Probably the biggest news about the 1978 annual convention of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is that it will be even bigger than previous meetings. Three months before the opening of the 49th International Turfgrass Conference and Show in the San Antonio (Tex.) Convention Center, the exhibit space was totally sold out — actually, had been expanded to accommodate additional requests from potential exhibitors of turfgrass equipment and supplies.

Almost 200 exhibitors will fill the exhibit hall, which will be open February 14-16. Hours will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday. The exhibits will be open to superintendents only, per GCSAA tradition, on Tuesday. Wednesday and Thursday will also be open to others in the turfgrass industry — parks personnel, school grounds maintenance people, landscapers, and so on — as the association seeks to attract additional show attendance from those groups. Again following tradition, the exhibit hall will be open on Monday, February 13, for dealers and distributors to view the manufacturers' lines in the afternoon.

More than 30 manufacturers will be exhibiting at the GCSAA show for the first time. Jim Brooks, director of industrial relations for the association, attributes the manufacturers' increased interest in the show to "the location, a slight economic upturn in the turf industry, and also the more aggressive posture we are taking. For the first time, we have actively identified, contacted, and followed up on new companies, rather than maintained the low profile we had in the past."

The association has actively sought attendees from areas other than the golf business by making 5,000 guest vouchers available to exhibitors so they may invite additional people.

Programs & seminars
In conjunction with the exhibits of equipment and supplies, the GCSAA will conduct 67 hours of educational sessions for golf superintendents.

The program will open Monday morning at 9:30 with keynote speaker Earl L. Butz, former secretary of agriculture; his topic will be "I Don't Want to Live in a No-Growth Society." More specific sessions will be held Monday and Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday morning, all day Thursday, and Friday morning. The 38 speakers include many noted turfgrass experts, USGA Executive Director P. J. Boatwright, American Society of Golf Course Architects' President William W. Amick, and three members of the GOLF BUSINESS Advisory Board: superintendents Tom J. Rogers and David C. Harmon as well as golf professional and PGA of America Treasurer Joe Black.

The annual GCSAA business meeting and election will convene Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. George W. Cleaver, CGCS, is the candidate for president of the association. Now serving as vice president, he has been a member of the executive committee for 5 years and is superintendent of Chestnut Ridge Country Club, Lutherville, Md. Nominated as candidates for vice president are Melvin B. Lucas Jr., CGCS, and Charles H. Tadge, CGCS, both current directors. Lucas is superintendent of The Garden City (N.Y.) Golf Club; Tadge, of Mayfield Country Club, South Euclid, Ohio. In addition, two of these five nominated candidates will be elected to 3-year terms as director:


On Saturday and Sunday, February 11 and 12, preceding the conference, four seminars will be offered simultaneously. Topics to be covered are principles of landscape design; chemical usage; leadership, motivation, and employee relations; and fertilizer usage.

Eligible superintendents can take a
certification examination on Sunday the 12th.

**Golf course tour**

One municipal, one military, and two private golf courses can be visited on a 4-hour tour to be held Friday morning, February 17. Host superintendents will point out striking aspects of each course, explaining what programs they have implemented and what their future plans entail. The facilities are Fort Sam Houston Golf Course, Oak Hills Country Club, San Antonio Country Club, and Willow Springs Golf Course.

**Annual banquet**

The formal conference will climax Thursday evening with the annual banquet and show at 7:30 p.m. in the South Banquet Hall of the Convention Center. The introduction of head table dignitaries will be followed by the banquet, entertainment by singer Kelly Garrett and a comedian, and an evening of dancing to an orchestra. Tickets at $15 per person may be purchased from GCSAA in advance or at the conference until noon Wednesday.