

Mid-Atlantic Supts. Hold Silver Anniversary Meet

Silver Anniversary meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Greenkeepers Assn. and the annual conference of the Mid-Atlantic Assn. of GC Supts. was held at the Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland, January 6 and 7, 1953, under the auspices of the Univ. of Maryland, Dept. of Entomology, Dr. Ernest N. Cory, Dir.

The conference was a highly successful event, with 89 members and guests present at the two day affair. Among visitors in attendance was a strong delegation of members from the Philadelphia Assn. of GC Supts. headed by Leonard Strong of Saucon Valley CC. Speakers and educational topics presented by each are as follows: Soil Conditioners: Dr. R. B. Alderfer, Penn. State College; Poa Annuua and Clover Control: Dr. Ralph E. Engel, Rutgers University; Turf Diseases: Dr. J. R. Vaughn, Michigan State College; Evaluation of Chemicals for the control of weeds in turf: Dr. Warren C. Shaw, Bureau of Plant Industry, USDA.

Why did so many greens go out this year? Dr. O. J. Noer, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission; Proper times and methods of aerification: Tom Mascaro, West Point Products Corp.; Flowers and Shrubs; Mark M. Shoemaker, Univ. of Maryland; Cost of turf renovation and establishment with Zoysia grasses: Dr. Fred V. Grau, Green Section, USGA; Moving Picture, "Nature's Half Acre."

Another educational feature of the conference was a display of 65 permanently mounted soil profiles, taken from greens in the Mid-Atlantic area. Each course represented had two profiles on display, a good one and a 'bad one, in most instances each profile showed why the green was so classified. Those labeled by the superintendent as the poorest green on his particular course were either layered or mostly clay, or silt, or heavily matted. They were typical examples of built in construction headaches. Credit for arrangement of the display goes to Al Radko and Bob Elder of the USGA Green Section.

This Silver Anniversary meeting was dedicated to the charter members and founders of the Mid-Atlantic Greenkeepers Assn., now the Mid-Atlantic Association of GC Supts. Seven of the original fourteen members who founded the group are still active greenkeeping superintendents. They are: O. B. Fitts, the first president; Reg Giddings, Reuben Hines, Bob Scott, Sr., Dick Scott, Tom Ryan and Dick Watson.

The 1953 officers of the organization are: Pres., James E. Thomas, Army-Navy CC, Arlington, Va.; Vice Pres., Robert Scott, Jr., Bonnie View GC, Baltimore, Md.; Sec.-Treas., Charles Schalestock, Farmington CC, Charlottesville, Va.

Architects Elect Gordon; Adopt Policy Resolutions

Wm. F. Gordon, Doylestown, Pa., was elected pres., American Society of Golf Course Architects at the ASGCA 1953 annual meeting at Ojai, Calif. Gordon succeeds Wm. P. Bell, Pasadena, Calif.



Officers of American Society of Golf Course Architects for 1953 elected at annual meeting at Ojai Inn, Ojai, Calif. (L to R): William H. Diddel, Ormond Beach, Fla., VP; William F. Gordon, Doylestown, Pa., pres., and James H. Harrison, Turtle Creek, Pa., sec.-treas.

Wm. Diddel of Ormond Beach, Fla., and Indianapolis, Ind., was elected vp, and James G. Harrison, Turtle Creek, Pa., was elected sec.-treas.

Gordon, who took up golf architecture after World War I and founded his own company in 1945 has been responsible for design and construction of numerous courses in the U.S., South America and Canada, now has his son, Dave, associated in business with him. Wm. P. Bell, another of the busy notables in the golf architectural profession, also has his son as an associate.

Considerable discussion of the problems of new course design and alteration from the viewpoints of play, maintenance and finance kept the architects in sessions for three days. Highlights of the discussions were summarized in policy resolutions which the association authorized Wm. B. Langford to issue.

