



A record number of greenkeepers present for the 25th anniversary of the NGSA greeted speakers at the opening session of the educational program of the annual Turf Conference and Show held in Chicago's Sherman Hotel, Jan. 29-Feb. 1.

## 25th Year Sees NGSA Stage Top Conference and Show

The 1952 NGSA Conference and Show will be held at the Neil House, Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 3-8.

Officers and directors elected to serve during 1951 are: Wm. H. Johnson, Golf Course Mgr., Municipal Golf Courses, Los Angeles, pres.; Malcolm McLaren, Supt., Canterbury GC, Cleveland, O., vice pres.; Frank Dinelli, Northmoor CC, Chicago dist., John Price, Tulsa, Okla., and John Abbott, Toronto, Canada, directors.

Leonard Strong, Philip Cassidy and Willis H. Glover, holdover directors, and Agar M. Brown, re-elected sec'y.-treas. make up the new board.

More than 800 men at work in phases of golf course maintenance attended the 25th anniversary of the National Greenkeeping Superintendents' Assn. at Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Jan. 29-Feb. 2, and participated in the largest and smoothest running turf conference and equipment and supply exhibition the greenkeepers' organization ever staged.

The sessions were the culmination of 25

years of marked achievement in improving the standard of American golf course maintenance and bettering the management of courses. Two factors accounted for the large attendance and keen interest.

One was the realization that wartime restrictions probably would hit course maintenance heavily and provisions for getting courses in shape to keep good during lean years had to be made without delay. The other factor was that 1950 having been a remarkably favorable year for golf turf the course superintendents expect conditions will be normally bad in 1951 and they'd better learn everything possible to protect their courses against expected trouble. Usually greenkeepers expect trouble—and are seldom disappointed.

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Supts. and their wives were enthusiastic hosts and hostesses with entertainment that kept the wives seeing Chicago's spots and provided for informal sessions at which the fellows got together and exchanged business experiences. The planned tour of Chicago courses didn't work out as intended. The courses were under deep snow and record sub-zero weather wasn't inducement to course touring.

Exhibitors generally were surprised by the amount of business placed during the meeting. It had been thought that most of the nation's larger clubs which were well represented at the convention already had placed orders for the bulk of their requirements. But there still was plenty of running to cover for requirements of equipment and supplies by larger clubs and smaller clubs also were covering from such stocks as were available. Heavy equipment, with the exception of sprayers is getting acutely tight. Steel pipe for course remodeling or construction is out by government order so composition pipe was one item very much in the spotlight, but in such heavy demand in many major fields, golf course chances of getting adequate supplies of composition or plastic pipe are very dim.

#### Pins for Charter Members

An interesting detail of the convention was the announcement that pins were being awarded to the 71 charter members of the association.

Educational exhibits of the USGA Green Section, NGSA, Midwest and Wisconsin superintendents' associations, Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, Western Golf Assn. and GOLFDOM supplemented the excellent educational exhibits of manufacturers, suppliers and nurseries, engineered by the NGSA Sec. Agar M. Brown.

Malcolm McLaren, chmn., Educational committee, and his associates arranged a highly informative program which was run off on close schedule by chairmen of the four conference sessions. The convention was opened with welcoming addresses of Ray Gerber, NGSA pres., and of Chicago District Golf Assn. Pres. Stanley Van Dyk.

Addresses in the educational sessions will be printed in this and early issues of GOLFDOM.

Willis H. Glover, supt. Fairfax (Va.) CC, launched the first educational session by introducing Charles (Chick) Evans, Jr., former National Open and Amateur champion and winner of numerous other titles during his almost 50 years in competitive golf. Evans showed amazingly detailed appreciation and understanding of the advances in course maintenance and what this progress owed to the voluntary and independent efforts of the greenkeepers. He said greens and fairways were being watered too much and the rough had been reduced too far to provide tests of golf as severe as they used to be. Chick also emphasized that the pressure put on greenkeepers to maintain courses to woo the approval of star pros rather than care for the vast majority of ordinary paying players was illogical and expensive. The Evans address was such a fine review and survey of greenkeepers' work from the viewpoint of a thoroughly qualified observer the NGSA is considering having it printed in

full and sent to all club and fee course presidents and green-chairmen.

Herb Graffis, GOLFDOM editor, forecast that the next 25 years in course maintenance would see something similar to the valuable technical effort devoted to golf turf during the NGSA's first quarter century put on the human relations in golf course work. Graffis observed that the greenkeepers through their national and sectional organizations and their tie-ups with Green Section and other research had benefitted their clubs financially to the extent that businessmen in golf certainly must wonder why the greenkeepers generally have been so busy they haven't registered like progress in their own financial status. The GOLFDOM editor also remarked that since the demonstration of rough as an interesting and testing hazard at Merion during the 1950 National Open there was a revival of rough due as an element distinguishing the interesting, testing and good type of course from the smoothly mowed pastures.

