

The GCSAA goes west

San Francisco plays host to 39th annual conference • Miami Beach named 1969 site • Brandt elected president • Donaldson wins trophy

by Desmond Tolhurst

Senior Editor

A fine attendance and well-balanced program made the 39th Annual International Conference and Show of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America one of the most interesting and valuable business meetings of the year. Total attendance at the San Francisco Hilton was 2,902, which includes industry representatives and the superintendents' ladies. This figure compares very favorably with the 3,008 figure for last year's meeting in Washington, D.C.

James Brandt, superintendent, Danville CC, Danville, Ill., was

elected GCSAA president, with outgoing president, Walter Boyesen, superintendent, Sequoyah CC, Oakland, Calif., becoming president emeritus. The new vice-president is John J. Spodnik, superintendent, Westfield CC, LeRoy, Ohio. Robert V. Mitchell, superintendent, Sunset CC, St. Louis, Mo., was appointed to the position of secretary-treasurer.

Superintendents elected directors this year were Stanley Clarke, Jr., La Gorce CC, Miami Beach, Fla., and Clifford Wagoner, Del Rio G & CC, Modesto, Calif. Contin-

uing as directors are Norman W. Kramer, Point O'Woods CC, Benton Harbor, Mich., Richard C. Blake, Mt. Pleasant CC, Boylston, Mass., and Keith Nisbet, Westview GC, Aurora, Ont., Can.

The site for next year's conference and show was also determined. The '69 meeting will be held in Miami Beach, Fla., at the Hotel Fountainbleau, Jan. 19-24.

As is customary when the super's conference is held in the sunnier climes, this year's meeting featured golf on the agenda as well as the equipment show and educational

Of interest at the superintendent show

Editor's note: Bob Williams, one of the country's leading golf course superintendents, was asked by GOLFDOM to tour the exhibit area at the recent GCSAA convention in San Francisco and report to our readers what he saw. Here are his notes on what was new and important at the convention.

Selective herbicides, both pre-emergence and post emergence are becoming more noticeable in the chemical field . . . New tire changing tool for golf car tires—this has been quite a problem for clubs . . . Automated irrigation advances were notable, particularly in the area of controls—the clubs are being offered finger-tip control for complete course irrigation in a way never dreamed of a few short years back . . . Soil moisture measuring devices are beginning to show up—a valuable tool for the

superintendent . . . Two companies showed their techniques and tools for pulling plastic pipe through the soil with practically no disturbance to the surface. They claim to be able to pull pipe and or wire through the soil up to a distance of 500 feet and with a diameter of up to two inches. This looks like an idea whereby automatic irrigation installations can be installed more economically and with less disturbance to the golfers. Looks great . . . Irrigation pipe advances continue—improved plastics and cement mortar lined cast iron came in for special attention . . . New automated irrigation concept that uses a sequence valve system unit that depends on pressure changes for activation—no wires or hydraulic lines to bury—watch for this one in the future . . . Small golf car type trucks are becoming very popular on the scene of course maintenance—several new models were shown with many new features—prices ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500 depending on equipment . . . A notable change this year, two motor companies exhibited their small engines. A new trend for superintendents is the replacement of small motors rather than repairing them when major overhaul is indicated. Most superintendents say about two years

sessions. The USGA Trophy, awarded to the champion GCSAA superintendent, was won by Art Donaldson, Capilano G & CC, West Vancouver, B.C., Can. The GOLF-DOM Trophy, for the winning superintendent-pro, went to Paul Schurtz, Worthington Hills CC, Worthington, Ohio. In the senior division, the O.J. Noer Trophy was won by Robert Prieskorn, Western G & CC, Detroit, Mich. The ladies' champion was Mrs. Martha Babson, wife of Aubrey Babson, superintendent at Marin CC, Novato, Calif.

As usual, Ben Chlevin, executive director of the GCSAA, and his band of merry men—and girls—did a fine job of keeping everything going on schedule. Our hats are off to him and his great staff including Larry Green, Tom O' Hara, Dorothy Andrews, Rita Engess, Kathy McLaughlin, Marietta Brandt, Donna Thompson and Pamela Williquette. Also, bouquets to the host section of the GCSAA, who worked so hard to make the meeting the success it was.

