

CROWDS ATTEND AMHERST CONFAB

By HERB GRAFFIS

Second Massachusetts Recreation Conference Draws Large Attendance of Sports Experts

SECOND annual recreation conference at Massachusetts State college, Amherst, March 15-17, confirmed observers' first hunches that this conference is one of the really big and effective jobs in handling the operating departments of "the new leisure."

With school's famous greenkeeping course as a nucleus, the conference was built out to include forestry, hunting and fishing, winter sports, camping, hiking, archery and community recreation. In the MSC athletic "Cage"—a building ideally suited for exhibition purposes many manufacturers had displays of equipment for golf and other sports. Extremely interesting and educational display were made by the greenkeeping students of MSC, the Connecticut Assn. of Golf Course Supts., Greenkeepers' Club of New England, Northeastern New York Greenkeepers' Assn. and the MSC Greenkeepers Alumni Assn.

The MSC students' exhibit on the influence of soils on some important factors of turf culture, combining a chart and demonstrations, was something that would ease many problems if it could be more extensively displayed before greenkeepers and club officials. Sample boxes of turf from members' courses were displayed by the Connecticut superintendents in a way that should be copied by many other sectional greenkeeping organizations. The Connecticut fellows' exhibit went on tour for display at garden club meetings and in store windows in the state, after being one of the show-stoppers to the crowd of approximately 3,000 that inspected the exhibits. Prizes were awarded at the MSC exhibit for soil composition judging and for sowing of mixed German bent at 4 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft.

Many Greensmen Attend

About 250 greenkeepers, pros and club officials sat in at the golf sessions. The program was broad and well balanced. All of the addresses deserve more space than can be given them here. At a sectional heads' conference presided over by Hugh Baker, president of MSC, plans were dis-

cussed for the publication of all sections' papers in full each year.

Brief summaries of golf section addresses follow.

Miss Elfriede Klaucke, of MSC agronomy dept., a very bright and serious lass, making her maiden flight in convention addressing, showed by blackboard illustrations of grass structure that it was possible to identify grasses without being misled by apparent differences in the same strain of grass grown under different conditions.

Charles L. Parker advised that ski slopes be laid out for the duffers instead of the Grade A skiers who are only about 10% of these pastimers. Select slides where the prevailing winds and sunshine will not sweep snow off and see that slides are free of stump, rocks and trees, he said. He pointed out dangers of improperly constructed toboggan chutes and gave some pointers on toboggan, ski slope and skating pond location with reference to clubhouse. Bob-sled runs he said cost too much for country clubs, commenting that the Olympic games run cost \$100,000.

Tremendous increase in winter sports at New England country clubs unquestionably was influenced by the first recreational conference. Last season almost all New England clubs had winter sports facilities which means more interest and income for the club and more responsibility for greenkeepers.

Jay Haddock, instructor in agronomy, MSC, reminded greenkeepers that most fertile soils are teeming with beneficial bacteria and mentioned as factors of growth favorable to soil micro-organisms temperatures of from 40 to 100 degrees F (with 83 degrees being best); 20% to 40% moisture, 35% oxygen, organic food, and a slightly acid condition.

H. C. Darling, formerly MSC greenkeeping student and star athlete and now owner of Juniper Hill GC, Northboro spoke of the necessity of proper rates for fee courses and urgency of fee course owners' agreement to preserve a fair scale. Rate competition with muni courses is impossible, Darling stated. Education of fee course players in golf etiquette and

consideration for the course were two details he said could be well handled by a competent pro. Work that fee courses are doing in advertising and developing golf calls for appreciation and cooperation from all factors in the game.

Legislative matters, competition of horse racing, and the tendency of fee course owners to get panicky when they hear rumors of cut rates at competing fee courses all require that New England fee course owners organize, or else . . . Darling concluded.

"Pink Spot" Another Turf Misery

L. E. Erwin of the Rhode Island Experiment station showed lantern slides on "pink spot" which has been growing in seriousness in New England. It's from the size of a dollar up to 1½ ft. in diameter and hits bluegrass, bent and rye. It is found in abundance on fairways. Tips of affected grass get red and very hard. In wet fall the disease spreads. It is often confused with dollar spot. It bleaches the grass white. Calo-Clor was recommended as control. The disease likes a little colder weather than brown-patch. In Australia the disease is active the year around, but in New England its activity so far has been confined to the period from June to October, inclusive.

