

GREENKEEPERS'

BY any rating the fourteenth annual greenkeepers' convention and exhibit sponsored by the Greenkeeping Superintendents' Assn. was the most successful conducted for American golf course maintenance. The sessions and show were held at Hotel New Yorker, New York, Feb. 6-9.

In attendance the official registration hit past the 700 mark, and the non-registered attendance of greenkeepers, green-chairmen, pros and equipment and supply men made total attendance approximately 1,000.

The educational program went strong on the management phases of greenkeeping. This was especially timely since the scientific advances made during the past 15 years by the close cooperation of operating men and scientists have left the financial aspects of the work to the rear. Now the course superintendents are wrestling with tough problems of budget-making and budget application, and their personal financial situation which generally does not reflect the greenkeepers' collective and individual contributions to the betterment of course maintenance.

Educational Program Listed

Scientific phases were treated in two sessions of the educational program; one on Fairway Renovation and Maintenance, presided over by M. E. Farnham, supt., Philadelphia CC, and the other on Residual Poisons, over which Dr. Walter Eisenminger of Mass. State College presided. There were three management sessions on the program; one on Finance and Greenkeeping, at which Dr. John Monteith, Jr., was chairman; one on Handling One's Self, presided over by Prof. Ralph Childs of Columbia University, and the concluding one on The Superintendent and His Future, at which Thomas Longnecker of the N. J. Experiment Station read the paper of Dr. Howard Sprague on training the greenkeeper of the future.

Discussion brought out that minimum cost of the proposed college education for prospective greenkeepers would be \$800, plus the student's living expenses. It also was agreed that present lack of play load distribution at private courses was a

Like all other phases of the convention, the GSA annual banquet drew a capacity throng. This photo shows only a portion of the crowd on hand.

HOTEL NEW YORKER FEBRUARY 6, 1940



MEETING IS RECORD-BREAKER!

By Herb Graffis

big factor in too high costs. There was some debate as to the present low salaries of greenkeepers warranting expense of a college education.

Summer employment on courses was emphasized as a necessity for the tenants.

Mention was made of present superintendents' need of public relations, accounting and other subjects in short courses.

Prof. L. S. Dickinson of Mass. State College related the successful tie-up between college work and field educational work done by the MSC greenkeeping students who "have been coming out of our place at the rate of about 30 a year for the last 15 to 18 years." Reference was made to the increase in turfed recreational areas of government projects to expanding the field for course maintenance students.

In several instances mention was made of the tax burdens of private clubs competing with public courses, as adversely effecting the greenkeepers' job outlook.

Leo J. Feser and Dr. E. E. Evaul were chairmen of the Educational Program. Joseph H. Burbeck got the conference schedule under way.

Convention papers, digested, will appear in this and succeeding issues of GOLF-DOM.

Buying Is Lively

Convention exhibits were well attended. Lively buying interest was in evidence. A new and attractive booth arrangement

put a high class punch into the exhibits, presented by the Show committee, Don R. Boyd, chairman. There was a minimum of exhibitors' entertaining done in the hotel rooms. Convention officials and delegates agreed this absence of a distracting factor contributed to the business success of the meeting.

National publicity on the GSA annual convention reached a new high, continuing the extension of greenkeepers' recognition in newspaper sports pages. New York newspapers in which the competition for space is especially keen, revealed Charley Burns' marked ability as a press agent for the association.

Detroit Gets '41 Convention

The GSA will return to Detroit, scene of its first meeting as the National Association of Greenkeepers, for its 1941 convention and exhibit.

Two 2-day outdoor educational conferences and equipment demonstrations will be inaugurated by the GSA next summer. One will be held in California. The place and date will be announced by Wm. H. Johnson, supt., Griffith Park, chairman of the California affair. The other new one will be held at Pinehurst, N. C., Atlanta, Ga., or Augusta, Ga. The GSA annual golf championship probably will be played at the southern meeting.

Considerable progress was made in expanding the national scope and unity of the organization during informal sessions

Harold McManus (L), supervisor of New York City's golf courses, and O. J. Noer, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission's noted turf expert, view the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture exhibit, which shows, in miniature, turf being treated with arsenate of lead to control the Japanese beetle.



