



HOLMES CORNER

I have been asked by Tom Burrows, new editor of the **Bull Sheet**, to submit a relatively short, newsy column for monthly use. This is an honor and I will make every effort to include interesting and timely material. I asked Tom if he believed the majority of **Bull Sheet** readers, especially those in the Chicago area, would be interested in news items from the outlands. Tom was sure readers would be interested, so I will occasionally include tidbits of information from and about your contemporaries.

Since November, I have participated in 12 turfgrass conferences. It is interesting to compare various subjects discussed at these conferences and then summarize information currently receiving the greatest amount of interest. For example, there was one talk on pesticide compatibility. It was reported that chemicals should not be mixed and applied at the same time; rather, application should be made separately. Nonetheless, no one seems to be doing this; rather a hodge-podge is mixed and applied at the same time.

There were 8 talks on weed control. Definitely, the greatest interest at the present time is on pre-emergent reacting products. Recently, I heard about some test work being done to kill *Poa annua* seeds with a flame-thrower. Four or five years ago, Bert Rost at Butterfield, was successful in eradicating young chickweed and knotweed with a butane flame. Interest is sufficiently high in Pennsylvania so that one manufacturer plans to develop a multi-burner flame-thrower for general use. Even though this is an old principle, I will be interested in developments.

Site selection for a golf course was discussed twice. The general conclusion was a soil high in sand content is superior to other types of soils for growing turf if adequate plant nutrients and water can be made available.

Considerable interest has developed regarding selection and use of various types or strains of Kentucky bluegrass and talks were heard on 6 different occasions. Even though new strains are being tested, none appear to be superior to Merion bluegrass in this part of the country at the present time. Interest here is centered around a type to be used as a satisfactory fairway turf; short cut!

Insect control was discussed 3 times. Organic phosphates are making inroads in this field and will claim an increasing share of the market. I hear that the chinch bug is getting further north.

Winter injury was discussed on 3 occasions. Of prime interest was injury resulting from a continued ice cover. An excellent symposium was held by the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents on this subject. Continuing research is being done at Michigan State. However, we still haven't learned or decided just what to do about the winter golfer.

Design was discussed on 2 occasions. Some intelligent ideas are finally developing in this area. Need for adequate surface drainage is finally getting across to some designers.

Turf diseases are always of interest to golf course superintendents and as expected, received their share of attention, 6 times. No new or novel advances have been made recently. It would appear, until chemicals which behave in a systemic-chemotherapeutic fashion are developed, no great variation from current practices is expected.

Sod production and types of sod to produce in given areas was discussed thrice.

Soil mixtures for green building as well as various artificial amendments were talked about 8 times. The method of putting green construction as developed by the USGA Green Section is receiving considerable discussion—pro and con.

Public, personnel relations and job definition, which includes such items as social security and retirement, were discussed on 12 occasions. There continues to be a great deal of interest here.

A report for preparing the golf course for tournament play was heard 3 times. Always, there are some interesting comment and anecdotes in these talks. It seems that if you have any grass at all, especially on fairways, many of the players complain it's too long and the ball "nestles". But, if you lose any or have deadened spots—watch out.

Specifically, the fairway problem as such was discussed only once. Nonetheless, fairway problems and what we propose to do about them were woven throughout many talks, even though the particular talk may not have been designed specifically for this purpose. As far as I can see, this continues to be our prime unsolved problem in the north midwest.

New and novel ideas for maintenance building construction were discussed on two occasions. Some great buildings are being erected incorporating new and novel concepts.

Fertilizers, the same as weed, insect and disease control, are always of interest to the golf course superintendent. Specifically, 7 papers were given on fertilizers. It seems the grass plant is still using the same old ones.

Three tree talks, which include selection, placement, trimming and maintenance, were made.

Five proper selection of turf talks were heard. This goes back somewhat to the tremendous interest in bluegrass (fairways) as most of these talks were about *Poa* sp.

Soil warming or specifically reports on the work done at Purdue University was heard one time.

Mechanization, "getting all golf course workers on wheels", for instance, was heard on 4 different occasions. Sounds like a good idea if you have the money.

