



## MIDWEST TURF CONFERENCE GROWS TEN-FOLD

From 37 in 1937, the initial year of the Midwest Turf Conference at Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., attendance has grown to a registration of 375 this year. Many of those who attended are in the group picture shown above.

### Supts. Dramatize Instruction in Labor Relations

In the opinion of many golf course superintendents the most effective presentation of mutual instruction in difficult problems was made during the Midwest Turf Conference at Purdue university. The 370 who registered at the conference agreed that the panel on golf course labor management problems staged by Purdue's Prof. P. E. Lull with the cooperation of 11 supts. dramatized and put into clear focus situations with which every golf course supt. must contend.

Supts. were assigned to acting roles in



Prof. W. H. Daniel, Purdue Univ., is showing supts. attending Midwest Turf Conference some of the turfgrass tests in a Purdue greenhouse. Among those on the Midwest program were Glenn Burton, Ralph Engel, W. F. Pickett, O. J. Noer, Fred V. Grau, Al Linkogel, Joe McDermott and W. H. Daniel. Special sessions were held for private course and for pay-play course supts., in addition to the general conference.

staging the various problems and "The Supts.' Little Theatre Group" which they were called by session chmn. Stan Graves, acted with such realism you forgot they were acting.

The first subject was handling an interview with an applicant for a job. Andy Bertoni was the supt. and Ted Woehrle was the college lad applying for golf course work for the summer.

Criticism of this and the other presentations were invited from supts. and discussion in all cases was lively. In the hiring case the principal comment was that the applicant should be encouraged to do more talking about himself and his qualifications, and that the nature of the work should be stated as specifically as possible.

In the demonstration of reprimanding a course laborer Ray Gerber was the supt. and Pete Koval was the course employee whose work had been unsatisfactory. Pete complained about being underpaid, doing harder work for less money than others on the course, being sick, and gave the rest of the usual excuses.

Comment from the floor was that an investigation of the course laborer's home conditions and even a physical examination by an MD if the fellow had seemed to be worth keeping, might be advisable.

The performance on giving day's work instructions to the crew had Stan Graves as supt. and as the crew: Roy Nelson, Carl Bretzlaff, Chet Mendenhall, Bob Williams, Norm Johnson, John McCoy and Andy Bertoni.

Although the circumstances, especially

the large audience and the short time, gave the supts. who were taking roles valid excuses for not giving or getting instructions completely or clearly, all the participants frankly admitted that the demonstration was one that emphasized the necessity of giving orders that were certain to be completely understood, remembered and followed.

Discussion brought out the wisdom of giving written orders in some cases, explaining the job on a blackboard or by pencil sketches in the maintenance shop in other instances, or having — as Norm Johnson has at San Jose CC, Jacksonville — large diagrams of greens areas in the shop to show the help exactly what the superintendent wants done.

In view of the many labor management problems confronting supts. it was the consensus at the Midwest conference that a session similar to that at Purdue be put on as a valuable feature of the Golf Course Supts.' national conference in St. Louis next January.

### **Williams Memorial Trophy for Air Force Championship**

A permanent golf trophy honoring Lt. Morris Williams, young Texan who died last fall in an aircraft accident, has been established by the United States Air Force.

The huge loving cup, to be known as the Morris W. Williams, Jr., Memorial Trophy, will be placed in the custody of the winner of the U. S. Air Force World-Wide Golf championship yearly according to provisions of the memorial.

Maj. Gen. E. J. Timberlake, who is primarily responsible for the trophy, presented the cup to Williams' parents March 2 in a public ceremony at the University of Texas.

Williams was a jet fighter-bomber pilot in Gen. Timberlake's Ninth Air Force at the time of his death last September. He was stationed at George Air Force Base, California.

He was never defeated in service tournaments during his military career. Williams held the All-Service championship competing against the top golfers of the Air Force, Army and Navy.

At the time of his death he was the U. S. Air Force champion and champion of the Ninth Air Force.

His previous titles included the Air Force Training Command championship, the Air Force Pacific Coast championship and the Hawaiian Coast Conference championship.

Before entering service he led the Texas University Golf Team to the Southwest Conference championship in 1948, 1949 and 1950. He also won the Texas Amateur and Texas PGA in 1950.

## **MAINTENANCE PRACTICE**

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Many of our courses now have been in play since the turn of the century and the strains of grasses are not tolerant. Many of our greens were built without concern for surface drainage and are being rebuilt for that purpose.

Some of our courses are still maintaining a collar around the green of several feet that is cut at an intermediate height. This adds to expense in maintenance but is an asset to the player and general appearance of a green.

### **Tee Maintenance Differences**

Tee maintenance varies considerably in our district from surfaces similar to green condition to surfaces similar to fairway condition. At our club we have predominantly bent grass on the tees and treat them rather similar to greens. We cut our tees at about  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. and follow a fertilizer practice very nearly the same as for the greens. On occasion we treat the tees with fungicide. We do not plug the tees as we used to years ago but instead we use a mixture of soil and seed in the divot holes about once a week. We use ryegrass seed with some bent seed mixed in. Four men can cover all our tee divots that accumulate over a week's time in about 4 hours and it is usually done on Monday afternoon.

At Beverly we are continually rebuilding our tees to provide approximately 4,000 sq. ft. of teeing surface on all the holes. With adequate areas for tee marker placement we find much less wear on the turf. Several courses are trying Merion bluegrass on tees and the reports thus far are somewhat varied. Some seem to like it and some have not. Where Merion and bent have been mixed, the bent has taken over.

### **Fairways the Headache**

Fairways have probably given us our biggest headache in recent years. The players have demanded close cut fairway turf which has forced the courses with fairway irrigation to go to bentgrass on their fairways.

Then after going to close cut bent we gradually go into large quantities of poa annua in the fairways. Of course when the hot weather comes along we lose poa in