

# What They Said at Louisville



## How Clubs Profit From Turfgrass Conferences

By Phillip E. Drachmann

Chairman of Green Committee, Evansville (Ind.) CC

As a green chmn, I am blessed with two wonderful committee members. One is a doctor, the other a certified public accountant. One is in charge of "T" markers and the other is in charge of ball washers — neither of them do a doggone thing, but they do it well and they don't bother me — and they don't bother our supt. Probably, that's the way it should be.

I think that all types of golf clubs profit from these conferences. They profit in many, many ways, but I am going to only mention five.

Profit No. 1 from any conference such as this is knowledge. It's the most valuable ingredient in turf work today.

Profit No. 2 is Research — the thing that keeps us moving and keeps us improving.

Profit No. 3 is Standards. Your golf course is either good or bad because of its Standards.

Profit No. 4 is Manpower and on a course there is no substitute for manpower.

Profit No. 5 is Good Will. This might be expressed with other words, too, such as respect, good fellowship, friendship, etc.

Knowledge is a true and honorable tool of your profession, and I say very emphatically in order to produce a beautiful course, you

*Here is a roundup of GCSA conference speeches covering general, training and administrative phases of course maintenance. The technical side of the conference will be covered in the April and other future issues of GOLFDOM.*

must be a professional; you can't survive as an amateur. The difference between a good and a poor golf course is knowledge. You can work your head off, you can drive your ground crew to exhaustion, but if you don't have the know-how, you lose.

I attended a turf conference at Purdue in 1950 and I got my eyes open for the first time. I met Grau, Daniels and Charlie Wilson. I asked Grau if he would come down and look our course over, and he said he couldn't, but he would send someone. One day in came Charlie. I asked him to grade our course. I said: "You look over a lot of courses. In your opinion if you had to list all the courses you have inspected this year, where would you place our course?" Charlie said, "Right on the bottom." Then Charlie asked me a question: "How much fertilizer do you use?" I said, "600 pounds." He said, "To the acre?" I said, "No, to the course."

Our course is an excellent one today. Relatively speaking, we spend no more money today on our course than we formerly did, our ground crew is no larger; if anything it is smaller. The amount of equipment we use has not been changed, although it has been improved. No, the change in our own course is due to one thing — knowledge — the knowledge that we gained at these conferences. Today our supt., Ernie Schneider, never misses one.

Research is the life blood of our business.

Research is the motivating power that keeps Noer, Musser and Ferguson frustrated half their lives, literally beating their heads against the ground to find a method or a means, or a grass to solve problems. The result of their work is yours and it is mine, given to us freely with their blessing. We can thank our turfgrass conference for bringing us the wonderful new things that research has produced.

Everything we do today is measured by standards. We definitely know the height standard for cutting the bent on a good putting green. We know the height of the cut for a good fairway. We know the quality standard to be looked for in a good "T." We know what standard to build into a satisfactory trap or bunker. Wherever people play golf today they find these high standards a very enjoyable part of every golf course, and the standards you accept at these meetings become the standards for the overall beautification of your city.

Turfgrass conferences produce manpower. By doing things better or by doing more things with the same manpower, you are producing additional manpower. The technological advances in turf maintenance, plus the great improvement in equipment have done two things: they have produced better golf courses at greatly reduced maintenance cost, and second, every job you do today, you do easier and faster and better. You now save many man hours weekly through your application of preventative maintenance. You have even learned the art of camouflage — a dye in your fungicide will get rid of a brown patch with one spraying; well, at least, it looks that way.

Turf conferences give us extra man hours by showing us the better methods and also give us better manpower. You can hire better people today because you can promise better jobs. A youngster that wants to follow turf work today can make a career of it. The men you hire today need not be common laborers. From these youngsters will come your next crop of supts. They will be smarter than you and rightly so, because they will take all the knowledge that you will give them, and will add theirs to it, and that is the way we want it.

Turfgrass conferences produce manpower, but a great deal more recognition must be given to the matter of proper compensations

for that manpower. The most important man around a course is the supt. The difference between a greenskeeper and a supt. should be at least \$3000. I know that through your association and your conferences you have made a great deal of progress on obtaining sufficient compensation, but remember please: *It Is No Crime To Ask For More Money, If You Think You Are Worth It.* You will be surprised how many times you will get it if you go after it, but don't forget at the same time that members of your ground crew have to live, eat and enjoy life too.

Profit No. 5 is goodwill. One of the greatest contributions to our clubs is the pleasant and friendly relationships that exist between supts. You meet at an annual conference, you meet several times a year at your regional and district meetings. You get to know each other socially, as well as professionally and you find you like each other. Well, what is better than that?

We have an opportunity at these conferences to meet and know personally top turf authorities. Before this conference is over we will all be calling them by their first names, and we will be reading and enjoying articles in turf and garden magazines for many years to come, and we can say: — "Why I met him in Louisville in 1957." Furthermore, if you don't agree with what he says, you can write him and tell him so, I bet you will get an answer, too. Goodwill — friendship — respect — they are created in these conferences and all clubs profit from these.

## Reports Show Members How Their Money Is Spent

By Robert Williams  
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In tying in reports making with the responsibilities of a supt., I believe two factors are of primary importance. The first is why reports are considered necessary; and secondly, how the reports should be formulated and what they should contain.

Let us first look at the why. Why should a supt feel that he is obligated to make reports to his employers? The most obvious reason is that you are spending someone else's money. While we are mentioning money, let us add that today golf courses are spending anywhere from \$25,000 to \$100,000 or more for maintenance alone on an 18-hole course. So there should be no question as to why we should be responsible to report to our officials.

The next reason under why is "clarification". Through written reports we reduce the possibility of being misquoted and misunderstood. When we put it on paper we usually take pains to see that we say things so that they are most clearly understood. After we make a written report, it then becomes a ready reference that can be referred to