The opening session got off to a fast start with a fascinating talk by Harold E. Myers, dean of College of Agriculture, U. of Arizona, on



Newly elected GCSAA officials: (standing, 1-r) Richard C. Blake and Norman W. Kramer, both re-elected directors; Keith Nisbet, serving second term on board; Stanley E. Clarke, elected director; Clifford A. Wagoner, appointed a director to fill out term of Herman R. Johnson, who resigned; and Ben Chlevin, current executive director of GCSAA. (Seated, 1-r) Walter R. Boysen, now president emeritus and a director on the board; Robert V. Mitchell, appointed secretary-treasurer; James W. Brandt, the new president; and John J. Spodnik, the new vice president.

the topic, "The world food supply." He pointed out that the theory of Thomas Malthus (1766-1834)—that population would soon outstrip the means of feeding it, if it were not kept down by vice, misery

or self-restraint—is still very much on demographers' minds these days. Today, world population is around three and one-half billion. By the year 2,000, it is expected that it will reach about 6 billion—

Continued on page 82

is the expected life for regularly used small units—high cost of labor and parts is involved here . . . The sod producing equipment shown at the meeting indicated some tremendous advances. Machines were on exhibit for cutting, conveying, rolling and hauling sod . . . Sod producers held their first annual national meeting in conjunction with the GCSAA . . . In the mower lines, there seems to be quite a move toward improved units for the refined cutting areas of greens and tees where the clippings must be collected . . . A new three unit riding greens mower to be available this fall was introduced. It has hydraulically operated reels . . . Multiple unit, self propelled mowers appear to be the "in" item . . . There was a showing of a new triplex model complete with catchers for refined cutting of 3/8 inch to one inch . . . New model fairway unit with ten blade reels and a reduced width to 26 inches for better contour mowing of fairways, down as low as 1/2 inch cut . . . In the power sprayer line, the fiberglass tanks and self propelled units were notable . . . Combination sweepers and dethatchers are getting more sophisticated every year—a number of new models were shown by several companies . . . Leaf blowers,

mulchers and pick-ups are gaining popularity and refined models were obvious . . . A new tool originated by superintendent Al Linkogel of St. Louis—a sprig or plug planter for bents or bermuda grass . . . Improved new greens whipping pole of combination fibre-glass and aluminum. Looks like they have something worthwhile here . . . With the development of so many new courses, stone picking can be a problem. This too, has been automated by a stone picking device on display . . . Artificial turf made its debut this year. The supers have been keeping a keen eye on this and seem to be alert to the ever changing patterns of course demands. Who knows what our courses will look like in 25 years, a most interesting new development . . . A new product for display was brought out. A ceramic coated, fractured rock. This material is dark blue in color and is offered as a consistent graded granule for traps. While it has promise, the superintendents hate to see the white or yellow sand go by the wayside . . . Generally speaking, our show of equipment and materials was the most advanced and productive ever. All the modern trends were obvious to the supers in attendance—labor saving equipment and tools to do the old jobs better! □

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Continued from page 49

a rather frightening increase.

However, Myers concluded that, on the whole, he had faith in the ingenuity of the human race to out-run the Malthusian doctrine for many more generations to come.

Warren A. Bidwell, superintendent, Philadelphia (Pa.) CC, then went into the area of public relations as regards the superintendent. He said that just as the front door of a man's home is the symbol of his hospitality, so the appearance of the club, and the clubhouse grounds should be made attractive enough to give a "welcome" feeling to all who drive onto the club property.

"The effects of temperature and light on vegetative growth" was the topic of the next speaker, Victor B. Youngner, associate professor of agronomy, U. of California.

S.J. Richards, professor of soil physics, U. of California, discussed water usage, and in particular the use of soil water sensors as a guide in irrigation management. He cited the good performance of an automatic irrigation system equipped with a tensiometer-type hydrostat compared with a manually set system in an experiment conducted on the campus of the U. of California in 1961. He also discussed another demonstration when model green profiles—one built to USGA specs, the other the same except it had a 24-inch layer of fine sand between the planting mix and the coarse sand and gravel layers—were compared to determine water storage properties by means of tensiometers located at two and ten-inch depths.

Root competition between trees and turf was the topic of the next speaker, Carl E. Whitcomb, research associate, Department of Ornamental Horticulture, U. of Florida. Whitcomb pointed out the results of an experiment conducted at Iowa U. last year.

