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# Southern GA Reports Tifton Turf Research Progressing

Southern Golf Assn. soliciting funds for carrying on work at Georgia Coastal Plain Experimental station, Tifton, Ga., in cooperation with USGA Green section, has presented an impressive report of projects in operation under direction of Dr. George W. Burton at the station.

Already experiments show promise of considerable value in improvement of southern golf turf and solution of problems that now make southern course maintenance at high level a difficult job.

The report of turf projects under way at Tifton follows:

## 1. SEED PRODUCTION IN TURF GRASSES:

### a. Centipede grass seed production—

Studies begun in 1946 suggest that over 100 pounds of good seed can be produced per acre during one season with the proper treatment. The best fertilization and management treatment in 1946 increased the seed yield over the untreated grass more than threefold. The effects of burning, mowing, grazing, and various rates and dates of nitrogen application are being studied. There are 280 plots devoted to these studies.

Centipede grass offers great promise for turf in the South because it will thrive on soils of low fertility, it can be cut closely for lawns and fairways, it is very tolerant of drought, insects and diseases, and it resists weed invasion to a high degree. Expensive vegetative reproduction, necessary because of lack of seed supplies, will be reduced in favor of cheaper establishment from seed. Lawns in Tifton have been grown satisfactorily from seed.

### b. Bahia grass seed production—

This grass is probably best suited for airports, road shoulders, and similar heavy duty assignments. Studies conducted for a number of years with this grass indicate that burning and adequate nitrogen fertilization can increase seed yields in old sods 10 to 15 times.

Bahia grass may find a place in golf course roughs in the South by virtue of its ability to grow under relatively unfavorable conditions.

## 2. DEVELOPMENT OF SUPERIOR TURF GRASSES:

### a. Bermuda grass—

Over 100 Bermuda selections from various

golf courses and the breeding program at Tifton are being tested under green and fairway conditions. Although just started a number of these promise to make better turf for both greens and fairways than common Bermuda grass.

### b. Centipede grass—

A small start has been made in the study of the variation within this species. Better seed production is the main objective.

### c. Bahia grass—

Progress is being made in the development of fine, low growing strains of this species. The fine-leaved, low-growing strains of Bahia grass appear to have promise for golf course fairways and perhaps tees.

## 3. EFFECT OF VARIOUS NITROGENOUS FERTILIZERS UPON SEASONAL GROWTH OF CENTIPEDE GRASS:

This includes the study of various Uraform compounds and lead to the discovery of the most effective and most economical sources of N for turf.

## 4. INSECT CONTROL IN TURF:

Various rates of DDT, Benzene Hexachloride and lead arsenate were applied to Centipede turf in 1946 and their effects on worm population are being studied. It is hoped that studies on mole cricket can be instituted but we have not found heavy enough infestations to date at Tifton.

## 5. PRODUCTION AND STERILIZATION OF ORGANIC TOP DRESSING MATERIAL:

144 different combinations of soil, sawdust, lime, sewage sludge, fertilizer, cyanamid, and uramon have been prepared and are being composted. Their value as top dressing materials will be studied by growing grass in them and making a number of chemical analyses of them. The completion of this study depends upon adding personnel. Some mixtures of sawdust and sewage sludge look very promising. Mixing 15 pounds of cyanamid with every cubic yard of soil in an open compost bin killed all weed seeds in the soil.

## 6. LIME AND FERTILIZER REQUIREMENTS OF SOUTHERN TURF GRASSES:

A beginning was made on this important problem in 1947 but cannot be carried far without additional help.



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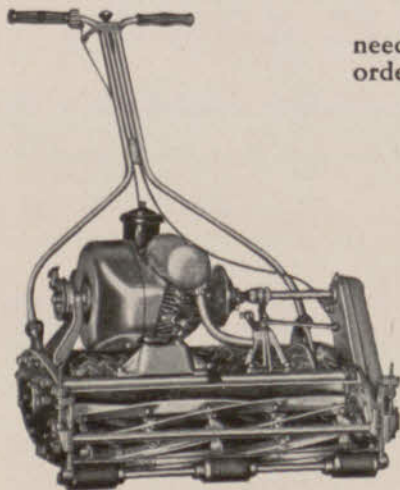
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### SOUTHERN CALIF. SUPERINTENDENTS INSPECT OJAI

