



300 turf specialists study maintenance methods and needs for wartime economy at the Midwest Regional Turf Conference held at Purdue Univ. on March 5 and 6.

Purdue's Annual Turf School Studies Wartime Methods

By FRED BERGGREN

Dr. Kenyon (Kenny) Payne, executive secretary, of Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, opened Purdue's 14th annual turf conference March 5th by introducing university president Dr. Frederick L. Hovde to more than 300 turf specialists attending. Dr. Hovde pointed out that with increased wealth comes increased leisure, and with increased leisure must be developed additional sports facilities.

Dr. Fred Grau, USGA Green Section, opened the technical program in noting the improvement of grasses and machinery, and the extension of profitable turf research. He stressed the training and ability of men doing the job as the most important factor in course maintenance.

Need to Train High School Grads

"A turf educational system has not yet been devised to meet the need of training high school graduates," said Grau. "A father's work with turf in many cases challenged his son who has entered the greenkeeping profession. However, this has usually occurred without any training other than apprenticeship. As this profession becomes more highly specialized, greater efficiency can be found in additional, specialized training.

"Turf research is nearly three decades old. Opportunities exist now in turf work—particularly in the field of turf research—that didn't exist 10 or 15 years ago. Now turf work is being carried on

in research programs at 27 different agricultural experiment stations, including Canada and Alaska. An encouraging note is that more and more business firms are backing turf research today." This is in addition to organizations that are primarily interested in growing better grass. Dr. Grau paid a tribute to the authors and editors of "Turf Management," the book compiled by Dr. H. B. Musser of Pennsylvania State College.

He outlined categories of turf work being carried on at experiment stations: The use of lime and proper top-dressing materials; Water management; The companionability of cool and warm season grasses; Physical condition of the soil; Possibilities for hybrid grasses; Determining the optimum heights at which grasses should be mowed; Winter hardness studies; Determining the efficiency of liquid fertilizers; Studies on the chemical control of weeds, insects and turf grass diseases.

Turf Maintenance in Wartime

Dr. O. J. Noer spoke on "Turf Maintenance in Wartime." He suggested the use of high school help, women and all possible mechanization. Supplies will be critical in both fertilizers and chemicals—partly due to the freight car shortage.

"Machinery is still available—buy it if you need it and can afford it.

"Sulfur needed to treat phosphate is short in supply. Sulfur and chlorine are

also used in the manufacture of fungicides and insecticides."

Dr. Noer advised greenkeepers to use caution in watering fairways reminding that efficient use can come from aerating the soil and applying the water properly. These practices will result in lower labor requirements and better use of the water available.

He warned against evils from mowing the fairways at too rapid a speed. He advised greenkeepers to cross-mow. He recommended greens be mowed at least four times a week.

He commented that top-dressing is being practiced less now than formerly, and that aeration is a method of top-dressing if the soil cores are left on the surface.

Dr. Noer told how 2,4-D placed under sand solved the trap maintenance problem at a Fort Worth course for 3 years.

Bretzlaff Tells Plan

Carl Bretzlaff, Indianapolis, said that he has plenty of material, but the labor problem may become acute. He has equipment that will operate for 2 years. He plans to use high school boys for care of the greens on his course—with their parents' consent—but he plans to use little extra labor in caring for his fairways.

M. E. Farnham, Philadelphia, stressed that sound judgment should be exercised before deciding on a retrenchment program at any club or other recreational organization. He also said that fairways could be neglected easiest if it came to a choice, but not the greens. Farnham told the turf workers that he uses heavy applications of sodium arsenite and 2,4-D in combination to clear up weeds in traps on his course.

W. H. Glover of Fairfax, Virginia, suggested to greenkeepers that they ought to budget within the anticipated income. He closed with "If you treat your help all right, you'll get all the help you'll need."

Build Against Leaner Times

Wm. Stupple, Highland Park, Ill., next advised greenkeepers to continue their greens maintenance by mowing them six times a week. Greens need the most attention, he said. Then you should continue to build up your course while you have the labor and funds against leaner times. He suggested that ryegrass and bent seed be mixed with top dressing material and this placed in divot marks on tees. It may become necessary to relax in the care of tree and flower gardens in favor of maintaining more necessary parts of the grounds. For labor, Stupple plans to use some high school boys, then continue to hire them during vacations throughout college.

