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Sixth Session

Trees, Electrons and Work Saving Ideas

Tom Leonard, still taking bows for his performance in the Tuesday matinee, conducted the final education program. He introduced the following speakers: **Geoffrey S. Cornish**, the Fiddler's Green architect, who spoke on course design; **Roger J. Thomas**, Jacobsen Manufacturing Co. sales manager, whose topic was "Work Smarter — It's Easier;" **C. Richard Skogley**, associate professor of agronomy at the U. of Rhode Island, who discussed winter play; **Arthur C. Drysdale**, horticulturist for Sheridan Nurseries, Toronto, Ont., who gave a fine speech on tree selection; and **Edward C. Nohava**, supt. at Southview CC, West St. Paul, Minn., who told the greenmasters how to make their job easier by putting electronics to work. **John J. Spodnik**, supt. at Westfield CC, LeRoy, O. and conference co-chairman, summarized the education program.

Tees Being Overbuilt

After giving a brief and interesting summary of early course architecture, in which nature was given pretty much of a free hand and did a commendable job, Geoffrey Cornish described some of the things he thinks should be incorporated in or left out in the design of a golf layout. He has some reservations about the size of present day tees, some of which encompass more than 6,000 square feet. "The back tee areas are seldom used," said Cornish, "even in tournaments. There often is a waste of space here. In most present day building jobs, we are usually struggling to find enough room in which to fit a course, yet many of us have a weakness for overextended tees. I'd rather see part of this space put into traps and greens."

Of tree planting, vitally important in the strategic concept of a golf layout, Cornish had this to say: "It is always function first, and form second. Trees should be used as fairway cutoffs, not barriers. Greens should be surrounded by trees to give the player proper depth

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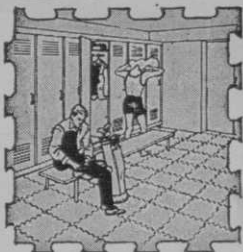
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perception. Trees, however, should be set back at least 65 feet from greens, or maintenance problems are going to be encountered. There probably is a tendency to overplant trees on new courses to fill in that early, barren look."

Other Cornish observations: Slopes around lakes should be at least one to six feet to permit easy mowing of the surrounding turf; Flare out car path terminals in a bell shape to give more exit area — it's easier on the surrounding grass; Study

the old Scot traps if you're going to build bunkers. Nature shaped the sand pits on the highland and lowland layouts and was at its architectural best in handling these assignments.

Cut Down on Trimming

Roger Thomas, the onetime Jacobsen troubleshooter who has graduated to a sales manager position with that firm, emphasized that trimming, much of which is done by hand, is the unseen embezzler that dips into the budget appropriation and often manages to bankrupt it.

How is it possible to cut back on the funds that this largely unnecessary operation steals off with each year? Primarily by bringing the ground level flush to such as sidewalks and roadways, and by not allowing turf to grow in places where it is out of bounds. Here are some recommendations that Thomas made:

Set out shrubs from buildings and put them in large beds so that it is easy to trim around them; Blacktop under fences and around posts so that vegetation doesn't encroach in these areas; Spray retaining walls to keep weeds out; Get rid of fruit trees, if possible — they attract vandals and dirty up the course at harvest time; Don't use logs as parking lot stops because they are dirt catchers.

Thomas also made another suggestion that the supt. undoubtedly will have to explain to his members so that they won't think the blood that flows to his brain has been shut off: "After floodwater has receded, turn on the sprinklers. The reason: It unclogs the irrigation system."

Against Winter Play

Dick Skogley, who teaches turf man-

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agement at Rhode Island University, repeated some of the things that had been said earlier about winter and early spring play, but he added this thought: In most cases when golfers want to rush the season, alternate freezing and thawing is going on. Necessary soil granulation is taking place then and if it is disrupted, serious compaction problems that may persist through the season, can be induced.

Turf, Skogley continued, is particularly vulnerable when it is coming out of the dormant stage. Grass blades are more easily bruised at this time than any other. Turf attrition can be extensive in the transition period between winter and spring because the grass is struggling at this moment for a firm foothold, and it needs this traffic-free interval in which to become solidly re-established. Probably most important, it shouldn't be forgotten that the turf has undergone some degree of winter damage and it needs a warming period in which to recuperate without being subjected to heavy traffic.

