MIDWEST TURF CONFERENCE GROWS TEN-FOLD

From 37 in 1937, the initial year of the Midwest Turf Conference at Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., attendance has grown to a registration of 375 this year. Many of those who attended are in the group picture shown above.

Supts. Dramatize Instruction in Labor Relations

In the opinion of many golf course superintendents the most effective presentation of mutual instruction in difficult problems was made during the Midwest Turf Conference at Purdue University. The 370 who registered at the conference agreed that the panel on golf course labor management problems staged by Purdue's Prof. P. E. Lull with the cooperation of 11 supt.s dramatized and put into clear focus situations with which every golf course supt. must contend.

Supts. were assigned to acting roles in staging the various problems and "The Supts. Little Theatre Group" which they were called by session chmn. Stan Graves, acted with such realism you forgot they were acting.

The first subject was handling an interview with an applicant for a job. Andy Bertoni was the supt. and Ted Woehrle was the college lad applying for golf course work for the summer.

Criticism of this and the other presentations were invited from supt.s, and discussion in all cases was lively. In the hiring case the principal comment was that the applicant should be encouraged to do more talking about himself and his qualifications, and that the nature of the work should be stated as specifically as possible.

In the demonstration of reprimanding a course laborer Ray Gerber was the supt. and Pete Koval was the course employee whose work had been unsatisfactory. Pete complained about being underpaid, doing harder work for less money than others on the course, being sick, and gave the rest of the usual excuses.

Comment from the floor was that an investigation of the course laborer's home conditions and even a physical examination by an MD if the fellow had seemed to be worth keeping, might be advisable.

The performance on giving day's work instructions to the crew had Stan Graves as supt. and as the crew: Roy Nelson, Carl Bretzlaff, Chet Mendenhall, Bob Williams, Norm Johnson, John McCoy and Andy Bertoni.

Although the circumstances, especially
the large audience and the short time, gave
the supts. who were taking roles valid ex-
cuses for not giving or getting instructions
completely or clearly, all the participants
frankly admitted that the demonstration
was one that emphasized the necessity of
giving orders that were certain to be com-
pletely understood, remembered and fol-
lowed.

Discussion brought out the wisdom of
giving written orders in some cases, ex-
plaining the job on a blackboard or by
pencil sketches in the maintenance shop in
other instances, or having — as Norm
Johnson has at San Jose CC, Jacksonville
— large diagrams of greens areas in the
shop to show the help exactly what the
superintendent wants done.

In view of the many labor management
problems confronting supts. it was the con-
sensus at the Midwest conference that a
session similar to that at Purdue be put on
as a valuable feature of the Golf Course
Supts.' national conference in St. Louis
next January.

**Williams Memorial Trophy**

for Air Force Championship

A permanent golf trophy honoring Lt.
Morris Williams, young Texan who died
last fall in an aircraft accident, has been
established by the United States Air Force.

The huge loving cup, to be known as the
Morris W. Williams, Jr., Memorial Trophy,
will be placed in the custody of the winner
of the U. S. Air Force World-Wide Golf
championship yearly according to provi-
sions of the memorial.

Maj. Gen. E. J. Timberlake, who is pri-
marily responsible for the trophy, presented
the cup to Williams' parents March 2 in a
public ceremony at the University of
Texas.

Williams was a jet fighter-bomber pilot
in Gen. Timberlake's Ninth Air Force at
the time of his death last September. He
was stationed at George Air Force Base,
California.

He was never defeated in service tourna-
ments during his military career. Williams
held the All-Service championship compet-
ing against the top golfers of the Air Force,
Army and Navy.

At the time of his death he was the U. S.
Air Force champion and champion of the
Ninth Air Force.

His previous titles included the Air Force
Training Command championship, the Air
Force Pacific Coast championship and the
Hawaiian Coast Conference championship.

Before entering service he led the Texas
University Golf Team to the Southwest
Conference championship in 1948, 1949 and
1950. He also won the Texas Amateur and
Texas PGA in 1950.

**MAINTENANCE PRACTICE**

(Continued from page 46)

Many of our courses now have been in play
since the turn of the century and the
strains of grasses are not tolerant. Many of
our greens were built without concern for
surface drainage and are being rebuilt for
that purpose.

Some of our courses are still maintaining
a collar around the green of several feet
that is cut at an intermediate height. This
adds to expense in maintenance but is an
asset to the player and general appearance
of a green.

**Tee Maintenance Differences**

Tee maintenance varies considerably in
our district from surfaces similar to green
to surfaces similar to fairway condition. At our club we have predomi-
nantly bent grass on the tees and treat
them rather similar to greens. We cut our
tees at about ¾ in. and follow a fertilizer
practice very nearly the same as for the
greens. On occasion we treat the tees with
fungicide. We do not plug the tees as we
used to years ago but instead we use a mix-
ture of soil and seed in the divot holes
about once a week. We use ryegrass seed
with some bent seed mixed in. Four men
can cover all our tee divots that accumu-
late over a week's time in about 4 hours
and it is usually done on Monday after-
noon.

At Beverly we are continually rebuild-
ing our tees to provide approximately 4,000
sq. ft. of teeing surface on all the holes.
With adequate areas for tee marker place-
ment we find much less wear on the turf.
Several courses are trying Merion blue-
grass on tees and the reports thus far are
somewhat varied. Some seem to like it and
some have not. Where Merion and bent
have been mixed, the bent has taken over.

**Fairways the Headache**

Fairways have probably given us our
biggest headache in recent years. The play-
ers have demanded close cut fairway turf
which has forced the courses with fairway
irrigation to go to bentgrass on their fair-
ways.

Then after going to close cut bent we
gradually go into large quantities of poa
annua in the fairways. Of course when the
hot weather comes along we lose poa in