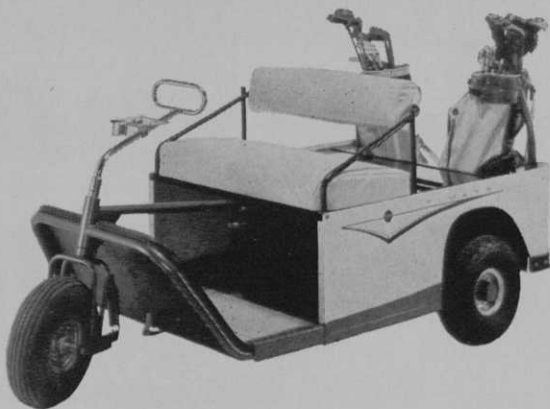


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an early start but probably fades too quickly; bents are slow in getting started but come strong at the end of the Southern playing season; *poa trivialis* is proving to be a fine grass in overseeding mixtures.

Fred V. Grau: If you are planning to go to Penncross greens, you'll get best results from seeding; if you are renovating fairways, don't sell Merion short and also don't overlook tall fescue; for reviving turf, probably nothing beats nitrogen application — but don't make the mistake of over-feeding in an attempt to speed up the revival.

James R. Watson, Jr. — using film, Watson described how, with the use of plywood covering, the digging of drainage ditches and the backfilling operation on greens can be made a very neat, if not a completely artistic job.

Marvin H. Ferguson — film also was used by Ferguson in showing what can happen when soil sterilant residue is left in a tank used for spraying 2 4-D — the prettiest burned out areas you ever saw. Another film, shown by the USGA green dir., also brought a few gasps — greens at a New Mexico club that were in the path of a sandstorm. Stable brooms had to be used to sweep away the heavy inundation.

O. J. Noer: The University of Wisconsin,

carrying on work with funds supplied by the Foundation established in Noer's honor, has been carrying on experiments in withholding several different elements from various strains of turf and noting the growth reaction. Some conclusions: Lack of iron and calcium may be more detrimental to growth than that of three or four other elements, nitrogen included.

Sixth Session

Dormancy, Budgets, Poa Are Examined

The second part of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission film, "Progress in Maintenance," was the first item on the Thursday morning program. Then came James R. Watson, Jr., Toro Manufacturing Corp., who discussed dormant Northern grasses, and Marvin H. Ferguson, USGA green section research dir., who spoke on dormant Southern grasses. A trio of Cincinnati area supts., Taylor Boyd of Camargo, Donald E. Likes of Hyde Park,

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and Richard B. Craig, Losantville CC, went into the intricacies of planning and presenting budgets. The last speaker of the morning was Casper McCullough, supt. of Banff Springs (Alta.) Hotel course, who told how and why he has come to depend on *poa annua*.

The Sewerage Commission film was again accompanied by mechanical trouble, with Jim Latham of that organization filling in at the mike as the sound track became snarled. Latham guided the audience on a tour of several Atlanta courses and then went north to visit Elbridge in Montreal, showing how greens were constructed at some of these places and also how weeds and diseases are controlled. The piece de resistance came with a junket to the farm of T. L. (Gus) Gustin outside of Philadelphia where an equipment show was in progress. If you ever are invited to one of these soirees, don't miss it because after you have obliged the host by looking over his machinery, you'll never sit down to a finer spread. Or, at least, that is the way it looked on film.

Desiccation Great Destroyer

The greatest damage to wintertime Northern grasses, according to Jim Watson, probably comes from desiccation. Scald, resulting from the reflection of the sun through the ice, and suffocation, caused by the buildup of carbon dioxide under an ice cover also contribute to the damage. Watson pointed out that turf isn't damaged too much if it lies under a snow cover during the wintertime and is safe from drying winds.