Because of the differences in root response, shallow or surface rooted trees such as silver maple, sweet gum, cottonwood, willow, Australian-pine and others should not be planted near greens or tees. Although these trees are affected

Continued on page 84

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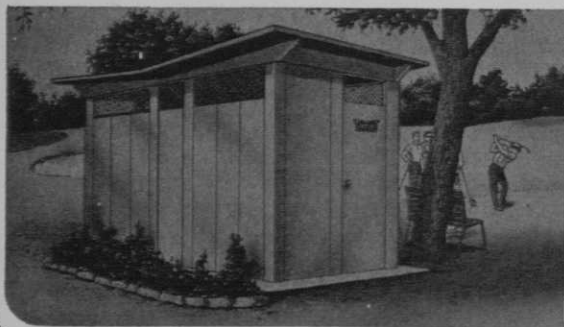
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Continued from page 82

more by turf competition when planted, if they survive, they will eventually create severe root problems due to root proliferation in these intensive maintenance areas, making them "hard" and difficult to maintain.

The next talk posed the question: Is your swimming pool an asset or a liability? In the chair was J. Henry Mohr, president, Nor-Cal Engineering Company, Redwood City, Calif., representing the National Swimming Pool Institute. Mohr told how the institute, a 1,300 company-strong trade association, has two excellent manuals available entitled "Swimming pool operations manual" and "A swimming pool engineering manual." However, he emphasized that the main thrust of the association's educational program was to convince managers that the swimming pool is a valuable physical asset and deserves responsible and knowledgeable handling.

With the growing practice for a golf club to have a tennis club membership, the problems of court maintenance are becoming of increasing importance to the superintendent. Dennis Van der Meer, tennis pro at the Berkeley Tennis Club, Calif., talked about this to the assembled greensmasters.

Many clubs in Canada and the northern parts of the U.S. have long recognized the need for year-round operations. Establishing curling facilities have enabled them to make this transition, said David Gourlay, superintendent, Thornhill CC, Ont. Can., in his talk on this ancient sport.

Where does the superintendent fit into this new operation? In many cases, he will be asked to increase his responsibilities by supervising the ice making and maintenance operations.

Gourley concluded by citing the governing body of the game, the United States Curling Association, as being a prime source of information to a club desirous of starting a curling program. There are also professional curling consultants and help from the ice-making industry.

"Recognizing turfgrass diseases" was the subject of the next talk, by

Continued on page 86



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Continued from page 84

Stan Frederiksen, manager, Turf Products Division, Mallinckrodt Chemical Works, St. Louis, Miss., and John L. Weihing, professor, Agricultural Extension Department of Plant Pathology, U. of Nebraska. The speakers emphasized that accurate turf disease identification sometimes isn't easy. Often, the complete facts may be difficult to get, especially when turf plugs are being dealt with, after being subjected to varying conditions during lengthy travel periods. Under any condition, there may be an honest difference of opinion as to which of two organisms is doing the damage—and perhaps one or both are.

The speakers recommended that the superintendent stock his library with good books on turf diseases. Dr. Malcolm Shurtleff's "How to control plant diseases" is excellent. They also recommended Dr. Houston Couch's fine new book "Diseases of turfgrass."

John P. Dunlap, superintendent, Oakwood CC, Cleveland, Ohio, gave a talk on proper chemical application. He said that in the last few years, superintendents have had to become more efficient because of rising labor costs. However, don't be trapped into thinking that the easiest and quickest method is always the best way. Quality of chemical application must always be maintained.

Dunlap then discussed the equipment and methods he uses at his club. For greens and tees, he now uses a turf truckster, fitted with a boom for spraying and a rotary spreader for dry chemicals. His old method of spraying took five to six hours to spray 18 greens, while with the new method all 18 greens can be finished in just two hours.

Labor savings on green fertilizing are just as impressive. Dunlap used to apply dry materials by means of bag type cyclone spreaders. Fertilizing the greens this way needed three men about four hours. One man and the truckster can now do this in one to one-and-a-half hours.

On fairways and roughs, Dunlap still thinks that a good 20 to 30-foot boom sprayer is the best. Wind drift is cut to a minimum and it does a good job of applying the

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Continued on page 88

GCSAA

Continued from page 86

chemicals evenly and accurately. He objects to blowers because of the amount of chemical lost because of wind drift. The use of a broadjet spray head is a possibility, he said, but here again only a calm day would be suitable for its use.

The introduction of rotary fertilizer spreaders has greatly speeded up fertilizing fairways over the use of the drop type spreader, Dunlap said. Also, the rotary spreader pretty much eliminates the chances of overlapping and missing.

Harry C. Eckoff of the National Golf Foundation went into the trends in golf course development. He said that the shortage of available mortgage money at reasonable rates which has prevailed during the past two years and the increasing costs of construction are having their effect on golf facility development. New course openings for 1967 are down 8% from the 1966 figure. New construction starts are down 17%.

