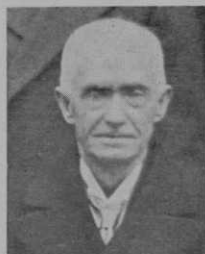


SILVER ANNIVERSARY FOR THE SUPTS.' ASSN., TOO



John Morley

Association of Greenkeepers of America, held its first meeting in Chicago during the International Golf Show and Country Club Sports Exposition, at Hotel Sherman, March 21-26.

New England, Chicago dist. and northern Ohio greenkeepers had active sectional associations and groups of greenkeepers in other areas were getting together to compare experiences and discover the other guy had some very good ideas.

John Morley of the Youngstown (O.) CC was a vigorous promoter of the idea of a national association for the greenkeepers. Morley had been one of the organizers of the Prohibition party as a political element in his youth. At times it seemed to Morley that the prohibition party had had a better chance of electing a president than the greenkeepers of getting organized on a national basis. But some of his neighbors, especially Fred Burkhardt of Cleveland, kept campaigning with him and the Chicago area greenkeepers, who called themselves the Midwestern Association of Greenkeepers. In particular, John McGregor, Eddie Dearie and a few around the midwest, such as Chet Mendenhall of Kansas City, Leo Feser of St. Paul, and Carl Bretzlaff

of Indianapolis were eager to get the boys together. O. J. Noer, then early in his valuable services as sales missionary and roving technical expert for the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, kept fertilizing the field for a national organization.

With the Midwest organization as hosts the national organization was launched and Morley elected its first president. The Golf Show gave the new association a well publicized debut as the show was promoted by Spearman Lewis and A. R. Shaffer, two able press agents. Lewis, by the way, later hit one of the biggest daily doubles ever paid at a race track and with that roll retired from publicity work and became a successful real estate operator at Miami Beach.

Morley died a few years ago, living to see national teamwork for the good of golf and recognition of those responsible for course maintenance. The national association had great effect in developing an alert and open-minded attitude in turf maintenance work, a vast promotion of turf research and its practical application.

The toil, worries and sacrifices of the association's officers never will be adequately appreciated by golfers, although members of the association know the story and are positive in expressing their gratitude. The association has had two changes of name since getting its original label, and due to the wide influence of the course superintendents on all fine turf development, have been importuned to define the association's work as turf, but as golf continues to be by far the main object and inspiration of turf betterment, the association's present title seems likely to stick for many years.

golf that has been developed in the last 25 years.

Today we have six or seven men on an 18 hole golf course. Our expenses are carefully budgeted and the superintendent's financial standing is given full recognition by club officials and golfers everywhere. Our schools and colleges have recognized the importance of turf management. Today we are offered short courses for greenkeepers in general and college courses leading to a degree for such young men as would become greenkeepers.

There are still numerous problems to be

solved. I am sure that science and research will continue to help the superintendent and improve golf turf.

Iowa Greenkeepers and Turf Assn. bulletin says fellows used to bring their clubs along to meetings and get in at least 9-holes but now that they're all discussing the lectures, exchanging their problems and looking over the host's course, there's no time for playing. Iowans had 60 at their Sept. Field Day at Ames, with crabgrass test plots, fungicide tests and equipment demonstrations being the high spots.