



is indicated by this photograph of the annual banquet.

"Forgotten Man" Tag By HERB GRAFFIS

The "Heart of America" Greenkeepers' Assn., which engineered the selection of Kansas City for the convention, were great hosts. They put on their own show at the annual banquet, one of the liveliest entertainment features ever presented at a greenkeepers' convention. Chester Mendenhall, secretary of the Heart of America organization, gave the lads his teammates' welcome and introduced Jack Shannon as chairman of the education sessions.

First of the speakers was H. H. Haymaker, prof. of botany and plant pathology at Kansas State College. He illustrated his lecture on the way a plant lives by slides. He explained the fundamental construction and functioning of plants, and enlightened the superintendents on the processes controlling plant variety development. He pointed out that toward the edge of the stem there are non-living cells filled with chemicals that make them waterproof and enable the plant to retain moisture.

Prof. Haymaker cautioned that over-watering retards the development of root hairs, and is a grave handicap to the plant's food manufacturing process. He reminded that the amount of food stored in the root system accounts for the plant's capacity to survive winter.

Dr. Monteith, speaking on "New Developments in Golf Course Maintenance,"

related that in 20 years greens surface generally in this country had changed from mixtures to uniform strains. This change, made with speed that's rare in agricultural activities, was accompanied by many new problems of disease and pest control and maintenance practices. Pressure of the time element has been hard in greenkeeping research. Grass breeding work is proceeding with the idea of developing disease resistance as a prime factor.

Weeds Are Live Topic

Weed control has been another subject of intense research lately. The background of the entire Green Section research plan and the increasingly close cooperation it is getting from greenkeepers is predicated on the elimination of preventable wastes and raising the standard of playing conditions, thus making it possible to get better courses for less money, Monteith pointed out. He went into the reason for emphasizing the scientific side of the greenkeepers' education work, explaining that the greenkeepers wanted to know why some methods succeeded and others were on a hit-and-miss basis.

Prof. Jack White, veteran of the Pennsylvania State College faculty in golf course cooperative work, spoke on the "Agricultural College Experiment Station

1939 Officers Greenkeeping Superintendents Assn.

President, Frank W. Ermer, Ridgewood GC, Cleveland; V. Pres., Jack A. Gormley, Wolferts Roost CC, Albany, N. Y.; Secy.-Treas., A. L. Brandon, St. Charles (Ill.) CC.

Board of Directors: (two years to serve) Don Boyd, Portage CC, Akron, Ohio; Ed Cale, Canoe Brook CC, Summit, N. J.; Ray Rolfs, North Hills CC, Milwaukee. (1 year to serve) John Gray, Essex G&CC, Sandwich, Ont.; Arthur Snyder, Alcoma CC, Wilksburg, Pa.; Harold Stodola, Keller Park GCse, St. Paul.

and the Golf Course Superintendent," reviewing the history of the relations between the two factors and showing how the two have made a blending of theory and practice that has been of inestimable value to clubs. Prof. White told about the work done by Prof. Musser in the breeding and selection of finer turf grasses, the State College soil fertility experiments and other enterprises conducted in close association with a committee of Pennsylvania greenkeepers. He emphasized that the state stations were public utilities and that in each state the experiment station was eager to work hand-in-hand with the state's greenkeepers in contributing to the golfing assets of the commonwealth.

Prof. F. D. Keim, chairman of the University of Nebraska dept. of Agronomy, gave an illustrated lecture on "Grass Selection and Improvements," detailing how the Nebraska authorities have worked to select and propagate most desirable native grasses for the widely varying conditions in the state. His address contained numerous pointers on the principles and practices involved in the promotion of most suitable native grasses.

