



The Mid-Atlantic welcomed them . . .

New Attendance Record for GCSA at Washington Convention

**Labor Management, Improved Maintenance for More Economical
Operation Main Themes at Superintendents' Annual Show**

By JOE E. DOAN

THE GCSA, which has been shooting for 1,500 attendance at its annual turfgrass conferences and shows for the past several years, moved in on that figure at the February conclave when 1,457 supts., agronomists and turf specialists registered for the five-day event held at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D. C.

This record was about 250 higher than the number present at the 1957 Louisville show, which had been the best attended of 28 previous GCSA gatherings.

Among the Washington visitors was a

large delegation from Canada.

The nation's capital's lure for tourists undoubtedly played a big part in bringing so many supts. and their wives to the 1958 conference. Yet, the continued emergence of the GCSA as a powerful force for educating the supt. and buttressing his economic well being, undoubtedly exerted even more influence in attracting him to Washington. All of the educational sessions probably were better attended than they ever had been before and the feeling around the Shoreham was that this year's conference would have easily exceeded Louisville from an attendance standpoint even if it had been held in a city with fewer monuments and historical outposts.

Guests of Mid-Atlantic

The Mid-Atlantic GCSA, acting as co-hosts with the parent organization, served up an outstanding entertainment fare for supts. and their wives with almost more sightseeing trips being arranged than could be comfortably taken in. But there was little complaining on this score since

. . . as they thronged in.



most of the tourists felt that if the politicians can extract practically their last dollars to erect all those beautiful, rambling edifices that are seen around Washington, it was their duty to look over the architecture. A series of cocktail parties, given by several exhibitors at the conference, supplied many of the sightseers with the stamina and courage to go on.

As has been the case in the past, the GCSA presented a wisely selected lineup of speakers for the educational sessions. Agronomists from a half dozen leading universities or extension stations brought the supts. abreast of the most up-to-the-minute developments in research and observation of phenomena associated with turf maintenance. Club pros, a club manager, a green chmn., a course architect, an accountant and representatives of manufacturing and supply firms capably filled in the convention delegates on information directly or indirectly bearing on their

profession. The several supts. who were called upon to describe their methods of handling the practical side of greenkeeping not only showed that they have an excellent grasp of the subjects they discussed, but the knack of putting the material across.

Diet Too Steady

About the only criticism of the way in which the educational sessions were handled is that there was perhaps a too steady and continuous diet of speeches. This is not to say that the speakers overextended their lines. They didn't. But one came closely on the heels of another and after this went on for three or four hours, the length of the individual sessions, the audience was definitely restless. Perhaps if a part of each session were to be thrown open to discussion and questions from the floor at future conventions, persons attending them would get more out of what they heard.

Improvement in Management Is Keynote on Opening Day

The theme of the first day's meeting, held on Feb. 3, was "Better Golf Course Management." Paul Weiss, retiring GCSA pres., Milo Christiansen, of the District's recreation dept., and L. R. Shields, pres. of the Mid-Atlantic GCSA, presided at the official opening of the conference and the welcoming of delegates.

Following this, O. J. Noer of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission and Stan Graves, supt. at Westwood CC, Rocky River, O. teamed up, in what's becoming quite famous in GCSA circles as an Alphonse and Gaston act, in introducing celebrities. Those who took bows included Gen. Floyd Parks, who made the Armed Services conscious of golf; Ed Gallagher, Washington sports announcer; Wiffy Cox, Congressional CC pro; Johnny Welaj, former major league baseball player who now holds an executive position with the Washington Senators; Ed LeBaron and Norb Hecker, Washington Redskin football stars; Fred Williams, the first paid employee of the USGA green section; and Mrs. John Mancus, Mrs. James Swink and Mrs. George Noble, all of whom play important roles in Washington District Golf Assn. activities.

Following this, Harry Obitz, pro at Shawnee Inn, Shawnee-on-the Delaware, Pa., speaking with the polished prose of a man who has earned a living playing

Hamlet, humorously contrasted the generally inexpert supt. of 1933 with the businesslike course manager of today. Then, in deference to his audience, Harry portrayed the pro of the early era with his present day counterpart and the effect was equally amusing. Harry also got in a pitch for Helen F. Lengfeld's USV Swing Clubs, of which there are 1,200, asking the supts. for their support of this worthy organization.