Howard Farrant, greenkeeper of The Country Club (Brookline, Mass.) told of getting his course ready for the 1934 National Amateur. Plenty of sand in traps, mowing fairways with reference to the shots required, cup location and attention to tree trimming, were mentioned as high spots.

Alfred T. Comstock, chairman Park commissioners, Lynn, Mass., related details of handling CWA labor on golf projects. Municipal golf courses, he said, usually require nothing from tax levies. At Lynn a big factor in the operation of the muni course is a private club with elected officials and small dues. Much development work is done in group lessons. School children and industrial golf leagues are lively phases of the operation. One hundred four men teams are signed up for league competition this year.

Clubhouse parties are conducted as counter-attractions to roadhouses and dance halls. A brisk winter sports schedule is conducted. Comstock regards well run municipal golf as a big item in municipal promotion. He also said that the formation of a private club at a muni course is an effective way of teaching and enforcing golf etiquette. There are 650

season members at the Lynn muni course.

E. E. Evaul, a star practical troubleshooter of the New Jersey State Experiment station made a great talk on the effect of soil texture and structure in fine turf maintenance. Evaul had a number of turf and soil specimens the fellows examined and discussed for more than an hour after his address was ended. Evaul is out of golf turf work now because the state recently cut short its funds for this work. This is a tip-off to the futility of hoping that state stations will be able to make up for curtailment in USGA Green Section activities.

Evaul pointed out accumulative dangers of improper top-dressing and drainage that separates in layers and seals the soil at low spots. Soil packing from watering, traffic, rolling, mowing and worming also contributed to plenty of hell for the greenkeeper. Spiking affords temporary relief.

Evaul advocated that the greenkeeper, pro, manager and green-chairman play a round of golf once a week or otherwise make a careful inspection of the course together.

He reminded that arsenate of lead was not a permanent proposition but had to be regularly applied. He also counseled that greenkeepers and chairmen need a long time plan into which each year's work fits, and that complete records be kept for benefit to the work and for protection and advancement of the greenkeeper.

Herb Graffis, editor of GOLFDOM, two-timed the conference with talks on the Prevention and Cure of Brain-Patch among greenkeepers and green-chairmen. He made clinical analysis of specific cases of brain-patch showing how the disease costs golf operations more than any other disease. Mentioned in detail were examples of conditions under which brain-patch flourishes; principal ones being bull-headedness, ignorance, suspicion, haste, gossip, miserly attitude, narrowness, and plain lack of sportsmanship. In recommending a cure for most cases of brain-patch, he advised that when the first symptoms appear, that of a pouting or fluent bellyache, that the victim immediately examine himself to see if he might be wrong instead of the other guy.

Guy West, talking on "The Club, the Greenkeeper and the Research Worker", said that the first step in getting good results from the greenkeeping department was to hire the right man and let him budget and buy. The greenkeeper must not order what the club can't pay for, he



This display, having attracted the crowds at the MSC conference, is now on tour through New England. It is a smartly organized presentation of the science of greenkeeping.

emphasized. A national plan for coordinate research is a necessity. The Green Section's sadly curtailed work now cannot be supplemented by state work under the present plan of enforced attention to local problems, so West stated. He commented that wherever greenkeepers are most active and successful, the most work is being done by research experts; but at present there still is great need of understanding by greenkeepers of the research workers' problems. He told of the combination meeting and tournament of the New England pros and greenkeepers and urged that this annual New England affair be adopted in other sections. West hoped that the New England association would be able to finance scholarships enabling their comrades to take short courses in other parts of the country and compare the work.

Lawrence S. Dickinson, the MSC college greenkeeping authority around whose able work recreational conference was built, followed West with tributes on research work in various sections of the country, citing specific names and cases. Dickinson also spoke on winter injury to turf at a later session, saying that it wasn't the winter but turf and soil shortcomings that accounted for injury.

R. D. Mansfield told of factors determining the selection of peat having desirable available water capacity. Roland Sturtevant advised greenkeepers to consider possible injury to turf from ultra-speedy maintenance work and to look for speed first by eliminating waste motions from the greenkeepers' own management and labor methods.

