

# Cover Full Turf Range at Mid-Atlantic Meet

By **JAMES E. THOMAS**

Supt., Army-Navy CC, Arlington, Va.

The Mid-Atlantic GCSA's annual conference, held in Baltimore, Jan. 5-6, under the auspices of the University of Maryland extension service, was productive of many excellent speeches and panel discussions of various subjects pertaining to turf management. Here are some highlights of the speeches:

George S. Langford, University of Maryland entomologist, speaking on the use of

breeding places such as grass areas that aren't closely mowed, underbrush and poorly drained areas. He, too, recommended Malathion but warned against its excessive use to avoid burning.

On the subject of Bermudagrasses, E. Ray Jensen of Southern Turf Nurseries, cited several of their advantages such as ease of planting, rapid development, good sod density and resistance to weeds. Jensen said these grasses need plenty of nitrogen, and where they are used, it is necessary to practice thorough disease and insect control. He added that an excellent new strain, Tifway, is about to be released for fairway use.

At a panel discussion headed by James E. Thomas, and which had Tom Doerer,



Heading the Mid-Atlantic GCSA in 1960 are the following officers and directors: Front Row (l to r) Tom Doerer, Jr., Ft. Belvoir, secy-treas.; Frank Dunlap, Baltimore CC, pres.; Francis Coupe, Washington GC, Arlington, Va., vp. Directors shown in the back row l to r, are: George Gumm, Ocean City Y & CC, Berlin, Md.; L. Robert Shields, Woodmont CC, Rockville, Md.; Tom Dawson, Richmond Power Equipment Co.; Jim Reynolds, Hermitage CC, Richmond; and James Reid, Suburban CC, Pikesville, Md.

pesticides, said that the most effective method of pest control is to consult recognized agencies as to materials recommended and suggested applications so that there is no danger of wildlife being injured. Bob Shields, Woodmont CC supt., described gnat control methods at his club, asserting that the work was carried on on a once-a-week basis and that it required less than three man hours of labor per week. He suggested that late afternoon is the best time for spraying against gnats and that best results probably are obtained with Malathion. Speaking of mosquito control, George C. Gumm, supt. at Ocean City G & YC, stressed strict sanitation of potential

Jr., Frank Dunlap, Bob Shields and Eberhardt Steiniger on the rostrum, experiences with Bermuda were described. Doerer said that a golf ball sets well on dormant Bermuda and that as far as he can see, golfers don't object to its faded winter color. Bob Shields, describing planting of Bermuda on fairways at Woodmont, stressed that it was done quickly so as not to interfere with play. It was carried out with a homemade machine that set the plants on one-foot centers.

Frank Dunlap, who prefers U-3 for fairways advocates plugging as the best method of establishing the grass and believes it may eliminate the need for fairway ren-

ovation of grasses that don't stand up under Mid-Atlantic humidity in the summer. Eb Steiniger, who has had much success with Bermuda at Pine Valley, said that it requires high fertility for good coverage and that it must be frequently brushed to prevent thatch formation.

#### Weather and Wear

Speaking of the problems and accomplishments of turfmen in 1959, Charles K. Hallowell, USGA green section, pointed out that supts. were hard hit by weather and wear last year but they were able to pull out in most cases because they practiced smart aerification and judicious fertilization. Touching on poa, Hallowell said that one of the best ways to suppress it is with a slow acting nitrogen supply and spring and fall applications of potash at about 4 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. Verticutting to destroy blooming seeds and spring applications of arsenate of lead also were recommended.

Bob Moore of Aquatrol Corp., in explaining the purpose of wetting agents, said that their chief value is in reducing water tension, thus causing water to become more readily available for the root and plant structure. He pointed out that where they are used, disease and wilt are less prevalent.

O. J. Noer of Milwaukee Sewerage Commission reviewed many of the lessons that experience has taught turfmen. Among them is the fact that they had to learn to feed nutrients to the requirements of the grass plant and that timely fertilization is one of the best safeguards against weed invasion. Noer also dwelled upon the proper use of herbicides, ways of suppressing poa and the uses of lime.

#### Club Manager Speaks

Charles Smith, gen. mgr., Chevy Chase CC recommended that supts. keep plenty of records. "Committees love records; they make committees look good," Smith noted. He said there's a need of more interchange of information and coordination between club department heads and committee chairmen.