Using film, the Toro agronomist showed the effects of other types of turf covers. Peat, straw or leaves aren't particularly desirable, Watson said, because they build up too much organic matter in the soil; polyethylene would be ideal, if practical, because it gives a greenhouse effect, trapping moisture and keeping heat in. Experiments with black insulated blankets also were shown by Watson. There was essentially no growth under this type of cover, but more than if the turf had been left uncovered.

Dormancy periods in the South, said Marvin Ferguson, range from very short

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to prolonged, and maintenance and overseeding should be based on past observations of how long they may last. Mowing and light watering often restores turf color in the Deep South when it appears that the grass is becoming dormant, but moving north it usually is necessary to overseed in varying degrees to keep greens in playable and presentable condition.

The USGA green dir. stated that Tifgreen requires less overseeding than common Bermuda, and it is his observation that bents are preferable to other strains for this purpose. Seaside may fare quite well until midsummer, while Highland, although it is slow to take hold in the fall, usually gives good results until late summer. The best preparation for overseeding and the onset of the dormant season, Ferguson concluded, is to fertilize adequately, protect against fungus diseases as the growth of the permanent grass slows down, and also protect against mechanical damage at this time.

Refined Bookkeeping

In the discussion of budgets, Taylor Boyd, a veteran of 40 years in the green-keeping business and thereby an accomplished workman in the presence of figures, said that he has refined his bookkeeping system to show separately the

cost of maintaining each hole on the course, the clubhouse grounds, swimming pool and parking area. "If I didn't," Taylor explained, "the club would probably want to charge all these things, plus a few others, against course maintenance alone."

Continuing, Boyd said: "I found out through hard experience that you have to be ready to justify every dollar that goes out. That is why I have broken my accounts down to 62 items and have leaned over backwards in avoiding using 'Miscellaneous Expense' as a catchall. Another thing I do is make an analysis of clubhouse vs. course operation costs on a square foot basis so that the members can satisfy themselves as to where the dues dollar really goes. All these things," Taylor concluded, "call for extra, and maybe unnecessary effort on my part, but I think the supts. will have to start doing what I have done if they are ever going to convince people that our courses are run as efficiently and economically as they actually are."

Don Likes and Dick Craig, both Purdue University graduates, answered questions from the audience, most of which covered procedures in preparing and presenting budgets. Likes, incidentally, told of how he sold Hyde Park members on a new green last year by fashioning a clay



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mockup and making detailed drawings of the green he wanted to construct. His artwork was so favorably received that it was put on exhibition in the clubhouse lobby for several weeks at the insistence of some members.

Poa Is Desirable Grass

Speaking of poa annua, Casper McCullough pointed out that turf authorities are finally beginning to recognize its possibilities, and since it is so well established in the western Canadian provinces, it is time that it is accepted as a desirable grass and not a weed. Banff's greens, said McCullough, are 100 per cent poa. After players have learned how to play this turf they like it as well as any bentgrass. The good thing about this species, he explained, is that the seed is always present and ready to germinate with only a minimum of cultivation. If heavily treated with bichloride of mercury, it will resist snowmold, probably to a greater extent than most grasses.

Perhaps, the biggest disadvantage to poa, the Banff supt. said, is that it requires a great deal of water and fairly heavy applications of fertilizer. It also cannot be allowed to grow wild because

it produces heavy stems that result in bumpy putting surfaces.

Seventh Session

Urge Realistic View on Golf Cars

The last educational session of the convention was launched with the previously described spell-down between the East and West (see pp 33-34) E. M. Eickmann of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., whose speech on the comparative effects of conventional tires vs. Terra-Tires appears on page 62, was the next speaker. He was followed by William J. Freund, mgr., Electric-Car div. of Victor Adding Machine Co., and Ward Cornwell, Detroit GC supt., both of whom discussed golf cars. The final speaker was O. J. Noer, retired Milwaukee Sewerage Commission agronomist now with Dick Wilson, Inc.

Bill Freund stated that golf car manufacturers are becoming more and more aware of the need for producing vehicles