

## **Discuss Course Cost Cutting at Green Section Meeting**

**W**ITH economy expected to play an increasingly important role at many a country club this year, the USGA called its Green Section into action on the day preceding the Association's annual meeting to find out from supts., architects, manufacturers, research men and others closely connected with course management how maintenance costs can be kept down.

The conference, held at Chicago's Drake Hotel on Jan. 24, attracted some of the best minds in turf management and related fields. Speakers and panelists touched on just about every phase of course maintenance. If there was any subject they overlooked it was pretty well filled in when both the morning and afternoon sessions were turned over to the audience for questions and comments.

William C. Chapin, Rochester, N. Y., chmn. of the USGA Green Section committee, was in charge of the conference. Vice chmn. was Marvin H. Ferguson, mid-continent director and research coordinator for the Green Section.

Speakers at the morning session were Robert Bruce Harris, Chicago golf architect, J. R. Watson, Jr., Toro Mfg. Co., and William H. Daniel, Purdue University agronomist. Panelists included O. J. Noer, Charles Hallowell, Carol Bretzlaff and Andrew Bertoni. A. M. Radko of the USGA Green Section was moderator.

### **Design Simplicity Helps**

In discussing the economics of design, Harris said that the postwar trend in architecture has been to courses that are easy to maintain. One example is the adoption of larger greens. A second involves getting away from planting shrubs and trees in clusters that interfere with maintenance work. Better contoured trap-bunker arrangements also have made the supt's job easier.

Harris also advocates leaving plenty of room between traps and greens so that gang mowers can be easily maneuvered in these areas. Following his talk and during the morning panel session, Harris field-

ed at least a dozen involved questions, all with aplomb and reasonable answers.

Jim Watson, substituting for David M. Lilly, Toro pres., pointed out that supts. and their clubs should weigh all factors in the equipment and labor cost picture when deliberating the purchase of capital items such as tractors, mowers, etc. He said these purchases should be made with long range plans in mind and that only accepted accounting methods should be used in amortizing and depreciating them.

Discussing chemicals, Bill Daniel emphasized that supts. can't become too well versed in their use since they play a far more important role in turf management than even people working in the field generally realize.

### **Do 50 Per Cent of Work**

"If you stop to consider that only 5 or 10 per cent of your budget is spent on chemicals," Daniel said, "and that, in effect, they do about 50 per cent of the work around a course, you'll get what I'm driving at."

The Purdue agronomist gave several tips on how to get the most out of nitrogen and discussed the needs of turf as to phosphate and potash applications. He also stated that there is much to be learned by supts. about arsenicals, the art of spraying and spraying equipment.

The morning panel discussion was largely concerned with methods of depreciating equipment, the abuses of electric cars and the extent to which clubs should go to in re-designing courses that are not easily maintained.

Andy Bertoni suggested that depreciation should be figured on a per round basis. He emphasized that regardless of how it is computed, supts. shouldn't overlook including it in their annual budgets. Equipment depreciation reserves at clubs, whose supts. volunteered information, range from \$2,400 to \$3,700 a year.

Practically everyone agreed that golf cars are here to stay. It was generally conceded that little has been done to check drivers who run amuck on a course because keeping them in line involves meting out justice that doesn't seem to come within anyone's authority. One supt., however, stated that cars at his club are numbered solely for the purpose of catching up with errant drivers, and the golf car committee there is empowered to hand down stiff walking penalties when infractions are detected.

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Henderson Mfg. Co., Fisher, Ill. — Mechanical Crabgrass Control & Lawn Renovation.  
Dow Chemical Co., Midland, Mich. — Control Grass Chemically; Reldon Hits Your Brush Target; Dowfume MC-2, Grass Problem? — Get Dowpon.

### Miscellaneous

Nitroform Agricultural Chemicals Div., 92 Sunnyside av., Woonsocket, R. I. — "Blue Chip" News.  
E. I. duPont de Nemours & Co., Wilmington, Dela. — Tournament Turf in '58; The Golf Course — What to do This Fall; The Golf Course — Planning & Records  
American Chemical Paint Co., Ambler, Pa. — ACP News  
West Point Products Corp., West Point Pa. — Handbook for New Green Committee Chairman.  
Prior Jewelry & Award Co., 220 5th ave., New York 1 — Everlasting Trophies for All Sports.

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The long range course alteration program going on at Beverly CC, Chicago, described by Robert M. Williams, the supt. there, pretty well summed up thought on re-design for easing the maintenance burden.

### Continuous Improvement

Williams and his staff have been improving Beverly on a tee to fairway to green schedule for the last 10 years. Bob supplemented his talk by providing those at the conference a complete resumé of work already completed as well as that which is planned. It could serve as a very useful model for any supt. who is thinking of re-tooling his course.

The Beverly greenmaster stated that after a long range plan is mapped out the supt. should take equal pains in preparing to sell it to his committee and membership. One almost foolproof way of doing this is to show the club how little is actually spent for course upkeep in comparison with over-all expenditures. At Beverly it is about 10 per cent, a figure that may apply to possibly half of the clubs in the country.

Taylor Boyd, supt. at the Camargo Club in Cincinnati, speaking on labor relations, advanced an idea that other clubs may do well in copying if it is practicable or possible for them to do so.

Camargo is surrounded by large estates and during what normally would be idle time, Boyd dispatches his employees to

work at these places. The income realized from this extracurricular work more than pays for the chemicals used in a year's time at Camargo. In addition, it enables the Cincinnati club to keep a larger year-around staff than it could afford if the outside work wasn't taken on.