Southern California Golf Course Supts. Assn. looked over the completed first 9 and second 9 nearing completion at beautiful Ojai Valley CC as guests of Ojai's supt., Paul Adessi. The inspection tours and meetings of the association's 61 members are considered by supts., club officials and members one of the most valuable contributions made in recent years to golf in the sun-kist sector. Southern California supts' campaign to get turf research established at UCLA finally scored with cooperation of George Armstrong, pres., SCGA, and C. C. Simpson, chmn., green section of the SCGA. The campaign begun in the administration of Bill Stewart of Hillcrest, as the supts' president and achieved initial success this year under administration of Wm. Beresford, Los Angeles CC supt. A check for \$5790 has been sent to UCLA by the Southern California GA. Turf research plans call for a \$6000 yearly program for 5 years. Clubs and other turf interests have committed themselves to monthly contributions which will be collected by SCGA.

—D. Scott Chisholm, photo.

#### 7. HASTENING TRANSITION FROM RYE GRASS TO BERMUDA AND VICE VERSA:

It is hoped that this problem may receive some study in the Winter and Spring of 1948. Here again more help is needed.

#### 8. ESTABLISHMENT OF SOUTHERN TURF GRASSES:

The part 2, 4-D may play in this problem was studied in a limited way in 1947. A summarization of some of the findings is being published in *Timely Turf Topics*. Other materials and cultural methods should be tested. More of this work could be conducted with adequate personnel.

#### 9. EFFECTIVENESS OF VARIOUS CHEMICAL FUNGICIDES AND HERBICIDES UPON SOUTHERN GRASSES SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED:

Such studies cannot be conducted with the present limited personnel.

Funds already contributed or pledged to operation of the Tifton golf turf program total \$4960 of which \$800 is from the USGA Green section, \$400 from the Southern GA, \$1000 pledged by Atlanta Athletic club, \$150 from Florida GA, \$100 from Georgia GA, \$100 from Pinehurst, Inc. and \$10 from Augusta Woman's National Assn.

The Southern GA points out that USGA Green section contributions can be increased only with an increase in USGA membership in the region. Tribute is paid to Fred Grau of the Green section for his

work with Dr. Burton in getting the Tifton experiments organized and advanced.

Further details of the Southern GA campaign for better golf turf and fewer serious problems of turf maintenance in the region may be secured from Col. Lee S. Read, sec'treas., SGA, 315 S. 5th St., Louisville 2, Ky.

### Southern Turf Problems on Docket at Nashville

Southern Turf Assn. conference at U. of Tennessee Agricultural Experiment station, Knoxville, Jan. 6 and 7, will bring an array of experts before a large attendance from Tennessee and neighboring states. J. K. Underwood, assoc. agronomist of the station, arranged the program.

Among featured speakers will be Dr. Eric Winters of the U. of T. College of Agriculture, O. J. Noer, Fred Grau, J. A. DeFrance, Glenn W. Burton and Charley Danner. Danner, sec. of the Southern Turf Assn. and pro-supt., Richland CC, Nashville, will talk on converting winter greens to summer greens and vice versa. DeFrance will tell of crabgrass control. Noer will speak on water management. Burton will present the story of turf research for the southeast. Winters will speak on turf in relation to Tennessee soil conditions.

Time for discussions and a round table session is scheduled.

The meeting will conclude with the annual meeting and banquet of the Southern Turf Assn. at the Andrew Johnson hotel.



## Fessenden Elected Western Golf Ass'n President

Maynard G. (Scotty) Fessenden was elected pres., Western Golf Assn. at the annual meeting of the WGA directors. Fessenden succeeds James L. Garard who headed the WGA in 1946 and 1947. Garard's administration got the WGA postwar caddie service program for member clubs and the Evans Scholar Foundation operations underway as a standout energetic and effective job. Civic and educational authorities outside the golf field consider the Western association's work for and with caddies the most valuable work any sports organization is doing for American youngsters. The program has scored effectively in golf.

The caddie program has benefited tremendously from the work of John C. Kennan, executive vp of the Western and for 10 years personnel officer at the University of Chicago. Theodore C. Butz, veteran official of the WGA, has maintained close association between the WGA and its Evans scholar graduates for years.