(Continued)

Use of artificial-turf ground cover including such items as material used in the Astrodome, was specifically discussed on 1 occasion only. However, it is my firm opinion that we will hear a great deal more about this in the immediate future.

Only 1 talk was heard on lime. This presentation was at the University of Massachusetts and, as you know, soil acidity is of greatest importance in this area.

Talks on **Poa annua**, or specifically "is **Poa annua** friend or foe" were heard on 6 occasions. As a result, I would judge that most people consider **Poa annua** a foe and are taking more of an interest in just exactly how we can effectively and safely control this weed, especially in fairways. As soon as some-one figures it out, will you please let me know.

Thatch control was discussed twice. The upshot is that you've got to keep it down, 1/2 inch or less.

In New York, the Green Section devoted their entire program to golf course renovation. Certainly, there continues to be a great deal of interest in this subject as many of the older courses are either undergoing or preparing to undergo a renovation program. Let's only hope the play of the course actually improved after completion.

The talk heard the greatest number of times had to do with golf course irrigation. As a matter of fact, this subject was discussed on 16 different occasions. By far the greatest interest at the present time lies in complete "automatic irrigation". The trend definitely is in this direction. The prime reason seems to be labor, or perhaps I should say lack of competent and conscientious irrigation people necessary to operate a manual system. In any event, it appears that automation is here to stay and improvements are on the drawing board.

This year the biggest problem in golf course turf, especially in the north midwest, seems to be just exactly what we are going to do in order to develop or maintain a more acceptable and lasting fairway turf—that is if we can get the labor to do it!

James L. Holmes
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USGA Green Section

"THE EXPRESSWAY"

Troy Meness, former assistant at Edgewood Valley C. C. is the new Superintendent at Cress Creek C. C. . . . Buffalo Grove G. C. in Buffalo Grove, Illinois is near completion—Rod Voykin is Superintendent, Killian & Nugent are Architects, Milburn Company is the contractor, Koelper Excavating is sub-contractor for finish grading and seeding, A. J. Miller Company is installing the irrigation . . . Frank Dinelli at Northmoor C. C. removed 60 diseased elms in February . . . Oscar Miles tells us that Olympia Fields C. C. will host the 1968 "Western Open" . . . A question was asked at our last meeting—"Why haven't we had a Pro-Supt. joint meeting?"—Good question. . .


Medinah C. C. is trying out purchasing and sorting bulk fertilizer in a bin—a report from Gerald should be in order about next November . . . Ron Rossett at Skokie C. C. will install several cart paths this spring—Skokie C. C.'s new clubhouse addition is a real thing of beauty . . . Don Gricus, former Pro-Supt. at the Valley Lo Sportsman Club in Glenview

is now the Superintendent at the Fort Sheridan G. C. . . . Former Superintendent of Fort Sheridan G. C. and Midwest member Chuck Crater, is now attending language school in Texas and will go to Viet Nam in 8 months.

During January '67 Silver Lake C. C. constructed a 145 ft. concrete bridge on their South course—This spring Superintendent Dudley Smith will sod six newly constructed tees with Penncross . . . George Druzisky at Thorngate C. C. will reconstruct his #2 tee, install 4 new cart paths, and construct a new bridge . . . Jerry Cheeseman is investigating "Monday Golf Policies" at several Chicago Area Clubs and will have a report for the **Bull Sheet** in the near future . . . Harold Fredrickson's new assistant, Phil Bersin, comes from Olympia Fields C. C. after 1 year training there—Phil is a Penn State U. graduate and comes from Quincy, Ill. . . . Adolph Bertucci and Paul Voykin were interviewed on WEEF radio, Saturday, March 25th. The topic was golf courses and turf in general. . . .

Ron Rossett at Skokie C. C. has installed C. B. radios on his equipment . . . Much thanks to Paul Popp and the Indian Lake G. C., hosts of our April meeting . . . Bill Stupple turned up at our April meeting—he really looks good after losing 25 pounds and is now down to 210 pounds. He soaked up 2 weeks of Florida sun and for the remainder of the winter he baby-sat with his grandchildren.

There ain't nothin' purtier
than a lawn mowed with a
TORO
MOWER!



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