Richard S. Tufts, chmn., USGA Green Section and pres., Pinehurst, Inc., paid high tribute to the greenkeepers' contributions to golf by their persistent and practical application of turf research.

O. J. Noer, eminent and widely traveled agronomist of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, gave an illustrated lecture on "Chickweed and Clover Control on Fairways." Noer said, 2, 4-D at light rates of application had been somewhat effective in keeping chickweed plants checked but hadn't scored much against clover. He said the arsenicals had somewhat greater effect but that both 2, 4-D and the arsenicals could not be regarded as the answers but as tools. He said that fertilization, sometimes re-seeding and a revision of maintenance practices had to be considered as essentials to the cure after chickweed and clover had been removed. Noer pointed out that too much water and not enough nitrogen generally accounted for more of the clover in fairways. Use of 2, 4-D in fairways had to be very discreet because of the possibility of damage to fairway bents, Noer noted.

The Question and Answer period followed in which Noer, Dr. Fred Grau, Colin Smith and Bruce Matthews handled inquiries concerning washboard mowing of fairways due to too fast mowing or improper construction, weed and worm control and fertilization.

Philip I. Cassidy, supt., Weston (Mass.) GC, supervised the first afternoon session. He introduced T. C. Ryker, plant pathologist, Semesan Products, du Pont de Nemours & Co., who led off by explaining the functions of chemicals in greenkeeping. Ryker's explanations of the "whys" in turf maintenance chemical use was conceded

*(Continued on page 68)*

## Dates of Wash. State Meeting Changed to March 21, 22

Dates of the Fourth Annual Turf Conference to be held on the campus of the State College of Washington have been changed to March 21 and 22 to avoid conflict in dates with the Midwest conferences according to a recent announcement by E. G. Schaefer, Asst. Dean, College of Agriculture.

## 25th YEAR SEES NGSA

*(Continued from page 37)*

by the many first ranking veteran greenkeepers in the large audience to be something that alone warranted convention expense inasmuch as it gave them a clear, elementary picture of how various chemicals extensively used in course maintenance worked on the plants and plant diseases. (For complete text of Ryker's paper turn to page 45).

The great extension in golf that had been caused by giving the game prominence in the public recreation program was outlined by Patrick J. (Packey) Walsh, golf supervisor of the Chicago Park District. Walsh detailed the increasingly high demands of public course golfers as something that was beginning to bring greenkeepers into higher public recognition than they'd ever had before. He told of the Chicago parks program of course alteration to bring their courses nearer to the private club standard. He expressed the opinion that the tax situation and the necessity of far more public golf facilities to care for young Americans who would learn golf through military installation recreation programs would produce a bigger demand for the services of first class superintendents of golf courses.

Colin Smith, supt., Shaker Heights CC, Cleveland, O., and Bruce Matthews, supt., Green Ridge CC, Grand Rapids, Mich., spoke on fairway turf maintenance, expressing agreement on the importance of liming and fertilizing by guidance of soil tests. Smith urged aerifying and told of improving turf by using about half the water he formerly used. He has mainly bent fairways.

Matthews recommended, also, a program of weed control to be completed with some seeding and fertilizing so good grass will take over promptly and give the weed control work a good starting chance for permanence.

Dr. Eric G. Sharvelle, associate pathologist, Purdue university, reported "Results of National Cooperative Turf Fungicide Tests," showing charts of test summaries on the screen. A full report of the two years of tests will be made available at the

Midwest Regional Turf Foundation meeting at Purdue in March. Sharvelle told of the tests so far being valuably "suggestive but not conclusive" and said that there was to be considerable extension of the tests this year. He also reported that putting greens had been constructed at Purdue so turf fungicide tests could be conducted under playing traffic instead of on experimental plots from which traffic was missing.

Alex Repin, supt., Tulsa (Okla.) CC gave a practical program of bent green maintenance in the south. He stressed thorough preparation of the soil so the greens would have a chance on soil of good physical structure. He related his successful procedures in fertilizing, top-dressing, mowing, watering, aeration and protection from diseases. He told of controlling invasion of Bermuda into the bent greens by spading out Bermuda deep around the bent greens and using tear gas for killing Bermuda remnants. He then sods the area with nursery turf which has a chance to hold its own against Bermuda. If the Bermuda isn't discouraged it will encroach at the rate of a foot a year.

