

800 at GSA Meeting

Convention elects Harold Stodola, Ed Cale and Gus Brandon to lead superintendents in season ahead

BY
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MORE than 800 registered at the annual educational conference and equipment exhibition of the Greenkeeping Supts. Assn. held at Book-Cadillac Hotel, Detroit, Mich., Feb. 4-7. The superintendents and equipment men journeyed in from all parts of the country, and although the organization's New York convention hit a larger attendance figure, this affair at Detroit set the record for thorough national coverage.

Prominence of the motorized and other labor-saving devices at the Equipment show and the informal talks of those at the convention made it plain that golf maintenance was getting set to keep a high standard of course condition despite man-power curtailment resulting from the inability of golf clubs to meet job competition of defense work.

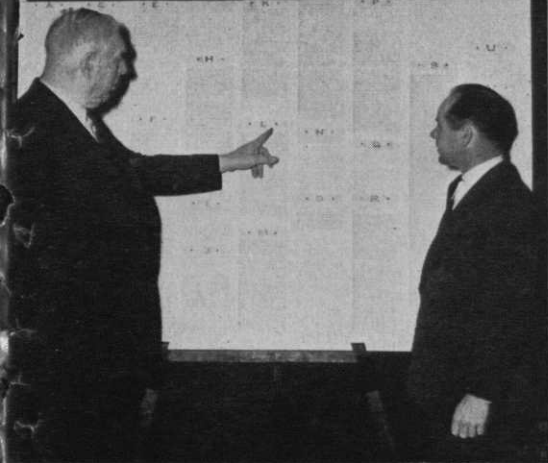
Two excellent general talks were on the conference program. One by Henry G. Weaver of General Motors Corp. outlined GM's method of securing and appraising customer's ideas and complaints. Weaver pointed out that the customer isn't always right but that in numerous instances squawks because he doesn't know what he's talking about, and that might be the fault of the customer educational policy,

whether of General Motors or a green-committee.

W. J. Cameron, Henry Ford's publicity man spoke on how social and economic conditions effect golf as well as every other business and living plan. He remarked that golf as an "ancient and honorable" pastime once was considered mainly the privilege of the upper classes in this country and now is a pleasure available to all, in showing that privileges in one generation become the common property of later generations as civilization progresses. The Cameron address is to be printed in booklet form by the GSA.

Dr. James Tyson of Michigan State College was introduced as the conference general chairman by M. E. Farnham of the Philadelphia CC. The technical subjects were opened by the talk (illustrated by slides) of Dr. Fred Grau, of Pennsylvania State College, on Weed Control in Fairways and Rough. Dr. Grau's able and well-received treatment of this topic is printed elsewhere in this issue of GOLF-DOM. H. C. Purdy, supt. of the Toronto (Ont.) GC, followed Dr. Grau's address with an exceedingly interesting description of chemical weed control work done at his club.





(Top) John Gray (l.) and Harold Stodola study the registration 'scorecard' provided by Postal Telegraph. Quick tab could thus be kept on all registrants, as card carried room number as well as name.

(Middle) H. C. Purdy 'caught' by the cameraman while telling the greensman of the swell job chemical weed control did at his club. James Tyson, convention educational chairman, is seated beside the speaker.

(Bottom) Among the women who accompanied their greenkeeper huddies to the convention were: (l. to r.) Mrs. Harold Stodola, Mrs. Stan Graves, Mrs. Charley Burns, Mrs. Don Boyd, and Mrs. Edith Butler.

(Opposite) General view of crowd attending annual greenkeepers banquet.

Purdy told that they found they had to cut their rate of sodium arsenite application about one-third on heavy soil. He described the sprayer outfit having a 20 ft. boom with 14 1/32 in. orifice nozzles, which he employed effectively. He is using arsenic acid generally for weed control at Toronto. He said they never think of limiting treatment to one application, but follow up with a second and a third, if necessary. He reported the usual beefs of members at the discoloration of grass, but eventual rejoining.

Purdy advocated spiking before application of chemical weed control. He emphasized the necessity of fertilizing after the weeds are killed. At his course he needed to do but little reseeding after the first application which was too strong and killed grass. He told of some of his fairways having been from 80 to 95% weeds. Purdy advised working out proper rates of application by study of test treatments. Don't put any tractor or motor outfits on areas until 48 hours after the areas have been treated, he advised.

H. L. Bancroft, supt. public parks, Lansing, Mich., who is in charge of 3 public courses and is building a fourth, told of meeting the increasingly complex problems of public course operation. His remarks, covering a public golf situation that's one of the country's models, will be printed in an early issue of GOLFDOM, as will the talk of Reuben Scott, under whose superintendency Detroit's public courses have won recognition of one of the city's most popular recreational facilities.