Contrast in Costs

The meeting got down to serious topics with the introduction of Arthur E. Iredell, a New York CPA whose firm, Harris, Kerr, Forster & Co., audits town and country clubs. Iredell produced some rather startling statistics in comparing cost-per-hole maintenance for 50 clubs scattered throughout the U. S. On a regional breakdown, these amount to \$2,350 in the South; \$2,700 in the East; \$2,500 in the Midwest and \$3,125 in the Far West. Citing the fact that 1957 course maintenance costs were more than 33 per cent above what they were in 1952, the New York accountant recommended that supts. bear down on the budget in every way possible and be particularly zealous in investigating wide deviations in item costs from year to year.

Col. Dick Daley, pres. of the CMAA,

also dwelled on budget problems. He said that since the club managers have adopted a uniform system of accounts far better control of operations at individual clubs has been noted. Daley suggested that annual budgets are fine as far as they go but not nearly so effective as those prepared on a month to month basis. He also told the supts. that about 90 per cent of them probably will be asked to give more service this year than ever before on maintenance allotments that won't be quite as fat as they once were.

"The big trouble with budgets and related problems," said L. V. Freudberg, green chmn. at Woodmont CC, Rockville, Md., speaking for club members, "is that the persons who want to do most of the cost cutting are those who expect the most out of a course." Freudberg lamented that this species is a hardy one and probably never will be eliminated.

Wants to Have Figures

To cope with these people, the Woodmont chmn. asked that supts. make an extra effort to keep complete and accurate cost records so that the chairman will be armed with actually more tools than he needs, if that is possible, when he appears before the club board to pry money loose for course maintenance. Then, pointing up the shortcomings of the supt., Freudberg said that as far as he knows, many of them are weak in planning their work, and that a large number of fellows

who are doing superb jobs at their courses are a little reticent in developing a good public or members relation policy.

"Don't be shy on this count," the Woodmont man added. "When a bank or business establishment in your city does something outstanding you invariably hear about it. Why, they even employ specialists just to keep the natives informed."

Taylor Boyd, supt. at the Camargo Club, Cincinnati, the final speaker on the Monday program, showed figures to prove that it actually cost more for a golfer to play a round of golf in 1933 than it does today. When a buzz of skepticism arose from the audience, Boyd cited the fact the number of persons playing golf in 1957 was so much greater than it was 24 years ago that the cost-per-round average last year was definitely lower than it was in 1933.

Boyd, who spews digits like an IBM machine in an internal revenue office on Apr. 15, declared that the fellow who can't make up a budget shouldn't be a supt. He added that there is nothing like record keeping to help pull a fellow out of trouble, especially when there is wide variance in expenditures for similar items from year to year. Boyd concluded his remarks by advising the supts. to set up cost standards for every possible maintenance operation and then see that they are closely adhered to.

Progress in Research, Course Management, Discussed on 2nd Day

The second day's educational sessions were devoted to description of the progress made in research as well as course management. The research speakers, Dr. Ralph E. Engel, Rutgers University, Dr. Ray Keen, Kansas State College, Dr. Felix Juska, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Prof. Houston B. Couch of Pennsylvania State University and Dr. John C. Schread, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, were introduced by Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson, the USGA's mid-continent director and head of its research arm.

After describing tests made by himself and Paul Weis at the latter's club in Allentown, Pa., that were aimed at eliminating poa annua, and in which sodium arsenite proved to be the quickest eradicator, Engel told of his studies in the color rating of nitrogen. He concluded that an organic such as Milorganite produces longer last-

ing color than soluble material. The latter, said Engel, is fine for getting a fast start but doesn't work out as well over the long haul as organic.

James Fulweider, a Rutgers graduate student, introduced by Engel, described pre-emergent goosegrass tests made at the university. Chlordane proved to be the most effective agent in suppressing this grass, being applied four days after planting at the rate of 60 lbs. to an acre to give most favorable results.