The ASGCA resolved:
"We favor the development and maintenance of the rough to make it an effec-

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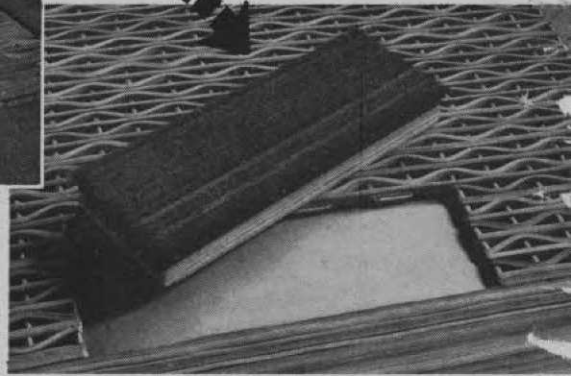
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tive factor in the strategy of play.

"We favor the contouring of greens to promote interest in a department of the game where half the strokes are played and to exert a proper influence in the play of the hole.

"We favor the placement of hazards guarding greens which reward accurate play and do not sacrifice the demands of good golf to the mechanics of green-keeping.

"We favor the construction of a limited number of strategic hazards as opposed to the building of many penal traps.

"We favor a system of bunkering which is based on the play of experts and with the object of developing the skill of those

less adept and a minimum of interference with the play of high handicap groups.

"We are opposed to the use of grasses which have not been thoroughly proven."

The architects' resolutions frankly committed the designers on points about which there's been muttering backstage. The resolution on trapping took the position that for championship tests the trapping should be rigidly testing for shots champions should be able to make but bunkering shouldn't be done so it adds more strokes to scores of those who already are penalized by lack of distance and unduly increase maintenance costs.

The architects, after considering the course superintendents' problems, came to

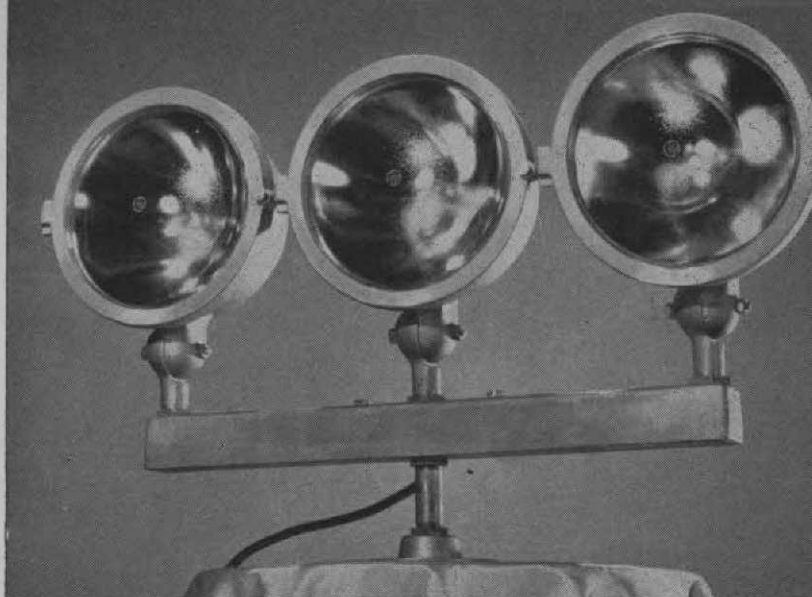
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the decision that when fringe areas were demanded between greens bunkers and greens and strategic value of these areas outweighed the mowing costs of the debatable territory.

Green contouring also was subject of lively discussion from the maintenance angles. Surface draining, cup placement areas and power mowing factors all must be considered in designing greens of interesting and testing contours the architects agreed.

The architects exchanged experience stories of mutually valuable work with superintendents and research experts acquainted with local conditions but at present prices of seed didn't feel war-

ranted in taking any chances on seeding programs that hadn't been endorsed by varying conditions of several years.

Plastic pipe was cited as one of the newer economies in construction and great improvements in fast and economical earth handling in new and remodeling jobs were cited.

Considerable interest was expressed in six hole courses as attractive and economical nurseries of golf and as courses where present golfers could get good golf in short time and on limited areas.

There also was expert discussion about accenting strategy and safety so the long-hitting minority wouldn't be running away with the game.