Fessenden comes into WGA presidency with a deservedly high reputation as a vigorous factor in golf progress. He served as Chicago District GA president, establishing that organization as a major tournament circuit city when the tournament circuit needed bracing. Fessenden, more than any other amateur, was responsible

for quick action that kept the pro tournament circuit from folding at the start of the war. As a combat veteran of World War I the realistic and aggressive Fessenden didn't subscribe to the feeble theory that golf was so weak it needed tournaments to keep it alive during the war. But he did see in continuance of tournaments a very practical opportunity for raising war benefit funds, providing out-of-door entertainment for war workers and presenting purses that enabled tournament pros to get a very hefty chunk of the wartime money. Fessenden is chairman of the PGA Advisory committee and in that capacity has been of inestimable value to tournament pros in herding and activating a group of "angels" to whom the playing pros are indebted for rich favors.

Garard continues as a director of the WGA and a trustee of the Evans Scholar Foundation.

Serving with Fessenden as officers are vps: Jerome P. Bowes, Jr., Roy W. Walholm and John W. Coffin. Treas. is Cameron Eddy; Sec., Hunter Hicks and Charles S. Connell, General Counsel.

New Directors elected at the annual meeting include: John G. Searle, Skokie, Ill.; E. P. Allis, Milwaukee, Wis.; Harold O. McLain, Chicago; Harry L. Robinson, Jr., Minneapolis, Minn.

Re-elected Directors are: Bing Crosby, Fred L. Dowd, Fred R. Dowd, David L. Harrington, Stuart Smithson, Charles Evans, Jr., Lewis Rodgers, David L. Griffith,



Newly elected officers and directors of WGA. Back row (L. to R.) Stuart Smithson; James L. Garard, (retiring pres.); Roy W. Walholm, vp; Charles S. Connell, legal counsel; John C. Kennan, Exec. vp. Second row (L. to R.) Cameron Eddy, treas.; Jerome P. Bowes, Jr., vp; Hunter Hicks, secy.; Fred L. Dold; Fred R. Dowd and David L. Harrington. Front row (L. to R.) Lewis Rodgers; Maynard G. Fessenden, pres.; and Harry L. Robinson, Jr.

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In 1948 WGA hopes to increase the number of member clubs who are actively working with the association in improving their club caddie service and assisting in selecting caddies who are sent to college on full tuition scholarships. WGA now has 20 caddies in college at Northwestern university, Loyola university (Chicago), Michigan State and University of Michigan.

## Caddies Get Cash and Fun At Edgewater Party



"Chick" Evans, left, Edgewater's favorite son, pins WGA Honor Caddie Badge on Norbert DeFilippo at Edgewater GC (Chicago, Ill.) annual caddie banquet. DeFilippo is also winner of meritorious service plaque presented by Caddie Committee Chairman, T. R. Claffy, right. Caddie-Master John Sertic stands with arm around Norbert.

Fine job of putting Western GA club caddie service program into practice, as recommended to member clubs in WGA's Caddie Committee Manual, is being done by Chicago's Edgewater GC.

At the close of 1947 season, Edgewater's members were hosts at a tournament and a dinner for caddies that placed a premium on every caddie's pride in his work and created a keen desire for him to be back on the job next season.

Edgewater uses a bonus system where the caddie is paid the regular \$1.25 a round. Each player is given a rating card to grade each caddie on each round with spaces for excellent, very good, good, fair and poor. A rating of excellent nets the caddie a 15c bonus, very good represents 10c to him, and good brings him an extra 5c.

At the time of the annual caddie tournament and dinner, the caddies receive their bonus checks, along with generous prizes of the tourney and all they can eat.

In the past, many of the tournament prizes have been won by caddies who are excellent golfers but have not worked nearly as much during the summer as others. In order to offset this, Edgewater changed its plan this year and gave a trophy for the winner of the tournament and his first choice of the prize selections. Additional prizes were awarded on a handicap basis, with every caddie competing in the tournament earning an award.

The collection of prizes for the caddies was made possible by the women members soliciting funds on the first tee one day a season. This year they collected more than \$500.