Supts. Relax — But Not for Long

When Ray Keen painted a rosy picture of a grass that never got over one inch high, was disease free, moisture resistant and of precisely the right density for fairways, the supts. sat back thinking that practically all of their worries were over. But in the next breath, Keen exposed the hoax, saying that was exactly the



GUIDE GCSA IN '58 — Superintendents' officers and directors elected at Washington conference are, from l to r (front row): L. E. Lambert, Prairie Dunes CC, Hutchinson, Kans. (dir.); VP Elmer G. Border, Olympic Club, San Francisco; Pres. Robert M. Williams, Beverly CC, Chicago; Agar M. Brown, secy-treas., St. Charles, Ill.; and Andrew A. Bertoni, Meadowbrook CC, Northville, Mich (dir.). (Second Row) Sherwood A. Moore, Winged Foot, Mamaroneck, N. Y. (dir.); Henson Maples, Pinehurst (N. C.) CC (dir.); James E. Thomas, Army-Navy CC, Arlington, Va. (dir.); and J. Nelson Monical, Portage CC, Akron, O. (dir.). Lambert was reelected and Maples, Thomas and Bertoni are serving second of two year terms as directors.

kind of grass that he and his Kansas State colleagues were dreaming about and working toward. But, he added, it is probably 10 years away. His dept., Keen revealed, soon expects to release a superior grass that has stood up well in early tests.

Kansas State turf specialists, said Keen, have been concentrating in recent years in helping operators of nine hole courses where maintenance has to be more a sideline than a full time profession. A great deal of work in water management also is being carried on at KSC and more recently efforts have been made to develop a bent that retains its color during the winter.

The U. S. Dept. of Agriculture's Beltsville station, Felix Juska related, has intensified its efforts in recent years to develop a superior strain of Bermuda. To date, Bermuda has not proved to be ideal in either the far northern or far southern regions, but it has been thriving quite well in the North-South transition zone. Frequent application of ureaform has resulted in improvement in color in several of the strains and a reduction in seedheads. Juska cited U3 and Tifgreen as being two of the harder types of Bermuda, although both are relatively late in emerging in the spring. Diseases are not prevalent in these grasses although dollarspot may quickly infest them when nitrogen application is kept at a low rate.

Prof. Houston B. Couch told of experi-

ments made on brownpatch at Pennsylvania State. According to observations here, low nitrogen and high potash and phosphorous feeding reduces brownpatch but when the application is reversed, turf becomes susceptible to the disease. If proper application of these fertilizers is made, Couch said, high moisture conditions have little effect on grass so far as this disease is concerned.

Mentions Nematode Menace

The Pennsylvania agronomist also stated that the nematode menace has been largely underestimated and that it has become a very serious problem in some localities. As a result, new emphasis is being placed on developing effective nematocides. Fungicide development and marketing, too, is coming in for its share of attention, Couch stated, with improved methods of packaging these products making them a great deal easier to handle than only a few years ago.

Tracing the development of insect control in the postwar era, Dr. John C. Schread said that with the emergence of DDT, the insecticide industry started to make spectacular strides in giving the supt. many wonderful materials with which to work. Not only are new ones being discovered, Schread stated, but the old are being improved. He gave as an example the development of the "new" hydrocarbons. These originally were formu-



About 50 superintendent fathers and sons were guests of GOLFDOM at a luncheon on Wednesday.

lated as powders or dust but were greatly improved, especially from the standpoint of the health of the user, when produced in granular form as they were in 1952.

In connection with insect control, Schread cautioned the supts. against over-aerification. "The practice in itself is fine," said the Connecticut agronomist. "But after aerifying keep a close watch on the area in which you've been working. The holes made in the turf may provide perfect refuges for insects. To be on the safe side, I recommend that you apply an insecticide after you aerify and even then remain on the alert."

The subject of "Progress Through Management," moderated by Edward N. Stewart of River Forest CC, Elmhurst, Ill., was handled by three supts., Manuel L. Francis, Vesper CC, Lowell, Mass., James E. Thomas, Army-Navy CC, Arlington, Va., and Kayem Ovia, Woodmere (L. I.) CC. Also appearing with this group was Albert Crain, editor, Texas Turf News, Houston, who discussed control of dallisgrass in Bermuda.