GSA NAMES NEW OFFICIALS

JOHN GRAY, Essex G&CC, Sandwich, Ont., Pres.

HAROLD STODOLA, Kellar Park GC, St. Paul, Minn., V.P.

A. L. BRANDON, St. Charles (Ill.) CC (re-elected) Sec. & Treas.

New Directors

Chet Mendenhall, Mission Hills CC, Kansas City, Mo.; Robert Pollack, Llanerch CC, Philadelphia, Pa. Fred Kruger,* Olympia Fields CC, Olympia Fields (Chicago district) Ill. (Charley Burns, Akron, Ohio, has been named to fill the term of the late Mr. Kruger.)

The following committee chairmen were appointed: Bob Pollack, finance; Harold Stodola, editorial; Ray Rolfs, North Hills CC, Menomonee Falls, Wis., law & grievance; Don Boyd Portage CC, Akron, show; Chet Mendenhall and Kent Bradley, Passaic County (N. J.) GCse, membership.

Ed Cale, Canoe Brook, Summit, N. J., was appointed to head the Federal Turf Research Committee, a group that will attempt, again, to convince our national lawmakers that funds should be set aside for the study and development of turf—because it not only affects golf courses, but individual lawn owners, and involves an annual expenditure of \$200,000,000 per year in the U. S. which is the sum submitted by the Department of Commerce for money used in lawns, estates, cemeteries, and golf courses.

The bill was presented last year but shuttled around by politicians.

*Died Feb. 17, 1940.

that helped to clear away comparatively minor details that have prevented a nationwide alliance of all the strong regional greenkeeper groups.

At New York the GSA took a step that has been long debated, not only by greenkeeping superintendents but by pro and manager organizations. The GSA decided that future applicants for membership will be required to pass examinations qualifying them as technical as well as practical experts.

The GSA has examining boards in 6 zones corresponding with major divisions of growing conditions. Applicants for GSA membership will take an examination based, generally, on type of examination paper prepared by Robert Mitchell, Edison Club, Rexford N. Y. This paper won the national contest conducted by the GSA.

Accrediting superintendents by this examination it is believed will be of considerable help to clubs that are looking for qualified men.

At the association's annual banquet, Col. John Morley, a veteran founder of the organization, was honored with a plaque identifying him as greenkeeping's Man of the Year. William D. Richardson, the New York Times' noted golf writer, and associate editor of GOLFDOM and of GOLFING, made the presentation. Another presentation practice was established when Joe Ryan, 1938 president of the organization, was the recipient of a silver service. Don Boyd, who displaced Ernie Jacobs as the GSA golf champion, was presented with his trophy at the banquet.

The banquet, engineered by Ed Cale, and smoothly opened by Frank Ermer, GSA president, was sold out to capacity. Joe Dey, Jr., of the USGA, Gene Larkin, green-chairman of the Metropolitan GA, and R. F. Arnott, green-chairman of the New Jersey GA, were featured speakers. Herb Graffis of GOLFDOM comported as toastmaster.

Greenkeepers even supplied star performers for the clever floor show. Audrey, the diminutive sub-deb daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Anderson, was ribbed up by her sisters to act as stooge in a juggling act. She held her first cigarette, unlit, between her teeth and a dumb-bell thrower knocked it away. Lawrence Huber stooged with a cigar in the same act.



Executive committee of the Greenkeeping Superintendents Assn., as chosen at the recent annual convention in New York City, lined up in the following order for the photographer: (standing, l to r) Chet Mendenhall, Mission Hills CC, Kansas City; Ray Rolfs, North Hills CC (Milwaukee Dist.); Bob Pollack, Llanerch CC, Manoa, Pa.; Ed B. Cale, Canoe Brook CC, Summit, N. J.; (seated) Harold Stodola, vice-pres., Kellar Park, St. Paul, Minn.; Don R. Boyd, Portage CC, Akron, Ohio; newly elected president John Gray, Essex G&CC, Sandwich, Ont., Canada. Not in the picture are A. L. Brandon, re-elected to the secy-treas. post he has held since 1932; and Charley Burns, Good Park GCse, Akron, Ohio, who has been appointed to fill the term of the late Fred Kruger.