

Happenings, East and West

A report on the Massachusetts State Turf Conference

By Bill Smart

Superintendent, The Powelton Club,
Newburgh, New York

The Chicopee Motor Inn was filled to overflowing on March 5 to 7 for the conference sponsored by the Massachusetts Cooperative Extension, Massachusetts Turf and Lawn Grass Council and the Golf Course Superintendents Assn. of New England.

Opening session started at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, a very sensible move which eliminated the need to stay Tuesday night to catch morning speakers.

Well-traveled Tom Mascaro of West Point Products cited instances whereby lime and top-dressing, light verticutting, drag-matting or watering had stopped the action of disease on greens—notably dollar-spot. More interesting was the information on exudated water (usually thought

of as dew). Under the proper conditions this harmless-looking moisture can be toxic to turf. If there is a high salt index present, a hot water extract from the thatch can be produced, which can kill seedlings and stolens and, at times, mature turf. Normally, rainfall and irrigation keep the situation under natural control.

Rowland Armacost of Waubesa Springs Links was not scheduled to speak, but because the conference was running ahead of time, he did. He described a new cultivator, which is currently being designed by a General Electric engineer and which is said to have advantages over the present-type hollow tine machines. It is not yet in production.

John Spodnik, president of the Golf Course Superintendents Assn. of America, spoke about the growth of golf, commenting

that courses will continue to be built because of player pressure and that the player is becoming more sophisticated. Unfortunately, this sophistication does not apply to his knowledge of the superintendent and his work. Of interest to everyone present, who desire a national conference in the Northeast, was Spodnik's statement that the day was at hand when national conferences must be planned five years in advance.

Dr. Joseph Troll of Massachusetts State College and a member of the planning committee is one of a growing number concerned with the ecology of the turf, specifically the effect on turf of current practices and certain materials. Dr. Gunner, also of Massachusetts State, expounded on this theory.

Dr. John Harper of Pennsylvania

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A report on the Rocky Mt. Golf Management Seminar

By Jerry Claussen

National Golf Foundation Club Planning
Consultant, Lakewood, Colorado

Improved communications has often been cited as a key to executive cooperation and more efficient operation of a golf or country club.

This is the basis for golf's most unique educational program, the Rocky Mt. Golf Management Seminar. The third annual seminar was held March 10 at Pinehurst CC, Littleton, Colo.

Co-sponsors are the National Golf Foundation, Colorado Golf Assn., Colorado Professional Golfers' Assn., Rocky Mt. Golf Course Superintendents Assn., and Mile High Club Managers. The 65 who attended the 1969 seminar had equal representation of superintendents, managers, professionals and others involved in the golf business.

The need for good communications among club owners, members and department heads was emphasized over and over again during the all-day program. Panels discussed how to solve management, golf services and course maintenance problems, including:

- whether a general manager or a trio consisting of manager-professional-superintendent is the best way of running a large club;
- minimum wage law changes and how they affect clubs;
- design of golf shops to best serve golfers;
- advantages of automatic irrigation systems;
- cup settings and other greens management techniques;
- construction and maintenance of golf car paths;
- common mistakes in planning, building and putting new courses into operation;

- programs for training and motivating personnel.

Major speakers included William Bengueyfield, western director, USGA Green Section; Miss Shirley Spork, educational services consultant, NGF; and David Milek, insurance executive.

Some of their key statements:

Bengueyfield—*Most golf courses have been and are being built with little regard for future maintenance. But maintenance should be the most expensive consideration. Good design doesn't compensate for lousy grass.*

Spork—*A good program for junior golfers should include a planned schedule of tournaments, free use of courses for these events, standardized teaching methods, an organization with standardized membership qualifications, written tests on rules and etiquette, a*

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Mass. State turf conference

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State University explored the road so many courses have taken in the last decade—little or no irrigation to large-scale watering.

A most unusual speaker was John Campbell, links supervisor at St. Andrews in Scotland. (See Guardian of Golf's Shrine, page 62.) This title was created for John when he took over the four-course, 500-acre complex. Of special interest to those present were the 100 or so slides he showed. The courses can be played backwards to shift the divot marks in the fairways. A five-acre nursery is maintained, and he "composts" (topdresses) every few weeks.

John Shread of the Connecticut experiment station with his usual expertise on insect control, offered the information that heptachlor gives good control of the Hyperodius weevil.

Jim Holmnes of Agri Systems closed the conference with some opinions on grasses. As far as he is concerned, Merion is still the best bluegrass, and if he had to seed his own course, he would chose Seaside and bypass "that wooly Penncross."

Rocky Mt. golf seminar

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point system for achievement and an awards banquet which includes parents.

Milek—To be fully covered, a golf club should have comprehensive liability and insurance against fire, business interruption, accounts receivable, equipment damage or loss, steam boilers, dishonesty, windows and legal liability for fire. Know what is covered and what is not.

The first award for Colorado Golf Executive of the Year was made to Stanley Metsker, superintendent at Boulder CC. Other nominees were Jim Bailey, professional at Hyland Hills GC, Westminster, and Richard Campbell, president of the Colorado Golf Assn.