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WASHINGTON REPORT

by Wilhemina Fuchs (Mrs. Walter H.)

It is with pleasure that I tell you of the Ladies Program at the International Turfgrass Conference held in Washington, D.C. 565 ladies attended the Conference this year.

The Mid-Atlantic Association put forth a great deal of effort to make the Conference the success that it was. In the lobby of the Conference Hotel the G.C.S.A.A. emblem was constructed in a circle using hyacinths of several colors. The entire circle was surrounded with evergreen trees of varying heights.

We attended the opening of the first Educational Assembly. Wre Reverend Joseph Wick from Lafayette, Indiana spoke. He spoke with a bit of humor as well as on the serious side. He chose to speak on "The Therapy of Laughter."

That afternoon 300 or more ladies took bus tours along Embassy Row. Our particular bus stopped at the Israel Embassy and also at the Istam Mosque Temple. The Temple is beautiful. The pulpit is made of 12,000 pieces. The chandelier weighs 200 tons. It took the Egyptian craftsmen 3½ years to inlay the tile on the wall. At the Israel Embassy we were served a tea and shown a movie explaining life and the customs in Israel.

That evening the Annual Get Acquainted Party was held. There were 3300 people that attended the conference and I believe all were at the party. It looked that way, at least.

Another day we had an Optional V.I.P. Private White House Tour followed by a tour of the city and the U.S. Capitol, and luncheon in the Caucus Room at the Senate Office Building. In the White House we were in the Library, the Diplomat Room, the East Room, the Dining Room, the Blue Room, the Green Room, the Red Room, and the North Entrance. We also viewed the dishes that were used during each presidency.

In the Capitol we were in the Senate but it was not in session at the time. We did see Senator Dirksen walking across the Rotunda in the Capitol.

Washington is a pretty city. It is one of the few great cities where no one minds if you are a tourist. There are 97 statues in Washington. There is also the Washington Monument, the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials and many other structures and landmarks.

That afternoon there was an Optional Mt. Vernon and Old Alexandria Tour. We visited Arlington National Cemetery previously during our free time. We were saddened when we stood at the site of our late President John F. Kennedy's burial place and also at the sites of the Astronauts' Roger Chaffee and Virgil Grissom graves.

Another afternoon the ladies attended a luncheon at the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland. Guest speaker was Mr. John Bostain of the State Department. He spoke of the different signals of communication that we use in our everyday life. We were a captive audience as he was interesting as well as humorous.

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Another evening the Mid-Atlantic Association gave a Gay Nineties Party. The music was enjoyable. A Gay Nineties motiff was carried throughout. This is the first conference that we have attended where there has been dancing and we believe it was an excellent thought.

We visited the Midwest Association's Friendship Room several times. The Committee and all the extra helpers were busy supplying everyone's need and they are to be commended. Mrs. Florence Smith, mother of Dudley Smith, attended the Conference. She resides in Kingston, New York. It was a pleasure being with her and we know she enjoyed herself tremendously.

The last evening the Annual G.C.S.A.A. Banquet was given. There were 960 people present for the dinner. The dinner was delicious and beautifully served. Entertainment followed. Featured were Joseph Sodja, Guitarist, formerly with Fred Waring; Singing Star Jeanne Steel, Singing Star from the Broadway hit "Gypsy"; and West and Maza, Unique Comedy Act.

There was more to see in Washington, D.C. California has extended to us an invitation to visit their state in '68. The Conference will be held in San Francisco. We are sure we will lose our heart in San Francisco.

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This section will be used whenever any one who wishes to dispose of, swap, sell or buy any thing of value.

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APRIL MEETING

In lieu of the educational program a general discussion will be held regarding Class E Associate Membership in the Midwest Association. All Class E members will be excused from attendance.

The week before our national conference, a letter was mailed to Chapter secretaries and voting delegates, authorized by the Midwest Board of Directors, endorsing Ted Woehrle as our candidate for director of the National Association. The letter related Woehrle's background, and qualifications for the position.

Walter Fuchs, first Vice President of Midwest Association, will give an address at the 32nd Iowa Conference on March 14th in Des Moines.

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