The Chevy Chase mgr. advised that on the days when committeemen are playing the supt. be in sight but out of ear range. "Post signs for the bad news; tell the good news personally," Smith counseled. He said that neatness in details is of immense importance in impressing members and guests. Smith suggested that supts. get acquainted with more members, adding, "To the man who hasn't met you, you are nobody."



Harold B. Harrison, Jr., son of the pro-supt. at Centre Hills CC, State College, Pa., was a second place winner in the biological experimental div. at a science fair held at Penn State University. He submitted a soil structure entry. Young Harrison, only 12, already is quite well versed in course construction and maintenance work.

Herb Graffis, GOLFDOM's Editor, in talking about the problems of golf's growth, said that the magnitude of today's 6000 golf clubs, and play that will run to about 90,000,000 rounds this year, makes golf big business and compels the first class supt. to be a first class businessman.

#### Seniors vs. Younger Men

Graffis referred to the great growth of senior golf as possibly coming into conflict with the needs of highly desirable young potential members who can't afford the private club's steep costs. He expressed the belief that the big increase in women's play is going to mean that women are going to hold more offices and head more committees at clubs. In many cases, he added, this might improve club business policies.

James Miller, University of Maryland, outlined the correct procedure in taking soil samples and told how samples are analysed at the U. of Maryland.

Miller described the workings of the major turf elements, nitrogen, phosphate and potash and the secondary and the trace elements as held and released for use in soils and fertilizers.

There was a million dollars' worth of information useful to course architects, contractors and people who pay the bills  
(Continued on page 72)



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### Mid-Atlantic Conference

*(Continued from page 42)*

in the Mid-Atlantic's session on newly opened courses.

Supts. of five new courses told of construction and early development and maintenance of their courses. Fred Grau was moderator of the session.

It was evident from the panelists' discussion that architects, builders and supts. certainly aren't always working on land favorable to the construction and maintenance of courses. It also was made plain that cutting corners too close on construction simply means that higher costs of maintenance have to be paid later. In some

### Value of Conferences

Much more space than is normally allotted to a regional meeting of supts. is given to the annual conference of the Mid-Atlantic GCSA. The reason is that this two-day meeting is typical of the tremendous value of a regional conference to courses in a golf district. Club officials rarely are aware of how their clubs benefit in cash savings and improved course management as a result of these get togethers.

Any club, private, semi-private or public, that doesn't encourage its supt. to attend association meetings and pay his expenses, should take a second look at its policy in this respect. It certainly isn't farsighted.

respects major alterations are required before it is possible to maintain courses in uniformly good condition.

Interesting discussions on green design for good surface drainage and traffic distribution stressed the belief that good architecture for maintenance can and should be good architecture by playing standards.

Leading off the presentation of the new

course preparations was John Burt of Turf Valley CC, Ellicott City, Md.

Burt spoke of the value of the soil tests, fertilizer and seeding recommendations made by Bob Elder, agronomist for the Turf Valley architect. Fairways are 20 per cent Merion, 25 Kentucky blue, 5 Highland bent and 50 fescue. Merion is doing especially well. Greens are an even combination of C1, C19 and C7.

Planning and construction expedients corrected dangers of erosion which often is a matter of lasting trouble and expense at courses where it isn't attended to promptly. Some erosion was stopped by backing slopes with asphalt.

Burt said that among things he learned from Turf Valley job were:

(1) Elimination of construction roadways. They leave their marks for years on the finished course.

(2) Not to rush construction of tees. There is the possibility of planting too soon. If tees settle, levelling them is a costly, tedious nuisance.

(3) Traps should be completed - dug out, formed and edged - at the time greens are constructed and planted.

(4) A course should have a sod nursery if possible.