Mason Strikes New Note

Charles E. Mason, president of the Massachusetts GA made a significant address in the concluding session. He said

that the policy of wisely run golf clubs now is to look for opportunities of increasing the club income instead of spending all the time worrying about how little money can be spent in properly and attractively running the plant. Mason cited cases to show how well clubs had weathered the depression by thinking of the income factor instead of becoming panic-stricken with budget cuts. Mason named extension of country club appeal to a community center status as the bright idea for a happy future of country clubs. This sane, confident counsel to golf clubs that have soft-pedalled their hopes of growing, came out of conservative New England as a keynote of intelligent club policy in 1935.

Jack Mackie, ace spellbinder of the pros and a greenkeeper of ability himself, called on greenkeepers and pros alike to get together and remember that the clubs have the first call on the attention of department heads. He mentioned that the tour made by Dickinson under PGA auspices was for the purpose of showing both greenkeepers and pros that they had one common interest. He cited big attendance of greenkeepers at Dickinson meetings held in PGA sections to show that the smartest greenkeepers and the smartest pros are those who work together. Jack said the louder a pro squawks about course condition the less he knows, usually, about the greenkeeper's work.

Mackie put in a strenuous and official criticism of pari-mutual wagering at open tournaments during his address. He urged that all clubs join the USGA.

Exhibitions of shot-making were given in the Cage by Mac Sennett, Les Cottrell, Peter Dunn, Gene Mosher and John Cowan during the conference.

More than fifty club manager attended the special session on salads and beef cut judging. The attendance at the managers' section was such that at next year's conference it is planned to make a big feature of this department.

President Baker, Dickinson and their associates at Massachusetts State college are to be congratulated on a great affair, which has had a definite effect on the recreational work and finances in the state. The idea is one that might well be adopted by other states where winter sports could be developed.

Iowa Club Pays Price of Maintenance Progress

"Appropriations were allowed to mow the weeds, thus necessitating the erection of two retreats."—*From news report of the annual meeting of the Brookside GC in the Algona (Ia.) Upper Des Moines.*

Iowa State Greens Course Sets New Record

FOURTH annual greenkeepers' Short Course, held at Iowa State College, Ames, March 4 and 5, was unusually successful in attendance and interest shown. The attendance this year broke all records, falling just short of the one-hundred mark.

Laboratory work presented in the entomology, soils and plant pathology laboratories was a new feature this year and was well received. Probably instruction given in future courses will show a definite trend toward the laboratory rather than the lecture type of teaching. The various laboratory periods were conducted by members of the college staff.

The course was opened by a talk on the place of golf and greenkeeping in modern life by Prof. B. S. Pickett, head of the Department of Horticulture at the college. Kenneth Welton of the USGA Green Section and O. J. Noer of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission were headliners of the lecture part of the program. Welton

presented many new facts in advances in greenkeeping methods, a good deal of it being material which has not yet appeared in print. Noer helped to interpret many difficulties which courses have experienced under the unusual climatic conditions of recent years.

At the greenkeepers' dinner Monday evening, Jack Welsh, president of the Iowa Greenkeepers Assn., was toastmaster. Speakers of the evening was I. T. Bode, State Fish and Game Warden of Iowa, who stressed the importance of the conservation movement now so popular.

A number of speakers were on the program who have not appeared on previous short courses at Iowa State College. Jess Fultz, agristologist of the Bureau of Plant Industry, gave an interesting talk on the distribution and physiology of grasses. Earle M. Barrows of Minneapolis presented the plant count method of turf study which he and his co-workers up in Minnesota have been using with striking results. The novelty of this study and the apparently great possibilities contained in it attracted considerable attention among the greenkeepers. Paul E. Burdett of Armour Fertilizer Works, Chicago Heights, Ill. told of his experience with soil tests on many of the large and prominent golf courses of northern Illinois and Indiana. A number of commercial displays of machinery and golf supplies were exhibited.

The attendance was largely from Iowa and Missouri. Many of the Kansas City group who compose the Heart of America Greenkeepers Association were out for the course, under the leadership of Wilhelm Peters of the Lynn Estate, Kansas City, Missouri. About a dozen from Kansas City were registered for the course.

General interest and enthusiasm displayed at this short course certainly must be an indication that the Iowa Greenkeepers Assn. is going to have an unusually successful and interesting season this summer.



Here's part of the record attendance at the 1935 Iowa State Greenkeepers' Short course