Beat Members to Punch

In talking on "How the Superintendent May Improve Relations with His Members," Herb Graffis of GOLFDOM said that the basic job is to let members know discreetly that trouble is inevitable in golf course turf culture, otherwise there would be no need for expert greenkeeping. Therefore, Graffis said, the greenkeeper should beat the punch with explanations of course activities, such explanations to be vividly presented on golf club bulletin boards, house organs and in frequent written reports to officials covering out-of-the-ordinary work. He reminded the

superintendents that they were up against two tough problems; one being the frequent change of officials and the necessity of re-educating the new draft, and the other being that of contending with the city man's patronizing and lofty attitude toward the good provider who has to harness nature to keep the city man's belly full and his feet caressed by contact with rich, green, uniform sod. The solution of this educational problem is the same method the city man employs when he wants to get closer to the buyers of his services—publicity.

Graffis cited the achievement of American greenkeepers, in developing turf of the old English standard in a twentieth of the English pace and against adverse weather conditions, as constituting a popular exhibition of the talents of American greenkeepers. From the publicist's angle he expressed astonishment that the greenkeepers had done so well, so quickly, in attaining more extensive recognition and attributed this to the professional attitude the greenkeepers take toward their work.

Prof. George Scarseth of Purdue, in his address on "Plant Tissue Nutrient Deficiencies," presented an outline of the work being done in determining soil requirements by analysis of the plant. Prof. Scarseth's presentation of this exceedingly interesting development will be printed in an early issue of GOLFDOM.

No Peace Against Pests

"Tree Insects and Their Control" was the subject of the talk made by Missouri University's Professor of Entomology, Dr. Leonard Haseman. A bug recently damaging juniper cedars in Missouri is being attacked by soil treatments. Sticky band and arsenate of lead sprays were recommended for handling cankerworms. He illustrated his remarks on borers with slides. Four-fifths of all animal life on the globe are insects, said the Missouri man, and there can be no let-up in the course superintendents' war against pests that threaten his course. Dr. Haseman answered a number of questions at the conclusion of his address.

Dr. O. J. Noer's talk on "Turf Maintenance in 1938" was illustrated by slides. Noer divided the country into three belts; a southern one, in which the main turf culture problems are those of summer; the next belt north, in which both summer and winter origins of trouble must be contended with; and a northern belt, in which troubles are due to winter weather.

In a number of districts last summer, rain and humidity injured fairways far worse than greens. In comparing 1938 with 1928, Noer pointed out that the greens injury in 1938 was less than in 1928 despite similar weather conditions, and attributed this to the advance made in the application of turf research to greens rather than a general application all over the courses.

He explained various situations depicted by his slides and expressed the confident opinion that greenkeepers had made a notable advance in offsetting damaging and unpredictable weather conditions to which courses are subjected.

Prof. George C. Decker, Research Associate of Entomology, Iowa State college, read a paper on "Turf Insect Pests," in which he gave case histories of major pests and methods of their control. This paper will appear in an early issue of **GOLFDOM**.

The address of Prof. C. O. Rost of the University of Minnesota's Soil Staff on "The Modern Conception of Soil and Its Relation to Plant Growth," an interesting survey of fundamentals, also will appear in **GOLFDOM** in the near future.

Discuss Bent in South

Dr. Monteith was chairman of the round table discussion on the bent question in the South and West. This was introduced by showing slides of bent greens in the South. Claude Whalen related that seaside bent planted from seed in Fort Worth, Tex., Oct. 1935, after testing several varieties of bent, has withstood local conditions well. Soil is 50% dairy loam and 50% very fine sand. Whalen believes this soil has largely enabled the seaside to withstand air temperatures as high as 116 degrees F. Very little brown patch has been experienced after the first year. Preventive treatment is employed every 5 days if the weather is bad. Greens are poled early in the morning. Topdressing is done in March and October with a 50-50 sand and manure mixture. During the winter, if the bent is slow, about 10 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. of 4-4-2 fertilizer is applied. In the summer cottonseed meal is applied weekly; 3 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft.

Perley Hill of Salt Lake City related successful experience in employing a native grass. Winter moisture and freezing give him serious threats of snowmold, for which he treats each October with corrosive sublimate. Prior to the use of this



Frank W. Ermer, Supt. at Ridgewood GC, Cleveland, and new president of the GSA.

treatment his course suffered badly from snowmold. Hill stated that his watering was on the light side although temperatures run between 90 and 100 from July 4 through August.