Sawdust for Topsoil

Francis told the audience that he has used sawdust as topdressing in constructing greens at 10 clubs. The material is

used alone or with sand and, as a substitute for good topsoil, may be superior to anything available. Listing its merits, Manuel said that sawdust is weed free, doesn't compact, absorbs moisture well and resists quick evaporation, and during cold weather is not nearly as susceptible to thaw and freeze as other materials. The Vesper greenmaster also pointed out that sawdust has the right degree of acidity for supporting turf and, according to his observations, keeps thatch at a minimum.

If the material is to be used, he suggests obtaining sawdust from No. 3 hardwood, maple, oak or birch, and treating it with nitrogen eight times a year at a rate of 4 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft.

Jim Thomas, 1957 director of the GCSA, discussed the new problems that are arising from increased use of courses. "Scheduling work," said Jim "is becoming more of a trick each year. There is a trend away from getting everything done in the morning because today many golfers are up and swinging almost before the supt. and his crew have a chance to get to the course. The split shift for employees is stoutly resisted and therefore it's almost impossible to bring them back for a few

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ASGCA Officers

Howard Watson, Lachute, Que., Can. (center) was elected pres. of the American Society of Golf Course Architects which held its 11th annual meeting at the Beach Club Hotel, Naples, Fla., Jan. 28-31. Other officers are J. Press Maxwell, Dallas, Tex. (left), secy-treas., and David W. Gordon, Doylestown, Pa., vp. Board of governors includes Robert Bruce Harris, William F. Bell, (outgoing pres.), William H. Diddel, Robert Trent Jones, William B. Langford and C. E. Robinson plus the officers.

GCSA Convention

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hours work in the evening. Golfers play until after dark anyway."

Thomas' suggested cure for this condition is to motorize everything that is now being pushed, increase the use of bigger equipment, simplify the architecture of courses wherever possible and keep alternate nines sealed off during morning hours so that the greens staff can catch up with its work.

A description of how Woodmere CC's drainage system was rebuilt in 1954 was illustrated by Kayem Ovia. The course is only a few miles from the Atlantic, is only a few feet above sea level and until Ovia rearranged the drainage, was constantly plagued by the inflow of salt

Excerpts from several speeches given at the GCSA convention will appear in the April issue of *GOLFDOM*.

water. He spent more than \$25,000 in installing 20,000 ft. of 6 and 8-in. porous wall pipe and anchored the entire system to a large drainage carryoff that bisects his course.

In enlarging on the technicalities of drainage installation, Ovia told his listeners that best results are obtained by laying the pipe over a mixture of sand and gravel, making sure that maximum pitch is correct, backfilling to within 4 ins. of the sod line and carefully exploring the course in an effort to locate a drainage main which can be used to very great advantage.

A slide film talk, narrated by Al Crain, showed how dallisgrass at a Houston club was controlled by application of disodium methyl. Ten lbs. of this eradicator was

mixed with 200 gals. of water for each acre treated, and approximately 80 per cent of the dallisgrass was killed with one spraying. Spot treatment took care of the remaining infestation. The cost of the operation, Crain said, was about \$40 per hole. Shortly after the treatment Bermudagrass was planted and, receiving ample fertilizer applications, completely took over within six weeks.

Tuesday's session wound up with a discussion of drainage systems, the panel being composed of Bill Johnson of Griffith Park CC, Los Angeles, Roy W. Nelson, Ravisloe CC, Homewood, Ill., and Marshall Farnham of the Philadelphia CC, West Conshohocken, Pa.

Engineering Emphasized

In describing several installations he has made in and around L. A., Bill Johnson emphasized the importance of engineering a drainage system before it is put in. He said that no general rules can be set down for installing any course system. He is inclined to feel that installations at every course, and possibly on every hole, have to be individualized. In an aside to manufacturers, Bill suggested that some improvement can be made in sprinklers. Altogether too much water is concentrated in the center of the fallout and not enough at the edges, Johnson stated.

Roy Nelson outlined the steps he took in improving the watering system at his former club, Golden Valley in Minneapolis. Before tackling the job he made a very thorough check of the old facilities and then talked to as many irrigation specialists as he could in order to get suggestions for improvements. He made a study of his water delivery rate, compiled friction losses on a size of pipe basis and went thoroughly into the matter of various nozzle sizes, hose sizes, pipe distribution, rate of fall and distribution of

sprinklers. In addition, he figured how many sprinklers one man can tend in an eight-hour day.

