

Plans Completed for 20th Annual GSA Conference

Plans for the 20th annual conference and equipment exhibition of the Greenkeeping Superintendents' Assn. have been virtually completed by the program committee, headed by Ray Gerber, Glen Oak CC, Glen Ellyn, Ill., and the show committee with Frank Ermer, 7506 Jameson road, Parma 9, Ohio, as its chairman. The committees, appointed by Pres. Chester Mendenhall, have been working closely with the Southern California supts. organization in assigning topics to authorities who'll address the four educational sessions and in arranging the exhibits of equipment and supplies to be presented at Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles, Feb. 8, 9, 10, 11.

Alexandria Hotel, Los Angeles, will be official headquarters hotel. Convention visitors are urged to make reservations early.

After the usual official welcoming formalities the educational conference gets under way with a talk by Herb Graffis, *GOLFDOM* editor, on "What's Ahead for the Golf Business." The greenkeepers appear to be willing to take a chance with Graffis' forecast inasmuch as in March, 1948, in his column in the *Chicago Sun-Times* he forecast the election of Harry S. Truman. Joe Novak, pres. PGA of America and pro at Bel-Air CC (LA dist.) will speak on "The Golf Course We Like to Play," presenting the members' and pros' views.

Wm. H. Johnson, supt. of Los Angeles public courses, and the head of the employees' recreation program at one of the large Los Angeles area airplane plants will present practical information on handling "Golf in the Public Recreation Program."

Speakers are to be assigned to a symposium on smaller course maintenance and to "Practical Psychology in Golf Course Management."

Fred V. Grau, director, USGA Green Section, will talk on "Things to Come in Turf Management." Verne Stoutemeyer of UCLA will have as his subject "Research and Extension Turf Projects on a Regional Basis."

Colin C. Simpson, green chmn., Los An-

geles CC, is to speak on "How the Greenchairman and Greenkeeper Can be a Better Team." Simpson has worked very close with greenkeepers in getting the Southern California turf research program under way and has a good understanding of the greenkeepers' problems.

"Grooming the Course for Championship Play" will be covered by greenkeepers at courses where 1948 national championships were held as the final subject on the Wednesday program.

Thursday morning session will open with an address on saline and alkali soil properties and management; a subject of great importance in numerous western areas. New developments in insecticides and new developments in weed control will occupy the rest of the Thursday morning program.

William P. Bell will lead the Thursday afternoon program, talking on "The Greenkeeper-Architect Relationship in Course Architecture." H. A. Scoth is scheduled to talk on varieties, strains and methods in "Grass Seed Production on the West Coast." Other authorities will discuss other phases of West coast grass seed.

There'll be a session on "Renovation of Turf" in which qualified men will consider the renovating job with northern and southern grasses.

G. O. Mott of Purdue university will talk on "The Problem of Soil Compaction, Aeration and Drainage."

Greenkeepers to Play Too

Among the men's and women's entertainment features planned to precede and follow the business program is the golf tournament at Griffith Park, Feb. 7. There the supts. can make a first hand study of one of the busiest public golf plants in the country. With the exception of the eastern and western GSA champions the rest of the field will play with handicaps.

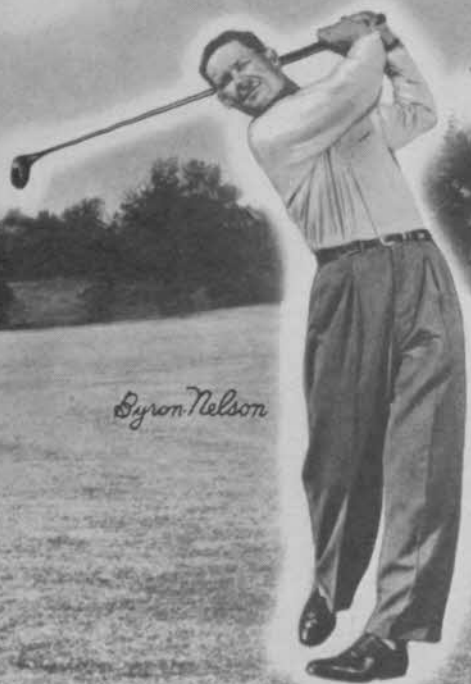
This event will be run by the host association committee headed by Gomer (Potlikker) Sims, Meadowlark CC, Route 1, Box 440, Huntington Beach, Calif.