Award of the prize caddie of the year is based on service, attendance and deportment. Winner of the honor this year for the second straight time was Norbert De Filippo, who also was awarded one of the ten WGA Honor Caddie badges presented to each of the Western GA member clubs for reward to their caddies.

In addition to his WGA Honor Caddie badge, De Filippo also had a first choice of the prizes at the dinner and selected a \$50 savings bond to be used in helping obtain a college education. His bonus for the season came to \$156 and he also was the recipient of a plaque for meritorious service, awarded by Caddie Committee Chmn. T. R. Claffy. De Filippo aspires to be a WGA Evans scholar. The Foundation was established by Charles "Chick" Evans, Jr., Edgewater's favorite son, and seven caddie boys from Edgewater have been winners of these prized scholarships.

## SPARLING RETIRES AFTER 40 YEARS



Retiring after 40 years as Brooklawn CC (Bridgeport, Conn.) professional, George Sparling is feted at testimonial dinner at which he is presented with a check for \$2,500, a sterling silver cup and announcement of a nice pension. Among those attending were, first row, left to right: Archer C. Wheeler, Sparling, Gene Sarazen; standing: Robert D. Pryde, sec'y, Conn. GA; Alpheus Winter, Sr., toastmaster; Judge Sidney A. Johnson and Al Ciuci, Fresh Meadow, L.I., professional.

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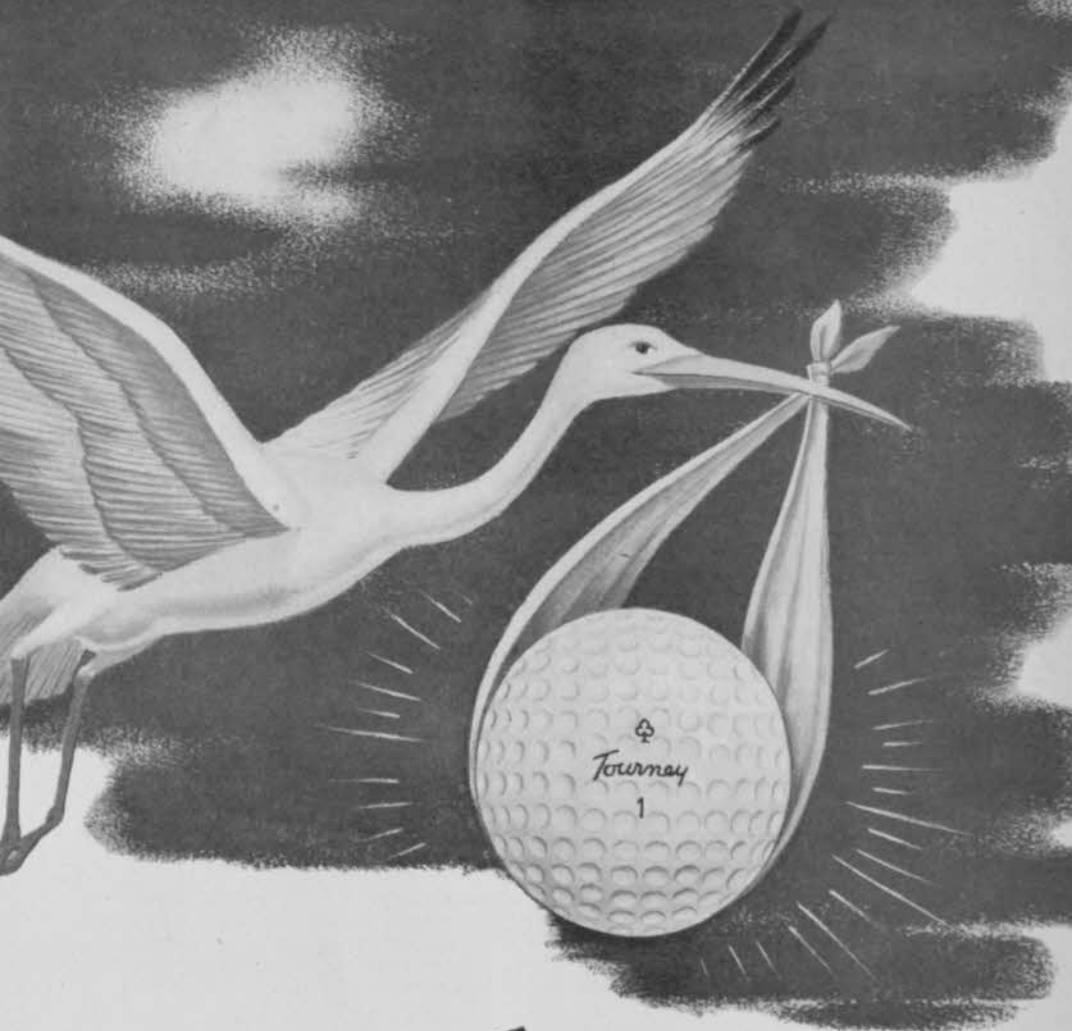
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The American Society of Golf Course Architects meets at Pinehurst (N.C.) CC, Dec. 5. L. to R.: William P. Bell, Pasadena, Calif.; Robert White, Myrtle Beach, S.C.; W. B. Langford, Chicago, Ill.; Donald J. Ross, Pinehurst, N.C., Honorary Pres.; Robert Bruce Harris, Chicago, Ill., Pres.; Stanley Thompson, Toronto, Canada, V.P.; William F. Gordon, Doylestown, Pa.; Robert Trent Jones, Montclair, N.J., Sec'y-Treas.; William Diddle, Carmel, Ind.; J. B. McGovern, Wynnewood, Pa. Members not present were Perry Maxwell, Ardmore, Okla.; Jack Daray, Chicago, and Robert F. Lawrence, Boca Raton, Fla.

