

GREENKEEPER OFFERS FORMULA FOR SUCCESS AS GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS MARK ANNIVERSARY

'Eat, Sleep, Dream Grass', Mechling Advises Group Started Half Century Ago

The real secret in being a good greenkeeper, Paul Mechling, golf course superintendent at Sylvania Country Club, says, "is to sleep, eat, and dream grasses -- and to choose the kind of wife who'll bring you clean clothes to the office."

That is just one of the tips being bandied about this week at Mr. Mechling's home club on Monroe Street, which is the scene of the golden anniversary celebration of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

The organization was founded at Sylvania Country Club in 1926.

The observance began with displays and demonstrations of vintage turf and golfing equipment, including a horse-drawn mower. Photographs of early meetings and audio-visual presentations of the profession's early days were presented throughout the day-long event.

Palmer's Father Held Job

Arnold Palmer, whose father was a golf course superintendent, was the featured speaker at the evening banquet.

The 4,200-member international organization was originally known as the National Association of Greenkeepers of America.

Like Mr. Mechling, some superintendents still prefer to be called greenkeepers.

"It's a beautiful word and it tells it all," Mr. Mechling said.

The title is synonymous with superintendent; greenskeepers, on the other hand, are workers who oversee the greens.

Many Talents Required

A good superintendent today must be an agronomist, turf management specialist, scientific weather forecaster, operations planner, record keeper, budget expert, and be responsible for everything which grows or is attached to the ground. Sometimes, he must work around the clock.

And it helps to have a sense of humor. As GCSAA member Paul N. Voykin of Briarwood Country Club, Deerfield, Ill., said: "You can't get the thermometer for good grass-growing weather. Mother Nature is capricious and she'll hassle you every chance she gets."

First To Write Best Seller

Mr. Voykin, author of two how-to-grow-grass books, said that he is the first golf course superintendent to write a best seller on lawn care.

Chester Mendenhall, a past president and charter member of GCSAA, contrasted modern greenkeeping techniques with those used in post-World War I years when he was superintendent of Mission Hills Country Club, Kansas City, Kansas.

"We watered fairways with hoses, mowed with a horse-drawn mower, hand mowers were used on the greens", he said.

"If we mowed once a week, we were doing good".

The only fungicide available was an all-purpose chemical which was mixed with wet sand and broadcast over diseased areas.



Seeing is believing. These two pictures show what can happen to a beautiful lush bent grass fairway at Glen Oak C.C., Glen Ellyn, Ill. Grub worms congregated in an area of their choice. Roaming animals such as skunks or raccoons came upon this area and sensed there was something in this area of their liking. They went to work. The pictures show you what happened. The end results, Supt. Fred Opperman found it necessary to replace several hundred square feet of sod and apply an application of pesticides. The turfgrass may have the look of being in excellent condition on the surface, but sometimes there is trouble brewing underneath.

ROSEMAN

2620 CRAWFORD AVE. 864-1842
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

TURF EQUIPMENT HEADQUARTERS

ROSEMAN GANG MOWERS	FORD TRACTORS
TILLER RAKES	DEDOES AERIFIER
SNOW PLOWS	LOADERS
SEEDERS	LEAF MULCHERS
ROTO TILLERS	ROTARY MOWERS
HOMELITE CHAIN SAWS	HOMELITE PUMPS

SALES ● SERVICE ● PARTS ● RENTALS