

MID-SUMMER MEETS

Record attendance marks the first outdoor meet at Chicago

By HERB GRAFFIS

ALMOST 300 attended the first of the mid-summer meetings of the Green Section, inaugurated August 26, as an annual event to be held at the Mill Road Farm experimental station for the benefit of course maintenance in the central states. Greenkeepers from Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, Kentucky, Iowa and Ohio, and many chairmen from these states gave the new station an inspection, looked over A. D. Lasker's private golf course and played it. They had the work and aims of the national green section and the Chicago District green section presented to them by Dr. John Monteith, Jr., Kenneth Welton and C. M. Harrison of the U. S. G. A. Green Section and Guy Peters, chairman of the Chicago group.

Dr. Monteith opened the outdoor session by displaying several glass tubes in which various typical soils were contained. The bottoms of these tubes had been immersed in water. The demonstration vividly showed the slow movement of water in clay, the fast travel of water in sand, and the various performances of water in other soils. It was a simple and striking reminder of the necessity of varying watering practice according to the soils. Although the station at Mill Road Farm

has not been established long enough to be the source of any information that might be uniquely applicable to its section of the country, it has served to check many observations at Arlington, according to Monteith. He went over the various details of the layout with the crowd and dwelt especially on some of the plots of the same turf, cut to different lengths. Short cutting, so Monteith pointed out, affected fescue unfavorably, but did no damage to the bents. Harrison showed a very interesting array of root growth specimens to reveal the effect of short and long cutting.

Plan Snow Mold Tests

Arrangements are being made for conducting snow mold tests at Mill Road this winter, said Dr. Monteith. He also stated that seed tests were to be conducted on seeds of the same grasses, but from different sources. He emphasized that all grasses were getting an even start at the new station, so all possibility of erroneous conclusions due to varying initial conditions had been eliminated.

An exceedingly interesting demonstration of the putting machine was staged. It was shown that the various seeded and stolon greens varied but slightly in their



Some of the record crowd at the first Mill Road Farm meeting of the U. S. G. A. Green Section.

putting speed. To many of the visitors the tests with the old and new ball were most impressive. The larger and lighter ball goes nearly 7% farther on a level putt. On a slight down-hill slope it goes 18 inches farther than the present legal ball on approximately a 15-foot putt.

A Complete Laboratory

The Lasker golf course itself affords many opportunities of education in means and methods. Although the course is but two years old its condition would do great credit to that of clubs four times older. The greenkeepers who looked it over considered it a shining example of what could be done with money to spend correctly in the early stages rather than spread the same amount of money over a long period of years without ever attaining the shape the Lasker layout is in at the present time. Shining examples of what soil conditioning will do were evident to those who wandered into some of the heavy rough of the incoming nine. A few feet away from properly treated fairways in excellent condition, there was the untreated soil of the rough, cracked open wide enough to lose a caddie.

Lasker, starting his business career as a Texas newspaperman, became the head of one of the largest advertising agencies in the world, and the chairman of the U. S. Shipping Board by virtue of being able to show people how to get plenty for their money. It is his hope that the Green Section station to which he has given a ten year lease on his property, will function notably in the same respect.

In talking informally with a group of greenkeepers he stressed the possibilities of maintenance savings as the result of conclusions arrived at by the Green Section's work at the station. He cited the greens at his own course as an example. As uniformly true putting surfaces these greens have

been put by Supt. Tregillus in condition that defies reasonable criticism. This work, however, on this particular strain, requires such a heavy maintenance expense that eventually the greens are due for replacement. Due to the great difficulty of correctly identifying the strains of bent the Lasker course didn't get what the buyer and seller both thought was being supplied and such errors as this have no place in any enterprise that calls for operation on a business basis, Lasker maintains.

So much publicity has been given the excellence and exclusiveness of the Lasker course that the Green Section visitors fairly mobbed in accepting the invitation to play it. Almost 50 foursomes competed for the prizes given by the U. S. G. A. Green Section. Contestants were in such a hurry to get going that in many cases the alignment of green-chairmen and greenkeepers was not registered on the scoreboard. This left a job for Alex Binnie, Alex Law and "Hap" Martin, in determining the winner of the chairman-greenkeepers prize.

