

## Improvement of Standards for Club Progress Is Theme of GCSA Meet

*Training Policies, Superintendent's Managerial Role*

*Also Thoroughly Discussed at Louisville*

By HERB GRAFFIS

Paul E. Weiss, Sr., supt., Lehigh Valley CC, Emmaus, Pa., was elected pres., Golf Course Superintendents' Assn. of America at the organization's 28th annual conference in the Kentucky hotel, Louisville, Feb. 12-15. He succeeds A. Ward Cornwell of the Detroit GC.

Robert M. Williams of Beverly CC, Chicago, was elected vp of the GCSA; Agar M. Brown of St. Charles, Ill., was re-elected secy.-treas.; and Henson Maples, Pinchurst (N.C.) CC, Andrew Bertoni, Meadowbrook (Detroit dist.) and James Thomas of Army and Navy CC, Arlington, Va., were elected directors.

The supts. believe that their meeting was of greater definite value to golfers, clubs and other organizations operating golf clubs than any other gathering ever held by men in the golf business. There is solid foundation for this conclusion. At no other meeting of operating men within the industry has there been a comparable program dealing with so many problems basic to club progress, member satisfaction and improvement of standards with rigid but not pound-foolish economy.

### Largest Convention

The conference was the largest the association has held. There were approximately 1000 course supts., turfgrass agrono-

mists and other specialists in applied research branches of golf course maintenance present. The Kentuckiana GCSA, co-hosts to the convention, in addition to conducting tours of local golf courses, arranged an entertaining schedule for 200 supts' wives.

In 1930, the fourth conference of the GCSA was held at Louisville. There was a vast gap between that affair and the 28th national gathering. The supts. have grown tremendously in prestige, value to golf, professional attitude, businesslike bearing, management practices and scope of knowledge in coping with the complex and unpredictable problems of weather and soils and insect, fungus and other causes of damage to golf turf in addition to the most unpredictable factor in golf, the golfer himself.

More than 450 persons packed the conference room when Raymond Phillips, Louisville CC supt, opened the educational program by introducing Pres. Ward Cornwell. Cornwell's brief remarks that the convention's keynote, "Modern Management," called for fast action got the show on the road without delay.

Stanley Graves, supt., Westwood CC, Rocky River, O., and O. J. Noer of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission had the



GCSA Officers, Directors for '57 — (L to r): Andrew Bertoni, dir.; Robert Williams, vp; Henson E. Maples, dir.; John A. Gormley, dir.; Paul E. Weiss, pres.; James E. Thomas, dir.; Elmer G. Border, dir.; L. E. Lambert, dir.; and Agar M. Brown, secy.-treas. Pres. Weiss succeeds Ward Cornwell.

pleasant task of interviewing three celebrities, Bill Kaiser of Hillerich and Bradsby, "Pee Wee" Reese of the Brooklyn Dodgers and Col. Lee S. Read, effective promoter of golf in the south and USGA and Southern Golf Assn. committeeman. Kaiser, one of the best mouthpieces and exhibits of a gentleman sportsman that pro golf or any other pro sport can offer, told the supts. what he liked about the progress that has been made in maintaining courses and referred so specifically to greens, fairways, tees, rough and bunkers that he really paid authoritative tribute to the supts' work instead of giving them the conventional routine.

Reese, Dodgers' captain, is the smoothest and wittiest of all the baseball players who take occasional cuts at the microphones. He told the turfmen that the type of grass he likes on baseball diamonds is one that slows up a ball when he has to field it and speeds it up when he hits it. Reese and Kaiser presented an autographed "Reese" Louisville Slugger bat to Noer to take home to his wife, an ardent Braves fan, to be used for domestic discipline. "Pee Wee" pulled a fine line in telling that La Gorce at Miami Beach was in such fine shape he hated to take a fox-tail (meaning divot) out of it.

