

USGA Turf Talks Plumb Roots of Course Management

The USGA green section's program, "A Business Approach to Golf Course Maintenance", presented at Biltmore Hotel, New York on Jan. 26, warranted many times the attendance of about 100 green chmn., club officials and supts. it drew. The program got right down to the roots of money in course management. It set the pattern for Green Section educational programs that are to be held in Washington, Chicago and San Francisco this month.

In good timing as a keynote of the program Lawrence S. Dickinson, prof. emeritus of agronomy, University of Massachusetts, was presented the section's annual award for "Distinguished Service to Golf Through Work with Turfgrass."

Early Study

In the early years of the school at Amherst, Prof. Dickinson and his students conducted research into golf course operating costs. The study, made on a percentage basis, was financed by GOLFDOM. The findings which were printed in GOLFDOM, will be viewed in the near future and compared with modern figures, especially with the interesting hours and percentages of labor distribution at two major clubs, a compilation made by Alex Radko of the green section and distributed at the New York meeting.

The theme of the Green Section meeting is underscored by the astonishing financial blundering of some new clubs of strictly private character and of big-talk, little-cash promotions. There is growing awareness that heavy investments and expenses of numerous private clubs have put them past the stage of management as a sideline.

Managers usually know something of the general financial picture of clubs because the accounting is done in the clubhouse office. But supts. and pros rarely are told much about the financial score at their clubs.

Carl Jehlen, gen. mgr., Baltusrol GC,



William C. Chapin (l), green section chairman, presents award to Prof. Dickinson.

Prof. Dickinson Gets Second USGA Green Section Award

The second USGA green section award for "Distinguished Service to Golf Through Work with Turfgrass" went to Lawrence S. Dickinson, professor emeritus of agronomy at the University of Massachusetts.

The award was made at the annual green section meeting held in New York in late January.

Prof. Dickinson was a pioneer in the teaching of turf management. He established the Stockbridge winter school at the U. of M. in 1927 and since then it has graduated more than 500 turf technologists. For many years it was the only school in the country that turned out trained men to take golf course jobs.

Later, under Prof. Dickinson's guidance, a two-year course for students majoring in turf management was instituted. For several years after this, he was a one-man faculty at both schools.

Many of the improvements in golf course maintenance are directly traced to the efforts of Prof. Dickinson. Hundreds of his former students now are supts. at courses throughout the U.S.

The first green section award was received last year by John Monteith, Jr.

Springfield, N.J., gave figures on Baltusrol and other N.Y. Met district clubs that showed operating expenses, exclusive of food and beverage depts., had tripled

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