Jim Haines of Denver said that unless he waters during the winter dry spells, his turf is spotty and dies out before spring. The major effort with bent during the past three years in Denver has been to obtain a variety that will keep color during the winter. Present bent goes off color early and colors up late in the spring. Seldom do they have sub-zero days and not much humidity to give them brown-patch worries.

Bug-Proof Greens Early

W. E. Langton, one of the pioneers in successful introduction of bent greens in Southern California, strongly advocated bug-proofing greens when they're put in. He has found about 10 lbs. of arsenate of lead per 1,000 sq. ft. of greens will virtually eliminate the sod webworm attacks that have many Southern California greenkeepers in trouble. Wide variation in soil and climatic conditions, especially fog, make it difficult to recommend standard maintenance methods for bent in this section of the country.

Langton cautioned against over-watering. At his own course he uses very little fertilizer in the summer; about once a month light applications of 4-4-2. Night watering, he has observed, produces more brown-patch than daylight watering.

Art of Fine Wining and Dining Keynotes CMA Meet

By HERB
GRAFFIS

WHAT the National Open championship is to golf playing, the annual convention of the Club Managers Assn. of America is to club management. The thirteenth annual convention of the organization, held at Denver's Brown Palace hotel, Feb. 4-8, established a new high in educational programs for managers. Put on under the local direction of the Mile High Chapter of the CMA, the Denver meeting drew approximately 200 club operating executives from all parts of the country. It set forth a schedule of entertainment that will be reflected in country and city club parties throughout the nation for the rest of the year. The Denver club managers demonstrated a command of the arts and sciences involved in hospitality that made each feature of the program a post-graduate course in the serving of food and drink.

Business sessions, coordinated with the demonstrations of ideal operation, rounded out a schedule that gave definite practical value to the convention.

Propose Home for Oldsters

One of the high spots of the convention was the enthusiastic reception accorded the idea of a retired managers' home. This proposal was made by Barney O'Grady, a former president of the association and manager of Olympia Fields CC. O'Grady outlined a tentative plan for the establishment of a resort in a 12-month climate to which managers could retire after completing their active careers. Such an establishment is to be run on a dignified, business basis and as a straight-forward insurance proposition rather than savor of the "old folks' home" notion. From the floor of the convention \$2,500 was subscribed to conduct preliminary operations in the plan. President Fred Crawford appointed O'Grady as chairman of the committee to prepare tentative plans. Propositions for the location of the establishment have been received from Florida, Texas and Arizona. A contest will be conducted to get a name for the establishment.

The Mile High managers began putting on the works when visiting managers stepped from The City of Denver stream-

liner. A stagecoach met the incomers and transported CMA officials to hotel headquarters. Registrants were taken in tow by John Schumacker, Larry Marrin and A. K. Bott and given ten-gallon hats, cowboy hankchiefs, and made at home on the range. August Bott, manager of the University Club, put on the first demonstration, a cocktail party of a character to embellish any club's reputation.

In the evening the conventioners were feasted at the Swift plant in Denver's stockyards. A feature of this show was a meat-cutting demonstration by Bill Dennison who took one of Mary's little lambs and deftly hacked it into intriguingly artistic cuts showing how a skilled butcher could make almost everything except the lamb's bleat attractive on a menu. Attendance at the final night of Denver's annual stock show and rodeo completed the first day's program.

Serves Lunch DeLuxe

Sunday, Fred Wood, former president of the CMA and manager of the Denver Athletic Club, put on a luncheon that set a new par. Wood elected to demonstrate that high art applied to a fairly commonplace item on a luncheon menu, could astonish even a jury of experts. He set forth chicken a la king that was a superlative dish instead of the usual article of casual consumption. For the circus sock to a splendidly planned and served luncheon, he served a pine-cone dessert, a combination of genius in the bakery and ice-cream departments. A quick tour of the historic club and an inspection of its interesting activities, among which was the work of junior members, followed.