Chet Mendenhall, Kansas City, Mo., advised greenkeepers to find out about the

labor laws in their respective states before working young boys on courses. The school superintendent or members of the school boards are good sources of information on these laws. Mendenhall employed nine women during the war. He still employs two, who are remnants of his female staff during that World War II period. Women are just as efficient as men, Mendenhall says. He also suggested employing handicapped men, as they like out-of-doors work.

Clarence Wolfrom, Detroit, reported that the board at his golf course tried to find winter jobs for their summer laborers. Wolfrom thought it much more intelligent to hire two experienced men on a year-round basis than to pay three inexperienced men for three-8-month periods. The total amount of time employed is the same but the experienced men accomplish more. Wolfrom also employs a handicapped man, one of his best and most faithful workers.

Taylor Boyd, Cincinnati, the last man to speak on Dr. Noer's impromptu panel, advised greenkeepers to tell green-committeemen of present and potential shortages. Greenkeepers will receive greater cooperation by doing so.

Labor Management Discussed

In the "Records and Labor Management" section of the turf program, Taylor Boyd of Cincinnati described the form on which all time spent and material used on each green is recorded. In order to save transportation time, certain equipment is kept near the green, tees and fairways where it will be used. Boyd's plan consists essentially of taking his routine service to the machines instead of taking his machines to the service. He believes that this system is quicker and more efficient.

W. H. Glover, Fairfax, Virginia, also keeps mowing machines in the areas where they will be used. Glover supplies current reading matter on turf maintenance to his workmen. He recommends paying more than the going wage rate to protect against labor trouble.

Frank Dunlap, Cleveland, O., spoke on "Superintendent's Relations." He told that today's golf course superintendent is a jack-of-all trades: a painter, a farmer, a mechanic, an engineer, a labor manager, a landscape architect, an accountant and a salesman. But above all, he must be an executive. He should be able to write clear letters to board members, to members of the club and to businessmen. Then he must dress like a superintendent too.

M. E. Farnham told greenkeepers in the "Turf for Heavy Use" section that the looks of a football field influences both players and the spectators psychologically.

(Continued on page 66)

PURDUE'S ANNUAL SCHOOL

(Continued from page 45)

cally. Farnham warned against a school's investing all its athletic funds in stands before the athletic field itself is drained, graded, seeded and fertilized.

Dr. H. B. Musser of Pennsylvania State College discussed his work with highway and airfield turf. He revealed that railroads are now interested in using grass to control slope erosion instead of cinders. Several railroads are now interested in sponsoring grass research since Diesels are replacing coal burning engines.

Dr. Musser showed by slides the results of experiments with fall, late fall, spring and summer plantings of crown vetch, alta fescue, perennial ryegrass and red fescue. Crown vetch appears to hold much promise for highway slope coverage.

Crabgrass and Weeds

E. B. Oyer, Purdue plant physiologist, described the crabgrass control studies conducted during the summer of 1950. M. M. (Mac) Parsons, Indianapolis, told the same section of his success in the use of PMAS in the control of crabgrass on the tees at Highland CC. Finally, Dr. H. B. Grigsby of the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Michigan State College, summarized the place and use of chemical controls for crabgrass. He pointed out

that the best control of crabgrass is a good cover of vigorous turf.

Chickweed, Clover and Better Grasses

Another sectional program was divided between the control of "Chickweed and Clover" and "Testing for Better Grasses." Pat Russell, Louisville, Ky., told his chickweed elimination program. By using Milarsenite in the fall, the weed pest was reduced by 80 percent the following spring. LeRoy Jones, Lansing, Michigan, described how his campaign of combining both Milarsenite and Milorganite cleaned up weedy turf on his course. These treatments also eliminate undesirable grasses. "You must keep up fertilization and plant seed of desirable grasses which can take over when crabgrass and clover are eliminated," Jones concluded.

Dr. O. J. Noer explained that the mouse ear chickweed is easier to kill than common chickweed. A prolific seeder, common chickweed is best killed with sodium arsenite applied in repeat applications in late fall. As for clover, Dr. Noer's advice was to try to grow a good crop of grass to compete with the clover on greens.