"Golf courses for the public"

was discussed by Richard Haskell, director of golf, City of Seattle, Washington. Haskell said that in general the pub links golfer wants a course that he can be proud of. It should be in good condition, not too hard, but one that can be made tough enough to test the expertness of the good golfer.

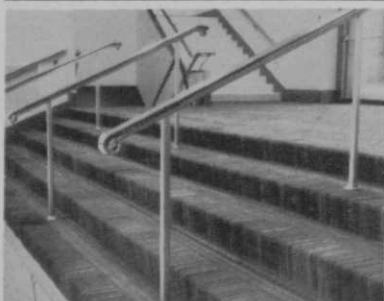
Richard A. Sincerbeau, golf course planner, Ellis, Arndt and Truesdell, Inc., Flint, Michigan, went into the question of adequate records for good control and budgeting. Records, he said, can be the basis for necessary advanced planning on past performance, as well as for day-to-day operation.

The "small engine clinic" was opened by a discussion of the problems of the manufacturers by Thomas E. Ames, manager field service, Toro Manufacturing Company, Minneapolis, Minn., Marvin T. Elstad, sales manager, Ryan Equipment Company, St. Paul, Minn., and Roger J. Thomas, sales manager, turf equipment, Jacobsen Manufacturing Company, Racine, Wisc.

Ames discussed the service customers should expect under a proper warranty program. He also stressed that customers should let the manufacturer know how his product is performing, as this information is essential to the manufacturer to help him improve the product. Elstad said that establishing a program for preventive maintenance was the most economical and efficient method of keeping the equipment running. Thomas also stressed preventive maintenance, but added that the level of maintenance was the key to the life span of equipment. An average level of maintenance will yield an average life from a piece of equipment. A high level of maintenance, a longer life.

There was then an excellent and interesting demonstration of two-cycle and four-cycle engines conducted by Kenneth Weill of Jacobsen, James B. Holsen of Kohler and B. H. Robinson, Wisconsin Motor Corporation. The session concluded with a spirited panel

Continued on page 90



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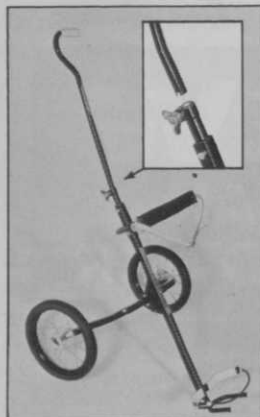
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Continued from page 88

discussion by all participants.

The USGA Green Section put on a fine show in their thorough coverage of the putting green. The all-day session covered green design, construction and maintenance, including discussion of the more popular strains of grasses for putting greens and their differing requirements. Especially notable was a new USGA movie entitled "The ABC's of putting green construction." (Clubs interested in viewing this movie should write the association at 40 East 38th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016).

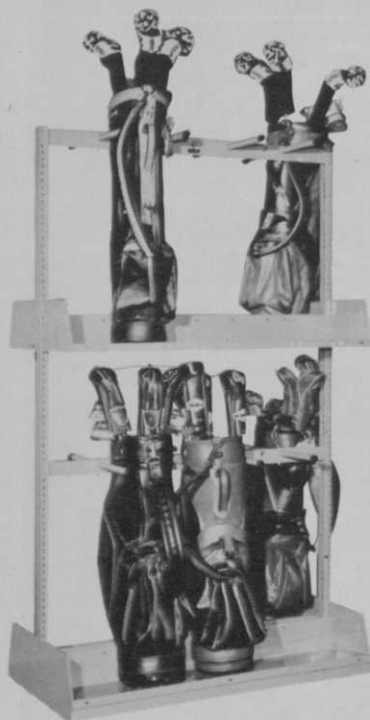
The irrigation clinic was chaired by Herman R. Johnson, GCSAA director and superintendent, Quail Creek G&CC, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Richard R. Abernethy, Telsco Industries, Weather-matic Sprinkler Division, Dallas, Texas, discussed the problem of communication between the operating superintendent and the turf irrigation industry. To bridge the gap, Abernethy presented a "Golf course irrigation system check list and planning guide" that should do much to alleviate the problem.

Don Hogan, D. A. Hogan & Associates, Engineers, Seattle, Washington, dealt with the primary decisions in the procurement process. While the "package deal"—where the material supplier or the installation contractor, or in some instances the architectural firm will furnish the entire package of design, materials, equipment and construction—is certainly an attractive method because there is a single point of responsibility, the club, nevertheless, is vulnerable. The seller is determining the amount and quality of the work and material, while the owner does not have an experienced person representing his interests. Another disadvantage is that the design and materials are customarily limited to the products of a single company.

