

Southwest Turf Program is Set up by Grau-Noer Trip

TEXAS and Oklahoma turf enthusiasts staged an excellent series of turf clinics from August 5 to 17 for the purpose of getting a little closer to the principles of turf improvement. Planned and guided by Frank and Howard Goldthwaite of Texas and Bob Dunning of Oklahoma the program moved swiftly and surely. Principal figures in the educational and development programs were Fred V. Grau, Beltsville, Md., Director of the USGA Green Section, and O. J. Noer, Milwaukee, member of the Green Section Committee, assisted by Marvin Ferguson, a Texan, Fred's associate in the Bureau of Plant Industry at Beltsville.

Principal objectives of the trip were to:

- (1) Get acquainted
- (2) Study turf conditions
- (3) Build USGA membership
- (4) Expand USGA Green Section activities
- (5) Assist in developing strong state turf programs
- (6) Offer specific suggestions for the improvement of turf conditions.

The 10 meetings were attended by over 300 people who represented all phases of turf from putting greens to airfields. More than 40 golf courses were visited for the purpose of studying conditions and management so that suggestions for improvement could be offered. The sections covered, in turn, were: College Station, Houston, San Antonio, Kilgore, Dallas, Fort Worth, Texarkana, Odessa, El Paso,

Lubbock, Amarillo, Oklahoma City, and Tulsa. More than 100 golf clubs were represented at the meetings by superintendents, greenkeepers, golf professionals, managers, green-chairmen and by men from experimental stations, athletic fields, cemeteries, park departments and airfields. Thus were served the interests of the broad and important field of turf.

State Programs Started

The most significant development was the democratic selection, by each group in turn, of a leader in that group to serve on a state-wide Turf Advisory Committee. This committee will have the responsibility of developing the turf program in each state according to a roughly-outlined, suggested plan:

(1) Plan and develop an annual winter Turf Improvement conference in conjunction with the Agricultural and Mechanical College at College Station, Texas, and at Stillwater, Oklahoma.

(2) Plan and develop an educational program which will reach out to each and every person interested in turf improvement.

(3) Plan and develop over a period of time a research program designed to meet first, urgent and immediate problems of turf, and second, a long-time turf improvement program through breeding and selection of grasses for special purposes, and through improvement management practices.

At Odessa C.C. August 12: This Club's tournament posters advise "Best Fairways and Worst Greens in West Texas." Actually fairways have no grass but greens are excellent Seaside, expertly fed and groomed by "Shorty" Hornbuckle. Fairway watering system has been installed and Buffalo grass will result. New Mexico also sent representatives to the Odessa meeting.





At Southern C.C., August 13: Scene of Women's Amateur, John Price, greenkeeper, and Wm. Wotherspoon, professional, have teamed up to produce nearly ideal turf for tournament play. Forks aerate the soil, permit introduction of granular material to induce deep rooting of bent grass.

Members of the Texas Turf Advisory Committee are:

Willie Maguire, Houston; Ben Strickland, Houston; Tod Menefee, San Antonio; Ralph W. Morgan, Tyler; Graham Ross, Dallas; Wells Howard, Fort Worth; H. T. Hornbuckle, Odessa; Jimmy Game-well, Hobbs, New Mex.; Jack Harden, El Paso; Morgan Hampton, Abilene.

Members of the Oklahoma Turf Advisory Committee are:

From Oklahoma City: Ben Owen, Art Jackson, Harold Butler, Bill Gober, O. T. Glidewell.

From Tulsa: Bob Erwine, T. R. McCaslin, Bob Dunning, Alex A. Repin, John Price.

This selection of local leaders by acclaim in each sectional group is the first important step in the development of a turf improvement program. The second step is the development of strong, active local groups representing all turf interests.

Problems Encountered

From the technical side, the most important problems encountered were:

PUTTING GREENS:

(1) Soil conditions. No other one problem in the Southwest is so acute as the physical condition of the soil. The immediate answer is the incorporation of larger quantities of coarse sand and fibr-

At Amarillo C. C., August 14: Seaside greens, developed by fall seeding into Bermuda, have flourished here for 17 years. Buffalo grass fairways develop naturally with watering and fertilizing. Ide P. Trotter, Director of Agricultural Extension in Texas, addressed this group and assured them of his interest in their plans.





At Oklahoma City C.C., August 15: 107° heat failed to stop these lovers of good turf from striving for even greater perfection. A pioneer in bent greens in the Southwest, Oklahoma is setting up a turf program to retain the lead position.

ous organic matter such as reed and sedge peat to improve drainage, aeration, and to minimize packing which results from 365 days of heavy play in a year.