A suggested program plan on both chickweed and clover control was to treat one-third of the course each year. A combination of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T was one treatment Dr. Noer suggested. Arsenic

IT'S A MARSHMALLOW WORLD — LIKE HELL FOR SUPT.



This scene at Druid Hills, Atlanta, was shot three weeks before the Druid Hills photograph on the front cover of this issue of GOLFDOM was made. A sleet storm broke thousands of branches off the trees and gave Supt. Everitt Shields heartaches and headaches. Cleaning up also took a bite into his budget. But the Good Lord and hard work got everything in shape for the annual Dogwood tournament. Shields, Mgr. Armand Chapeau and Pro Charley Miller will have the labors of the Georgia Men's State tournament in August and the Women's National Open, Sept. 13-16 added to their schedules this year.

acid and sodium arsenite treatments can be used also, he continued. He warned "Be careful of the acid as it is dangerous to handle."

The Milwaukee turf specialist said that you don't need a complete kill of crabgrass on large areas if you keep it from seeding and at the same time give the desired grasses a chance to grow. He cautioned greenkeepers against overlapping weed killer treatments on fairways. The double dosage may be deadly to the grass.

(To be continued next month)

Cowen Tries Hand at Acting Decides to Stay with Golf



Henry P. Cowen, pres., MacGregor Golf Co. turns actor in this scene taken from the Ben Hogan movie, "Follow the Sun", as he portrays the club president in Fort Worth presenting the first trophy Ben ever won. The part of young Hogan is played by Hal Blake, a non-professional actor selected because of his sound game and beautiful swing. Cowen reports he's staying with the golf business since no options have been taken for his services in further film work. "Follow the Sun", the 20th Century-Fox film featuring Glenn Ford as Hogan and Anne Baxter as Valerie, Ben's wife, is currently being released throughout the country.

Hogan's "Follow the Sun" Tees Off at Ft. Worth

"Follow the Sun", the 20th-Century-Fox movie of Ben Hogan's career had a world premiere at Ft. Worth March 23 that was one of those strictly from Hollywood super-colossal sensational successes. The picture justified the debut which packed three theaters, jammed down-town Ft. Worth with Texas royalty and peasants and alien celebrities. In the midst of the celebration and confusion Ben and Valerie, as might be expected, handled themselves with customary poise and class.

Public reaction to the picture was highly favorable, the film being rated as a story of far better and broader entertainment value than previous sports person-

alities' movies. William Hazlitt Brennan's story, direction by Sidney Lanfield and production by Samuel G. Engel provided a fine set-up for the cast headed by Glenn Ford and Anne Baxter, and including Sam Snead, Jimmy Demaret, Cary Middlecoff, Scotty Chisholm and Grantland Rice. The whole job is pronounced by Variety, the authority on show business, as "a basic human drama of love and courage with an appeal for adult filmgoers." "Its box office possibilities are sound; story and characters real rather than celluloid," Variety adds.

The film is the top championship performance in a sports picture and will do a great job of golf promotion.

GROUP INSTRUCTION

(Continued from page 49)

and who believe the grip means everything will shudder and throw up their hands.

What do you see in individual private lessons? More often than not you see a pro tinkering with the pupil's hands. The question I ask is, "does this ruin the lesson"? Would it not be better to stress swing points through the swing session and then at the conclusion of the 30 or 60 minute period give the pupil a definite grip assignment to work on in the interim?

The class method I am trying is to introduce the grip by degrees. Early in the class series a group is lined up and the three knuckle position of the backhand is explained and every pupil's backhand is personally checked or placed. Stress is placed on the pressure with the palm and the last three fingers on the balancing effect of the left thumb on the side of the shaft.

Then the grip as an entity is demonstrated but no explanations given. The class was asked to get the general idea of hand placement by observation. They were warned that the placement of the forehand gave rise to difficulties. There then would follow several weeks of three times per week of swing development.

After the interest had been built up, after the students had developed some skill in swinging and in striking the ball, then they were given the business of the grip.

The take on the grip seemed better then. Maybe it was my imagination. Further experimentation with groups will tell.

Two observations on grip development: First, when you introduce the more-or-less standard three knuckle grip to beginners, you have a group of potential slicers unless the Frank Walsh non-slice counter-clockwise exercise with the left hand is brought in as a parallel development.