"All this preparatory work was necessary," Nelson said, "because I not only had to stay within the allotment set aside for the improvement but keep an eye on future costs. When we got around to making the installation the work went fast because we had made the necessary preparations. I was well satisfied with the system, because, as it turned out, it was capable of giving just about everything we asked of it."

Hints on Greens Watering

Marshall Farnham's remarks were confined to observations he has made in the watering of greens. Over the years he has kept a quite complete record of how bent reacts to various applications of water. He told his audience that he concluded some time ago that supts. generally don't real-

ize that greens can't absorb water as fast as is generally supposed, and that much damage is done by trying to speed up the watering process.

"Not only should we avoid trying to concentrate too much water on a green in a given time," said Farnham, "but we should strive for the longest possible interval between sprinklings. Under normal conditions, I recommend two or three days. Perhaps the secret lies in how well we treat the grass roots. To absorb water properly the roots must have air. If we allow compaction to interfere with the normal intake of air, then we are going to have trouble."

Enlarging on his views on absorption, Farnham said that last year he made experiments in watering Kentucky Bluegrass and found that when the normal sprinkling rate is doubled, water absorption by the plant is actually reduced.

All About Greens Theme Of Wednesday's Session

On Wednesday, the theme of the session was "Keeping Up-to-Date" and dealt for the most part with maintenance of greens. Speakers were: Tom Mascaro, pres. of West Point Products Corp., West Point, Pa.; Robert Trent Jones, golf architect; Dr. O. R. Lunt of UCLA; Ardyce R. Twombly, supt. James Baird State Park, Pleasant Valley, N. Y.; Dr. James Watson of Toro Manufacturing Corp., and James M. Latham of the USGA green section.

Tom Mascaro's talk dwelled on the excesses committed by the supt. as well as his failings. Speaking on growing grass the hard way, Tom called attention to the sins of overwatering, overfertilizing, the misuse of equipment and chemicals, failure to keep drains and irrigation systems from becoming plugged and similar failings as the "unaccounted-for" items that run up the cost of maintaining a course. He said that supts. probably are only indirectly responsible for many of these shortcomings, but added that if they would take the time to properly train their employees these deficiencies could eventually be corrected.

Shows Finest Greens

Using slides, Robert Trent Jones traced the history of green construction from the early days of the Scots and the English. In passing, Jones noted that early American attempts to copy British greens usually produced inartistic messes, but he add-

ed that even today attempts to duplicate greens result in, at best, only approximations. Jones showed greens at the Royal and Ancient, North Berwick, Pine Valley, Cypress Point, Augusta, Oakland Hills and Pebble Beach, citing their design as architecture in all its glory.

O. R. Lunt spoke as an apologist in defense of using a high percentage of sand in green construction. He said that he has long advocated sand as the best possible building material because it has high infiltration capacity, precludes shallow roots and, if the layer is deep enough, has great resistance to compaction. Charts shown in conjunction with his speech brought out the latter point. Where sand is used to a depth of 15 ins., the compaction angle is very shallow, but it becomes quite sharp when the layer is reduced to 8 ins.

Greens built with about 88 per cent sand, 4 per cent clay and 8 per cent organic matter in the Southwest where topsoil usually is quite poor, Lunt pointed out, have stood up remarkably well. He recommended using material whose grain size is from .5 to .25 mm. Water saturation studies made in conjunction with the use of various grains show that the .5 mm grain is ideal but that anything above .25 mm may give rise to serious aridity conditions since water does not completely penetrate it.

Both Ardyce Twombly and Jim Watson spoke on problems connected with the renovation of greens.

Twombly advised the supts. that great care should be taken in the diagnosis of what appear to be faulty greens because in many cases such conditions can be corrected with only slight changes in maintenance procedure.

"I know of a couple cases," said the Pleasant Valley supt., "where greens have been plowed up and completely reconstructed because somebody decided the patient had to be killed to effect a cure. If a little more thought had been given to finding out what was really wrong, the condition could have been corrected through ordinary maintenance. An enormous amount of work might have been avoided."

In diagnosing a troublesome green, Twombly said he checks the following points: Irrigation, compaction, matting, air circulation in the vicinity of the green; type of turf; the possibility of chemical injury due to disease.

Twombly also warned the supts. against going ahead with reconstruction work without having adequate funds to complete it and the necessary labor and equipment to see the job through.