(2) **Topdressing:** Observations indicated that a better grade of material should be prepared; that topdressing need not be applied so frequently as in the general practice; that midsummer application should be tapered off, that sterilization is needed to kill weed seeds.

(3) **Fertilization.** Present practices would give better results if soil conditions were improved but more generous use of balanced fertilizer is indicated, especially on Bermuda grass.

(4) **Brushing or raking.** Great improvement could be effected by timely vigorous brushing to remove excess mat on the surface on both bent and Bermuda.

(5) **Tree roots.** This is one of the most common problems around greens in this section.

FAIRWAYS:

(1) More adequate fertilization is needed on most fairway, lawn, park, airfield and similar types of turf. Weeds in Bermuda, Carpet and Buffalo grass turf generally result from lack of sufficient plant food in proper balance.

(2) **Watering.** Watered turf generally requires more plant food to produce satis-

factory turf. Crabgrass is the chief invader of watered turf which lacks adequate plant food.

(3) Arsenicals and 2,4-D both have a place in weed control programs but neither will have any lasting value where fertility levels are too low to build dense turf which will resist weed invasion.

The great need for a medium to effect an exchange of ideas on the principles and practices of turf improvement was evidenced on the entire trip. The problem of great distances in the Southwest is one which has limited more exchange of information. Jack Harden of El Paso traveled over 600 miles by car to attend the meeting at Odessa.

Talks given by Grau and Noer were on:
(1) The aims and objectives of the Green Section.

(2) The interest of the Green Section in turf problems of the Southwest.

(3) The need for greater financial support for the Green Section through USGA memberships and Green Section subscriptions to enable the work to go forward.

(4) The need for unselfish cooperation among all groups to solve the problems at hand.

(5) Technical considerations dealing with specific phases of turf management.

(6) Discussion on the need for and the



PROs! TRY THESE

Ken

SHOP SUPPLIES

Prepared Exclusively for Pros

FORM-A-COAT . . . Puts a professional finish on whippings. Forms a cap on ends of clubs.

TACKY GOLF GRIP CONDITIONER . . . Keeps leather grips soft and tacky. Small bottles for resale.

GOLF CLUB ADHESIVE . . . Cements grips in place. A flexible all purpose adhesive for your shop. Fast drying.

GOLF CLUB LACQUER . . . Protects the finish on wood heads. Easy to apply. No equipment needed; not even a brush. Dries in an hour.

GOLF BAG DRESSING . . . Preserves all types of leather bags. Easy to apply.

WHIPPING CORD, FINISHING AND BUFFING SUPPLIES.

WRITE FOR HANDY ORDER BLANK

Kenneth Smith
GOLF CLUBS
Hand made to fit You
 BOX 41, KANSAS CITY 10, MO.

THE CLUB SITUATION: We are now filling orders for sets of woods and irons received many months ago. Sorry we can't give rush service.

work of a State-Wide Turf Advisory Committee.

Accomplishments of the trip may be summarized by saying simply that the objectives were reached. The reception of the Green Section representatives was most cordial and enthusiastic. Satisfactory conclusions were reached on most of the problems discussed. A better understanding exists today among all groups represented because of the frank, open discussions which were directed solely toward the common goal: Turf Improvement.



Fred V. Grau
 Director, USGA
 Green Section

The Grau-Noer tour was without cost to the cooperating groups. The USGA budget was set up to allow this travel to serve golf throughout the country by improving playing conditions and to acquaint non-member clubs with the value of USGA Green Section service as well as to show the wisdom of participating in USGA memberships. The Goldthwaites and Bob Dunning did a grand job of organizing the Oklahoma-Texas meetings and set a pace for other sectional groups that can have the same sort of sessions by making requests in plenty of time to allow arrangement of travel schedules of the Green Section experts and Noer, and by making thorough provisions for participation in their respective territories.

Howard Davis Honored for 25 Years as Ridgemoor Pro

Ridgemoor CC (Chicago District) honored Howard R. Davis, its pro for 25 years at a Silver Anniversary party which was featured by a Saturday afternoon golf tournament and at an evening dinner which was the best attended affair of the club's many banquets. Davis was presented with a new automobile as evidence of the members' gratitude for the faithful, competent and cheerful service he's given to them and their guests. Howard came into golf in 1907 as a caddy at the old Calumet CC, 95th and Cottage Grove Ave. Chicago. In 1914 Howard and some of his pals walked from Calumet to Midlothian to follow Walter Hagen in the Hague's first national triumph. It was a round-trip jaunt of about 35 miles.

Golfdom