Sims asks that all greenkeepers intending to play in the event advise him as soon

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as possible and let him know their names, nicknames, clubs, addresses and handicaps and whether they'll bring clubs or will want to borrow clubs.

Southern California Golf Course Supts. Assn., meeting at Bel-Air CC, Dec. 13, completed their part of arrangements for the national conference. Conference topics of special interest to Pacific Coast, southwestern and other areas west of the Mississippi were inserted in a well-balanced program of national interest.

Also added to the program was an inspection of the recently established Turf Experiment station on the UCLA campus at Los Angeles. This tour will be conducted by Dr. V. T. Stoutemeyer, head of UCLA Ornamental Horticulture dept. A particularly interesting feature of the plots is that of simulating growing conditions encountered in 24 different areas of the U. S.

Detroit Managers Complete Plans for CMAA Convention

The 21st annual convention of the Club Managers Assn. of America will be held at Hotel Statler, Detroit, Feb. 6 through Feb. 9. The convention is expected to attract a record attendance of members, wives and guests. Sufficient rooms for all attending have been promised by the Statler but all are urged to make hotel reservations at once.

The convention will be officially opened at 10 a. m. in the ballroom of the Hotel Statler for both men and women. A special feature has been promised for the opening ceremony. A cocktail party Saturday evening has been arranged for those who arrive early and another Sunday evening following registration.

Monday afternoon the members will assemble for a special educational session followed in the evening by an informal party, dinner and entertainment at the Detroit Yacht Club. Mornings will be left open for committee meetings and informal discussions. Tuesday afternoon roundtable discussions have been scheduled with separate sessions for town club managers and country club managers.

The closing convention session will start at 12:30 Wednesday with short educational talks followed by convention business and election of officers. The formal convention banquet will be held in the Statler ballroom Wednesday evening preceded by a cocktail party and "president's reception."

John J. Pomeroy, manager, Red Run GC is president of the CMAA and working with him on the convention program and arrangements are Robert H. Thompson, Detroit GC, convention chairman and Edward M. Grenard, University Club of Detroit, convention secretary and treasurer.

Texas and Oklahoma to Hold Joint Turf Conference

More than 200 are expected to attend the joint Oklahoma-Texas Turf Conference to be held in Dallas, Texas, February 2, 3. A full morning program is scheduled for each day with field trips to golf courses, athletic fields, and parks in the afternoon. Greenkeepers and professionals at Lakewood CC, Dallas CC, and Brook Hollow GC will lead on the spot discussion of maintenance practices carried on at their respective clubs.

Officers of the Texas GA have joined with the Oklahoma and Texas groups to present an educational and entertaining two-day meeting. Speakers and discussion leaders and their subjects for the general morning sessions at the Baker Hotel include Dr. Thomas C. Longnecker, Texas Research Foundation—Basic Principles of Bent Grass Management; Robert C. Dunning, Tulsa, Okla.—Special Problems of Maintaining Bent Grass Greens in Hot Humid Weather; Dr. O. J. Noer, Milwaukee, Wis.—Modern Equipment for Turf Maintenance; Alex Repin, Oklahoma—Fertilizing and Topdressing Bent Greens; Greenkeeper and Professional Relationships by Joe Dahlman, Okla. PGA; and Fred V. Grau, Dir., USGA Green Section—What's New In Turf.