Sunday evening, a mountain trout dinner was served at the picturesque and famous old Windsor hotel, after which there was a session in the noted Tabor Opera house, one of the high spots in the old West's cultural history.

Committee reports revealing that the association had had a most active and flourishing year, were submitted Monday. The managers reported substantial signs of a revival in club interest and membership, indicating that their work of educating Americans to an appreciation of

1939 Officers Club Managers Association

Fred Crawford, Louisville, Ky.....Pres.
Wayne Miller, Cincinnati.....Sec.
Wm. Roulo, Detroit.....Treas.
(All re-elected)

New Directors

Howard Mehlman, Denver; Harry J. Fawcett, Glencoe, Ill.; G. A. Jobe, San Francisco.

high-standard eating and drinking and select companionship is bringing results.

Monday evening's demonstration was the ideal club dinner and dance, put on by Otto Hebestreit at the Denver Country club. Food and wine service and music were superb as a country club performance. The Tuesday evening exhibit of how to put on a country club party was brilliantly presented at the Lakewood Country club, under Howard Mehlman's management. Mehlman, president of the Mile High chapter, was general convention chairman. Anheuser-Busch was host to this party which had a Hawaiian theme. Hawaiian decorations, entertainers and menu made the affair an authentic standout, instead of just one of those dinners that was labelled Hawaiian because a grass-skirted fanny-wiggler was the entertainment headliner. To banish all doubts about the affair being 5-star genuine the menu listed, among other items, Fried Fresh Fish, Humuhumunukunuaapuaa, and salad, Mokuaweoweo.

Dine in Transformed Gym

As in the case of the luncheon at the Denver Athletic Club gym, ingeniously and tastefully decorated by draperies suspended from the balconies and ceiling thus converting a cold-looking gym into a delightful dining place, the decorating work at the Lakewood Country club was a fine example of taste and resourcefulness in decorating.

The annual banquet at the Brown Palace, Wednesday evening, was another great demonstration of food, drink and entertainment service. As excellent as it was, and no hotel in the country could have put it on any better, the banquet served to emphasize that there is a certain indefinable feeling about food and drink selection and service at the high class club that cannot be provided in even a superlative hotel.

Entertainment specially scheduled for the managers' wives also hit a new high

in interest at the Denver convention. On the Women's committee were Mrs. Fred L. Wood, chairman; Miss Frances Brandenburg, Mrs. Otto Hebestreit, Mrs. Lawrence Marrin, Mrs. Howard H. Mehlman, Mrs. Norman Ready, Mrs. Raymond Riede, Mrs. John Schumacker, Mrs. Herma Thomas and Mrs. Claude Whitman.

Ralph Carr, governor of Colorado, opened the business sessions. The governor, by making his appearance in person instead of delegating the usual pinch-hitters who represent the local authorities at most conventions, recognized that the convention the Denver managers put on was making a couple of hundred enthusiastic boosters for Denver's spirit of hospitality and the Denver managers' command of the hospitable arts and sciences.

Chapters Busy in '38

Reports of various chapters revealed that considerable educational and employment activity had been going on through the year. A standout in the educational line is the organization of club managers and officials in the State of Washington. Darwin Meisnest of that group earnestly counseled the national organization to make the most of its educational possibilities by putting the big play on informative programs at managers' meetings.

Regional problems, especially with respect to liquor and other legislation, buying facilities, etc., have so much to do with the club managers' operations that the sectional chapters have to handle individual problems to a large extent, then coordinate with other chapters under the National Association banner in affairs of general importance.

Fred Bergeron introduced L. Roy Leonard, manager of the Cuvier Press Club, Cincinnati, who opened the forum for discussion of subjects of general interest. Leonard told the managers, from his observation as manager of a press club, that there's room for a lot more publicity about club operations which could be secured easily by making newspaper contact more of a phase of the managers' many duties. He counseled against membership "drives," saying that the members could get more new members if the drive idea is kept out of the campaign. He said at his club members were divided into alphabetical groups with each group of members whose names begin with any one letter getting together and preparing a membership solicitation letter

On arrival in Denver, managers were met by this old-time stage coach and presented with ten-gallon hats as souvenirs.



that they send out to their own list of prospects.