Jim Watson also told the supts. to use restraint in renovating greens, especially when thought is given to tearing up and rebuilding them. If rebuilding is necessary, he said, it is wise to find out

everything possible about the newest methods in green construction and to base the renovation program on the latest research and field information.

In trying to determine what is causing greens to go bad, Watson suggested that a good rule of thumb is to first check the incursion of tree roots in the subsurface. "More trouble than you realize is caused by roots," Watson explained. "Many times trees are so far removed from greens that little thought is given to the possibility that they may be taking too much out of the soil or even fouling up your drainage system."

In renovating, Watson is a strong advocate of thorough sterilization, heavy fertilization in the early stages and the use of stolons for quick restoration of turf.

Jim Latham's speech dwelled mainly on U. S. turfgrass history. Specialized work on grass, the USGA green representative said, started about 73 years ago, although the Rhode Island agricultural station, which started to take an interest in matters related to grass in 1889, is generally considered the "father of U. S. turf culture." The USGA came into the picture shortly after this, but it was 1920 before the various states started setting up agencies for turf research and observation work. Country clubs, Latham said, have made great contributions to the development of grasses, probably out of all proportion to the amount of money they have been able to put into such undertakings.

Thursday's Talks Explored More Management Topics

Herb Graffis, GOLFDOM's editor, was the leadoff man at the Thursday's gathering. He was followed by Elmer G. Border, supt. at the Olympic Club, San Francisco, who spoke on labor management; Marion I. Luke of Augusta National, who told of the headaches connected with preparing for the Masters; Earl F. Yesberger, North Olmstead (O.) GC owner, who described his methods of operating and maintaining a 9-hole course; and Dr. Jesse A. DeFrance, University of Rhode Island agronomist, who spoke on new developments in turf fertilization.

The days of the supt. as "golf's forgotten man" are past, said Herb Graffis, GOLFDOM's editor, in talking on the economic status of the supt. "If he is 'forgotten' now it is his own fault. The shortage of supts. and competition for

well qualified men to take charge of heavy new investments in courses has the supt. spotlighted," Graffis added.

He told of a survey he'd made among green chmn. to determine the basis of a supt's salary. He got no definite data on adjustment of salary to value of the course, budget or local wage scales, but did get considerable information from the chmn. pointing to awareness of the supt's ability, versatility and responsibilities and to realization that examination should be made of the club's capacity to pay better in a number of instances.

Graffis quoted a superintendent who accounted for unreasonably low salaries for course head men by saying, "Executives are paid salaries; laborers are paid wages. A man in charge of a course who doesn't show management ability can't expect executive pay."

In Horse and Buggy Era

Speaking on labor and related problems, Elmer Border said that in spite of equipment improvements in the last 25 years, courses are still in the horse and buggy era when it comes to carrying out mowing operations. "Mowers have been improved tremendously," Border declared, "but they haven't been speeded up sufficiently to even make a dent in our most expensive maintenance operation. If the manufacturers really want to help us they'll concentrate their research and engineering in producing faster equipment without sacrificing any of its present efficiency."

Border also pointed out that poor labor management plus benefits such as sick leave, paid holidays, etc. reduce actual available manpower hours at courses by approximately 15 per cent. The benefits are here to stay, Border said, but the supt., by learning first to manage himself, can save his club many lost work hours through better scheduling and more efficient deployment of his labor force.

Marion Luke, the laconic supt. from Augusta, revealed that the day after the Masters tournament is out of the way, the club starts preparing for the next one, although the bulk of the work for each tourney is handled between Jan. 1 and the early April date on which the event gets started.

What's Fast Grass, Marion?

Luke described a few of the little humorous touches that are associated with the tournament. When a pro has a good day, he said, the grass is fine; but let him blow a round and he'll swear that better turf can be found in a cow pasture. At least once a year, Luke manages to victimize a city-bred newspaperman with the gag that the greens are fast because fast grass is planted at Augusta. But he always has been able to intercept the hapless fellow before the latter manages to get this startling bit of intelligence into his paper.

About 40 extra workers have to be em-

To Chicago

The 1959 GCSA convention will be held in Chicago from Jan. 25-30. Detroit was expected to make a bid for next year's supt's meeting but gave up the idea when it was found that the city didn't have large enough hotel facilities for staging the convention.

