

Prof. L. S. Dickinson, Turf School Founder, Retires

By ELIOT ROBERTS

Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson retired on Aug. 31 after 47 years of service to the University of Massachusetts and the turf industry. A resident of Amherst and a graduate of the University, Prof. Dickinson is noted for his keen understanding of problems related to turfgrass management. He has devoted much time to field studies with supts, and has been an energetic supporter of a business approach to course maintenance.



L. S. Dickinson

Started Stockbridge School

Prof. Dickinson was the founder of the 10-week short course for turf mgrs., the first such course in the U.S. The winter school was started in 1927 and has been offered regularly ever since. Many of the

475 graduates hold responsible positions at some of the country's finest courses.

The course, started as a service for New England supts., has attracted men from 29 states, all provinces of Canada, Bermuda and the Canal Zone. Much of the early teaching in this course was handled by Dickinson. Today, nine University specialists conduct classes in their specific fields as it is applied to turf management. Organization and successful development of this course is a tribute to the beliefs of Prof. Dickinson who long contended that the supt. should be considered a professional man.

Professor Dickinson also is credited with the founding of the turf major in the Stockbridge School of Agriculture. This two-year study course was designed for those with little practical experience and for those who could devote some time to the study of production of turfgrass and other ornamental plants. This course is now in its 11th year.

Teaching has not been the sole activity of Dickinson. Through the years he has been active in various research projects. His ideas on aerification with the spade fork and some of his early work related to this subject have contributed much to

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our understanding of turf management under compacted soil conditions. He conducted early experiments on climatic conditions influencing the development and severity of brownpatch disease.

Other of his investigations covered root development and factors which influence the growth of the grass plant. Many supts. who attended Prof. Dickinson's classes or heard him lecture, will recall the emphasis placed on "the little grass plant" and how it grows. As an extension worker, Dickinson is considered a close friend of the supt. His recommendations long have been noted as being practical and down to earth.

Regarding the future of the work he started, Dr. Dale H. Sieling, Dean of the College of Agriculture, says: "It is our firm resolve to continue all the turf programs originated by Prof. Dickinson, not as a memorial to him but because they have proved so valuable to everyone concerned. He is to be congratulated on his foresight and perseverance in establishing and keeping the turf programs going through the years."

Prof. Dickinson has indicated that he plans to reside in Amherst and intends to continue his interest in turfgrass. He is

active as an honorary director in the recently re-organized Massachusetts section of the New England Turf Assn. and will continue meeting with Winter School classes as a guest lecturer and professor emeritus.

New Hi-Lo Desert GCSA Has 50 Members

Hi-Lo Desert GCSA, organized this spring by supts. in Arizona, Nevada and the desert region of Southern California, now has 50 persons enrolled as members. Supts. who played a major role in getting the organization started include: Paul Adessi, Tamarisk CC; J. D. Kilpatrick, Thunderbird; Ed Curlin, Cochran-Odlum CC; Harry Cirata, Eldorado; Hugh Kilpatrick, O'Donnell CC; J. Harvey Hardin, Indian Wells; E. C. Sanders, Mission Valley; and Bud Turner, Hesperia CC. All of these men are serving as officers or directors of the new organization.

The first formal meeting of Hi-Lo Desert GCSA was held in July at Apple Valley CC with Ira Bradley and Newt Bass as hosts. Dr. Fred V. Grau was the principal speaker.

Members of Hi-Lo Desert come from clubs with elevations ranging from 250 ft. below sea level to 3,500 ft. above and from locations where overall seasonal temperature variations are well over 100 degs.