He advised against the manager letting officials get into the habit of coming to the manager and telling him what to do. The manager should have a lot of ideas and thus beat the officials to the punch, thereby identifying himself as the spark-plug of the club. Leonard suggested that club managers make tie-ups with radio stations so club programs may be broadcast once in a while.

Publicity Urged

Tom Jones presented Herb Graffis, Editor of *GOLFDOM*, who suggested how the managers' abilities and achievements in educating Americans in cultured eating and drinking could get wider recognition. He suggested a publicity campaign supplying newspaper women's section and food section editors with reading matter and illustrations on the fine art of eating and drinking as presented to the discriminating ones by the highest authorities — the managers.

Graffis outlined some of the work done by the Golf Promotion campaign and how it has helped to acquaint the public with qualifications and service of the competent club professional. The greenkeepers also are getting into a publicity campaign to inform the golfing public about their services and value. The managers, authorities and teachers in one of the vitally important fields—that of intelligently and artistically stoking the human gut—need propaganda to attain deserved recognition, Graffis said. The CMA is planning a campaign of this sort.

Max Beck introduced C. A. Patterson, publisher of *Club Management*, who spoke on "How to Keep Your Members Happy."

Pat advised the managers to have a dignified attitude in keeping with private club atmosphere. He counseled nifty—but not gaudy—touches to food and liquor service, so the club atmosphere of distinction would be maintained. A job for the manager to do deftly is that of getting the members acquainted with each other, he said. Patterson told of the Washington AC club plan of giving each new member a coupon book entitling him to free introductory service in each department of the club. Pay attention to getting the wives of members and boosters, and to novel entertainment features, and to thoughtful little stunts to care for the kids, Pat suggested. Patterson, as did Leonard, strongly advised that the manager take an active part in the work of the entertainment committee instead of letting the committee members worry about originating new stunts.

Winter Programs Bring Results

For the country clubs Patterson pointed out that more attention to winter programs often is required. He advocated more attention to color around clubs, pointing out numerous instances of unfavorable reactions to unwise choice of colors.

Barney O'Grady presented Dean Clem Collins of the Denver University School of Commerce and President of the American Institute of Accountants. Dean Collins talked on the proper function of accounting, that of revealing the operating picture rather than merely getting a formal array of figures. He said that responsibility, not only for compiling the figures but in applying their lessons, was a prime factor in the profitable use of accounting. The accounting method and budget must be

One of the very successful stag parties put on by the Hyperion Field & Motor Club, Des Moines, Ia., was advertised to the members and guests as "Hyperion's Gentlemen's Pink Tea and Lily Party."

Lots more ruffled than "Stag, for Gents Only," and good for laughs right from the start.

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closely coordinated so you can see how you're running with your budget, or both items are badly weakened in the club operating plan. The Dean said that managers, to make their situations stronger at their clubs, must see to it that they know fundamentals of proper accounting and the correct interpretation of accounting reports.

Make Dues Worth Paying

Frank Jamison, advertising manager of the Public Service Co. in Denver, was introduced by Howard Mehlman. Jamison talked on the manager's position as viewed by the member, and urged that managers think about the phase of their job concerned with selling the club to its members so members will be reconciled to the payment of their monthly dues.

Fred Wood brought on Milton Bernet, advertising and publicity director of the Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph Co. Bernet spoke of the use of the telephone as one of the entrances to the club and pointed out that the distinction of a club could be revealed as much by its telephone manners and service as by any other phase of operations. Promptness in answering; tone and clarity of information Bernet mentioned as foremost elements in first class club telephone service.

