

Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Has Successful Conference at Purdue University

On March 1, 2, and 3, 1965 over 500 interested members and guests of the Foundation attended the 28th annual Turf Conference at Purdue University. As usual the program was outstanding. Dr. Daniel and his staff are to be congratulated for their efforts in bringing to us the finest speakers available to present to us subject matter involving material or great importance.

The first afternoon session held in Loeb Theater-Memorial featured three hours on a subject that is becoming more and more interesting to our profession, that being soils. Particles of soils and spaces found between them are being studied at the University with new equipment which helps us to understand how soils react to various management techniques. One thing that was brought out about man-made-soils for golf courses was the fact that we should not rely on our ability to look at a soil and tell whether it is a good soil. Send your soils to a laboratory for analysis to determine the make up of the soil. Does it have the right composition of soil, humus and sand? Will your soil drain? Will it compact and seal off the movement of water and air?

The value of the USGA Green was discussed to a small degree and it was decided that these greens, if built according to specifications, would provide us with a fool proof method of preparing a soil that would give us good drainage when excessive amounts of water were applied. They could give us a soil that would not compact and one that would almost be trouble free during times of stress. One must understand these soils and the practice of perching a water table in the soil. Unless one understands the principles of perching a false water table he should not attempt to undertake this program.

On Tuesday morning, March 2 the program was devoted to irrigation and the many ramifications of this much neglected subject. The more we hear about artificial watering of golf courses the more we begin to understand how little we really know. There are still many theories concerning the proper way to water turf. Once it was believed that the **only** right way to water turf was to water "Deep", this meant that we would water infrequently and heavy. Now the trend seems to be light and frequent watering.

I think we all feel that the "Deep" watering might be the best method but we are forced to the lighter more frequent watering programs.

The subject of Automatic Irrigation was discussed into the late hours of the night when interested persons retired to Bill Lyons, now famous, room. Don Wright, Superintendent of the Cemargo Club in Cincinnati was present to discuss his completely Automatic system that was recently installed. Many interesting points were brought out about the cost of such a system and what type of system he had. He installed an Automatic system to his already present forty year old cast iron system. He used electric valves to assure him of a more positive control system. As reported at our National Conference in Cleveland, Don has made available to our National Association a set of 80 slides showing the installation of his system. Along with the slides he has prepared a short discussion concerning each slide. These could be very valuable to any member interested in installing an Automatic system. Anyone interested in obtaining these slides should contact our National Headquarters. Chet Mendenhall from Kansas also dis-

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cussed his newly installed Automatic system. Automation is another way of making our job a little easier.

One of the most important points brought out in the irrigation discussions was that we should not worry about how much water we are applying but how to remove excess water. Drainage is still the key to growing good turf.

On Tuesday afternoon we got a cross section of several related subjects involving the management of our courses. Dudley Smith's presentation on "Organizing young workers" was one of his best efforts. A point was made during the question and answer period of Dudley's talk, that we should study the laws concerning child labor and how it applies to our courses. A point well taken.

Wednesday morning found chairman Jim Holmes calling the session to order at 9:00 A.M. The main subject of discussion was fairway maintenance. Norm Kramer made a progress report on his battle at the Point O'Woods Country Club with his fairway turf. He discussed the improvement after two seasons of thatch removal and vertical mowing combined with a good chemical program. The results seem to be outstanding. "Fairways" for 1965 was presented by a panel of experts. Bluegrass fairways are still a possibility for the future. We should keep this in mind when we decide to build new fairways. A recently released bulletin from Purdue entitled, "Bluegrass Fairways? Yet! If!" discusses the necessary points that one must keep in mind if he wishes to grow successful Bluegrass fairways.



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