The convention business got under way when Phillip E. Drachmann, green chmn., Evansville (Ind.) CG, told how clubs profit from turf conferences. Drachmann made a sound educational and propaganda address that the GCSA rushed to reprint for the enlightenment of club officials and members and public course golfers. Drachmann knows far more about the supts' application of turf research and the nature and

extent of that research than most club officials do.

#### More Than Golf Profits

Drachmann credited the turfgrass conferences with establishing standards of course maintenance that not only have substantially improved the golf playing conditions on all types of courses in the United States, but have been reflected in the considerable betterment of home lawns and in a general advance in civic beautification.

Col. Read, in commenting on how players so often blame grass for their own shortcomings, said: "Bad golf never should be an excuse for bad manners."

John McGregor, who, when supt. of Chicago GC, became the second pres. of the GCSA forerunner (1933) said that the first convention of the association in 1927 was attended by 67 greenkeepers.

A measure of cheer and some education was given supts. by John H. Miller, mgr., Products Service TV Receiving div., General Electric Corp., Louisville. Miller told of how smartly and hard GE has worked in developing the attitude and ability to handle complaints. This resulted in an opportunity to make many friends and learn about improving and protecting the company's product.

The frank talk by the GE man, telling about the firm's problems with its own organization's personnel in addition to buyers of GE ranges, TV sets, refrigerators and other equipment, showed the supts. they were not alone in having to handle complaints of a seemingly unreasonable character. Several supts., in discussing Miller's talk, said their own problems with

*(continued on page 96)*

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## Improvement of Standards Theme of GCSA Meet

*(Continued from page 38)*

complaints were about 5 per cent technical and 95 per cent human nature, just as are GE's.

Don Gaulkins, Fox Hills CC, Culver City, Calif. presided over the highly interesting Wednesday morning session.

### Five-Star Film

The first hour passed in what seemed to superintendents to last about five minutes. It was devoted to O. J. Noer's colored motion picture of latest developments in maintenance practices and of fine golf holes on famous courses. The film is 16mm. and silent. Noer did a running comment on the picture that was a veritable short course in maintenance and included a roundup of some of the high spots in supts.' achievements during the past year.

There hasn't been anything else in golf comparable to this picture with the exception of the PGA-Life magazine instruction film, "Keep 'Em on the Fairway." This picture probably will be shown at sectional association meetings with Noer doing the narrating or supplying the script for reading.

The film, made by the widely-travelled veteran maintenance consultant of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, is rich in possibilities as player entertainment and information material after some editing for length. The only complaint supts. had about the film was that it attracted more of a crowd than the conference room could accommodate and about 100 were shut out.

The picture is an excellent job of covering maintenance, geographically, and has a good seasoning of personalities. Among points covered were views of noted courses; construction of the new Houston (Tex.) CC course which has Gene Titt greens, fairways, tees and rough; machinery and material uses; construction and planting methods; experiment station operations and results; handling of golf cart and car problems; insecticide and fungicide use; soil sterilizing and new strains of grass.

Of great timely value was the symposium on "Training New Men," which had as moderator, Fred V. Grau, who has had considerable successful experience in training young men who have become experts in maintenance. (See Grau's Answer, page 72).

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First to speak on training was Rex McMorris, Executive v.p., National Golf Foundation.

McMorris set the stage for the panel members to follow by reporting the increasing number of new job opportunities opening up as a result of new construction and the growing number of new courses being opened for play each year. Training of new men falls far short of meeting the demand for capable, experienced personnel in turf management. Shortages have already reached the critical stage in some areas.

If the rate of increase in new course construction continues as Foundation records indicate the superintendent stands to benefit because of the short supply of trained men resulting in the need for new course officials to bid for the services of personnel available.

As encouraging as the situation might seem for the superintendent new course and club officials are faced with a situation which will become more critical before it gets better, according to McMorris. The club member and official must learn, and to some this may come the hard way, that the key man on their course is not only a valuable but a scarce commodity

but that they are dealing in a highly competitive market. The realization must come that if they are to continue to enjoy the finest maintained courses in the world they have a responsibility of putting the job of superintendent in a position where young men will want to become educated and take special training for openings in turf management.

