



Penn State's Silver Jubilee conference attracted a record crowd to stow away the banquet then sit back and listen to old timers tell about early days of turf research by college and golf course combination.

## Penn State's 25th Anniversary in Turf Research Praised

By A. H. IMHOF

Tributes to Penn State's outstanding work on turfgrasses featured the sessions of the school's 25th annual Turfgrass Conference attended by a record crowd of 250. Sessions were held in the Nittany Lion Inn on the Penn State campus.

Speakers for the silver jubilee banquet declared that research and education in the turfgrass field at Penn State have won national and international recognition. Many paid special tributes to Prof. H. B. Musser who has headed the experimental work, taught classes, and served as chairman of the conference program.

Weighty topics and academic speeches were enlivened at every session by the contagious humor injected by Joseph Valentine, supt. of the Merion GC, Ardmore, Pa. who was among the original group to ask Penn State to do special work on turfgrass in 1929. Valentine recalled many interesting developments down through the years in which he has continued to serve as chairman of the Turf Research Advisory committee.

### Valentine's Day

At the anniversary banquet it was Valentine, early in the evening, who set the informal pace for the series of greetings and tributes paid to virtually every segment of turfgrass interests of Pennsylvania, several other states and Canada. Dr. H. B. Sprague, head of Penn State's Agronomy Department, was M. C. for the banquet.

After Dr. Lyman E. Jackson, dean of



Joe Valentine (L) recalls the lighter side of the start of golf course research as he addresses the Penn State banquet. On Valentine's left are Dr. H. B. Sprague, who MC-ed the banquet; Dr. Lyman E. Jackson, dean of Penn State College of Agriculture and Dr. Austin B. Patrick, agronomist of USDA who directed Penn State's first conference.

Penn State's College of Agriculture opened the conference with a welcome and Dr. D. R. McClay explained new courses being launched for turfgrass management, the sessions really got down to business. Dr. W. H. Daniel, of Purdue University spoke on "The Riddle of Bentgrass Summer Rooting" citing some of the research under way to point up his remarks.

### Reviews Canadian Problems

C. E. Robinson, consultant for the Royal Canadian GA declared "The Canadian people are indebted to Prof. Musser and to Penn State" for many developments in turf work now under way. In his talk,

"Golf and Golf Courses in Canada," Robinson reviewed some of the problems and conditions prevalent in the various Canadian provinces.

Dr. H. B. Couch, of Penn State's Dept. of Botany and Plant Pathology, discussed "Control of Rust on Merion bluegrass." He reviewed work under way testing many new chemicals, some of which have not yet been released for general use.

"Snow Mold Control" was the topic of Dr. James R. Watson, Jr., who reported varying control results of this condition by use of some of the newer organic mercury compounds with various carriers. At the banquet, Dr. Watson paid tribute to his former teacher, Musser.

Seedbed sterilization was discussed by Dr. J. C. Harper, II, of the Lawngrass Development Co., Vienna, Va., followed by a talk on topdressing of putting greens by Dr. J. A. DeFrance, of Rhode Island University. Dr. DeFrance reported on some of the longtime research on lime uses conducted at the Rhode Island station.

Results of 6 different pre-emergence and 6 post-emergence chemicals for control of crabgrass in turf were reported by J. M. Duich, Penn State agronomist. Emphasis was placed on newer materials as well as treatments for various crabgrass species.

#### Moisture Discussed

Moisture problems occupied a half-day of discussion. Dr. Fred V. Grau, of the West Point (Pa.) Products Co., spoke on "Too Much Water?" followed by Dr. R. R. Davis, of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station at Wooster on "An Evaluation of Grasses for Unirrigated Fairways and Lawns" based on research at the Ohio station. Dr. R. E. Engel, of Rutgers University, told of turfgrass problems in New Jersey.

The newer urea-formaldehyde fertilizers were the subjects of two interesting discussions. The first on development and characteristics of the newer materials was by Dr. D. W. Kolterman, of duPont de Nemours Co.; the second by Prof. Musser reported results of experiments on the rates, kinds, and timing of nitrogenous fertilizers, including the urea-formaldehydes. Musser's reports covered five years study at Penn State.

Color slides illustrated the remarks of O. J. Noer of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission when he spoke on "Experiences in 1955 and Their Impact on Future Turfgrass Maintenance."

Greetings from the U. S. Department of Agriculture were brought by Dr. F. V.

Juska, who recently assumed charge of the turf experiments at the Beltsville, Md., research center. Dr. Juska also spoke to the conference on management of mixtures containing the Merion bluegrass.

Turfgrass problems in New York were reviewed by Dr. John R. Cornman, of Cornell University, who declared that Penn State "has the strongest turfgrass program in the nation."

The value of consistent testing of soils in golf courses was stressed by A. E. Cooper, extension agronomist at Penn State, who reviewed the five years' work in this line. Cooper stressed the importance of correcting conditions as reflected by careful soil tests, each year, rather than permitting a buildup of either excesses or deficiencies of the various soil elements.

Numerous speakers during the conference referred to the training of young men in turf work as one of the outstanding contributions made by Penn State during the past 25 years. This point was emphasized in the final talks at the banquet when J. M. Duich saluted 17 men who had received bachelor and advanced degrees specializing in turf work. At the same time, Duich pointed out the growing need for trained men in the field and told how Penn State is attempting to meet this need with a new 2-year program as well as the existing 4-year degree program. Many graduates of the school were among those attending the silver jubilee.

Dr. A. L. Patrick, now of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service and former professor of Agronomy at Penn State, related early attempts to focus attention on turf problems when he organized the first turfgrass short courses and conferences 25-years ago. Prof. J. W. White, Professor F. J. Holben, and Prof. W. S. Beach, all retired Penn State faculty members, were present for the anniversary banquet and honored for their respective contributions to the early turf work.

Representatives of a score of Pennsylvania organizations of golf course supts. joined in paying tribute to Penn State and to Prof. Musser during the banquet. Representatives of industries associated with turf work also joined in the testimonial. Alan Mock, Pittsburgh seedsman and pres. of the newly formed Pa. Turfgrass Council, represented that group.

A. M. Radko, Northeast director, spoke for the USGA Green Section, and from the Golf Course Superintendents Assn., Leonard Strong, Bethlehem, Pa. a past president, brought greetings.