Dr. Glen W. Burton, U. S. Dept. of Agri., Tifton, Ga., will discuss Breeding Bermuda Grass and Other Southern Grasses, on the Thursday morning program; Prof. H. F. Murphy will report on the Turf Research work at the Okla. Agri. Exp. Station and a special feature will be a roundtable discussion on soil sterilization and control of bermuda grass in which the following will participate: Gordon Jones, CAA, Bob Ervine, Oaks CC, Tulsa, Okla., and John Price, Southern Hills CC, Tulsa.

Architects To Meet

American Society of Golf Course Architects will hold its annual meeting at Hotel Bellevue, Bellaire, Fla., Jan. 12-15. Details of eligibility may be secured from the association's sec., Robert Trent Jones, 20 Vesey St., New York.



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PGA Elects Novak Chief at Annual Meeting

Joe Novak, Bel-Air CC, Los Angeles, became first Pacific Coast professional to become pres., PGA when he was elected at the association's annual meeting at Dunedin (Fla.) PGA GC. Novak defeated Horton Smith who was presented as a candidate by the Michigan section. Marty Lyons of Philadelphia was elected sec., and Wm. Wotherspoon, Tulsa, was re-elected treas.

Political tension was eased as the seven-year reign of Ed Dudley came to an end. Dudley was made captain of the 1949 Ryder Cup team and joined Tom Walsh as an honorary president of the PGA. Novak, formerly PGA sec. and long active in district and national PGA work, had been boomed as successor to Dudley from almost the time of Dudley's election in 1947. Smith was a late arrival, being proposed by Michigan and other sections late last summer. Contrary to his wishes Smith was also presented as a candidate for the secretary post.

No action was taken on limiting presidential term of office although the matter has been discussed frequently in sections. Objections to the long term in the unpaid office is based on risk of officials becoming too much interested in political machine operation and temptation for the boys to fall in love with show-boating as the pros' top man.

Resolution adopted at Dunedin included admitting to membership, pros with 5 years experience as playing pros in PGA co-sponsored tournaments, and admission of all PGA members and members of the Advisory committee to annual meetings.

The latter resolution raised the publicity Iron Curtain which hasn't done the association any good in its press relations or acquainted all members satisfactorily with organization operations. PGA's capable and discreet paid executive secretary points out that member criticism of PGA financial statement being "top secret" data is unfounded inasmuch as delegates to the annual meeting are given copies of the annual financial statement and can pass this material along to members.

Another resolution opened the way for

pros in all North, Central and South American countries to compete in PGA of American co-sponsored tournaments as "unaffiliated" members.

The USGA as the rule-making body of American golf was recognized in a PGA resolution which codified action taken after the blow-up on rules infractions last winter.

George Schneiter, tournament chmn., reported the tournament committee was in the black for the first time in its history. Minimum purse for PGA co-sponsored tournaments was raised for 1949 from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

