

MARCH • 1953

Greatest Educational Program Presented at 1953 GCSA Meet

By HERB GRAFFIS

The 24th turf conference and equipment and supply exhibition presented by the Golf Course Superintendents' Assn. at Atlantic City, N.J., Feb. 8-13 was the most valuable gathering the association, research men and manufacturers have contributed to golf course operation. More than 850 were registered. Included were a number of green chairmen and other club officials, park officials and superintendents' wives.

The Golf Course Supts. Assn. of N.J. and the Philadelphia Assn. of Golf Course Supts., did a perfect job as hosts to the national meeting. A trip to the famed, unique Pine Valley course was a feature prior to opening of the formal sessions. Keynote of the conference was "Research-Development-Application," with a close tie-up presented in all addresses. Many of the addresses were given with colored slides and such an excellent job was done in this respect the conference sessions were virtually inspection and study visits to dozens of courses in various parts of the U.S.

More than ever before the trend of GCSA conventions toward making each superintendent's attendance pay off at his home course was in evidence. In the formal and informal discussions many thousands of dollars of savings and improved results of operations originated. It's now estimated that their clubs pay, as a logical item of the maintenance budget, the convention expenses of more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the superintendents at these GCSA affairs.

Leonard Strong, supt., Saucon Valley CC, Bethlehem, Pa., was elected pres. to

succeed Malcolm E. McLaren, supt., Oakwood Club, Cleveland, O. The 1954 GCSA convention was set for the first week in January at Miami, Fla.

Set Publicity Policy

This year's GCSA convention addresses will appear in this and following issues of **GOLFDOM**. The association set a publicity policy to encourage all possible helpful understanding of the superintendents' work, application of research and its general rating high among professional, technical and scientific groups.

Public relations of those in the business phases of golf was the subject of lively informal discussion among superintendents and officials at the GCSA as a result of the withdrawal of pros from the El Paso (Tex.) Open. The withdrawing pros blamed conditions of the course and weather conditions. Par was broken by many who stayed in the competition. Superintendents remarked that when things got tough they weren't able to quit work and pass the buck but had to work harder against odds and for a lot less money than there is in tournament golf. Club officials expressed the opinion that it's becoming more difficult to get first class clubs to accept open tournaments or have star exhibition matches, due to criticism of players who don't happen to score well.

Heavily outweighing tournament players' unhappy comment on course condition as a factor in the superintendents' progress is the public relations angle of superintendents' talks before garden clubs, their authoritative and helpful articles on the garden and lawn sections of news-



— Photo by Fred Hess & Son

NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR GCSA FOR 1953

Officers and Directors of the Golf Course Superintendents Association for 1953 elected at Atlantic City meeting, February 12, 1953 are: Front row (L to R): Dir. Willis H. Glover, Fairfax (Va.) CC; Pres. Leonard J. Strong, Saucon Valley CC, Bethlehem, Pa.; Vice-Pres. Norman C. Johnson, San Jose CC, Jacksonville, Fla.; Dir. William Beresford, Los Angeles (Calif.) CC. Back row, (L to R): Dir. Earl S. Bell, Armour Fields GC, Kansas City, Mo.; Dir. Colin Smith, Shaker Heights CC, Cleveland, Ohio; Sec.-Treas. Agar M. Brown, St. Charles, Ill.; Dir. Andrew Bertoni, Meadowbrook CC, Northville, Mich. Dir. Robert Williams of Beverly CC, Chicago, Ill. was not present. Beresford and Glover are serving second year of their terms as directors; Brown continues in the appointive office. Past-Pres. Malcolm E. McLaren of the Oakwood Club, Cleveland, Ohio, was appointed to be an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.

papers and magazines and other assistance to the public in growing and maintaining grass approaching the golf course standard. This activity in public relations is beginning to bring superintendents out of anonymity into local prominence as experts. The opening session of the conference was started by two supts. who have done excellent jobs in this phase of the supts.' public relations. Frank Dinelli, supt., Northmoor CC (Chicago dist.) was chairman of the Wednesday morning program and Pres. Mal McLaren threw the educational sessions into gear with a brief address expressing confidence that the conference would pay to golfers and course operations vast dividends on the time and money devoted to the convention.

New Jersey State senator Frank S. Farley welcomed the supts. as men whose contributions to the pleasure, material and esthetic values of the country extended far beyond their courses and the work for which they were paid.