The second method is the combination of design and materials supplied by one firm and a separate contract for installation, or the owner installs the system. While this method will generally result in the lowest direct cost for the system, there are the same disad-

Continued on page 92



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Continued from page 90

vantages of the first method. Also, the lack of construction coordination could result in serious problems unless the contracts are written with explicit requirements.

A third method is a professionally designed system by a qualified engineering firm, combined with the installation being performed by the successful bidding contractor. The contractor's work is supervised and inspected by the engineering firm who represents and protects the interests of the owner.

It was Hogan's opinion that a truly successful installation requires a team of specialists. They are: 1. club committee; 2. golf course superintendent; 3. professional designer; 4. installation contractor; 5. material suppliers. Only such a team can come up with the best system for the individual club.

Cost analyses were then presented by Major Fred Bove, superintendent, Brentwood CC, Van Nuys, Calif. (representing the Southwest), Jerry M. Murphy, su-

Continued on page 94

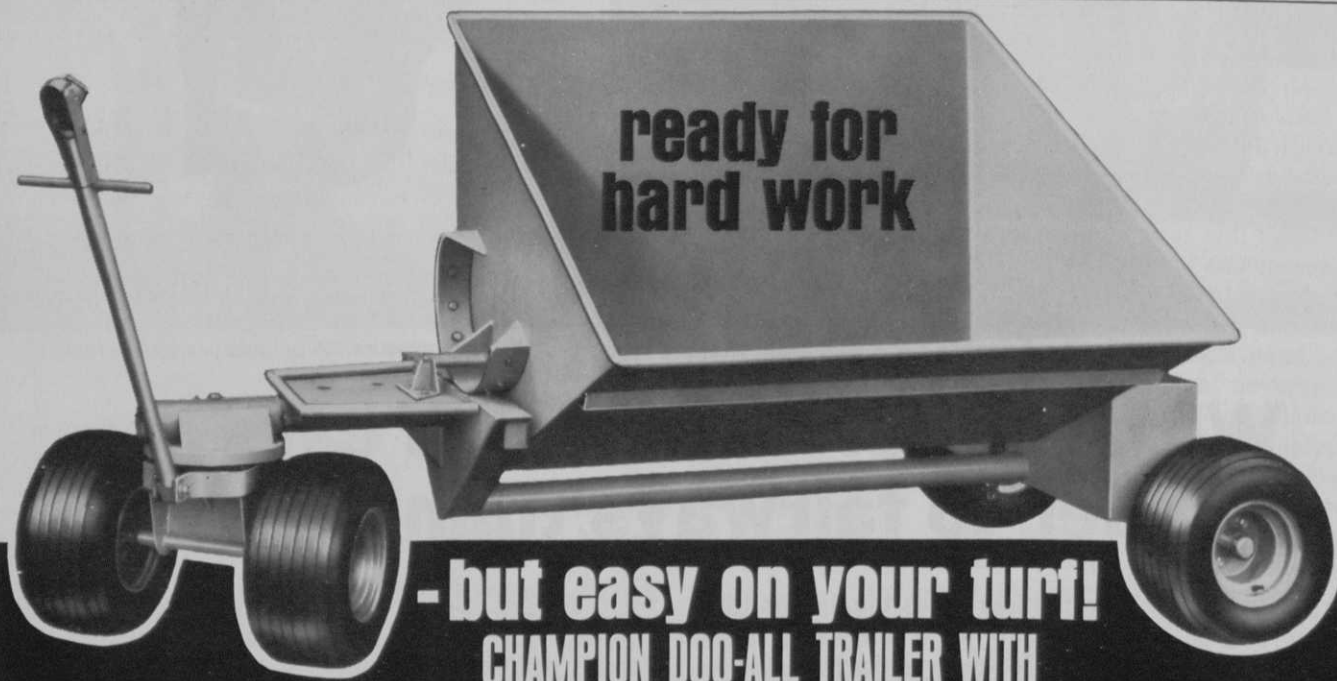
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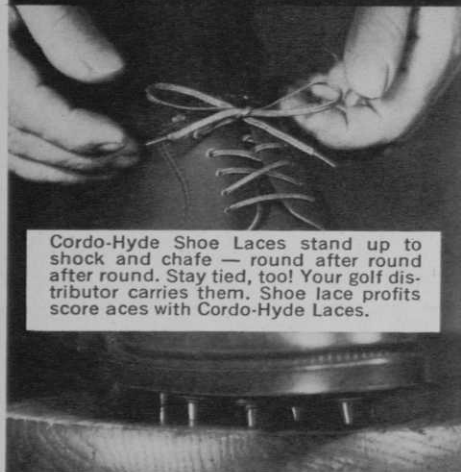
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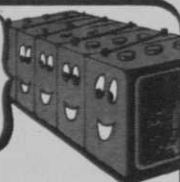
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Continued from page 92

