



## HOLMES' CORNER

by James L. Holmes  
 USGA Green Section  
 Mid-Continent Director

The Green Committee Seminar sponsored by the Chicago District Golf Association held at Butterfield Country Club on November 15, was indeed a success. Accolades to Mr. Ralph Peterson, Chairman of the Chicago District Golf Association, Green Committee, and others responsible for the program, are in order. A considerable amount of meaty information was made available to those present, which included club officials, golf professionals, club managers and golf course superintendents. Discussions concerning budgets and golf car operations seem to be of greatest interest. Jerry Dinelli had some great ideas on mechanization in the future and we were all interested in hearing his comments about the closed-circuit T.V. progress at Northmoor Country Club. Charlie Wilson was his usual sparkling self, as master of ceremonies, and kept all the speakers on time, which is no small task in itself.

All the golf courses Lee Record and I have visited since early October are in excellent condition and turf is "going to bed" in top shape.

Certainly, we must be on the look-out for abnormally dry conditions or ice sheet formation which may develop during the coming winter and early spring. It is interesting to observe that most golf course superintendents have gone back to topdressing. Or, certainly more topdressing is being done at present than was done only five years ago. Mr. Record said that fairly heavy topdressing in late fall is a fairly common practice in New England, as, in their opinion, turf on greens winters much better, when topdressing is used.

Last week, I had the pleasure of visiting the state owned golf courses in Kentucky. No doubt few people are aware that Kentucky currently is operating twelve golf courses in the state park system. I am not aware that any other state has such an energetic golf course program. Their courses are a great attraction and entice many people to make greater use of the parks system. Throughout the state there is an interesting combination in use of bermudagrass, Zoysia, bentgrasses and bluegrasses. One of their biggest problems, is that of obtaining, training and keeping competent help.

I had the opportunity to spend a week on the Costa del Sol in Spain, by taking advantage of the Chicago District Golf Association's weekly jaunts into this area. My wife and I had an absolutely fantastic time and would definitely recommend this trip to anyone having the opportunity to go. There are five golf courses where trip participants can play. Most of them are interesting lay-outs with good turf and playing conditions; comparable to the average or better courses in the greater Chicago area. I was amazed at the amount of bentgrass. Not only are all greens bentgrass but considerable bentgrass is present on tees and in fairways. Actually, I suppose this shouldn't be too much of a surprise as the Costa del Sol area reminds one very much of southern California and Arizona. The Spanish, at least those we come in contact with, are gracious and hospitable people.

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