

FIELD TRIP NOTES

Midwest Clinic Dec. 3, 1974

By Charles Wilson

Daconil weekly seems to stop disease on newer Toronto bent plantings. Jackman has found extra water is required (12-15 gals. per M sq. ft.) . . . Var-gas seems to have dropped idea that it is a nematode induced problem. Myers, pathologist for Warrens' says the malady is caused by red leaf spot . . . Spring and late summer and fall seem to be critical times for appearance . . . in Chicago only on Toronto and only on new plantings . . . Wayne Otto says we have same thing on old Washington bent greens in Milwaukee area . . . problem only on close putting green cut. Collars are not affected . . . only occurs on one "strain" of Toronto bent at Michigan State and in Chicago area.

153 attended clinic for all time record attendance. Most favored the one day format so it will probably be continued. Paul Alexander will be looking for a commercial job after December 13, 1974.

Clausen from National Golf Foundation reports costs hurting private clubs . . . average club member plays 30 rounds each year at a green fee, only, cost of \$30.00 per round . . . more municipal courses in the offing. More women golfers and more women working on grounds . . . NFG says there are 75 accredited golf course architects yet one third of courses being built do not utilize their services . . . there are 160,000 individual golf holes in country, and 345,000 golf cars. Course in Colorado has built maintenance buildings underneath the parking lot to conserve space. Another course in Arizona has monorail golf car installation controlled by Pro Shop . . . terrific way to speed play. If golfer dawdles he may have to run to catch his golf car . . . 300 new superintendent jobs open each year with 100 full 4-year course superintendents trained to replace them . . . more executive or shorter courses being built.

Bob Williams sick with flu. Paul Woykin presented his paper. According to Bob, the "good news" — today's superintendents qualified, more talented, more articulate and producing better results than in the history of golf. The "bad news" is that the clubs can't afford them . . . average superintendent's age is now 25 to 35 years . . . according to a Dr. Daniels survey including 2-year and short course graduates, 450 technically trained men come on line each year with only 350 job openings . . . supply has caught up with demand, and college alone **doesn't** make a **qualified** superintendent. Despite this, courses are hiring such men to save a buck. This is unfair to the student and ultimately to the club and the game of golf.

Dr. Alexander said the "Corporate Superintendent" is not in a decision making job, but fringe benefits are great . . . play alone will not pay the cost of operating the resort clubs. The average budget at the five Hilton head courses comes to \$200,000 per year each, for maintenance only, and 49% of this is for materials and supplies, and does not include anything for capital improvements. 51% of budget is labor.

Harry Gray stated the "General Manager" concept came into being because the golf members asked for it. Today, most committeemen are busy, busy business men and no longer have the time to devote to club business affairs. Harry felt the triumvirate would continue to exist and do well at old line clubs where

the members did have the time to spend on club business, otherwise a general manager is a foregone conclusion . . . Harry feels the General Manager becomes the fourth management position. He can't see how either Pro, Superintendent or Club Manager can be elevated to the position and continue to perform his old duties at the same time.

Tim Miles now out of the golf business didn't hold much hope for outside contracting or superintendents moving into club ownership roles . . . Tim intimated the future security for golf superintendents must come from collective action, and although he did not specifically so state it smacked of unionization at the management level to several of us attending.

Dr. Ken Payne put in the expected professor approval for continued student training . . . he feels the golfer will not lower his standards for golf turf acceptance despite increased costs and poor economic conditions . . . Ken put in a plug for close contact with University personnel and support of research. He also credited industry with doing a good job in developing tools and materials.

Unfortunately, I missed some of Ken Quant's and Ted Sokolis' presentations. Some of the more amazing results of their surveys on greens soil mixtures were as follows:

2. Most Chicago area club still stick with a 1-1-1 or 1-2-1 by volume ratio of sand, soil and humus.
2. Sand content should be under 1/3 or over 70%, or concrete will result.
3. There isn't a single Purr-wick green in the area, and very few U.S.G.A. Spec greens, even though superintendents still refer to all 80% sand 20% humus greens as U.S.G.A. greens.
4. Almost no consideration has been given to gradation of sand particle size. My paper may have given some cause to think about this. Ken Killian was most interested in the "sand only" concept of putting green construction.

The "one day" format makes a long day for Wisconsinites . . . left home at 6:30 A.M. and returned about midnight.

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