



HOLMES' CORNER

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

The 16th Annual Turf Clinic, sponsored by the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, at Medinah Country Club, on November 19-20, was obviously a resounding success as more than 180 were in attendance. Dr. Houston B. Couch, key-note speaker, discussed overall maintenance of turf grasses based upon improvement in management programs through disease control. Dr. Couch was his usual entertaining self, and left us with a good sound message.

The trap maintenance panel, participants including, Harold Frederickson, Philip Bersin, Tom Gilman and Paul Voykin was excellent. I hope the information which came from this discussion is made available. Somewhat of a paradoxical question was put forth to the panel as to "exactly what is the purpose for having sand traps on a golf course?"

Later in the program Dr. Couch and Dr. Malcolm Shurtleff gave us a complete synopsis of the various fungi which are inciting organisms for turf grass diseases, and, suggested controls. As well as controls Dr. Shurtleff had some key information on which chemicals may or may not be mixed together in the same spray tank.

Mr. Charles Eckstein, past president of the Chicago District Golf Association, as well as being active in practically all phases of golf in the greater Chicago area, was toastmaster at the annual banquet. Mr. Eckstein enlightened us with an extremely interesting and informative discussion regarding the recent trip that he and Mrs. Eckstein made to the Costa del Sol in Spain.

Again this year, I had the distinct pleasure of appearing at the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association's 41st Annual Turf Conference, as a speaker. This is one of my very favorite turf conferences, as the men in Minnesota not only put-on an excellent turf conference but are able to make any and all outsiders thoroughly welcome. The highlights of this conference centered around automatic irrigation. It is interesting to note that superintendents in the Twin City area are actually leaders in installation of automation, in the Midwest. This is somewhat surprising when considering that Minnesota is quite far north, with a considerable amount of an-

nual precipitation. In any event, some of the systems installed are quite sophisticated and golf course superintendents are unanimously in favor of automation. Other highlights of the program, was the work being done at the University of Minnesota by Dr. Don White, especially his selection work with various types of fescue and his interest in esthetic grasses, for use on golf courses. Obviously we will be hearing more about Dr. White's work, in the future. Jim Watson gave a summary of the "mulching or turf blanket" work he has done for many years at the Toro Research plots. At the present time Jim says that open mesh type material appears to be the best.

Again this year the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents in conjunction with the Milwaukee Sewage Commission conducted a unit symposium, or one specifically to encompass one thought, idea or subject. The subject this year was **Poa annua**. The meeting, held on December 11-12, had many nationally recognized speakers such as Dr. Ralph Engel, Rutgers University, Dr. William Daniels, Purdue University, Dr. Paul Sartoretto, Cleary Chemical Company, Arthur Anderson recently retired Golf Course Superintendent from Braeburn Country Club, West Newton, Massachusetts, and Cecil Kerr, Manager, Turf Division, Chipman Chemical Company. The following was considered: 1) What is **Poa annua**? 2) **Poa annua** control through maintenance programs. 3) Chemical control of **Poa annua**. Mr. Anderson gave an excellent presentation discussing overall maintenance or turf management programs designed to grow grasses other than **Poa annua**. Mr. Anderson pointed out that he has been able to grow either Kentucky bluegrass or bentgrass primarily through maintaining for these more desirable types rather than for **Poa annua**. Specifically, Mr. Anderson said that most people tend to over fertilize, especially, with nitrogen, and to water entirely too frequently. These practices will and do encourage **Poa annua** to the point that it is almost impossible to control. Both Dr. Daniel and Dr. Engel discussed the taxonomy of **Poa annua** and explained various methods of chemical control. Chemical control at the present time is centered around the use of arsenicals such as calcium and lead arsenate, bensulide, and benefin. Cecil Kerr gave a complete run-down on actual and practical use of calcium arsenate and methods used to gradually reach toxic levels. It was repeatedly emphasized throughout these discussions, that rapid surface drainage or rapid removal of surface water, is absolutely essential before any **Poa annua** control programs are to be commenced.

Other prominent speakers such as Sherwood Moore, gave an interesting run-down on his "scorched earth" program at Winged Foot Country Club. Bill Small discussed the use of bensulide as packaged and sold by Mallinckrodt Chemical Works and Don Frank addressed the audience regarding research currently being conducted by Eli Lilly Company in testing their benefin material. Dr. Paul Sartoretto pointed out advantages which could be gained by using phenylmercuric acetate on **Poa annua**, especially as a wet deterrent.

I learned from Walter Fuchs, Jr., while attending the Wisconsin Turf Conference, that he plans to enter into private business. He plans to offer chemicals and other turf products in the Chicagoland area. The newly formed company will be known as "Turf Products". I certainly wish Walt success, and if his work with the Upjohn Company, the past few years, is an example "Turf Products" will succeed.