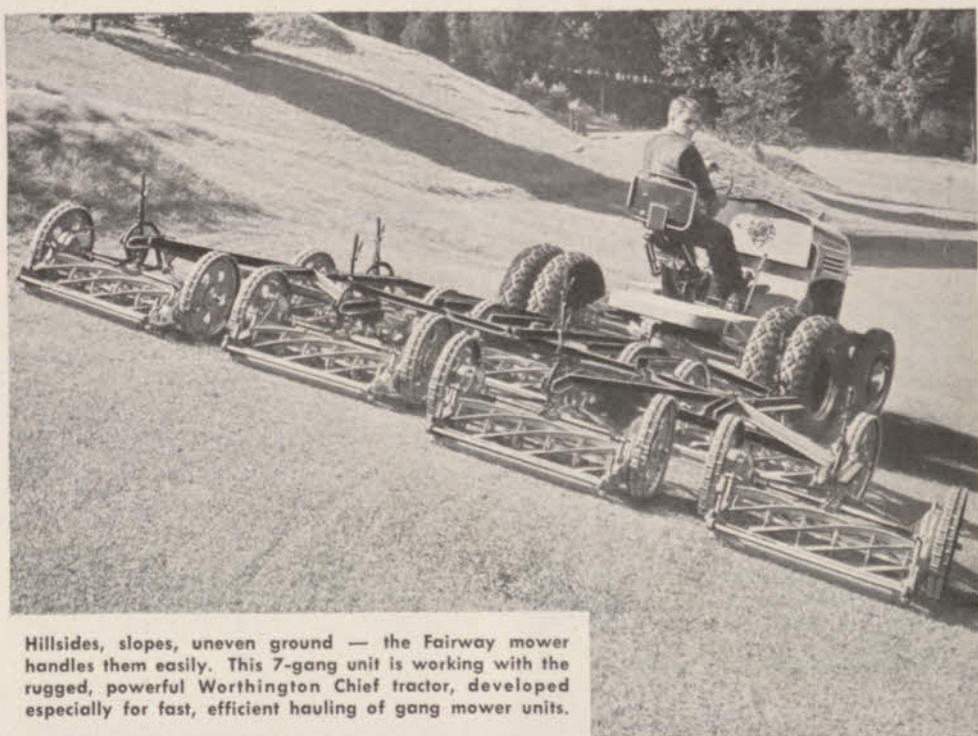
The session on pro business gave the PGA meeting audience their first look at the National Golf Foundation's new color sound-slide film on golf instruction for schools and colleges, and the movies of the 1948 Masters and Goodall tournaments. A couple of prints of the Masters film are available for showing by PGA pros.

At the clinic Fred V. Grau of the USGA Green section spoke on the relationship between golf turf and shot requirements. Stanley Clark, MacGregor credit manager, spoke on "Your Friend the Credit Man," emphasizing the importance of inventory control, carefully studied buying and taking the 2% cash discount.

Lee Harrington of Wilson gave an excellent talk on the pro's business responsibilities to his members. Harrington accented giving the members a better break than they are inclined to expect and not to think that many members don't talk about it when they think the pro is a bit too "hungry" for his own good.

S. C. (Chick) Allen gave an interesting and informative statistical talk that gave the pros an accurate broad view of their business. He advocated development of the promotion-minded attitude of pros and particularly urged development of industrial golf.

Joe Novak told of his conduct of golf classes at UCLA. He told of giving the students basic instruction for several lessons before they got clubs in their hands. His policy in this detail confirms the in-



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troductory section of the National Golf Foundation's school golf slidefilm.

Lloyd Mangrum demonstrated his technique and said he'd fitted the methods of masters in their various departments of the game. Mangrum and Toney Penna gave an outdoor demonstration of the tournament swing clinic routine, with Horton Smith at the mike.

Ben Hogan was presented with the PGA "Golfer of the Year" plaque at the annual presidents' dinner at which Scotty Fesenden presided as toastmaster. Ben gave a fine talk on his experiences as caddie and playing pro.

The PGA considered, but didn't act on, the Golf Writers' Association request that a Hagen trophy instead of the Vardon award be made for the PGA of America player having the year's lowest tournament scoring average.

Delegates enjoyed the PGA National course and were impressed by the job Alex Cunningham has done in bringing that plant into fine shape. Cost of holding the meeting at Dunedin was approximately \$5,000 more than cost of holding the conclave as usual in central location. In view of PGA financial problems, including that of the association's course, canny businessmen among the delegates doubted that the association again should pay expenses of an annual meeting away from a central point.

Pro Was a Pal to These Members

Jack Wilson, pro at Salina (Ks.) CC for 19 years died last fall after a lingering illness in a Salina hospital. Jack was denied visitors while he was hospitalized and his members hired radio time to tell him how they were getting along at the club, along with other unusually thoughtful performances to cheer him.

When it became known that Wilson's illness might be of long duration the club voted him salary for life. Members also organized a party at which \$5000 was raised to enable Jack to meet expenses of his illness. When Jack died, his wife Alma, who had handled his job while he was in the army, was paid his salary until Jan. 1, 1949 and given a life membership in the club.

