



### MIKE AT THE MIKE ON SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Mike Murra's 25th anniversary as pro at Wichita (Ks.) CC was celebrated nearly on Mike's 50th birthday. Dave Truffelli, Crestview CC pro who arrived in Wichita the same day as Murra, Tex Consolver and other pros and their wives joined with Wichita CC members who tossed the surprise party for Mike, also tossed gifts including a pile of silver dollars. Mrs. Murra is at Mike's left.

interest is in what kind of golf course there is. Watch the pride of a member when showing his guests around the golf course. Later, guests are taken into the clubhouse and meet the manager and to the pro shop and meet the pro. Chances are they may never meet the man responsible for the condition of the course—the "greenkeeper."

I have been told there is a lot in a name. Maybe that accounts for the fact that the "greenkeeper" is so much in the background. Even most dictionaries do not recognize the existence of a "greenkeeper." Every year at our turf conferences, outsiders look at our identification badges and say: "Greenkeeping Superintendent? What's that?" Titles do mean something. Years ago the club steward became the club manager, the golf clubmaker became golf professional. Now change "greenkeeper" to golf course superintendent.

Fortunately I am in a position to say that there are exceptions to the above statements and I know of some cases where the golf course superintendent, the professional and the manager are recognized as having the same status.

There are many instances where the term "greenkeeper" is applied to the men actually working on the course in place of the name laborer—which is as it should be. It is quite obvious a distinction should be made between the man in charge and the laborers. In making that distinction let it be befitting the position the superintendent

holds as the No. 1 man at any golf club, as the course without a doubt is the No. 1 item.

Chances are I have left unsaid a lot of things pertaining to the above. If I have, fellows, why not voice your opinions?

### Montana-Wyo. Meet Learns Turf Helped By Skim Milk Powder

Experiments conducted by the Department of Horticulture of the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station have indicated considerable benefit to a variety of horticultural plants by soil applications of small quantities of skim milk, Dr. V. E. Iverson, Prof. of Horticulture, told greenkeepers and officials attending the Montana-Wyoming Turf Assn. spring meeting held at the Butte CC, April 16-17.

He said, "with vegetables, skim milk treatment was found to produce the following results: 1. Larger, more fibrous root systems, 2. Larger stems and taller plants with greater leaf areas, 3. Increased early and total yields.

"In 1950 preliminary experiments were conducted to determine the effects of skim milk powder applied at the rate of one pound per 100 square feet, on turf grasses. The results of this small preliminary test indicated the following benefits to a Kenutcky blue grass mixture, and, to a lesser extent, a mixture of colonial bent and creeping fescue: 1. Better color, 2. Increased top development, 3. More fibrous root development.

"Due to the size and limited scope of this

experiment with turf grasses, it must be considered exploratory in nature and more supporting data is needed before this treatment can be recommended on an experimental basis."

Under the leadership of Dr. Fred V. Grau, Dir. of the USGA Green Section, members and friends of the Turf Association heard discussions on aerifying; fertilizing; weed and clover control; soil and moisture relations, which included references to bad effects of clay or gumbo soils, and drainage conditions; equipment; winter injury and greens dressing; introduction of grass specimens, and technical discussions by Dr. Fred Grau and members of the Agronomy and Horticulture Departments from Montana State College Experiment Station at Bozeman. Dr. A. H. Post of the Agronomy Dept. presided at one of the technical sessions and Mr. I. V. Anderson of the U. S. Forestry Service and Alford J. Dixon of Missoula presented a paper on the use of Lignin and aged sawdust in greens building and maintenance.

Most of the grass courses in Montana and Wyoming and cemeteries and school grounds management were represented at the meeting.

### **Nelson's Teaching Features Indiana Spring Session**

Indiana PGA members plus PGA members from Ohio and Kentucky put in a crowded day of business at Indianapolis April 11, with a teaching session by Byron Nelson headlining a practical program. George McCarthy of US Rubber gave his travelog through the US ball plant with slides being the vivid 3-dimension photographs. Mac's educational talk and pictures are much better than an actual trip through the plant on a hot day. O. J. Noer, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, did his usual great job of giving the fellows a close-up on what and why of trouble with golf turf and how to avoid it, or cure it.

Henry Cowen, MacGregor pres., reminded pros that a lot of well known retail businesses in towns do smaller annual sales volume than pro shops and no pro could expect to get by now without paying close and wise attention to every detail of business. Henry emphasized that the tax situation now calls for very careful and complete accounting. He also said that pros had better be watching their inventories and putting on every kind of proper sales push to see that they didn't get too much working capital tied up in inventory and run into credit embarrassment.

E. Stumm of National Cash Register showed how other merchants handled delicate merchandising situations in ways that pros should study.

A most interesting and valuable talk

on golf club manufacturing was made by Joe Wolfe of Wilson's. Veteran pros who had had bench clubmaking experience and younger pros and assistants all pronounced the Wolfe talk more illuminating than anything else they'd heard on modern club manufacturing, especially with respect to getting clubs made to suit individuals. Wolfe's talk will appear in an early issue of GOLFDOM.

Byron Nelson's teaching demonstration took in the cases of the stars clear through to the duffers. Nelson said he started the wrong way and learned that a golf swing had to be constructed. He said the first score he kept was 118, not counting the ones he missed. He also confessed to being the world's worst dancer. He said Bobby Cruickshank, in the 1930 Texas Open, advising him to change his grip started him to being a good golfer and that Ted Longworth gave him a lot of help when he (Nelson) began to see what it was all about.

Byron said that he grips the club rather tightly but not enough to cause tension in the forearms. He said he had found he could do a lot for ordinary golfers by teaching them to waggle and break up tension that way and with a forward press that unfroze the hips and hands.

Nelson also said that his game gets off comparatively just as much as a 90-shooter's and unless he can keep playing little bad habits are liable to creep in. He told of being unable to play, because of his TV program with Ed Sullivan, for almost a month before the Masters' and when he got into play at Augusta he was compelled to steer shots with a feeling of awkwardness because he didn't know just what error had come into his swing. The final morning, on the practice tee before he started his round, he discovered his body turn hadn't been working just right. He corrected that. Then, with that error eliminated Byron went out and shot his highest round of the tournament.

The Hoosier spring round-up concluded with the customary merry dinner at which Bob McMillan, famed football coach and not so famed golfer, was the very entertaining top performer.

### **Texas PGA Has Full Week of Play, May 28 - July 4**

Texas PGA to have full week of tournament play May 28 thru June 4 at the Amarillo CC with George Aulbach as host professional. Play opens Monday, 28th, with qualifying for National PGA championship; Tuesday, Pro-Amateur event; Wednesday, International PGA match—Texas vs. Mexico; Thursday, first 18 of PGA and Open flight; Friday, second 18 of PGA and finals of Open flight; Saturday and Sunday, semi-finals and finals of PGA. Monday, June 4th, qualifying for USGA National Open.