

# 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.*

**S**elective 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 fibreglass 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 consistant 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! □