perintendent, Somerset CC, St. Paul, Minn. (North), and Edmer E. Easley, superintendent, Wichita CC, Kansas (West).

Bove outlined how his club converted the quick-coupler system around the green to a semi-automatic type. This cut the irrigating staff from two men to one, which in turn off-set the cost of the materials. Bove said that future annual savings in irrigation labor costs would be approximately \$6,000.

Murphy told how the quick-coupling system in use at his club was converted to an automatic satellite system. An analysis of the labor and operating cost of the two systems shows that the automatic costs \$1,430 over a period of three months (July, August, September) in comparison with the cost of \$2,890 for the quick-coupling—a saving of \$1,460.

Easley discussed the savings effected at his club replacing a manually-operated system with an automatic system. The manual system, completed in 1951, cost \$55,000 to install. The automatic system, completed last year, cost \$106,000. (This did not include the cost of a contractor to install the system—say \$20,000 to \$30,000—as Easley did it himself.) Easley calculates that the labor cost savings alone will pay for the \$51,000 differential in less than five years.

The afternoon session was devoted to most informative talks on the hardware that goes into an irrigation system. Sprinklers were discussed by James Robinson, general sales manager, Skinner Irrigation Company, Troy, Ohio. Different kinds of pipe and their characteristics were covered by Arthur W. Perry, sales manager, Ethyl Corporation, VisQueen Division, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Jack Nees, president, Moody Sprinkler Company, Inc., Arcadia, Calif. talked about timers and Jerry Rossiter, assistant to the president, Buckner Industries, Inc., Fresno, Calif. described the various types of hydraulic valves and tubes.

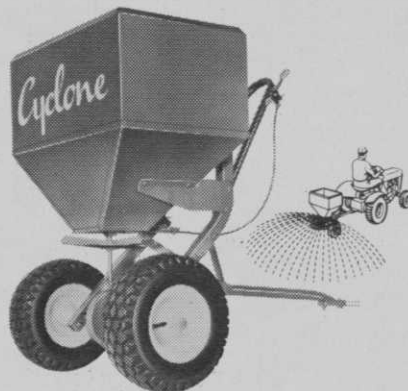
Electric valves and wire were the subject of the talk by Ed Shoemaker, sales manager, Eastern Rain Bird Sales, Inc., Peoria,

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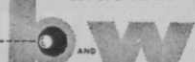
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Ill., while James M. Kaufman, marketing manager, Moist-O-Matic Sprinkler Division, Toro Manufacturing Company, Minneapolis, Minn. rounded off the sessions on irrigation with his talk on programming and maintenance.

In the last session of the educational assemblies, Lowell Moser, Department of Agronomy, Ohio State U., Columbus, Ohio, discussed the rhizome initiation and development of Windsor, Merion, and Delta Kentucky bluegrass.

One of the more interesting innovations during the last year or so is the use of the helicopter to spray golf courses. Charles Dupont, aviation manager, Clarke Outdoor Spraying Company, LaGrange, Illinois talked about how his company got interested in this work because of the need to control Dutch Elm disease. From there, it went on to spraying greens and fairways.

Dupont emphasized that after one season of use, the results look most promising. Coverage has been good. In every application, the intended result has been achieved—and there has been a significant saving in time. Using the helicopter, his company could spray the fairways of an 18-hole course in one-and-one-half hours. And most important of all, it requires a minimum investment of labor from the golf course. No men are required in spraying operations, while only two men are required in dry material applications to serve as loaders.

There is a wide range of uses for the machine. Fungiciding of fairways and greens has already been established. Mosquito control is another. Trees can be treated not only for insect and disease control but with foliar applications of fertilizer.

Another use to which the helicopter can be put could be termed reconnaissance. Most of the superintendents Dupont has flown have marvelled at the ease with which they could spot diseased areas from above when they could look at the entire course at once and compare several fairways. Such flights could become routine in the years to come. □

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