John Bartholmew of Wm. Liddell & Co. was introduced by Mrs. Alma von Steiner. He discussed the history, selection and care of linens. If linen offered you, when held up to the light, has a lot of rough dark spots or lumps, the yarn is not of first quality and won't wear well. He described the various types of linen, and went into profitable detail about the laundering of linens. He also gave practical tips on the storage of linens.

Chick Bangs, manager of the Oak Park (Ill.) CC and member of a prominent family of managers, was introduced by Russell Miller. He related how air conditioning of a basement locker-room had ended considerable trouble with moisture as well as assuring member comfort. He had an expert in this line install fans that provided adequate and proper ventilation. The system eventually was extended to

the club dining rooms. He found this comparatively inexpensive job did the business by keeping the air moving. Air is changed in the locker-rooms about 8 times an hour.

Miss Alice Mast presented Phil Cannon, manager of the Tulsa (Okla.) Club who gave some expert slants on the service of buffets. He recommended extensive varieties and a strong play to the eye appeal, so the buffet becomes a "class" proposition and not a cafeteria offspring. He suggested that the manager discreetly visit up and down the line of those waiting to serve themselves at the buffet, by which action he not only keeps in close touch with members but reconciles them to the waiting.

Former president McGoogan of the CMA introduced George L. Mentley, General Sales Mgr. of the Frosted Foods Co. He told of the uniformity of frosted foods and went into interesting detail concerning the research work behind food frosting, showing how the prime brands in this line assure uniform quality, even going so far as to attend to seed selection of certain of the frosted food products of his company. He said frosted foods should be stored so air circulation is maintained entirely around the products.

The Legislative committee of the CMA, Darwin Meisnest, chairman, reported on the efforts being made to relieve clubs of unemployment tax in the cases of clubs having less than 8 employees, exclusive of officers. There was a lively, but entirely friendly debate on the subject of attempting further to get club 10% federal taxes reduced. The managers decided to pigeon-hole action.

The trophy for excellence in country club party announcements went to the Lake Shore CC (Chicago District), Harry Fawcett, mgr.

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One of the brightest of the many bright spots at the Denver convention of Managers was the Anheuser-Busch lounge where James H. Platt presided. The Budweiser and Michelob organization also was host at the Hawaiian party at the Lakewood CC. At the Lakewood party, the Carson Crocker Co., Mrs. David Alexander of Franklin MacVeagh & Co., Baur Confectionery Co., Elmer S. Leterman, Paul Garrett Wine Co., and the Matson-Oceanic steamship line collaborated in the supply of details making the affair a model of club service. A feature was the showing of Hawaiian and Tahitian color pictures made by Darwin Meisnest, manager of the Washington AC.

Crashing the Press to sell the Greenkeeper

By Charles A. Burns

For the first time, this year greenkeepers were beneficiaries of a national publicity campaign. Charles A. Burns, Ohio newspaperman who presaged the greenkeepers and the Greenkeeping Superintendents' convention, worked stories about the greenkeepers' responsibilities and achievements into many newspapers.

The value of this publicity enterprise, although of short duration, was inestimable. It brought the course superintendents into sharp focus before golfers, and secured for them widespread recognition of their vital service to the game.

Burns tells a few details of the campaign and points out its big lesson.—Editor.

FOR the last three months I have been busy trying to obtain more and better public acceptance for the "forgotten man" of golf, the greenkeeper who toils from dawn until dark so that golf scores may less resemble our national budget.

Through the kindness of the press and feeble efforts of this correspondent, news stories featuring the talents of greenkeepers have appeared in sport pages of newspapers representing a total circulation of approximately twenty million readers, in 30 odd states and Canada. In addition, a number of business publications have chosen to mention the greenkeeper. Our checkup—which of necessity must be incomplete—also indicates that more than 100 radio stations with a listener audience of several million sports fans have extolled on their sports programs the talents of the tillers of the turf.