Use Wider Variety

Arthur C. Drysdale, the Canadian horticulturist, used slides almost exclusively in describing the panoply of firs and pines and deciduous trees that are available for golf course planting. He noted in passing that supts. and others connected with club tree planting programs generally don't use too much imagination in their selec-

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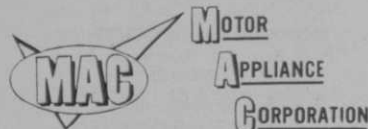
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Hold Public Course Seminar at GCSA Convention

A public course seminar, conducted by Rex McMorris, executive director of the National Golf Foundation, was held in conjunction with the GCSA convention.

Speakers included Joe Duich of Pennsylvania State University, William Gallagan, Glen Ellyn, Ill., village administrator, Herb Davis, Omaha, Neb., golf course owner, R. E. Watson, Benjamin Lewis Co., Chicago, and Bill Lyons, owner of a course in Canal Fulton, O.

An article covering the seminar will appear in the April issue of *Golfdom*.

tions, mainly because they restrict themselves to too few varieties.

From the evergreen family, Drysdale recommended these species: Silver fir in preference to blue spruce; common cedar for hedges; junipers for the clubhouse area; Norway and Serbian spruce; Austrian and Ponderosa pine; and possibly the Don redwood, a deciduous evergreen originally imported from China, which is fast growing but nevertheless hardy.

Drysdale suggested that supts. might be better off to avoid planting these species: White pines, which must be frequently pruned for relatively luxurious growth; Hemlocks in areas north of the Great Lakes; and Douglas fir, fairly susceptible to disease.

Deciduous Tree List

As for deciduous varieties, Drysdale offered a rather bewildering number. He classified them as to species that should be planted on the course, and those that probably should be confined to the clubhouse area. His list of recommended course trees include: Norway maple, of which there are several varieties; Crimson King; Sugar maple, for its beautiful fall coloring; Birch; Purple beech; Gingho, Shademaster and Sunburst locusts, both new species; Pyramidal oak; Laurel and Linden. Not recommended: Silver maple; Horse Chestnut; Sycamore and Weeping Willow.

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the clubhouse grounds, include: Amaranches, which flowers for a short time and is quite disease resistant; Yellow wood, which gives heavy shade; Hawthorn; Russian Olive; Flowering crab; and Weeping mulberry, a vinelike shrub.

Slave to the Electron

The final speaker on the four-day program was Ed Nohava, who was educated to be a radio and TV technician, but succumbed to the lure of turf after moonlighting for a year on a golf course. Appropriately, Ed's thesis was that a supt. is a slave to the electron.

"You can't get through the day," said Nohava, "without depending on that infinitesimal particle of negative electricity to do at least a dozen jobs for you. At the course it works for me in the burglar alarm system, two-way radio, intercom, public address system and even in a Bullhorn. I have a moisture sensor and use an electronic pH meter. Underground pipes are located with a mine detector and out in the garage we have an electronic ignition analyzer and several other gadgets that are electronically activated.

"After work, I use an electronic lure when I go fishing," Nohava continued, "but they almost ruled me off the job when I told them I had an idea for developing an electronic putter. One of these winters I plan to wear electronic underwear that I have had in mind to design for a long time. I'm so completely addicted to the electron that I might as well start wearing it next to my skin."

Mrs. Vare Gets Jones Award

Mrs. Edwin Vare, Jr., Bryn Mawr, Pa., the former Glenna Collett, was named the 1965 winner of the USGA's Bob Jones award. She received the citation at the USGA's annual meeting in New York from Philip H. Strubing, chairman of the Jones award committee. Mrs. Vare won six Women's Amateur championships and twice was the runnerup.

Chicago Lighting Institute, 140 S. Dearborn st., Chicago, will conduct a golf course lighting clinic in its offices on Apr. 12 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. The registration fee is \$3.50.