Border Main Speaker at Northwest Meeting

By J. K. PATTERSON
Executive Secy., Northwest Turf Association

A turf specialist was described as a cross between a mobile book of knowledge and a jack of all trades by Elmer G. Border, pres. of the GCSA, one of the principal speakers at the 13th turf conference of the Northwest Turf Assn. held at Washington State University, Pullman, Sept. 23-25.

"As a man in charge of a plant that may be valued at from a quarter million to five million dollars," Border said, "the supt. has to be a combination of things including business administrator, scientist, salesman, personal relations man, mechanic and perhaps even an artist. And it doesn't hurt if he has a fair knowledge of at least a dozen other trades and occupations.

"We have to be lifelong students if we are going to properly maintain our properties." the GCSA pres. continued. "Our education doesn't stop after we have received our formal training. We have to learn by experience, through extension courses and conferences such as the one we're now attending at Washington State."

Attendance at the three-day conference was somewhat larger than expected. A total of 83 Northwest members attended along with about 30 non-members. Since 24 wives of supts. and turfmen were at Pullman for the meetings, entertainment was provided for them all three days.

Roy Goss, one of the University's research workers, reported on poa annua control through the application of arsenic. He also told of his findings on herbicide tests for moss and algae control on home lawns and in discussing control of crabgrass, said that DAC seems to have great possibilities.

Bill Bengseyfield, western dir. of the USGA green section, reviewed conclusions reached in the recent controversy over ripple soles, giving substantially the same report as appeared in GOLFDOM (August, p. 78).

Other speakers included J. K. Patterson of the University's agronomy dept.; Walter Apt, of Puyallup research center; Don Hogan, Northwest Turf Assn. pres. and an irrigation consultant; Verne Fish of Toro; Al Law, University agronomist; H. T. Abbott, Pullman landscape specialist; Walter Gardner, WSU soil physicist; Glen Proctor, Rainier G & CC supt.; John Gallagher, Amchem Products, Ambler, Pa.; and Charles Wilson, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission. Elwyn Schwartz was the principal speaker at the banquet.

Described during the conference was the newly established research center at Puyallup, the first of its kind in the Northwest. It occupies 1½ acres, has been seeded and is operating with an automatic sprinkling system.

Persons attending the conference came from Oregon, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia as well as Washington.