Bruce Matthews, supt. at Green Ridge CC, Grand Rapids, Mich., gave an illuminating talk on "Landscaping the Golf Course." Matthews pointed out that a large percentage of our courses had been laid out and constructed on farm land or land that had been already cleared, with the result there were many wide open spaces. A planting program was immediately launched by many of these clubs, because the need for trees was recognized almost at once. The first step in landscaping the golf course is usually 'shade around the tees.' Matthews urged the naturalistic style of planting to get the woodland or pastoral character. He pointed out that one of the major objects of the plantings is to be ornamental, but it may also be to accentuate, to screen, to

enframe, or form a background, or definitely for shade. Trees may also be used as hazards in place of traps in the rough. The use of trees as fairway hazards is poor golf architecture and certainly not to be recommended, he said.

The lecture and colored movies of birds, presented by Cleveland P. Grant, gave golf course superintendents many tips on how to attract more birds to their courses, and an absorbing talk on bird habits.

Prof. Ray Hutson of Michigan State College gave the players a break when, in speaking of insect pests found on golf courses, he dealt with not only insects attacking turf, shrubbery and trees, but those attacking players. Control of drainage and thinning shrubbery and heavy rough reduce some of the plagues. He warned against allowing decaying vegetable matter to accumulate in a manner that would promote breeding of insect pests. For eliminating chiggers he recommended 50 lbs. of dusting sulphur per acre. His address was rich in definite working information and will be run in GOLFDOM.

Prof. M. L. Turk of Michigan State College spoke on "Soil Germs, Their Role in Compost and Special Fertilizers." His was a highly informative talk in acquainting the superintendents with the primary character and function of various forms of soil life. He outlined the influence of soil environment on micro-organisms and high-lighted the detrimental processes of certain soil microbial processes that produce plant or animal diseases, denitrify the soil, or compete with the higher plants for available nutrients.

The Smiths—C. H., green-chairman of Essex T&CC, Windsor, Ont., and Wm., supt. of Red Run GC, Detroit, spoke on "Qualifications of a Golf Course Supt." C. H. Smith is chairman of the club to which retiring President John Gray of the GSA is supt. He said that a love of nature, in his opinion, was an essential

of a successful greenkeeper. That, a broad scope of technical knowledge, the power to supervise, canny financial judgment and a willingness and capacity to seek and handle responsibility, rounded out the successful superintendent.

Wm. Smith, from the greenkeeper's viewpoint, set forth these qualifications of the superintendent who makes good:

1—Ability to sell his services to his club and to establish confidence in him, among his officials, employees and members.

2—The ability to accumulate and put into operation when required sound, comprehensive knowledge of course maintenance work in all its details.

3—The ability to detect and avoid accumulative error.

4—Good financial judgment.

5—A good knowledge of mechanism.

Dr. John Monteith, jr., speaking with slide illustrations on "Turf Diseases and Their Control," and Dr. J. W. Bengston, lecturing, also with slides, on "Rates of Seeding and Fertilizing" gave resumes of their findings in USGA Green Section work.

Concluding the conference was the address of Dr. James Tyson of Michigan State College on "Topdressing Greens." This practical paper is scheduled for early publication in GOLFDOM.

Ford Motor Co. arranged an interesting tour of Ford Motor Co. plants which was taken by approximately 80 greenkeepers during a gap in the conference program. The greenkeepers saw the new Ford tractor with the Ferguson System being manufactured from stem to stern and also witnessed the amazing line production methods in operation making Ford automobiles. Ford's River Rouge steel plant also was visited. After a brief tour of the Ford experimental farm and the Dearborn Village historical exhibit, the greenkeepers were luncheon guests of Mr. Greenwood of the Ford tractor plant at the Dearborn Inn.

G S A 1941 OFFICERS

Pres. Harold Stodola, Keller Park GC, St. Paul, Minn.

Vice-Pres. Edw. B. Cale, Canoe Brook CC, Summit, N. J.

Sec.-Treas. A. L. Brandon, St. Charles CC, St. Charles, Ill.

Directors elected for a 2-year-term:

T. T. Taylor, Westchester CC, Rye, N. Y.

Wm. H. Johnson, Griffith Park GC, Los Angeles, Calif.

John Darrah, Beverly CC, Chicago, Ill.

Directors with one more year of their elected term to serve are:

Robt. Pollock, Llanerch CC, Philadelphia, Pa.

Chet Mendenhall, Mission Hills CC, Kansas City, Mo.

Ray Rolfs, North Hills CC, Milwaukee, Wis., was elected to fill the one-year-term of Chas. A. Burns, Good Park GC, Akron, O., who resigned.