

Supts. Cram to Store Learning Before Going Into Winter Quarters

Before hibernating for the cold months, as they often are accused of doing, supts. throughout the northern part of the country got a taste of learning, recreation and social life last fall by attending one-, two-, or three-day regional turf conferences. Several of these meetings have been staged regularly every year since the end of World War II. While emphasis always is on the latest developments in course maintenance and new discoveries made by the agronomists, time usually is set aside for golf tournaments, cocktail hours, dinners and the time honored bull sessions in which the cerebrating often is heaviest and most lucid. Here are some of the highlights of the various conferences:

Mississippi Valley — Results of tests run on Evansville, C 1 Arlington, C19 Congressional, C7 and Penncross bents at Westwood CC in St. Louis were described. Soil mixes in which 80 per cent sand or 50 per cent sand and 30 per cent Terra Green were used proved to be most successful, according to Leon Howard. Fertilizer applications were similar in all tests, totalling 12.92 lb. N, 2.4 lb. P; and 2-1 lb. K. Expected coverage for all types of grass was deterred, possibly due to applications of various pre-emergence crabgrass herbicides. The visitors also got a look at Supt. Ralph Seht's tree nursery in which 200 saplings are planted each year. Eventually, they replace dead trees on the course or are planted to fill in treeless areas.

Leon Short & Sons' Annual Turf Conference — This meeting was held for the 12th consecutive year in Keokuk, Ia. This was a talking conference that extended over two days, with much of the emphasis being put on planting preparation and control of disease. Speakers included Ray Keen, Stan Frederickson, Leo Cleary, Bob (Scotty) Glasgow, Malcolm Shurtleff, Ben Chlevin, Dean Peterson, Fred Grau and Ben Warren.

Intermountain Turf Association Conference — The first day of this Salt Lake City gathering was devoted to a golf tournament, with contestants playing 27 holes over three courses. Lee Stottern and

Al Emery were the moderators of the turf sessions which offered such speakers as James Latham, Tom Mascaro, Bill Bengyfield and Bruce Anderson of Utah State University.

Central Plains Conference — Kansas State U. and the USGA collaborated with the Central Plains Foundation conducting this three-day gathering which was held in mid-October at Kansas State University. The conference is so well attended that it is necessary to hold separate meetings for both course supts. and persons who supervise the maintenance of parks, lawns and athletic fields. Nematodes and control of compaction and thatch were the most discussed items on the supts' side. Wayne Huffine, Marvin Ferguson, H. T. Burgan, Joseph Polvika, Chet Mendenhall, Wade Stith, R. W. Campbell, Joe Dickerson and George Halazon were among those who spoke or made up the panels.

Midwest GCSA Conference — Warren Bidwell, supt. of Olympia Fields (Ill.) CC, again was host at this gathering which had as its theme, "A Review of 1963 and the '64 Forecast." Mike Britton, Alexander M. Radko and James Beard, serving as moderators, introduced such speakers as Norman W. Kramer, Tony Meyer, Bernard A. Kazich, Al Johnson, Howard Baerwald, Walter Fuchs, Jr., Dudley Smith and others. Some departure from the usual discussions of turf problems was made when John Coghill and Everett Woxberg explored the tax maze, and a panel composed of Ted Woehrl, Beard and Radko explained how weather works and what it can do to the supt. who isn't prepared to cope with it.

Oklahoma Turf Conference — Held in Stillwater, Okla. in early December, this three-day session may have been the most thorough of any held last fall since it covered just about the complete maintenance spectrum. Specialists from the East coast joined with those from the Midwest, Central States and Southwest in discussing no less than 20 different subjects. Speakers and panelists included Harry C. Young, O. J. Noer, H. M. Clark, James R. Watson, Bob Moore, Ray Keen, Robert Miller, Dallas Wadsworth, William H. Daniel, Paul Sartoretto, Wayne Huffine and Lester Hare.

Texas Turf Conference — Held a few days after the Oklahoma meeting, the Texas conference featured many of the speakers who had talked at Stillwater. This gathering, held in College Station,

also is divided into golf and parks and school groups. A great deal of emphasis was put on mowing practices and soil amendments. Among the speakers were Roger J. Thomas, B. P. Robinson, Jerry H. Cheesman, Grover Keeton, Sonny DuBose, Wayne Allen, Tom Leonard, Cecil Brooks, John A. Long, John Henry and George T. Davis.

Slowinski Pleads in Vain; Senate Gives No Relief

Testifying before the Senate finance committee in November, Walter A. Slowinski, general counsel for the National Club Association, CMAA and the GCSA, said that clubs in the U.S. pay more than \$215 million in taxes each year and employ 310,000 people at a payroll expenditure of more than \$750,000,000. He stressed that clubs not only are self sustaining but, contrary to the popular view, aren't luxuries since they represent the effort of many average citizens to provide a setting in which families and communities can engage in athletic and social activities.

Slowinski made a plea for a reduction in the 20 per cent excise tax on club dues, saying that it should be cut back to 10 per cent. He called attention to the fact that the 10 per cent increase in the dues tax during World War II was an emergency measure that was to be immediately repealed when the war ended. By 1954, most of the tax increases on luxuries such as furs and jewels had been removed and, in 1960, the cabaret tax was reduced from 20 to 10 per cent.

Employees Would Benefit

"As the matter stands today," Slowinski continued, "only two things are subject to a 20 per cent federal excise tax. They are race tracks and club dues. The import of the 1960 Congressional action is that clubs fall into a category that is inferior to cabarets . . . in addition, a reduction in dues taxes would redound to the benefit of club employees because it would provide more income for salary increases and new jobs."

Slowinski also attacked the entertainment expense provisions of the 1962 revenue act, saying that the club industry, along with several others, has suffered from severe and unreasonable restrictions which this legislation has placed on legitimate business entertainment. He further charged that the provisions of the 1962 act are so complex that the Internal

Revenue Service found it necessary only last October to initiate special training for its 14,000 agents to educate them as to the full meaning of its provisions. Because the latter are so vague, Slowinski added, many business men refrain from taking legitimate deductions for fear of running afoul the law.

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On Dec. 16, the Senate finance committee rejected an amendment by Sen. Russell Long of Louisiana that would have eased the rules on expense account spending. Senator George Smathers of Florida, who joined Long in the fight to permit more liberal deductions for legitimate entertainment, said that the 1962 revenue act is ruining restaurant and hotel business and is even depressing live stock prices.

Opposing any easing of the expense account rules, the Treasury department estimated it would cost the government \$100 million in tax revenue annually if Congress were to rescind the curbs it voted a little more than a year ago on expense accounts.

Barnhart Heads Chicago District in its 50th Year of Operation

Horace Barnhart, Butterfield CC, was installed as president of the Chicago District GA as that organization started its Peterson, River Forest, 50th year of operation with its annual dinner in the LaSalle Hotel in December. Barnhart was elected to succeed Stacy W. Osgood of Flossmoor and South Shore. Other CDGA officers for 1964 are James L. O'Keefe, Evanston GC, vp; Len G. Haldeman, Edgewater, treasurer; and Ralph C.



Barnhart

secretary.

Tommy Bolt was the principal speaker at the dinner. After brief introductory remarks he switched to answering the audience's questions which were concentrated on his ideas as to playing techniques, pro circuit personalities and, of course, Tom's colorful antics. He acquitted himself very ably, debunking some theories about shotmaking, treating most of the circuit performers magnanimously, and conceding that while he has made some mistakes in his day, many of them have been unfairly magnified.