George G. Gumm, Ocean City G & Yacht

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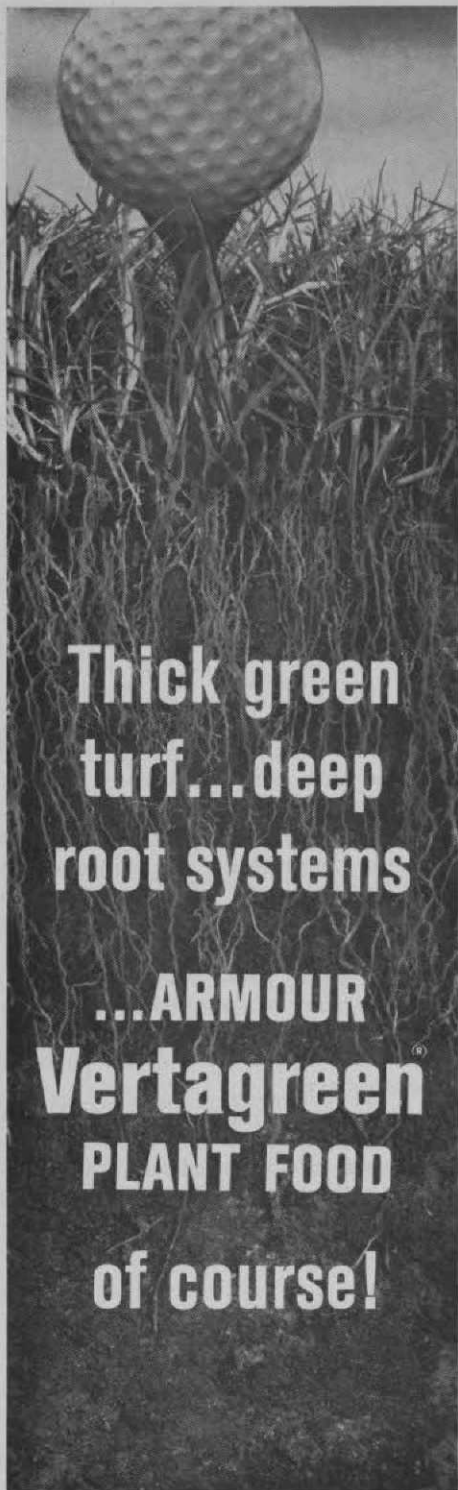
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Club, Berlin, Md., said the site of his course generally is from four to eight ft. above sea level. In some spots high water sometimes covers fairways.

Fairways and tees were seeded to Kentucky blue, redtop and fescue. A lot of rye was put on the fairways. Poor drainage accounted for loss of early grass in some fairway areas. After surface drainage was corrected the areas were reseeded to Merion and in 2½ months looked good.

Greens were seeded with Penncross in September. The water system couldn't be used because of electrical trouble. Then fall cloudbursts came and washed away a lot of the seeding.

A point that Gumm emphasized is the importance of keeping records of costs and dates. He reminded the supts. that officials generally don't pay much attention to records the first year but in the second year everybody wants data as a basis of estimate and comparison.

Louis Lamp told of beginning in Oct. 1956, to build the second nine of Winchester (Va.) G&CC which was opened in early summer of 1959. Construction was carried on while the first 9 was being maintained.

Lamp had three men clearing for the second nine. Much of the ground was blue-grass pasture. It was overseeded with hulled Bermuda in June. Greens were lightly seeded to Penncross.

Soil at Winchester is mainly shale. Greens were built with 18 to 20 ins. of topsoil which was then plowed, rototilled and harrowed. The shale was broken up and spread out. Six to 8 tons of rotted sawdust per green were worked into the greens soil along with sand. The greens were given about two years for settling. Weed killer was used once a month during the summer on the new green sites.

Fred Sappenfield of Willow Oaks CC, Richmond, Va., told of the problems solved in building a championship course at a locality where river bottomland mired some equipment and delayed construc-

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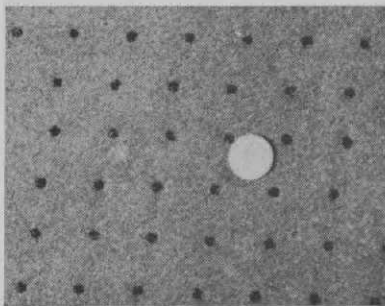
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tion. It, of course, presented numerous design, construction and maintenance problems.

In every report in the new course symposium the vital importance of good drainage was stressed. There simply isn't any possibility of trying to save money by skimping on drainage, especially green drainage, supts. observed.