Applications of Research

Gilbert H. Ahlgren of Rutgers university spoke on what the application of

research means to the superintendents, outlining research work of far reaching value in golf turf work and advising how to most effectively tie-in with this work for specific and general value to the course and the superintendent.

Warm season grasses and the cool season grasses were subjects of, respectively, Dr. Fred V. Grau who recently resigned as USGA Green Section director and H. B. Musser, Penn State College grass authority. Grau remarked that golf is a warm weather game mainly and urged against making a fetish of color as a primary specification of golf turf. He and Musser both referred frequently to the border climes where a combination of warm and cool-weather grasses could be the right answer. Musser mentioned that differences in soils and management practices might often be factors that accounted more than differences in grasses in determining playing qualities of turf, although the characteristics of the various grasses were fundamental in establishing a sound turf program.

Slides of strong, practical educational value illustrated the talks of both experts

and revealed merits and deficiencies of the leading cool- and warm-weather golf grasses.

Slides of the work that Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Supts. Assn. members did in planting a fairway at the Fairfax (Va.) CC to zoysia were shown by the club's supt., Willis H. Glover. Glover said that 55 men, including supts., members of their staffs, and salesmen, came from as far as 100 miles to Fairfax to work in the largest zoysia operation yet conducted on a course. More than 28,000 plugs of zoysia were planted in aerifier holes, the job accounting for 275 man hours. Details of the planting and fertilizing were given. The gamble on weather conditions turned out favorable with rain falling not long after the planting.

Glover says that he, his chairman and cooperating Mid-Atlantic supts. and officials will not venture any appraisal of the zoysia experiment until after several years but that "Operation Zoysia" already has had a most favorable effect on golfers and club officials in the Mid-Atlantic area as an illustration of the superintendent's leadership and team effort.

Fertilizing Practices

Fertilizing practices in the central, southern and far west states led off the Wednesday afternoon program under the direction of Norman C. Johnson, supt., San Jose CC, Jacksonville, Fla. L. R. Shields, supt., Woodmont CC, Rockville, Md., and Nelson Monical, supt., Portage

CC, Akron, O., presented basic features of their successful procedure in talks elsewhere printed in GOLFDOM. There were numerous questions and answers following the Shields and Monical outlines and that of Wm. Beresford, supt., Los Angeles (Calif.) CC. Due to the program being kept strictly on timetable the discussions on the fertilizing and other talks were taken up after set program hours and continued long.

Beresford has mainly Seaside bent greens and fairways of Bermuda, bluegrass and some bent. The greens get nine feedings a year of Milorganite, 30 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. The fairways are aerated in April and get 1000 lbs. Milorganite and 125 lbs. sulphate of ammonia per acre in May. Fairways are aerated again in Sept. and given 1000 lbs. Milorganite and 200 lbs. sulphate of ammonia to bring the cool weather grasses through. In February Beresford was mowing fairways twice a week. Tees are aerated in April and September and given fairway fertilization ten times a year.

Charles Schalestock, supt., Farmington CC, Charlottesville, Va., spoke on golf course record-keeping showing slides of records he kept for his own study and guidance, and for thorough information of his chairman and other officials. Schalestock emphasized that golf course records must be simple enough to be easily and accurately maintained and that the first

(Continued on page 105)



Part of 375 who made tour of Pine Valley CC during annual GCSA meeting inspecting test plots of Meyer Zoysia over seeded with cool-season grasses. — Photo by W. Bidwell

GREATEST PROGRAM

(Continued from page 41)

data in golf course records is accurate measurement of areas.

Reports and recommendations on clover control by Dr. John F. Cornman of N.Y. State College of Agriculture, and on weed control by Prof. B. H. Grigsby of Michigan State College, brought superintendents up to date on important operating procedure. Cornman and Grigsby gave answers that paid convention expenses of at least a quarter of those present.

A roundup on the first day's program was conducted by Charles K. Hallowell, Pennsylvania extension representative.