Ted Woehrl, ass't. supt., Beverly CC, Chicago, gave an excellent report of his preparation and training to become a course superintendent. Starting at the early age of five in his father's nursery, Ted seemed destined for the role he has picked for himself. He received his formal training at Purdue University. He outlined courses he took and his reasons for taking them including practical study in turf management and research. His years in the Armed Forces gave him experience in administration and also an opportunity to observe course maintenance methods in Europe. His apprenticeship with Bob Williams at Beverly where he has been privileged to sit in on committee meetings has given him further training in administration. After a season with Norm Johnson, Supt., Country Club of Florida where he is learning southern turf management

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Ted expects to return to Chicago for another year with Bob Williams at Beverly before going on his own — an excellent example of the education, training and preparation it is hoped others will emulate.

Following Woehrl the experienced superintendent, Andrew Bertoni, Meadowbrook CC, Detroit dist., told of the "Why" of training new men. His remarks will be found on page 66.

Prof. H. B. Musser, Dept. of Agronomy, Penn State Univ., gave a comprehensive report on training opportunities available in colleges and universities to conclude this highly informative session on the Training of New Men. For a complete record of the contribution by educational institutions in the training of young men for the turfgrass business turn to page 46.

A sharp focus on the keynote of the conference was made in the "Supts' Responsibilities — 12 points for Good Management" part of the program which had Kayem Ovia, Woodmere (N.Y.) CC, as chmn.

Leo Feser, Orono GC, Inc., Wayzata, Minn. was moderator. Handling two of the list of responsibilities were Raymond

H. Gerber, Glen Oak CC, Glen Ellyn, Ill.; Sherwood Moore, Hollywood GC, Deal, N.J.; Warren Bidwell, Seaview CC, Abscon, N.J.; Marion C. Mendenhall, Kenwood CC, Cincinnati, O.; Malcolm E. McLaren, Oakwood Club, Cleveland and Robert Williams, Beverly CC, Chicago.

#### Flow of Responsibility

The plan here was to show flow of responsibility from the pres. or owner, through the board of directors, the grounds committee, which is concerned with policy and liason to the supt., who is responsible for results.

Supts. in planning this examination of their work designated the 12 main departments of their responsibilities and the subdivisions as:

**AREA MAINTENANCE** — golf course, clubhouse grounds, parking lot, range, new grounds construction.

**LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE** planning, planting, removal, pruning, inventory, etc.

**WORKING STAFF** — procurement, training, supervision, morale, benefits, etc.

**SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS** — purchase, storage, inventory, use, selection, etc.

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**PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION** — publications, conferences, schools, associations, field testing, meetings, etc.

**COOPERATION** — committee, golfers, manager, pro and caddymaster, superintendents, etc.

**KNOWLEDGE OF GOLF** — participation, reading, conversation, spectator, etc.

**EQUIPMENT** — purchase, storage, maintenance, inventory, operation, selection, etc.

**BUDGET** — preparation, presentation, execution, etc.

The above outline makes a good guide for the supt. in appraising his qualities as an operating executive, responsible for a big and basic investment in golf property. It also gives club officials an idea of the extensive and vital scope of the supts.' work.

Remarks of supts. who spoke in this

section of the program appear elsewhere in March GOLFDOM or will appear in future issues.

Robert E. Scott, Jr., Bonnie View CC, Baltimore, Md., marshalled the research experts who reported on the high spots of new developments in research with Dr. Marvin F. Ferguson, Southwestern Director, USGA Green Section, College Station, Texas, serving as moderator. Superintendents were treated to a comprehensive roundup of the latest developments from north, east, south and west in one of the most compact and enlightening sessions of the conference.

