

plete round of shows, sightseeing trips, teas, etc. for the wives of the supts. There was also a big hospitality hour, sponsored by manufacturers and the association, for all attending the convention, a golf tournament for the supts., the annual banquet and various other kinds of entertainment.

First Session

Mayor Gives City's Key to Elmer and Conference Is On

The opening session, which was held on Monday morning, was in charge of Tom Leonard, supt. at River Oaks in Houston, who is a transplanted Oklahoman. Among those who he introduced during the pre-lunch gathering were A. W. (Al) Crain, agronomist for Goldthwaite Texas Toro, also a transplanted Oklahoman, and George Aulbach, a Texas pro (Lufkin CC), by way of Boston. Besides these immigrants, the greensmen heard John Outland, Dallas CC club mgr. and Mel Warnecke, of Atlanta's East Lake.

These speakers followed Mayor Louis Cutrer of Houston who presented the GCSA's outgoing pres., Elmer Border, the keys to the city, promised to void any parking tickets that the conventioners collected during their Houston sojourn and in typically proud Texas fashion, described the glories of the Lone Star state and, of course, Houston.

Al Crain showed films of courses in Houston, Beaumont, San Antonio and Austin and discussed the general weather, topography and soil features of Gulf Coastal areas and those that are within 200 miles of the Gulf. He predicted that the bent green line that stops with Dallas will be extended several hundred miles farther south in the next four or five years, thanks to experimental work that is now being extensively carried on in several southern states. Dallisgrass, Crain stated, continues to be the curse of the man who manages fine turf in Texas, while in the last few years, supts. in and around Beaumont and Houston have been handicapped in the spring, and even in the fall, by an abundance of rainfall that often seriously interferes with mowing.

Must Hear Out Complaints

Jack Outland, who presented the manager's outlook on the country club situation, suggested that men of his calling, as well as professionals and supts., should resign themselves to the fact that part of

their pay at least is for the roles they play as "professional listeners to complaints." If we can live with that attitude, Outland observed, we'll not end up in a pile of ulcers. The Dallas club mgr. said that, in reality, members generally are easy to get along with and that too many club employees make the mistake of remembering only the grouzers.

Speaking of personnel problems, Outland declared that too many clubs hire non-supervisory help rather haphazardly, don't make clear what is expected of these people and don't tell them what is due them in the way of benefits. If more pains



Mel Warnecke



George Aulbach

were taken in hiring, particularly by the mgr. and supt., Outland added, more loyalty to the clubs would be developed.

Joint Responsibility

In discussing what players want in a course, George Aulbach opined that if the first tee is kept free of debris, people get the immediate impression that the entire layout is tidily maintained. This puts them in the proper frame of mind to start out with, George continued, and may result in their viewing the rest of the course with a less critical eye. Aulbach believes that the pro should be equally responsible with the supt. for keeping the No. 1 tee area properly policed.

The Lufkin CC pro said that on most courses he has seen there are far too many signs. He favors a movement that will do away with about 60 or 70 per cent of them. If major changes in local ground rules are made, he said, the pro and supt. would do well to notify members of these by letter rather than by posting signs which usually aren't heeded anyway.

In the matter of maintenance for play, Aulbach stated that he feels that a majority of supts. could do a better job on practice greens. Fairways and regular greens

at 90 per cent of our courses, he observed, are well maintained, but the same can't always be said of traps and the roughs. More attention probably should be given these hazards, George declared, because the least neglect of them makes play even more difficult than it should be for the high handicap shooters.

Togetherness at East Lake

Mel Warnecke of East Lake suggested that if any coolness has developed among the supt., pro and mgr., they should keep in mind that close cooperation on many occasions probably has saved the skin of at least one or possibly all three. A further argument for working together is that the triumvirate should present a unified front as often as reasonably possible.

Describing how togetherness is practiced at East Lake, Mel said that he and the pro and mgr. have regular monthly meetings, that these two officials are always invited to his bi-weekly breakfast conferences with green committee members, and that one or the other occasionally attend turf gatherings with him.

Beats Throat Cutting

"All this may have a taint of logrolling," Warnecke conceded, "but it certainly beats throat cutting. As far as I am personally concerned, I feel that it has enabled me to do a better job because I have learned a great deal more about the members' viewpoints than I would ordinarily know if I hadn't worked closely with the pro and club mgr. I'm reasonably sure that they feel the same way."

Second Session

Celebrity Says Texas Golfers Don't Have A Handicap System

Following the introduction of celebrities by Stan Graves, supt. at Woodmont CC, Rocky River, O., and O. J. Noer of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, three speakers were heard on the Monday afternoon program. They were Wayne W. Huffine, Oklahoma State University agronomist, who traced the 75-year history of turf research in the U. S.; John M. MacKenzie, Toro's Minneapolis plant mgr., who spoke on the supervision of labor; and John Hill of Texas A & M College, who discussed safety.



(L. to r, top) Wayne Huffine, John Henry, Stan Graves, Henry Ransom (Bottom) Bob Morris, Marty Marion, Jess Neely

... they made their bows as celebrities.

The team of Graves and Noer, a long-time GCSA convention fixture, called such notables as Tom Davison, Jess Neely, Henry Ransom, Bobby Morris and Marty Marion to the podium. Davison of the Houston Post told the audience that Texas is the one state that doesn't have a handicap system for its golfers — and nobody seemed the least surprised. Neely, Rice University's football coach and something of a turf expert in his own right, described the Owl stadium of a few years back as having an excellent drainage system but with soil so compacted that water couldn't reach it. Ransom, former tournament star and now an East Texas gentleman rancher, recalled getting a \$500 bonus check from George S. May in 1950 because he was discreet enough to tell George that he had no suggestions as to how the World's Championship should be conducted after practically every pro who participated had offered his advice to the Tam O'Shanter impresario. Morris, current Texas PGA champion, described what it takes to win a Texas championship. Marty Marion, the onetime baseball great, opined that another major league in both football and baseball should open up these sports to many talented athletes who aren't getting a break because of the present limited opportunities.

Reviews Research History

In the last 20 years, according to Wayne Huffine, turf experimental stations in the U. S. have increased from 10 to 30 and numerous commercial concerns have set up research divisions. This country's experimental activities were started in 1885 by a New Hampshire resident, J. B. Olcott, who developed several strains of grass; the