Paul F. Leix, supt., Allegheny CC, Sewickley, Pa., introduced Joe Dey, Jr., USGA Executive director in opening the Thursday sessions. Dey said the topic to which he'd been assigned, "What the Superintendent Has Done for Golf Courses," might well be switched around to ask, "What Have the Golf Courses Done for the Superintendents?" in bringing the superintendents' responsibilities



Jim Watson, Agronomist, Toro Mfg. Co., inspecting combination warm-season cool-season grass plots during tour of Pine Valley CC at GCSA Annual Meeting.

and performance into correct perspective. Dey cited records in Golf House as showing Old Tom Morris at St. Andrews having as his top position that of "Custodian of the Links." Old Tom's budget and salary by today's standards weren't much but then, as now, his job was rated by the players as of primary importance.

Dey said there was a sidelight on the superintendents' work in the story of the vicar who observed a parishioner at work in a garden.

"The Lord and you are doing very well with that garden," said the vicar.

"That we are," agreed the gardener;

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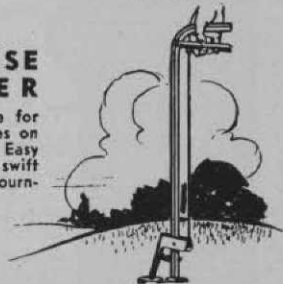
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Annual Reports Guideposts

There was a light touch also in the talk of Dr. Spencer H. Davis of Rutgers, who spoke on diseases of turf grasses and 1952 fungicide trials. Davis explained the factors in fungicide trials and told why the annual reports are of value as guideposts rather than the gospel applicable to all situations at all times. He said that he and the scientists at work on the fungicide trials didn't recommend that their experiences and reports should overrule a superintendent's own experience with fungicide treatments that had been repeatedly successful under conditions at their own courses. Following some deep



Demonstration of West Point Products new thatch removing machine for group during Pine Valley Tour.

stuff Davis remarked that at least one of the superintendents' problems had been answered; the problem being that of thinking of a retort when somebody asks, "Who's keeping this course; a plumber?" At the wages plumbers get now Davis says nobody dares ask that question of a course superintendent.

Dr. Frank L. Howard of the University of Rhode Island, illustrating his address with slides, gave a most informative talk on helminthosporium-curvularia blights of turf and their care. Failures to properly identify the troubles accounted for numerous cases of extensive damage, Howard said. His address will appear in GOLFDOM.

Dr. H. L. Starkey and Dr. Ralph Engel of Rutgers together with Paul Weiss, supt. of Lehigh Valley CC, Allentown, Pa., spoke on control of thatch in turf. Starkey and Engel went at the problem from the scientific base and Weiss tackled it from

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the operating end. Weiss warned that with so many fairways being bent, the thatch problem on fairways was due to become a much worse and more expensive headache than thatch on greens and probably is an inevitable aftermath of the demand for closecut fairways.

Bill Beresford, Los Angeles CC supt., got the final session started with a talk by F. S. LaBar, Stroudsburg, Pa., nurseryman on landscaping that gives the course added values for players without unduly increasing maintenance operations.

Summaries of the reports of turf experiences in 1952 as observed by O. J. Noer, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, and Arthur E. Anderson, supt., Brae Burn CC, West Newton, Mass., on northern courses and on southern courses by James L. Watson, Toro Mfg. Co. and James L. Jennings, supt., River Oaks CC, Houston, Tex., are appearing in GOLFDOM. The four expert observers accented the lessons of a generally troublesome year in turf rather than merely relating the troubles or their absence.

The conference finale was a symposium in which three chairmen who know the superintendent's problems and are in the middle between the members and the course maintenance men made it plain that the superintendent didn't have any monopoly on course headaches. V. J. (Pat) Pazzetti, Jr., former green chmn., Saucon Valley CC, Bethlehem, Pa., and George Hurd, the club's present chmn., together with Adm. Jack Phillips, chmn., Army-Navy CC, Arlington, Va., and rated by superintendents as one of the most valuable men in turf maintenance at Mid-Atlantic courses, told the officials' and players' side of the story and debated the issues with superintendents. A summary of this frank discussion will appear in April GOLFDOM. This program feature, in the opinion of those whose departure schedules permitted them to hear it, was the best educational material on operating and officials-relations policies ever presented before superintendents and should be spotlighted earlier in future conferences.

WHAT SUPT. HAS DONE

(Continued from page 53)

probably are opportunities crying to be recognized.

And incidentally, gentlemen, developments like these we have named are news, and you individually should see to it that the appropriate news agencies are

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