

# Golf's Constant Search for Better Business Methods

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(Mr. Johnson is the first Pacific Coast superintendent to become president of the Golf Course Superintendents' Assn. of America.)

It is a great pleasure to me to have the opportunity of expressing my personal sentiments, which I know are shared by my colleagues in golf course maintenance, to GOLFDOM upon the completion of its 25th year.

GOLFDOM has been an accurate and powerful medium in telling of the progress golf course superintendents have registered for the benefit of golfers, the business of golf, and all other elements interested in fine turf. It has vigorously campaigned in the interests of golf course superintendents and its lively, independent manner made it plain to all those concerned with golf that the advance of the superintendent is essential to the general advance of the game, the sound condition of private, public and semi-public course operations, and golf's increase in appeal to the American public.

Among the companion educational activities in golf course maintenance are the national and sectional meetings of the course superintendents. These gatherings—more than 200 of them each year throughout the nation—have a tremendously practical value to officials of golf clubs and to all who play golf.

I feel that I have gained highly profitable benefits for our courses from the exchange of ideas, experiences and the study of turf research at these meetings.

One case in point is the method of mopping greens. Out here we used bamboo poles or rubber hose which was cumbersome and didn't do a good job. At one of our meetings in the east I was introduced to the practice of mopping greens with 6-ft. brushes.

At another of our national conferences I came across aeration on a more efficient plane. Previously, we had used a spiker pulled by a small 3-wheel tractor, or sometimes just plain hayforks with the ends sawed off, to get air into our greens. When I saw what they were doing in the east in this field, upon my return to Griffith Park we built two drilling machines which we still use successfully after many years.

Way back in 1936 at the experimental stations of the USGA Green Section, which at that time was at Arlington Gardens in Washington, D. C., I learned a lot

about weed control. I think in the east certain problems come to the fore before we out here get them. There are such fine schools in turf research making a study of these problems over a period of years, and from them we derive great benefit. Our local turf experimental and research program is in its infancy having just started three years ago.

Locally one can pick up hints that make for good maintenance practice. Just the other day at our So. Calif. Golf Course Superintendents meeting, one of the boys showed us a better way to anchor green flags to poles, thereby saving considerable time in preparing poles for the flags. The idea was to drill a small hole through the flagpole, inserting a cotter key and fastening flag to cotter pin with No. 2 hog rings.

I have gathered so many ideas at these meetings it is almost impossible to relate them all; from mowing greens, tees, fairways, through the newest in insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers. I have learned considerably about irrigation, walks, bridges, maintenance of equipment, different methods of seeding, reseeding and sodding, yes, even about floor coverings!

## 1952 TURF CONFERENCES

- Jan. 8-9—Turf Conference. Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Md.
- Jan. 21-25—One-week Course in Turf Management, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J.
- Feb. 3-8—23rd Annual Turf Conference and Show of Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Neil House, Columbus, Ohio.
- Feb. 18-21—Turf Conference. The Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa.
- Mar. 3-6—Turf Conference. Midwest Regional Turf Foundation and Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.