Releases Keyed to Outlets

In order to get this acceptance it has been necessary to do a lot of research work, compile factual data, write letters and study the styles of news medias. Contrary to common belief, stories like this do not "just happen" and are not the result of bending an elbow with a news reporter. Placement of this material is the result of scientific study and a very definite strategy is involved, which is as intricate as the important factors in the

successful sowing of good seed. The style of each individual publication and media must be studied and an attempt or, more often, several efforts made to submit information adapted to their editorial requirements. By the same token it is necessary to synchronize your releases to radio announcers. An editor in Red Gap, Texas, may be attracted by the fact that a study of the love life of the Japanese Beetle is necessary to exterminate that turf killer, while one of his contemporaries in New England would remain unmoved by such an undignified approach, but become intensely interested in the scientific background of brown-patch research.

So that we could dramatize this business of greenkeeping, we have uncovered some strange and startling facts about greenkeepers as well as their work. We have taken dull and uninteresting things and tried to inject life into them so the golf playing public will better appreciate the scientific progress and industry of the greenkeeper.

Our analysis leads us to the conclusion that the "forgotten man" owes a great deal of his present status in golf and society to his own forgetfulness. He has failed to boost himself and take credit where and when due. True, scores have been clipped, but so have golf greens . . . so fine and close, due to the greenkeeper, that the human element is now the greatest hazard in dropping a six-footer.

The word "pare" has become almost as important in golf as "par" especially when making course budgets. We believe the last vowel will lose its popularity when and if the greenkeepers start boosting their work and trying to shoot publicity par with themselves.

Carolinas Plan Golf Clinic.—Archie Reid, president, USGA, Donald J. Ross, Horton Smith and Jimmy Thomson will make up the faculty which will preside over the first "Country Club Clinic," of the Carolinas Golf Assn., to be held at the Pinehurst CC March 20.

Attendance at the clinic will be limited to presidents, or the presidents' representatives and professionals, of member clubs in the Carolinas Assn. Subjects to be discussed will be, "Swing Fundamentals," "Shop Management and Accounting," "Building Up Club Membership," and "Course Maintenance." Each subject will be presented briefly and will be followed by discussion.



Test plots of many different types of fairway grasses are shown in this photo taken at the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station.

FAIRWAYS: Today's Problem

Part 2

By H. B. Musser

SOMETIMES chronically poor turf is allowed to exist, even when we know how to correct it, because of a conflict between playing requirements and method of correction. Or, turf is poor because of any or all of a whole group of accidents, or because of a whole set of conditions that cause chronic sickness. And even when the answers are definitely clear they cannot be applied, or at least have not been applied, because of almost as large a list of reasons as there are causes of the troubles. Add to all this the many instances in which the causes of trouble have not been thoroughly diagnosed and we get a sum that should impress us with the absolute necessity of concentrating on an effort to develop a new deal for fairways.

Actually, the case may not be by any means as hopeless as the foregoing sounds. While it is true that a sudden infestation of insects, weather conditions, or what have you, may quickly undo what has been built up painstakingly over a period of years, it is also true that for many of such things we already know the remedy and can prevent too serious results. A case in point is the way in which courses in the Japanese beetle area have learned to live with this pest. Such experiences demonstrate that when conditions become sufficiently acute to concentrate attention on them a solution is usually found. Further

than this, thin turf due to accidents, is, after all, only a passing phase of the problem. Causes are usually recognized and in general prompt steps taken to remedy the condition, if for no other reason, because the damage is so severe that it must be taken care of. And it has actually happened that a fairway has been better eventually, after some accident has happened to it, than before, simply because it got the thought and attention it deserved.

It is really the chronic causes of fairway turf disintegration which constitute the major part of the problem. Obviously, correction and improvement depends upon not only an ability to recognize the trouble when it appears, but a knowledge of how best to eliminate it. And of course the latter involves the ability to persuade those who shape course policies and must O.K. course budgets that the trouble is serious.

After this is accomplished and the right procedure agreed upon, then it is just a matter of patience until the treatment has had a chance to take effect. Chronically thin fairways did not get that way in a week, a month or even a year and they can not be made right again overnight. It is a case of not only finding the right answers, but of staying with the program

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