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Fourth Session

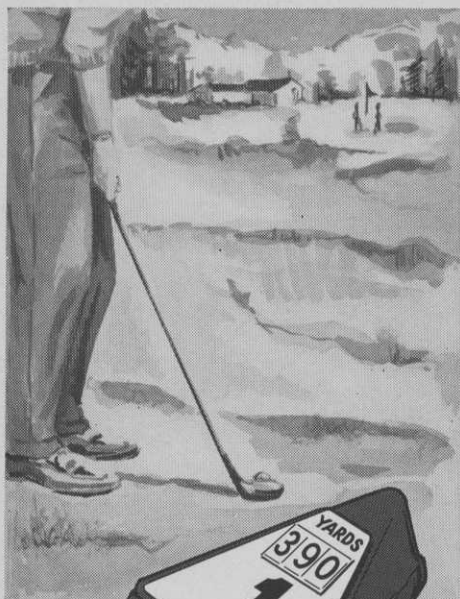
It Was Mike O'Grady's Finest Hour

The Thursday morning session was dedicated to turf management students, several of whom came from nearby Penn State and a few from the U. of Massachusetts, to witness the GCSA proceedings. It was fitting that scholarly **Fred Grau**, Hercules Powder Co. consultant, was in charge of the program. His speakers' roster included **Michael J. O'Grady**, supt. of the CC of New Bedford, Mass.; **Prof. Joseph Troll** of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture of the U. of Massachusetts; **Dr. Joe Duich** of Penn State; **Sheldon R. Betterly**, supt. of Chantilly National G & CC, Centreville, Va.; and **Sherwood Moore**, past GCSA president and Winged Foot's supt.

Mike Gets A Shock

There isn't much doubt that Mike O'Grady made off with this year's GCSA show. Upon being introduced, Mike was billed as a native of County Cork, but he quickly disavowed this, saying he was born dangerously close to Northern Ireland and, as a consequence, damn near became disqualified for the Irish Republican Army. At this, Mike momentarily buried his intertwining shock of gray-red hair in his hands, quivered, quailed and emitted a banshee cry but then manfully recovered. To show you that a man can forgive and forget, three minutes later Mike was allowing that the present Queen of England is a charming lady, indeed, and that he has no immediate quarrel with the Duke of Edinburgh.

O'Grady's stint for the day was to dis-course, with the aid of slides, on the history of turf maintenance and equipment. He went back to near medieval times, picked up the Pennsylvania side-winder, the Wellington mower and the worm rake and came forward to an era approaching the horse and haycutter. Then he digressed to call down blessings from all the heavenly quadrants upon Morley, MacGregor, Piper and a half



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Rutgers Given Funds to Study Pesticides

A \$1 million study of how pesticides influence the balance of nature will soon be started by Rutgers University. It is being financed by the Public Health Service.

The eventual fate of chemical pesticides — involving unintended harm to man and other living things — has been a controversial subject since Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" was published two years ago.

A staff of 30 scientists at the Rutgers College of Agriculture will search for pesticide residues in soil, water, fish, insects and plants and determine their effect. The appropriation, actually totaling \$1,074,000 over five years, is the largest single research grant the school has received in its 198-year history.

dozen other of the old stalwarts who pioneered turf management.

The fact that Mike never did putt out after he reached the sand greens bothered no one. History was incidental. The audience was completely enraptured by that soft New Bedford accent that is still heavily flavored with Gaelic, and there isn't much doubt that O'Grady could have gone on weaving his spell until lunchtime even if he had been discussing atomic theory or solar dynamics. But the clock has a way of speeding up when a fellow like Mike is talking.

You put on one hell of a performance, Mike O'Grady!

Describes Two-Year Course

The purpose of the U. of Massachusetts' two-year course, according to Joe Troll, who followed O'Grady on the program, is not to turn out a finished product who is capable of handling a supt's job upon receiving his certificate, but to prepare the student to take over within approximately two or three years. To be admitted to the so-called winter school, the applicant must have a high school diploma but he isn't required to pass the college board exam. After matriculating, the student divides his time between attending school and working at a course in an on-the-job-training project.

The average age of a two-year student,

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Troll said, is 19 years. He has an I.Q. of around 107 and ordinarily he has either a caddie or course laborer background. In his first year he gets a concentrated dose of agronomy, floriculture and entomology; irrigation, mapping, landscaping and record-keeping occupy him the second year. Usually, he belongs to the Turf Management Club, a social organization. Approximately half of the two-year graduates are employed as supts. immediately upon leaving school, and more than 75 per cent choose to work on golf courses in preference to getting into other fields connected with the turf industry.

Penn State's Four-Year Course

Penn State's four-year turf course was described by Joe Duich, who is distinguished not only as an educator but as a researcher who has had a great deal to do with the development and refinement of Merion bluegrass. In recent years, the agronomy student at Penn State has been steered away from specialization. There is more emphasis on the humanities and social science, particularly in the first two years of school, and on math, statistics and

physical and biological sciences the last two years. About 35 to 40 per cent of the agronomy student's time is spent in studying subjects directly related to his major.

