

# GSA Meeting Draws Over 600

Stodola re-elected president, as greenkeepers formulate plans to cope with problems ahead in '42

By HERB GRAFFIS

Official registration of 585 plus about 100 who didn't register, added up to make the Greenkeeping Supts. Assn. annual turf conference and equipment show held at Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Feb. 10-13, surprisingly large. There was no surprise element to the studious and determined attitude of the course superintendents as they listened to an excellent conference program, shopped at the exhibits, and in informal sessions discussed their plans for wartime maintenance.

Harold Stodola, Keller Park, St. Paul, Minn., was re-elected president. Marshall E. Farnham, Philadelphia (Pa.) CC, was elected vice pres., and A. L. (Gus) Brandon of St. Charles, Ill., was elected sec-treas. on a full time basis, a move dictated by the growing and important nature of GSA operations.

Directors elected: James Haines, Denver (Colo.) CC; Lawrence Huber, Wyandotte CC, Columbus, O. and Chester Mendenhall, Mission Hills CC, Kansas City, Mo. Hold-over directors are T. T. Taylor, Westchester CC, Rye, N. Y.; John Darrah, Beverly CC, Chicago, and Wm. H. Johnson, Griffith Park course, Los Angeles.

## It's Akron in '43

Akron, O., was selected as the scene of the 1943 GSA national conference which will be held sometime in February. The equipment exhibition will be discontinued until after the war.

A broad view of the social and economic phases of the greenkeepers' job were presented in the talks by Major John L. Griffith, Commissioner of Big Ten athletics, Virgil K. Brown, Chief of the Recreational Division of the Chicago Park district, and A. C. Horrocks of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.

Technical problems of course maintenance were handled by an all-star array of talent sent into operation after John Gray had opened the program with a welcome defining the greenkeepers' aspirations and duties in these critical times, and had introduced T. T. Taylor, Westchester CC, chairman of the GSA Educational committee.

## Advises Testing By Sections

M. E. Farnham gave a valuable talk on Chemical Weed Control, making running comment on colored slides. Farnham frankly related details of mistakes as well as of triumphs. He said that in Philadelphia they found August was a good time to start chemical weed control so there would be a chance to re-establish turf the same season. Farnham advocated doing the work in sections so members would be educated, as well as having check plots. He described the method of handling sodium arsenite application, fertilizing and seeding. After the first year's spray treatments dry applications were made. Spring treatments of rough, from the first week in April through the last week in June, were made at about double the recommended rate of Milarsenite, with burning of desirable grasses not being severe until toward the later applications.

For crab grass Farnham reported good results with sodium chlorate. One slide showed a skin irritation suffered from dry application of sodium arsenite. The case was the only one Farnham had observed.

Edward J. Casey, Wykagyl CC, checked with Farnham in declaring that unless chemical weed control was done by competent careful men, it was dangerous business. Casey divided the weed control problem into 3 divisions; determination of

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The photographer was a busy man at the GSA four-day conclave; just a few of his 'shots' are shown on the page opposite. For identification purposes, they are: (A) Marshall E. Farnham answers questions on "Chemical Weed Control" after stepping down from the speaker's rostrum; (A) Dr. John Monteith speaking on "Turf in the National Defense Program"; (C) Norm Johnson of Medinah tells about fairway watering; (D) Ed. J. Casey continues "Chemical Weed Control" subject; (E) Educational session Feb. 13 opens with Pledge of Allegiance, led by John Darrah on speaker's stand; (F) Fred V. Grau tells about "Landscaping with a Gun"; (G) T. T. Taylor (right) asks Don Boyd "what he thinks about it"; (H) C. A. Tregillus gives some interesting facts on watering of fairways; (I) John Gray, honorary chairman, opens educational program with speech welcoming attending greensmen.





what weeds have infested areas to the degree that control is urgently required, the method of distribution of the control material, and the rate of application. Both men said that time of season, soil condition, and temperature are factors best determined by local experiment. Casey described, and showed slides of, a power boom spray outfit that provided close control of rate and area of distribution. The ingenious outfit has a "Fifth Wheel" device that indicates rate of weed control application. The device also is used by Casey on his fertilizer spreader.

