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Seventh Session

Public Players, Cars, Diseases Try Turfmen

Charles G. Wilson, agronomist and sales manager for the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, was in charge of the final program, the theme of which was "Practices and Problems." The speakers' roster was made up of the following: Earl F. Yesberger, owner, North Olmsted (O.) GC; B. K. Jones, director of golf for the City of Long Beach, Calif.; Donald E. Leaman of the Neil A. MacLean Co., El Monte, Calif.; George Lanphear, supt., Thunderbird CC, Palm Springs; Paul J. Addressi, supt., Tamarisk CC, also in Palm Springs; Leland Burkhart, U. of Arizona horticulturist; Norman R. Goetze, Oregon State College; Chester J. Gould, Washington State experiment station; and James L. Holmes, Midwest agronomist for the US-GA.

They're Hard to Please Now

Earl Yesberger, who almost single-

handedly hacked his North Olmsted, O., course out of the wilderness over a period of 10 years, was the first speaker on the last lap of the San Diego talkathon. Because of golf's explosive popularity, Yesberger said that year after year the owner of a semi-private layout is faced not so much with new problems, but larger ones. The tyro golfer of only a few years ago is becoming harder and harder to please because he is constantly becoming more aware of the refinements of both golf architecture and maintenance. Where he once might have overlooked shortcomings in a course, he is disturbed by them now.

This is not a thing to be decried, however, Yesberger said. The course owner should encourage criticism, if it is justified. It enables him to correct the things that are obviously wrong and thereby build a larger following or clientele. If he meets the players halfway, he wins their loyalty. It's the loyalty of the regulars, in the final analysis, who keep the semi-private course operating.

Muny Supt. Is Hamstrung

B. K. Jones, Long Beach's director of golf, suggested that the supt. of a public

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course, where from 75,000 to 100,000 rounds are played annually, should get the equivalent of a Purple Heart every 12 months. A man at a private club, Jones pointed out, usually is given authority to take necessary steps to protect the course. This isn't always so at a public layout where the greenmaster constantly is hamstringed by that worn-out challenge, "I'm a taxpayer." More and more municipalities are giving their supts. the kind of support that is needed to put the unthinking or uncompromising golfer in his place, but even they can only go so far.

"Once again," said Jones, "it's a very small minority that gives public course players a reputation for being rather poor sportsmen. The situation isn't improving very rapidly. Many new players take up golf each year and some kind of natural law dictates that there has to be a certain number of obnoxious people among them."

Improve Soil Fumigation

Donald E. Leaman, a technical sales director in the chemical field, told of the great improvement that has been made in the application of poisonous methyl bromide, used in soil fumigation. Where once it was necessary to laboriously cover

an area with a plastic tarp before circulating the gas, it can now be done much quicker, Leaman said. The fumigant is mounted on the draw bar of a tractor. Then, within 30 minutes of this application, covering is accomplished by rolling a thin polyethylene film over the treated ground.

In fact, an alternative method to the one already described may even be quicker, according to Leaman. An automatic tarp layer not only injects the bromide, but rolls out and lays the tarp in a single operation.

Inevitable Car Discussion

George Lanphear and Paul Addressi, supts. at neighboring clubs in Palm Springs, who often get together to trade notes, teamed up on the inevitable golf car discussion. (No longer do the greenmaster bemoan the use of the vehicles on their beautiful acres — they've joined them.) Both George and Paul are well qualified to give tips on path layouts and traffic since their courses are veritable freeways. Here is a summary of what they said:

Blacktop paths are the answer on hilly terrain. They save wear and tear on both cars and course, and make it possible for



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play to go on in everything except heavy rain.

Before paths are put in, the underlying soil should be thoroughly sterilized to cut down on encroachment of grass and weeds.

The initial cost of asphalt is somewhat higher than gravel, but the upkeep is about the same for both. At both Lanphear's and Addessi's clubs, the latter runs around \$10,000 a year.

If a new course is being built or an old club is introducing cars, a good deal of thought should be given to their possible expanded use five or ten years hence. This applies to the layout of the paths as well as garaging and repair facilities.

A panel of experts representing universities and experiment stations offered several observations the supt. can apply in his work. Leland Burkhart of the U. of Arizona discussed trees for the Southwest courses; Norman Goetz, Oregon State weed specialist, dwelled on turf management aspects in the Northwest; and Charles J. Gould, Washington State U. plant pathologist, explored some of the factors in disease control.

Trees for the Southwest

Architects, landscapers and the supts. themselves, said Burkhart, are handicapped because a wide variety of trees aren't available for courses in the Southwest. However, some imported species are slowly helping to solve the dilemma. Evergreens continue as standbys because of their adaptive qualities and year-around hardiness and because they fit quite nicely into the golf landscape.

Battle with Disease

Norman Goetz said that the condition of courses in the Northwest depend to a great extent on the whims of the Pacific. Generally, the absence of summer rainfall and an overabundance of it in the winter, along with mild temperatures in the latter season, pose many diseases problems that remain to be solved. However, improved drainage and more thoughtful fertility programs are enabling turfmen to neutralize some of the damage caused

by disease. But much remains to be done in this area, Goetz concluded.

More Grass, More Parasites

Turf diseases, observed Charles J. Gould, actually seem to be on the upswing. It may be partly because more of them are now being recognized. But probably more than this, it is due to an actual increase and spread of various parasites as larger areas are planted in grass. What is behind all this? Some experts, said Gould, blame it on overfertilizing; others say it is because of lack of nutrition. It is known that too much nitrogen gives rise to at least two diseases. On the other hand, lack of it, encourages two others.

Feeding practices, the Washington pathologist concluded, undoubtedly are contributing causes. But some turfmen lose sight of the fact that faulty fungicide treatments may be the real culprits. It isn't enough to make mere applications. The supt. has to be sure he is using the right antidote at the correct rate. He also has to be sure that he is making regularly scheduled treatments and covering all and not just part of the stricken areas.

Summary Was Concise

The formidable task of summing up what had been said in the seven San

Diego sessions was entrusted to James L. Holmes, the USGA's Midwest agronomist and noted nematode fancier. James L. applied himself heroically to the assignment and neatly capsuled just about all the pertinent points that had been made. Probably the most remarkable thing about his wrap-up of the conference proceedings was that he got it in in two minutes less than the time that had been allotted him.

Heads Bay Area CMAA

John Paul Jones, manager of the California GC, San Francisco, was recently elected president of the San Francisco and Bay Area chapter of the CMAA. Other officers are Joseph E. Castillo, Peninsula G & CC, San Mateo, vp, and F. H. Bishop, Olympic Club, San Francisco, sec.-treas.

Florida Turf Conference

Second annual turf conference and trade show of the Florida Turfgrass Assn. will be held May 2-4 in the Seville Hotel, Miami Beach. Demonstrations of equipment and inspections of experimental plots are scheduled for the Plantation Field Lab in Ft. Lauderdale from the 2nd through the 4th.

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