Peters Pilots Diners

The meeting concluded with a dinner at the new clubhouse of the Onwentsia club, with Guy Peters presiding as chairman. W. A. Alexander, one of the prime movers in the organization of the Green Section and a dean of green-chairmen, opened the evening session. Alexander dates back in mid-western golf far enough to have "fit the pesky redskins often the

land" on which now are some of the prize golf courses of the Chicago district. He commented on the fact that golf, thru governmental participation in Green Section activities, is the one popular sport that gets the government's financial help. He stated that golf had made American sport conscious



Kenneth Welton of the Green Section and C. A. Tregillus, superintendent of Mill Road Farm, demonstrate the green testing-putting machine.

and paid high tribute to the pro and greenkeeper as vital factors in the continual growth of the game.

C. A. Tregillus, superintendent of the Mill Road Farm and formerly operating head of the Canadian Green Section, spoke briefly on the work at the Lasker course and experimental station. He told of the intention to tackle problems peculiar to the midwest. In telling of the turf garden construction he related that there was no tile under the experimental plots. Tregillus put in a lot of hard work in making the first outdoor meeting in central territory and to him and his chief, Lasker, thanks and credit was given in full measure.

Guy Peters suggested that the Green Section work on the problem of watering fairways without having the fairways go heavily into clover. He suggested that others make suggestions for Green Section work. The problem of too much clover on watered fairways was one that the St. Louis delegation, headed by Eberhard Anheuser and Walter Reed, shared with the Chicago bunch. Other troubles mentioned were dandelions, plantain, ants and gophers. The greenkeepers suggested that the Green Section go into the matter of proper cutting length further in carrying out the work mentioned by young Harrison of the Section during the morning demonstration.

Jack Patterson of Midlothian was called upon to tell of his experience with arsenate of lead and his testimony concerning the material for weed, grub and worm control in the Chicago district made many "believers." Jack also had some practical statements to offer on drainage, emphasizing the point that surface drainage on slopes wasn't sufficient if one wanted to get good turf at these locations; sub-surface drainage bringing water to the grass roots, was necessary.

Dr. Monteith dwelt upon the plans of the Green Section for sectionalizing its work so it would be eminently applicable to each location and showed what the Section was up against due to its limited funds. He cited the case of a Florida greenkeeper's complaint about the Section not doing enough in Florida. Each club member of the Green Section pays \$30 a year to the Section. In Florida there are 14 members (of which the complainant's club was not one). This made a total of \$420 a year from Florida, where the Green Section spent \$900 last year.

The citation was illuminating. Monteith told of some of the expenses of turf laboratory work and quickly disillusioned any who might have thought that an experimental station could be run properly on a shoestring.

Alex Binnie, president of the Midwest Greenkeepers' association announced that all visitors would be welcome at any of the Midwest's member courses the following day and in closing activities of a crowded session lauded John MacGregor, first president of the Midwest, for his work in stirring up the central states to a keen interest and effort in better golf course maintenance.

J. B. Buckner, Sprinkler Maker, Dies

FRESNO, Calif.—J. B. Buckner, sales manager of the Buckner Mfg. Co., which is headed by his father, died of heart failure August 12. Young Buckner was widely known by greenkeepers in all parts of the country, his likeable personality and knowledge of his business of golf course watering winning him a welcome everywhere.



J. B. Buckner

His passing at a time when he was coming into the rich years of his career is greatly lamented by his host of friends in the golf field.

Northeastern New York Pros Promote Glen Falls Open

GLEN FALLS (N. Y.) C. C. and the Northeastern New York P. G. A. will hold a 72 hole open event Sept. 16 and 17 at the Glen Falls course which is 200 miles north of New York City at the headwaters of the Hudson. Prize money to the extent of \$1,670 is offered, divided fifteen ways, with the winner taking \$500 and the last five \$20 apiece. Entry fee is \$5. Entries close Wednesday, Sept. 11, with Ben Lord, the Glen Falls pro.