## Golf Architects Re-elect; Set Membership Rule

Robert Bruce Harris, Chicago, was re-elected pres., American Society of Golf Course Architects at the association's meeting at Pinehurst during first week in December. Stanley Thompson, Toronto, was re-elected vp, Robert Trent Jones, New York, sec.-treas., and Donald Ross, honorary pres. Ten of the 13 charter members of the association which was formed during the GSA 1947 convention attended the Pinehurst meeting. Ross and his partner, J. B. McGovern, were the association's hosts.

Members reported considerable new course and alteration work. Great improvement in earth handling methods, progress in water and drainage equipment and methods, and advance in turf development has made it possible now to build a course at practically no greater cost than that of 10 to 20 years ago, according to architects and builders at the Pinehurst meeting. New mechanical methods of handling dirt also have brought course alteration, especially removal of severe grades, within price reach. Donald Ross told of removal of hills on six holes at Allegheny CC (Pittsburgh dist.) recently by new earth handling methods that made possible a job that would have been prohibitive in cost a few years before the war.

A constitution and code of ethics were adopted. Provisions were made for election of new members. A regular member must satisfy the Board of Governors of the ASGA that "he is responsible and ethical, and competent to design, maintain and direct the construction of golf courses, and meet the following requirements:

"Be at least 30 years of age.

"Have at least 6 years experience in golf course design and construction.

"Have designed at least 5 creditable golf courses and directed construction work on at least 5 golf courses. Collaboration on construction with members of the Society who recommend the applicant will satisfy this requirement in lieu of independent design and direction of construction."

Other classes of membership include "complimentary" members who are amateurs not accepting payment for their work or who have made notable contributions to science; honorary members who are professional golf architects who have made notable contributions to the profession or the advancement of the game; and senior members who have been in good standing for 10 years or more and have reached the age of 70.

Details of the organization may be secured from sec.-treas. Robert Trent Jones, Jr., 20 Vesey st., New York, N.Y.

**ELLIS MAPLES' BUILDS CLINTON** — Ellis Maples recently completed 9-hole Coharie CC, Clinton, N.C. It's the first complete job Ellis has done as golf architect and builder, although he has reconstructed several courses with results that have been highly commended. Ellis and his brother, Henson, are sons of the veteran Pinehurst supt., Frank Maples, and have been brought up under top talent of their noted greenkeeping dad, the Pinehurst architectural sage Donald Ross, and the Pinehurst pro staff. Ellis resigned as pro at the New Bern (N.C.) CC in June last year to go into golf course design and construction. He intends to develop the extensive possibilities of first class 9-hole courses in smaller cities, carrying the projects clear through from helping local parties get the clubs organized to supplying them with excellent courses economically maintained.