Dr. James R. Watson, Jr., Agronomist, Toro Mfg. Corp., reported recent findings in studies made by graduate student Raymond Kunze at Texas A. & M. College and Dr. O. R. Lunt, Dept. of Irrigation and Soils at UCLA to determine mechanical composition of a soil mixture which resists compaction yet produces good turfgrass growth. Conclusion reached by Kunze in his study was that a mixture containing 80 to 85 per cent sand, 5 to 10 per cent of a well aggregated clay soil and 10 per cent peat most nearly met the requirements set forth. Tests made by Dr. Lunt showed maximum compaction occurred in the top inch

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and one-half of soil on putting greens and also that a four inch layer of sand on top of a soil susceptible to compaction would protect the soil underneath from compaction. Lunt pointed out that in building a green over which a sand layer is to be placed, preparation of the underlying soil is important; it is not necessary to mix sand with the underlying soil, fertilization program will have to include frequent applications and indications from the experimental green at UCLA are that two irrigations per week are adequate to support growth during hot weather.

Watson also reported developments in the work on snowmold control. In summarizing he referred to the work of Dr. J. B. Lebeau at the Univ. of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada and the emphasis placed on the fact snowmold is a general term applying to a disease which has many casual organisms and because of these different organisms control measures may differ in various geographic areas. This explains in part why some fungicides may perform satisfactorily in one area and give poor control in another.

In a rapid fire presentation using slides to fully illustrate his discussion, Dr. Gene Nutter, Turf Technologist, Dept. of Orna-

mental Horticulture, Univ. of Florida, gave a complete roundup of the research being carried on at the University and at Tifton, Ga., Experimental Station to help solve the problems in Southern turf management with special attention being given to nematode and weed control study.

Dr. Ralph Engel, Associate Research Specialist in Turf Management, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, N. J. reported on work being done at Rutgers and in the Northeast. He warned superintendents many new ideas and new chemicals today are being developed and that often premature use of these new materials may prove costly. Two or three seasons or more are needed to prove a given material or practice. If mistakes are to be made make them on test plots. If new products or materials are tried take the conservative approach until assured of favorable results.

A summary of investigations and studies being made on controls of new diseases and uses of new compounds gathered from many sources was presented by Dr. William Klomprens, Plant Pathologist, The Upjohn Co., Kalamazoo, Mich. New results as well as old recommendations were tabulated by Klomprens on at least a dozen of the more common diseases. This

tabulated information was distributed to those present and is available on request.

Contributions research have made to golf course maintenance and reports of the practical application of new developments were made by regional directors of the USGA Green Section. Charles K. Hallowell reported from the Mid-Atlantic, Alexander Radko from the Northeastern and William Bengeyfield from the Western Region.

In closing this most informative session Ferguson pointed up the need for more research. Every new day presents more problems to be solved. In a national economy of better than \$400 billion industry reportedly spends approximately \$4 billion or one per cent on research. Better than \$100 million is spent annually on golf course turf maintenance. At the same rate, at least \$1 million should be going into turf research but according to Marvin not more than one-fifth that amount is being spent.

Thursday afternoon, Ralph Zegarac, Sunnyside GC, Waterloo, Ia. conducted the

session which opened with Dr. William H. Daniel of Purdue University and Midwest Turf Foundation giving the supts. case histories on learning from experience. He cited instances of zoysia, bent and Bermuda use under comparable conditions in St. Louis, Evansville and Ft. Wayne, Ind., which would eliminate expense of time and money in event tests of the grasses were made independently in each city.

Daniel urged that more attention be given to examining the experience of other supts., and conditions under which their experience was gained, before making major changes in maintenance or construction programs.

The Purdue agronomist told of the need of improving watering practices and of making more use of soil moisture measuring devices. He commented on growth of soil sterilization in golf course work. Daniel showed views of research work at Purdue's test plots and remarked that 60 varieties of Kentucky bluegrass are being tested.