At Willow Oaks, all fairway pipeline ditches were tamped by machinery. This saved a great deal of time, trouble and expense, Sappenfield noted. Fairways were disc-harrowed several times, then raked, limed, fertilized and seeded to Bermuda at 100 lbs. per acre.

Sappenfield said seeding should be done as fast as the ground is prepared. He started cutting fairways at 1 in. Later this was lowered.

## Fertilize During Preparation

The Willow Oaks supt., and all others reporting, accented the importance of fertilizing during soil preparation and of carrying on a thorough program of early maintenance.

Other points to which Sappenfield referred as he showed photos of his handiwork were:

Heavy traffic pattern must be avoided

on approaches;

Correct eroded areas early and thoroughly or they will be costly;

Roll in stolons, then roll topsoil over them, then water immediately and don't drag the hose.

Bert Yingling told of a super-economy, near "do-it-yourself" job in building the Beaver Creek CC at Hagerstown, Md.

There was much bad weather and lost grass from freezing, erosion and "causes unknown." But Bert kept at it and eventually got pretty good greens.

Drainage was excellent on and under the greens. After bulldozing topsoil off greens sites, Yingling's crew set the drainage tile, and mixed sand and topsoil adjacent to the greens and again on the greens.

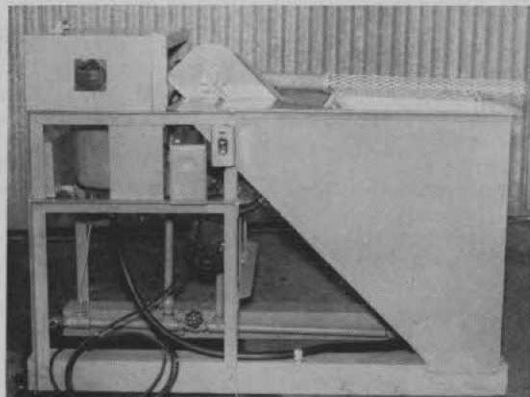
On fairways an alfalfa drill was used in overseeding K31 and Merion. Watering was heavy and difficult because it had to be trucked in.

Yingling says he could have done better if he'd had more money. But he thinks the job will stand up as a good low-cost performance to encourage others who want to build a course but haven't got much financing.

Ralph Engel, New Jersey's widely

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known turf authority, told some of the highlights of research findings at the Rutgers University plots. The plots were established in 1923 and have been continued through depressions and wars by noted turf scientists who have done work of incalculable value for turf users.

As a jolting reminder of the skimpy way in which turf grass research is financed, even in the Garden State where research is widely recognized for its immense value, Engel said that it wasn't until last year that the state university's turfgrass plots got a full time foreman.

Engel reviewed the Rutgers nitrogen studies and showed slides that emphasized the advisability, under normal circumstances, of repeated small N applications. He told of the crabgrass control studies showing that results vary according to soils. He believes a thoroughly safe pre-emergence control for crabgrass isn't far away.

Differences in results from spray and dry applications of materials; variations in tolerance of bents and bluegrass for chemicals; and studies of various periods when fertilizers give best results on various grasses, also were covered by Engel.

Felix V. Juska of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Beltsville, Md., in telling of the

"Effect of Pre-Emergence Chemicals on the Germination and Growth of Turfgrasses" and Dayton Klingman, also of USDA, who followed Juska and spoke on crabgrass control, covered all phases of the battle against crabgrass. Their verbal and photographic testimony showed that great progress had been made in chemical control but on some counts they said the jury is still out. The two experts warned against using powerful control chemicals in hot weather when soils are dry and to avoid pre-emergence chemicals on seedlings. Fall and spring crabgrass control treatments are most effective, said Juska.

Comparative effects of various rates of treatment are being appraised in the continuing studies of crabgrass control. Thus far in the three years of the studies at Beltsville, there has not been any evidence of harmful concentrations of chemicals building up in the soil.

Officers and directors of Southern Calif. GCSA for 1960 are: Harold Stelling, Los Coyotes, pres; Zeke Avila, Hacienda, vp; Maj. Fred Bove, Brentwood secy; and Rod Barker, Jr., Palos Verdes, treas. Directors are Jack Baker, Elmer Border, Elmo Feliz, George Lanphear and Charles Friday.