulverized **GOLF GREENS SPECIAL.**
100% ORGANIC

PERFECT AS A GREENS CONDITIONER

*Complete information from these
representatives:*

Ed Dudley, 2526 Washington Rd., Augusta, Ga.

George Smith, c/o C.C. of Buffalo, Williamsville, N.Y.

Horace Smith, c/o Moorestown Field Club,
Moorestown, N.J.

Processed by

MINERALIZED PRODUCTS, INC.
Boynton, Fla.

NOW AVAILABLE

Certified Tifton 57 Turf Bermuda

The proven hybrid of turf research and
turf producer

Southern Turf Nurseries

611 W. 20th St., Route No. 2, Tifton, Georgia

cities do not build new courses is because they feel that only a small percentage of their citizens are benefited. The reverse, however, is true, when as is often the case, less remunerative sports can be financed from golf. Much land unsuited to agriculture but fairly close to centers of population can be utilized for golf, he stated, contrary to the belief of many.

NEW COUNTER DISPLAY CARTONS FOR PRO-GRIP WAX AND RESIN

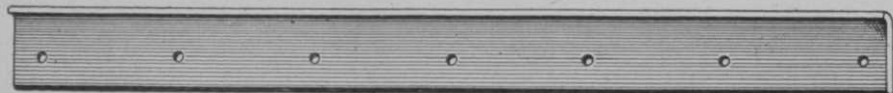


The Manufacturer's Specialty Co., Inc., 2736 Sidney St., St. Louis, Mo., are merchandising their Pro-Grip, non-slip grip wax and Pro-Grip, non-slip resin in attractive, bright colored, compact counter display cartons that make an ideal point-of-sale item for the pro shop. Compactness and eye appeal of both cartons is shown in the above photo. Note new containers replacing the old resin bags.

Folda Fairway, golf practice machine made by A. E. Peterson Mfg. Co., Glendale 1, Calif., now is sold by more than 500 pros in 47 states. In 8 months, since its introduction by California pros, it has become one of the biggest selling practice devices the game has seen.

Keast Enterprises, Inc., Lake Zurich, Ill., manufacturers of the Bes-Tee automatic golf range tees are appointing sales representatives and have several inviting territories still open. Those interested address Mr. J. Keast at company address given above.

LAWN MOWER STATIONARY BLADES



We make these blades in several styles to fit the different makes and types of Lawn Mowers—including the small Hand Trimmer—Hand and Tee Mowers—Putting Green Mowers—Power Mowers and the large Gang or Fairway Mowers. Best quality knife steel, electric furnace heat treated to insure long wear and fully guaranteed to give complete satisfaction. You save important money buying direct from manufacturer.

Price sheet on request or
we will quote price for
your blade order.

JONES MOWER & EQUIPMENT CO.
2418 Grasslyn Avenue, Havertown, Pa.

We pay the postage on
all orders of \$10.00 and
over.