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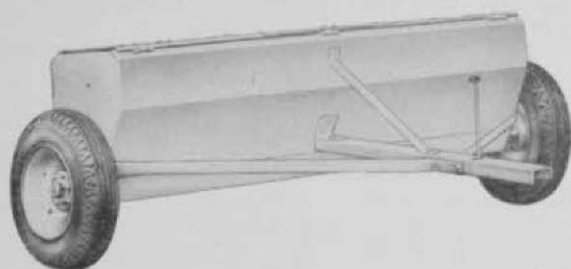
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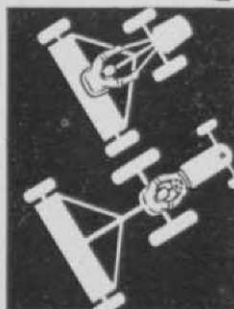


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## Moffitt Speaks

Harry Moffitt, PGA pres., extended greetings from the pro organization to the supts. and stressed the importance of co-operation between the two department heads. Moffitt said fullest use should be made of the pro's contact with players to acquaint the latter with the problems and achievements in course maintenance work. Harry pointed out that if the player enjoys a game on a well-conditioned course, he is a good customer for the pro shop. He also stated that where club finances call for a combination job, the man on that job has to have the course in good shape before he can operate as a pro.

"Golf Cars — Friend or Enemy?" was the exciting, practical topic presented by William J. Freund, sales mgr., Electri-Car div., Victor Adding Machine Co. Freund asserted the car situation is settling down and 23 companies are making golf cars today rather than the 43 active in manufacturing a year ago.

The Victor sales mgr. reported that the trend is to have the supt. made responsible for cars from the 18th green until they arrive at the first tee, ready for action, and for the pro to be responsible while the car is on the course.

Freund reported that the division of

revenue from golf cars is frequently under discussion and that the supt., whose work and results are most directly affected by golf car use, must be considered in these discussions.

There was spirited discussion following Freund's address. Paths, if provided for golf cars, it was pointed out, should be half again as wide as the widest car, laid out with golf architecture in mind so a ball won't hit or rest on a car path, and be free of wide, sweeping curves so a tendency won't develop among players to take short cuts. The possibility of getting tires, designed for golf cars, was also mentioned.

The conference concluded Friday morning in a "wrap-up" session launched by Ralph Guyer, Westborough CC, Webster Groves, Mo.

Charles G. Wilson, agronomist of the Milwaukee Sewerage commission summarized the conference in a masterly condensation of each talk.

The finale was a Question and Answer period which presented as experts, supts. who had talked as members of the panel which had discussed "Responsibilities," and turf panel experts who reported on "New Developments in Research."

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### GCSA Conference

(Continued from page 104)

Questions included: (1) "What's first thing to do with a sharply limited budget?" (2) "How can you get money for a landscaping plan?" (3) "How can you get a good maintenance shop from your club?" (4) "Does it take too much time for a supt. to play golf?" Questions on enlisting and training course staffs also were numerous.

Some answers referred to women's committees help in getting money for landscaping, and the advisability of the supt. and younger members of his staff playing the course at least a couple of evenings a week to observe conditions as golfers see them, and to play with members.

The turf experts brought out the embarrassment, if not poor management, of chmn. or other officials, in asking outside experts to report on course condition without the supt. being present or consulted.

Poa annua was rated as the No. 1 problem in most sections. Drought tolerant

grasses, pythium, thatch, need of more attractive employment conditions in getting dependable and efficient workers and watering problems also were cited as major headaches.

The experts gave a good going-over to the subject of perfect soil for greens. None of them would take a toe off base on any hard-and-fast recommendations. Variation in the character of clay was one reason given for proceeding with caution. The consensus seemed to be after Prof. Burt Musser had summarized technical factors, and Bob Dunning, field experience, that there might be a tendency to go too far in recommending sand in green construction. Sand, like clay, varies considerably in qualities, they added.

Dr. Wm. Daniel suggested that the search for the perfect soil for golf turf is being complicated by the desire to combine too many factors: drainage, water retention, evaporation, cooling, and resiliency, to name some leading elements other than the plant feeding function of the soil.