"The purpose in giving a student a wider range of courses," Duich said, "is to make it possible for him to go in several directions upon receiving his diploma. We recognize that golf course work is quite highly specialized, yet in recent years the courses themselves have been asking us to send them men who are more than turf specialists. This indicates that they are looking for persons with management as well as technical capabilities."

A reassuring trend noted by Duich is that in the last two or three years several chemists and teachers, and even a psychologist, have enrolled in Penn State's two-year turf school. This indicates that the field is being recognized for the promising potential it offers. On the other hand, though, only about one of four Penn State turf grads have gone into course work in recent years.

Discusses College Training

Sheldon Betterly, a 1959 Purdue graduate who helped supervise construction of

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Chantilly National about three years ago and then stayed on as supt., spoke from the viewpoint of a fellow who has been in course management work just long enough to see how college training helped him, and where it may have fallen short.

"Generally, I feel that my four years at Purdue were well spent," Betterly said. "The courses I took in English, math, chemistry and speech have been particularly helpful. If there were shortcomings, they were in labor management and book-keeping.

Because of the technical nature of the turf science curriculum, there probably is a tendency by the schools to gloss over these subjects. The student, on the other hand, probably looks upon them as a kind of breather and doesn't work as hard at them as at other courses. It's only after you're out of school and working on a job that you realize how important they are."

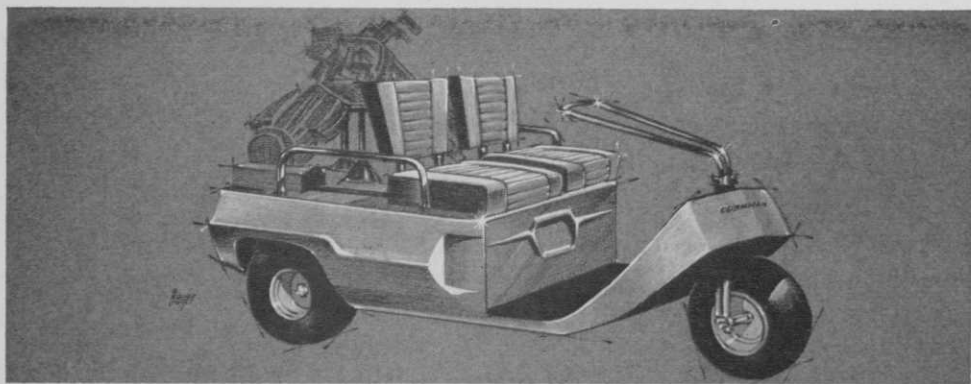
Betterly cited two important things that a turf education does for a person: First, it gives him the reputation of being an authority; Second, it may not tell him all the answers but it gives him a good idea of where to look for them. Finally, he urged every young man coming out of

school to join the local and national GCSA organizations. "You not only learn a great deal at monthly meetings and the annual convention," he said, "but you get a line on fellows you know can help you when you run into emergencies. And, anyone who has been in this business for only a few years can tell you that life as a supt. is one emergency after another."

Good Future — No Soft Touch

The final speaker on the Thursday morning program, Sherwood Moore, pointed his remarks at the visiting students in the audience. There are 7,000 courses in the U.S., he said, and the demand for supts. is increasing every year. The yearly attrition due to retirements is greater than it ever has been. Moore continued, salaries of supts. are slowly improving although there is a wide range in them when you look at the whole picture on a regional basis, and the supt. is gaining more and more professional status.

"Don't get the idea that we have a soft touch," the ex-GCSA president cautioned. "We milk on Sunday, as the saying goes. But along with the hard work, we get a chance to show some imagination and



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make 5,000 or 10,000 decisions a year. Then, too, if you're connected with the golf business, you'll find that it's a passport in itself."

If these observations didn't convince the student visitors where their future is, Moore gave them this parting sally: "And don't forget that our equipment is getting sexier looking every year!"

Fifth Session

Panelists Tell How to Protect Course, Owner

As chairman of the fifth assembly, Earl Nystrom of Ryan Equipment Co., St. Paul, introduced a panel on vandalism, security and liability composed of **Walter A. Slowinski**, GCSA counsel, **Holman M. Griffin**, USGA Eastern green section rep, and **Alfred E. Hoffman**, Ohio State U. supt. Other speakers on the program were **Gordon Brinkworth**, supt. at Sunset Oaks CC, Rocklin, Calif., and **William E. (Bill) Lyons**, owner of a Par 3 course in Canal Fulton, O.

Favor Course Owner

Speaking on the subject of the course owner's liability, **Walter Slowinski** said that the courts generally are sympathetic to the person who operates a golf layout, figuring perhaps that there are many "accident prone" individuals who are out to make an easy dollar at the expense of the man who provides them a recreation site. It is quite well established, said **Slowinski**, that if the golf property is kept reasonably safe, a player has little recourse to collecting for any injuries he may incur.

"Reasonably safe" is rather widely interpreted, it is true, but by the same token, the golfer has to accept some responsibility for his well being. In one case cited by the GCSA counsel, a player was held to have been guilty of "contributory negligence," and his case thrown out of court, when testimony proved that he had wandered rather blindly into a pothole that was easily observable to other persons who played the course. "Of course," said **Slowinski**, "another court may have decided in favor of the plaintiff in this case. But it does prove that if an owner exercises ordinary care