Linus C. Palmer, supt. Kent County Parks, Grand Rapids, Mich., told of mosquitoes and flies being eliminated or controlled as pests to the extent that public patronage and enjoyment of parks under his management was tremendously increased. Palmer said he'd started the program after consultation with Profs. Hudson and McDaniel of Michigan State college and worked through various materials and methods until DDT dust at 3% strength for mosquito control and 5% strength in liquid for fly control was proving the most effective and least expensive control they had discovered. Cost is about \$1 per acre.

Dusting is done in early morning or early evening when mosquitoes are at their worst but wind is low and the dust gets a good drift. Mosquitoes are driven out of shrubbery by a nicotine spray. Dusting is done three times a year, although warm wet falls may require an additional dusting.

Palmer said that mosquitoes breed only in water and not in wet grass, therefore it's necessary to keep close control over the breeding places.

Continuing with the educational program Thurs. morning Chrm. Leonard Bloomquist, supt. Superior CC, Minneapolis, Minn., introduced Charles K. Halliwell, Agri. Ext. Rep., Penn State College, who reported observations and studies of golf turf made on his trip across southern United States into Mexico, up the west coast, in Canada and back across the northern states through the Midwest during the first six months of 1950. Halliwell

had high praise for greenkeepers visited who were doing outstanding jobs in turf management. He was especially impressed with the excellent bent greens found in Tucson, Ariz., in spite of the high temperatures. He reported on the excellent progress being made in turf management in California where greenkeepers are confronted with the heavy traffic of a hundred thousand rounds of golf per year and have to work with soils which are inclined to be heavy. The unique problem of trying to find the right combination of cool and warm season grasses is one that is receiving continual research and study.

He complimented the University of California at Los Angeles saying no college was better qualified to make contribution to turf than UCLA, being specially blessed with what he considered the ideal turf advisory committee — its membership encompassing representatives from every group not only interested but with initiative and contributing to turf research work being carried on at the university.

Alta fescue, according to studies being made at the UCLA test plots under the supervision of Dr. V. T. Stoutemyer is proving ideal for rough and athletic fields and shows possibility of withstanding cutting down to 1 inch height.

Colored slides were used to advantage by Hallowell to give those in attendance a

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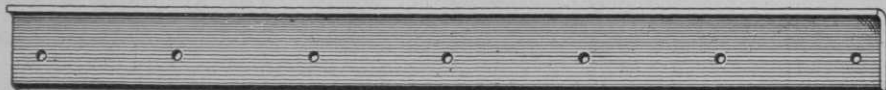
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chance to see outstanding greens and fairways that came under his observation. A slide of No. 9 green, Los Angeles CC, where Wm. Beresford has started a green rebuilding program, showed grass he had developed in his own nursery over a period of years. The grass apparently a slow starter but with the aid of phosphorous had come through to give Beresford an outstanding green which he expects to follow up and use on all greens at Los Angeles CC.

Hallowell in his closing remarks paid tribute to O. J. Noer by nominating him "Mr. Turf" because of his fine work and the esteem in which he was held by turf officials in Mexico and Canada as well as the U.S.

Wm. H. Johnson, Golf Course Mgr., Municipal Golf Courses, Los Angeles, and Robert Williams, Supt., Beverly CC, Chicago, followed with each outlining a three-point program on "How to Make Tees Better for Play." Johnson explained the basic principle of sound original construction has proven itself time and again, stating, "it is here the golf course architect can prove himself a friend to the greenkeeper who must maintain the course after it is open to play." He then followed up with the tips on renovation and regular maintenance. Williams stressed setting up proper objectives, i.e., "to produce a teeing area of adequate size, add interest to the hole by providing flexibility of both length and angle of play, keep a level and firm surface and maintenance that keeps teeing area always attractive. Both men in conclusion pointed up the need for maintaining tees of

adequate size and giving the same care to planning, construction and maintenance as is given to the preparation and care of putting greens.

Greenkeepers were told important thing today is "to study further the things we already know" by Dr. Fred V. Grau, Dir., USGA Green Section, Beltsville, Md. in his talk on "Aeration and Drainage," which concluded the morning session. He went ahead to say he continued to be astounded at troubles men get into by forgetting importance of aeration and drainage. Throughout his address he used colored slides as he emphasized the following points:

To build a green without perfect drainage is a black mark against the architect.

Soil is composed of 25% air, 25% water and 50% solids (granules).

Take advantage of textbooks on soils available in local libraries — study them.

Air is needed before grass will take on nitrogen.

Secret of good drainage system is outlet, in soil this includes pore spaces — not good soil if it does not have outlet (pore spaces).

Install subdrainage at time green is built.

Remove excess water quickly.

Caution folly of installing tile drains after greens are built — love's labor lost — water doesn't move fast enough laterally to do job right, skin off top of green and rebuild.

