



Joe Valentine (r) tells of all the good things he knows about Burt Musser at testimonial dinner.

## 300 Turfmen Honor Burt Musser at Penn State Dinner

By GEORGE A. VAN HORN

H. Burton Musser, pioneer turfgrass researcher for the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station, received the plaudits of 300 turf associates, students, and friends at a testimonial dinner in his honor Feb. 18, at University Park, Pa. The dinner highlighted the 28th annual Turfgrass Conference at Penn State.

Prof. Musser was honored with gifts from a score of organizations in tribute to his 30 years of outstanding research and teaching. He retires June 30.

Burt responded to the gifts and accolades by saying he had known "Burt Musser a good many years and I don't think he deserves this kind of show. I'm proud of the personal relationships with you people," Musser continued. "I'm proud that Penn State has had the marvelous support of people we've tried to serve."

Gifts received by Musser included a plaque from the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council, two doz. golf balls from students in his winter turf management school, a billfold from the USGA green section, a photo album recording scenes from Penn State's field days and GCSA golf tourna-

ments and meetings, a plaque from the GCSA, a duffel bag from Iowa GCSA, two albums of letters from Musser's friends in the industry and a very sizeable check from Burt's many well wishers.

The gifts were presented by Joseph J. Gackebach for the Turfgrass Council, Fred C. Snyder for the students, Charles K. Hollowell for the green section, O. J. Noer and Paul E. Weiss for the GCSA, Harold Glissman for the Iowa GCSA and Tom Mascaro for the golf industry. Harry J. Drennan presented the check, substantial enough to finance Musser's golf playing for a long time. One of the highlights of the dinner was a speech by Joe Valentine, Merion GC, Ardmore, Pa., dean of U. S. supts., who paid tribute to Burt's brilliant work over the years.

Burt Musser got pretty well choked up when all those gifts were showered on him at the testimonial banquet . . . Joe Duich, who made arrangements for the dinner, was on call from the maternity ward . . . Charley Hollowell of the USGA and Musser were classmates in undergrad days at Penn State . . . Scientist that Burt is, O. J. Noer pointed out that Musser always had trouble loading and unloading a camera . . . The duffel bag, mentioned above, is for Burt to carry soil samples on fishing trips . . . Joe Valentine shortened a California vacation to get back for the Musser affair . . . Harry Drennan was chmn. of the committee that raised the cash gift . . . Typically, Burt Musser said that his success over the years was not a "one-man job but the result of a long program in which he had worked with many accomplished and devoted men."

Research was the main theme at the Penn State turf meeting. J. E. Gallagher of Amchem Products, Inc., predicted that 1959 will be a good year for weed control. Several pre-emergent crabgrass controls are or will be on the market and more information is being made available on arsenicals and chlordanes in control work. W. H. Daniel of Purdue, who agreed with Gallagher that control of crabgrass and poa annua is the biggest problem facing turfmen, described tests made at Lafayette with arsenicals. He told of the effect of arsenic in stopping seedling growth of crabgrass, chickweed and witchgrass.

Penn State studies on the effect of 2-4-D on seedlings of bluegrass, bent and fescue were discussed by Richard E. Schimdt while Houston B. Couch, also of Penn State, described basic greenhouse

research with different nutrition levels on brownpatch and dollarspot. James R. Bloom, University pathologist, spoke on nematodes.

Off-campus speakers on the program included Fred V. Grau, F. V. Juska, Ralph E. Engle, R. S. Dyal, J. A. DeFrance, J. R. Watson, Jr., R. R. Davis and O. J. Noer. Other Penn State speakers were L. E. Jackson, J. C. Harper, Joe M. Duich, A. C. Richer, L. T. Kardos, J. O. Pepper and H. B. Musser.

## Learning How to Use Water May Be The Answer

By FLOYD VOSLER

Supt., Cedar Hills CC, Omaha, Neb.

The old Scot's remark about golf being an 'umbling game might well be extended to identify golf course maintenance as an 'umbling profession.

A man may be proud of his course one day and the next day some catastrophic mystery may render him low, miserable and bewildered.

### Hold His Breath

So, when a fellow brings his course through a year in good condition and competent, neighboring supts. suffer extensive troubles, he is extremely grateful. He holds his breath and examines his



Willie Goggin (right) was awarded a Scottish quaffing cup and a check for \$1200 by Ronald Teacher, Glasgow distiller, for winning the PGA Seniors title in Dunedin. Goggin shot a 284. Teacher's firm is co-sponsor of the annual Seniors tournament with the PGA, pays the winner's expenses to England to meet the British Champion.

## Dave Gordon Heads Architects' Society

David W. Gordon, Doylestown, Pa., is the new pres. of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. He succeeds Howard Watson, Lachute, Que., Canada. Gordon's father, William F., with whom he is associated, was ASGCA pres. in 1953. Other officers are: J. Press Maxwell, Dallas, vp; and William B. Langford, Chicago, secy-treas. Election of officers was held at the architects' annual meeting in Mobile, Ala., Feb. 24-26.

Gordon graduated from Penn State University in 1947 following service as a B-24 pilot in World War II. After having worked as a construction supt. for his father, he became a partner in the latter's business upon graduation from college. Dave is married, has two sons, lives in Bucks county where he is a member of the Central School Authority and green chmn. of Indian Valley CC.

His wartime training as a pilot comes in handy. In the last 18 months he has flown a company plane 63,000 miles getting around to various construction jobs.

practices to see if he can learn for certain what accounts for his satisfactory results.

Last year I believe that I protected our greens by several light topdressings in the extreme weather and thus insulated them against excessive heat.

### Early Spraying

Something else I am sure paid off for us was spraying our greens very early, starting at daylight and finishing not later than 7:30. This eliminated fungicide burns.

Inevitable variations in cost of maintenance I suppose always will beat us in our battle to keep close control of costs. Last year frequent rains and heavy growth of grass ran fairway maintenance costs for 9 holes to about what the costs were in 1956 for 18 holes.

I'm inclined to believe that one of the mistakes that has been made too often in maintenance is using too much water at the wrong time. I also suspect that we have not paid enough attention to the humidity factor. I have had a green wilt when the temperature was 86 but the humidity was high. I water very lightly (as many as four times a day) during very hot weather.