### What Nazis Did

Major John Griffith told how Germany prepared for its offensive campaign by physically conditioning its youth. We, despite the lessons revealed by draft examinations for World War 1, didn't take action on the physical conditioning of youth and adults that we really needed. Now again, through Army and Navy findings, we are beginning to see that physical conditioning is essential to an all-out war, and must extend the job to the civilian populace. The morale-toughening element in competitive sports Major Griffith rated as highly valuable in protecting the country against the weakening effect of enemy propaganda.

Dr. Fred Grau, Pennsylvania State College, told of the unique job done in getting turf along the widely publicized Pennsylvania Turnpike. A mixture of fertilizer, lime, organic matter, seed and soil was put into the water and blown onto the banks of the highway by a Gunite machine. Mulching also was blown on. With the gun method the material sticks on, even though heavy rains fell the day after application. This method makes unnecessary work of smoothing the banks. Soil erosion control was effective.

Slides showed interesting views of the work and the grasses and other plants sowed.

John Darrah, chairman of the second day's conference, began the program by presenting C. A. Tregillus, Supt., Mill Road Farm, Lake Forest, Ill. Tregillus and Norman C. Johnson, Supt., Medinah CC (Chicago district) collaborated on a fairway watering practice survey. Slides illustrated both sections of the report. Tre-

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About 275 attended the annual greenkeepers banquet in the Sherman grand ballroom. Program was especially well planned and received.

gillus covered the turf culture features, and Johnson the operating features, of the survey. Among interesting points brought out in the discussion was that of fairway watering having made the courses slower, hence members' demand for shorter cutting. Tregillus advocated raising the mowers to help courses through dry spells without excessive watering.

### Wide Variation In Water Amounts

Wide variations were reported in amount of water used, soil differences accounting for much of the variation. Difficulty of getting exact figures was caused by clubhouse supply in several instances being included with course gallonage. The Tregillus part of the joint study revealed the need of closer adjustment of fairway watering to the rainfall, for economy and turf health reasons. However, it was pointed out, rainfall is not the only factor to be considered, as some turfs are more sensitive to moisture than others. Especially did courses with considerable poa annua have heavy water requirements. Higher temperatures some summers also call for heavier fairway watering. Incidentally, Tregillus called attention to higher cut of fairways helping to hold poa annua in check.

The conclusions noted that fairway watering is a supplement but not substitute for a fertilization program. A close study of local weather records was urged, and recommendation was made of rain, temperature and relative humidity records, together with frequent sub-surface inspections of subsoil state and needs of roots.

Johnson described the mechanical character of the systems studied, and their operating methods. An interesting side-light mentioned was the hunch that in "the old days" when weed seeds blew onto unwatered fairways in the summer they didn't have the chance to get established that they do on watered fairways. Against this hunch was, of course, the evidence that good turf maintained healthy did not favor weed growth.

Johnson called special attention to judgment in watering high and low areas. He showed interesting views and gave operating data on the Denver CC canvas hose system supplied by outlets from 12 in. vitrified sewer pipe outlets. Interesting

data recommending a hoseless system from a Florida test also was presented.

Virgil K. Brown, Chicago Park District Recreational chief, told greenkeepers that Americans are becoming keenly aware of the need of physical fitness. He said that a balance of relaxation to win the war of nerves and to keep the factory and office workers in excellent mental condition was important.

Brown said that if golf were to continue to interpret itself merely as a pleasure proposition it would not have a good year, but if it seized its opportunity to contribute to improving public health and morale to withstand the growing war pressure, the game would be in for a busy and valuable season.

Golf as an antidote to the "killing monotony" of the production line has tremendous value, Brown said, and recommended that it be campaigned on this count. He told that his staff is considering installing a shorter course with very interesting holes to cut down time of play while giving the players golf benefits in mental relaxation and a physical change.

