

## Hundred Attend Texas Turf Conference

Texas Turf Assn. members went home from the second annual conference at College Station Jan. 12-13-14 provided with practical material to be used in development of their turf by the country's outstanding specialists on all phases of golf course maintenance.

The 100-odd grounds superintendents and pros who attended felt that great advances are being made in improving their courses through the annual conferences.

Dr. Fred V. Grau, director of the USGA Green Section, Washington, D. C., in his opening day talk, stressed the need for a special turf experimental station at Texas A&M. Speaking on "What's New in Turf," Grau pointed out six developments in the past year.

- 1—That more turf associations are being formed over the country;
- 2—That more state experimental stations are beginning to spend additional time on the study of turf;
- 3—That the American Society of Agronomy has widened its scope on the study of turf;
- 4—That there is close co-operation between the newly formed American Society of Golf Course Architects and golf course supts.;
- 5—That the USGA Green Section has received close to \$15,000 in contributions to support the national decentralized cooperative programs of research and education in turf;
- 6—That turf research fellowships have been established at several colleges.

Grau also pointed out that the USGA Green Section is trying to coordinate on a national basis with all factors that are interested in turf, but that it is up to the sections to analyze their own problems.

Paul J. Talley, plant physiologist of Texas A&M, speaking the second day of the meet on grass care, startled his audience by revealing that he had not mowed his lawn in six months. He advised little watering, and that only if the grass is suffering.

Dr. Thomas C. Longnecker, senior soil agronomist of the Texas State Research Foundation, recommended early morning watering to keep down grass disease. "Keep the grass on the hungry side during hot weather," he cautioned.

Dr. Longnecker advised against over-fertilizing. He also warned greenkeepers against improperly adjusted mowers, poor surface and underground drainage, and compacted soil. Play should be restricted and heavy equipment should be kept off the course during extremely wet weather or periods of overwater.

Dr. Grau, also on the second day's program, pointed out that mowers should be adjusted to cut from three-sixteenths to one-quarter of an inch for greens.

Other speakers on the agenda included Gordon H. Jones of Fort Worth, regional agronomist of the CAA; Dr. H. G. Johnston, head of the department of entomology and Dr. W. P. Taylor, department of wild life management, both of Texas A&M; Dr. O. J. Noer, Milwaukee, Wis., Sewerage Commission; and Ben Lee Boynton, president of the Texas GA.

In his final day address, Dr. Gray, discussing burr control, recommended a spray of sodium arsenite, to be made of four to six ounces of arsenite for each 1,000 square feet of turf. The application must be repeated several years in succession to take care of long-germinating periods of burr seeds. Where the grass is thick and infested with sand burrs, fertilizer should be applied to get denser grass. He recommended application of a mixture of sodium arsenite and fertilizer in the late summer for elimination of crabgrass from Bermuda greens and lawns.

Dr. Longnecker said that cotton hulls, cotton burrs, grass clippings and leaf mold also are good sources of humus in compost.

Robert C. Dunning of the Southwest Turfing Co., Tulsa, Okla., in discussing care of Bermuda, rye and bent grass greens, warned against excessive use of nitrogen.

In closing the convention, members were advised by Gordon H. Jones that the 1949 meeting will be more diversified to include sports other than golf, and that field trips will be scheduled.

**NEGRO PROS SUE FOR \$315,000**—Bill Spiller and Ted Rhodes, Los Angeles, and Madison Gunter, San Francisco, have filed suits for \$100,000 apiece against the PGA and \$5,000 apiece against the Richmond GC, contending they were barred from participating in the Richmond Open. Suits against the Richmond club are for loss of possible \$2000 first prize plus \$3000 for humiliation. Negroes claim PGA restriction to caucasians denied them right to earn livelihood as pros. Spiller and Rhodes finished among first 60 in Los Angeles Open and claimed eligibility to Richmond Open which was run under contract with PGA tournament bureau. Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of LA Open, did not sign PGA contract. The Negroes said Richmond club officials accepted their entrance money, then returned it and told them they could not play. Pat Markovich, Richmond pro and tournament director, said the matter was beyond his jurisdiction as the PGA was running the tournament under contract and could fix qualifications of competitors as it chose. George Schneider, PGA tournament bureau chairman, said provisional waivers have been sent the Negro complainants but he doubted the PGA would approve issuance.