### Uses Employee Suggestions

Boyd has equipment sheds located at various spots on the course for more efficient use of machinery and manpower. He also holds weekly meetings with his crew not only to straighten out grievances but to listen to their suggestions for improving operations. Ideas that come from employees, Boyd declared, can result in material and labor savings that probably would amaze supts. who haven't investigated them.

Talking on general aspects of maintenance, J. Porter Henry, longtime green chmn. at the Algonquin CC, St. Louis, warned against uneconomical paring of the supt's budget. He cited a case where little or no fertilizer was applied for several years to a course in St. Louis only to have the club spend an almost prohibitive sum of money in a single season in attempting to reclaim its turf.

"What we often tend to forget," Henry said, "is that the course is the club's reason for being. If it is necessary to economize, it's folly to take it all out on the supt."

### Cutbacks Can Boomerang

Charles Eckstein, pres. of the Chicago Dist. Golf Assn., added an 'Amen' to Henry's views. Declaring that the budget determines the standard of maintenance, the CDGA head said that it has been repeatedly proved that severe cutbacks in the course appropriation have been the costliest kind of economizing yet conceived.

On the other hand, Eckstein stated that the supt. has a duty to use his maintenance appropriation to its ultimate value. To do this, requires knowing where every dollar goes. Eckstein feels that course accounting should be standardized, and that all items should be charged against proper accounts even though the appropriation for that particular account has been exhausted. "That is the only way," said the CDGA pres., "we'll ever get a true picture of our costs." As a final word, Eckstein recommended that supts. familiarize themselves with accounting methods as a matter of self protection.

The afternoon panel, made up of Jim Latham, Charles Chapman and Herb

Graffis, was kept busy seeking answers as to how course labor can be most effectively used. It was pretty well established that supts. aren't getting a full eight hours out of employees because of poor work scheduling and difficulties in transporting their men to various job sites. Another shortcoming that was discussed is failure to get maximum results from equipment because employees aren't trained to properly operate it.

The supts. agreed that they, individually, have to work out answers to these problems and that the solutions are, to a certain degree, dependent upon conditions at their clubs.

## **USGA Rules Against Pros**

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Museum — C. W. Benedict, White Plains, N. Y.

Bob Jones Award — Wm. Ward Foshay, New York.

Finance — Charles L. Pierson, Boston.

"On the Green," the new color sound film of the USGA Rules of Golf series and "Golf's Longest Hour," the color sound picture of the finish of the National Open at Rochester in 1956, were shown before the annual meeting began. Both pictures run about 18 minutes. They're very good. Rental fee is \$20 per film. National Educational Films, 165 W. 46th st., New York 36, handles the rentals.

### **Rules Violations Via TV**

John Winters, chairman of the Rules of Golf committee, added to his printed report comment on flagrant violations of the rules of golf that are seen during telecasts of golf matches. Winters referred particularly to a couple of violations during the Crosby tournament, both of which were so raw they were funny.

The violations showed rules ignorance that shouldn't have occurred in the consolation flight of Class D of the women's championship at the Whistle Post (Wyo.) CC.

One guy did everything but dig a ditch in a green between his ball and the cup. Another, while a putt was on the lip, waited for a considerable period, expecting an earthquake, gale, circus seal or a buffalo stampede to jiggle the ball in. The announcer, also showing that he was no bookworm as far as golf's rule manual is concerned, said the player was allowed a wait of five minutes while the ball was resting on the lip.

## **Sarazen's Final Round 70 Gives Him Seniors Title**

Five strokes off the pace as he went into the last round, Gene Sarazen shot a 2-under par 70 on the final 18 to win the annual PGA Seniors at Dunedin, Fla., in January. Sarazen finished with a 288 total, three strokes ahead of Charley Sheppard, the runnerup.

Ed Burke and Bill Black, with 293s, finished in a tie for third. Jules Blanton had a 294 while Mort Dutra, Al Watrous, the 1957 champion, Tony Manero, Bert Montresser and Jack Patroni produced 295s to share sixth place. Dutra, who led at the halfway point with a 140, won the Bourne trophy. Mort also was ahead at the end of the third round, checking in with a 213.

Sarazen's victory, which netted him \$1200 and a trip to England this summer to meet the English Seniors champ, both compliments of Teachers, Ltd., was his second in the over-50 competition. Charley Sheppard took home \$800 for his second place effort.

Tom Mahan stole part of Sarazen's thunder on the final day by batting in a 159-yard ace on the sixth hole. Miserable weather conditions in the early part of the tournament made it necessary for the Seniors to spend four days getting in the first two rounds.

### **Watson, McDonald Preside at PGA Seniors Banquet**

Guests at the annual banquet and dance of the PGA Seniors held at the Ft. Harrison hotel, Clearwater, Jan. 23, heard Pres. John Watson in an eloquent mood and listened to the cheerful message brought from Roland Teacher, ill in Glasgow, by the company's export mgr., Adam Burgess. Al McDonald did a masterful job in planning the party and staging it so it ran smoothly. Former presidents of the PGA Seniors and officers of the Ladies' Auxiliary were honored by Watson. Herb Graffis, GOLFDOM editor, in reviewing achievements of the senior pros declared they'd had more influence on the pursuit of happiness in the U. S. than professional athletes in any other sport.

### **Boswell Honored**

Charley Boswell, blind golfing star who lost his sight in World War II, has been named the most courageous athlete of 1957 by the Philadelphia Sports Writers assn.