Eleanor's Divot

Eleanor Kerns, wife of Russ, supt. at Green Hill Yacht & CC, Salisbury, Md., recently won a "Most Original" prize in a local competition for a hat which she concocted from a 16-in. diameter divot taken from her husband's 12th green. The 8 lb. creation included a miniature doll in Scottish attire, a flag and a sandtrap (foreground) containing actual sand. It had to be sprigged into an inverted cooking pan so that Eleanor could wear it.



played a week before the Masters starts, Luke said, and they are around a week after the tournament is over, cleaning up debris. In more recent years the Augusta supt. has had his work multiplied with the introduction of TV towers which have to be moved around the course by his crew.

Earl Yesberger, who spent about eight years raising enough money to buy land and build a 9-hole course in North Olmstead, O., gave an insight as to how resourceful a fellow has to be to serve as proprietor, supt. and a few other things at a small club. Yesberger irrigates with a pump-in-center, spider web system that he installed and treats his greens by introducing dyed chemicals through it. The irrigation system is fed by a lake that Yesberger also constructed.

Citing some things that public course owners often overlook or are careless about, the North Olmstead owner said that he is very finicky about replacing broken flagpoles, keeping benches and bridges repaired, making sure that water fountains, ball washers, etc. are kept tidy and seeing that the course is kept free of debris. Yesberger also pointed out the money saving advantages of having both an intercom and public address systems at small courses, saying that this combination enables him to get along with fewer employees than he would have to have if he didn't use them.

New Fertilizers

Dr. Jesse A. DeFrance, discussing new developments in turgrass fertilization, said that methylene urea compounds, containing 38 per cent nitrogen, have worked out well in tests because they have excellent slow release qualities. The same is true of the new synthetic polymers, also with 38 per cent nitrogen content.

GCSA Banquet

The annual GCSA banquet which was held on the evening of Feb. 6 at the Shoreham was attended by about 600 persons, a capacity crowd. Speechmaking was held to a minimum although Joe Valentine, Scotty McLaren, H. B. Musser, Lawrence Dickinson and Glen Burton were awarded plaques for their contributions to the advancement of turf management.

The ureaforms, also comparatively new, and which can be used alone or in mixtures, have proved to be fine fertilizing agents because of their uniform response.

DeFrance advised the supts. to learn everything possible about the needs of their grasses insofar as fertilizers are con-

cerned, particularly in the light of the soil and climate conditions in which they are grown. Determining what grasses need more fertilizer than others, he added, requires long and careful observation. This, plus a study of the release rates and other facts about the many types of fertilizers on the market, will enable the supt. to avoid overfeeding or starving the turf on his course, or perhaps seriously burning it, DeFrance said.

He also made a comparison of inorganic and natural organic fertilizers. The former, ammonia derived, he said, are fast release agents which have to be applied with caution to give desired results. The latter are fine for warm weather application because of their low nitrogen, slow release properties. He did not recommend them very highly, however, for winter feeding or starting new turf because they do not supply sufficient nutrients at the normal rate of application.

Mid-Atlantic Group Dramatizes Monthly Meeting at Friday Windup

The convention's education program was concluded on Friday with members of the Mid-Atlantic GCSA acting out a typical monthly meeting; Merrill Whittelsey, golf editor of the Washington Evening Star giving the supts. hints on how they can create publicity for themselves; a talk on progress in management by Dr. O. J. Noer, which was supplemented by the showing of a film; and a summary of the conference by Dr. Fred V. Grau. In the afternoon, Raymond Korbobo of Rutgers University spoke on the art of landscaping. The final act involved a question and answer session with a panel of agronomists and supts. supplying the answers to questions that came from the floor.

The Mid-Atlantic's skit was delivered with a true professional touch because the members of the cast had lived their roles many times before in the process of attending monthly meetings. The plot revolved around a "Constructive Suggestion Report," a solid, condensed outline of how supts. go about improving turf and their courses. Charles Wilson of Milwaukee Sewerage Commission played the part of the gavel man. The skit was well received, with comment in the corridors indicating that most supts. thought the Mid-Atlantic actors had pulled off an exceptionally good production.