Much of shallow rooted turf needs watering twice a day — roots not long enough to get to soil water because of puddled soil

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condition (compaction)—Better to rework soil instead of watering,

Some may be disappointed in aerating once or twice—remember it took long time for soil to puddle—likewise takes long time to remedy.

American greenkeepers have made greatest contribution to turf management,

Practical uses of aerifying tools far ahead of research—time now to make studies,

Good drainage and aeration go hand in hand—without them we fail to get the most from fertilizing.

Greenkeepers were paid great compliment in Grau's closing remarks when he told them, "we have learned far more from greenkeepers than you can ever learn from us."

The final session of the educational program, Thurs. afternoon, began with Dr. Wm. H. Daniel, Asst. in the Agronomy Dept., Purdue Univ., telling greenkeepers how to measure soil moisture and thus conserve water and labor. He made excellent use of charts on slides prepared for this purpose in presenting scientific methods

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used as he discussed the subject of "Fairway Watering." Complete text, with charts, of Dr. Daniel's talk will appear in the March issue of **GOLFDOM**. Greenkeepers interested in the problem of water conservation as well as how to judge irrigation needs and how to save labor will want to read Dr. Daniel's quick, accurate method of measuring available soil moisture in next month's issue.

Charles Danner, Supt., Richland GC, Nashville, Tenn., followed with a "Progress Report on Bent in Central Tennessee." He told how O. J. Noer and Fred Grau started the ball rolling by telling them the advantages to be gained by proper sub-drainage, topsoil, drainage, aeration, the new and superior strains of bent grasses developed and stressing their need in the South. Danner's club experimented with one green — found cost of converting more than offset by savings in maintenance — bent grass green requires less top-dressing, less mowing, less water, less fertilizer and as he stated, "we have a year-round green that we don't have to sow with rye grass in the fall and no transition period in the spring." Other clubs are following suit, one having all 18 greens in bent.

Crabgrass has made most serious inroads in the last five or six years, according

to Prof. Harvey L. Lantz, Iowa State College, Ames, who made "Progress Report on Crabgrass Control." Lantz told how crabgrass had tendency to take over following use of 2,4-D to kill broad leaf weeds where there was apparent failure to follow up with an adequate fertilization program. A new field of research has opened up with the study of weed control, according to Lantz, who is joined in his study of crabgrass control by Gene Nutter and Prof. J. A. DeFrance. Dr. DeFrance is first to report effective control with phenol-mercuric acetate. Control work at Iowa State was reported most effective with PMA when applied at the right time — the 2 to 4 leaf stage of growth. Crabgrass was discovered in the turf of the football field at Ames in 1949. Lantz used 3 gal. Tat-C-Lect with 200 gals. of water and applied this mixture at the rate of 3 gals. to 100 sq. ft. to get 85% control. In 1950 field was treated May 15 with 2½ gals. of Tat-C-Lect Special and control was practically complete by fall.

Lantz warned best time to apply herbicide was on cool days or evenings if possible to prevent burning. Burning minimized if soil is moist.

Noel B. Wysong, Chief Forester, Cook County, Ill., brought to the meeting a note



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of warning in his talk on the spread of "Dutch Elm Disease and Oak Wilt," which concluded the educational program of the conference. He dwelt at length on the inroads being made by Oak Wilt showing colored slide closeups and aerial views of park areas in southern Wisconsin where most serious damage is centered. Unable to discover how the disease is transmitted, effective control work has been stymied. Details of both diseases and steps to follow when either is discovered will be outlined in an early issue of GOLFDOM.

## ACT NOW, DEALERS WARN

(Continued from page 29)

Power greensmowers — Only a few left.  
Hand greensmowers — Still available.

Whirlwinds — Probably will be sold out of larger sizes by March 1.

Sprinklers — Available. Only one small price increase. Supply will be critical by April. Brass couplings and fittings higher and scarcer.

Power sprayers — Still available but slow.

Hose — Big shipment of Goodyear Emerald Cord expected Feb. 1. Prices up but quality still good. Rubber shortage will rule here.

Aerifiers — Still available. No price increase. Good buy.

Cups, flags, poles — Up but available.

Lawn sweepers — Little production expected after April.

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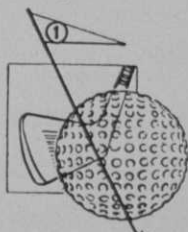
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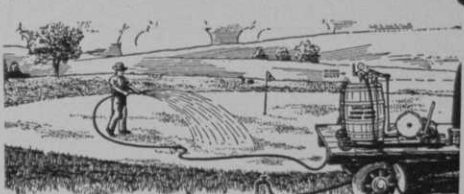
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