### Investigate Plant Antagonisms

Dr. O. S. Aamodt, Chief of the Forage Crops division in the Department of Plant Industry, presented a paper on "War Among the Plants." He told of investigations being made of the antagonisms plants have toward each other. He referred specially to work being done with strains of Kentucky bluegrass and white clover. Some strains of bluegrass have almost completely inhibited the development of white clover, and some strains of white clover have predominated over bluegrass. He also told of studies of aggressive strains of bent, and mentioned certain selected strains of bent being conspicuously resistant to invasion by poa annua. Limited experimental evidence indicates that harmful root reactions may occur between various species of plants.

Bruce Matthews, Green Ridge CC, Grand Rapids, Mich., was chairman the final day of the conference. John Monteith, Jr., head of the USGA Green Section's technical staff, spoke on Turf in the National Defense Program. Monteith told of the greater emphasis put on the greenkeepers by the Physical Fitness wartime campaign. He urged that thorough study be given to any proposal to slash maintenance costs, lest the loss to nation and club



be more than the supposed temporary gain.

Parks, housing projects, army and navy recreational areas, lawns, highways, and airports all come under the jurisdiction of the turf expert these days—or should.

Monteith presented some extremely important and interesting figures on how turf in reducing dust cut down the cost of plane motor maintenance and extended plane motor life.

He referred to the great field for specialized turf knowledge during wartime and sadly commented that not much use is being made, outside their own immediate and established jobs, of men who really know how to handle turf problems in a practical way.

A. C. Horrocks gave a close-up on American industrial development for war and mentioned incidents that outlined the pattern of future development. He, too, referred to the need of golf as compensating for the terrific strain on worker and executive during wartime. Among other interesting points he mentioned that the Nazi rubber shortage made necessary use of steel tracked tanks in Russia. The steel couldn't bite the ice or the frozen mud or turf in Russia and the Nazi mechanized blitz skidded into reverse.

Dr. R. T. White of the Dept. of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, gave an interesting paper on Jap Beetle Control, with special reference to spore-forming bacteria that have supplied quite satisfactory control. This paper appears in this issue of *GOLFDOM*.

A program of entertainment for the superintendents' wives during the convention sessions was featured by a visit and luncheon at the Cradle in suburban Evanston, which is the nation's most famous baby station.

Former President John Gray was presented, on behalf of the association, with a chest of silver at the annual banquet and dinner dance. President Harold Stodola made the presentation in a neat and succinct address. Tom McMahon of the Chicago District GA, Carleton Blunt, Genl. Counsel of the Western GA, Tom Walsh, honorary pres. of the PGA and Joe Davis, exec.-sec. of the CDGA, were among the speakers. The greenkeeper of the year award went to "The Average Greenkeeper", a life-size cardboard cutout, inasmuch as the committee decided every greenkeeper had done a standout job in 1941. A floor show and dance followed the dinner ceremony.

## How to 'Lick' Problem of Transportation To and From Club

By **ANDY HIGH**

ONE of golf's problems certain to increase as time goes by is that of transportation to and from the club. Heretofore, this was a problem of the individual member and ignored except as it affected the pocketbook; there was no rubber shortage or prospective rationing of gasoline. But it is now a club problem.

In major cities it would not be unfair to estimate that the average distance of membership is nearly 15 miles—a round trip of 30, and for the balance of the clubs this distance can hardly be halved. Golf clubs lack the centralization found in other games—the baseball park, football stadium, the prizefight, bowling alley, etc., which are often either in walking distance or convenient bus or streetcar rides for the spectator or participant.

The transportation problem is one that must be given immediate attention by the club management or pro. The start of the season is the best possible time to break members into a new way of doing things. It will not do to rely on a haphazard and wasteful solution of the problem by the members. Foursomes composed of members that have all driven to the club alone, must stop.

An idea for a step toward solving this problem by the directing force of the club, is presented below.

The placement of a large and easily accessible bulletin board to hold the following information: an alphabetical listing of every active member by full and called (nick) name, phone numbers (business and resident) and addresses (business