In advising the supt. to become his own promotion man, Merrill Whittelsey suggested that he first become acquainted with his local sports writers in order to be able to funnel news items to their papers with the likelihood that they will be printed. Whittelsey also said it isn't a bad idea to cultivate garden and home improvement editors.

"When tournaments are being held at your course," the Evening Star editor continued, "be sure you're around, properly dressed for the occasion, because if the fairways and greens are lauded by the contestants, you want to be there to take a bow. You become better known this way too — and that always helps!"

Illustrating how publicity can be broadcast, Whittelsey told of how he happened to overhear Charley Schalestock's ideas on air-conditioning a course, used it in an article the following day, and then heard a lot of people including Vice-President Dick Nixon, talking about it.

Needs Publicity Man

Merrill also suggested that a growing organization such as the GCSA should give thought to hiring a publicity man. "There was little advance dope available on your meeting here," he said. "Writers and sportscasters in the Wash-

ington area would have been happy to give you time and space if they had known you were coming. If you don't think you're ready for a full-time man on the job perhaps a public-relations agency could give you part-time help."

O. J. Noer, assisted by Charley Wilson, showed the supts. all the many improve-

Ladies Not Forgotten

A well planned program for the ladies kept wives who accompanied husbands to the GCSA convention well occupied throughout the five days they were in Washington. Numerous tours were arranged for the women along with coffee get-togethers, movies, a surprise party, luncheon at a well known sea food restaurant in addition to one at the Army-Navy CC in Arlington, and the annual banquet which was preceded by a reception.

ments that have been made in the way a course is constructed as well as managed in the last 10 years or so. In his running commentary, that accompanied a film showing of the best features of many courses throughout the U. S. and Canada, Noer pointed out the easy ways of doing things as compared with the devious and backbreaking methods used not too many years ago. Noer described most of the new courses built in recent years or in the process of being constructed as being "architecturally sound, designed for streamlined management." For this, he added, the supt. owes a great debt to course architects who certainly have moved ahead of the times.

Fred Grau's summary of what had gone on at the educational conferences from Monday through Friday, consisted of capsule notations on what each speaker had said. Grau then told the supts. that they should do everything possible to develop their executive abilities since their position has evolved to the point where country clubs now are depending as much on their leadership qualities as on their technical knowledge.

Wisconsin PGA Meeting

Wisconsin Section, PGA, will hold its spring meeting on Apr. 21 at the Medford Hotel in Milwaukee. Gordon Watson is in charge of arrangements for the affair.

E. J. Smith Dies in Charlotte at Age of 70

E. J. Smith, pres. and treas. of E. J. Smith & Sons Co., Charlotte, N. C., died on Feb. 9 in that city at the age of 70. A native of Stillwater, Minn., Mr. Smith established the Southeast Toro Co., Jacksonville, Fla., in 1925 and eight years later set up the firm that bears his name. His company is one of the Southeast's leading golf maintenance suppliers



and Mr. Smith was closely connected with many GCSA members. In 1957, Carolinas GCSA presented him a plaque in appreciation of his services to the supt.

Mr. Smith was a member of the Charlotte City Club, Optimist Club and Carmel Country and Saddle Club. Survivors include his wife, the former Rubie Beam, three sons, George R., Wayne B. and Sherrill C., all of Charlotte.

Middlecoff Hasn't Qualified for Tournament of Champions

Only one golfer, Cary Middlecoff, has played in all five renewals of the \$40,000 Tournament of Champions which will be held at the Desert Inn CC, Las Vegas, Apr. 24-27. But the Memphis dentist is in danger of being shut out this year because he has yet to win a major tournament and thereby gain a spot in the '58 field. Only two other golfers Gene Littler, three-times winner of the Las Vegas competition, and Doug Ford, have qualified as many as four times for the Tournament of Champions.

No player is admitted to the Tournament of Champions on past record or because of having a big name. The only entrance requirement is winning a major PGA event during the 12 months preceding the playing of the Desert Inn tourney. Since the tournament was started in 1953, the Las Vegas sponsors have contributed \$200,000 to the Damon Runyan cancer fund and another \$35,000 from this year's receipts are slated to go to this cause.

The Northern California PGA is handicapping all pros in the area for 1958. This is being done in order to equalize competition, particularly for Seniors.