Jack was a grand, faithful and competent fellow of the sort that pros can be proud of as representative of their profession.

American Golf's History Well Told in New Book

The Story of American Golf — Its Champions and Championships, by Herbert Warren Wind; \$15; 490 pages; published by Farrar, Straus & Co., 53 E. 54th St., New York.

Wind's done an excellent job of research in getting together the story of major championships of American golf and championship play of American amateur and pro stars in Britain. In a few instances he has recorded entertaining old lies that even those who know better now, believe, because they make such lively tales, and considering the poring over old newspaper pieces and the interviewing that must have been done over bottles when fellows were in a relaxed reminiscing mood, Wind has achieved as nearly an accurate, full history of American golf championship highlights as ever will be written.

It's a good job of sprightly writing and is bound to stir up among the elders of the congregation a lot of thrilling memories.

Wind divides his book into five parts; the first mainly on the Apple Tree gang and other pioneers, especially the rugged Charley MacDonald, then on Walter Travis, Jerry Travers and Francis Ouimet. The second part deals with Chick Evans, Hagen and their contemporaries and the Jones break-through. The third part deals with the men and women who accounted for the headlines and development of the game during the reign of The Emperor. The fourth part featured the Sarazen revival, the great performance of Lawson Little, Harry Cooper's career as a National Open bridesmaid without becoming a bride, and the dawn of the big money tournament era with Bob Harlow taking the show on the road.

The fifth part handles the war and post-war period and summarizes the Nelson and Babe Zaharias conquests.

The book is very good \$15 worth of the stories of the backgrounds and competitive activities of the amateurs and pros who made golf this nation's most popular participants' outdoor game.

Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station, Kingston, R. I. summarizes development of fungicides for turf diseases in 1948 in recently released 9-page bulletin by John B. Rowell.

How Green-chairman Brought Up A Small Town Course

By JOHN P. MINCHEN

The year 1948 saw Carroll (Ia.) CC celebrate its 25th anniversary at its first party of the year. There were about 200 present with the entertainment and reminiscing program you'd expect at such an affair. The Carroll Times Herald wrote of the birthday celebration in one of those friendly detailed stories that makes anybody who's connected with the club feel a sense of personal gratification at the way the club has come along.

I read my name in the story and bowed to myself. Ray Moehn, one of the directors, said in his speech, "We don't know of anyone who has done more for the club than John Minchen. John laid out the course on a map and saw that it was put in. He has had a lot to do and is still doing a lot for the club." That is nothing like the flowers tossed in a political nominating speech but any fellow who has been a green chairman of a smaller town club and nursed it up from cow-pasturehood to become an asset in which the community can take pride and can enjoy, will understand why I bought extra copies of the paper to read and delight in the novelty of a green chairman being given kind words in public.

It could be that you are on a green com-

mittee of a club in a nice little town filled with pleasant people and that you too have the whimsical ambition to have somebody say something nice about you and your work at the club, after you've been around 25 years working for nothing.

You have set a difficult goal for yourself. Your friends, the members of the club, only want from you a course that is an architectural gem like Oakmont or Cypress Point with such improvements in design as will permit them to score well at all times. The condition of the course — greens, fairways and tees — must be as good or better than the best maintained courses in Des Moines, Chicago, New York and Los Angeles. If you can figure out a substitute for money and can carry out these improvements without objections by members who want several of the features of the old course retained, you have a touch of genius that I don't have.

How to Keep Friends

All I can tell you is how to get by, having the course get a little better year by year, and keeping your friends.

First you have to love golf. Then you have to be lucky in getting the right people to advise you and work with you. Then, to really get action, and have an idea that



This view of the Carroll (Iowa) CC No. 1 tee shows arrangement of hedge Green chmn. Minchen has used to add to the beauty of the landscape and at the same time prevent the loss of too many balls that might otherwise land in the bordering roadway as a result of the well-known slice.



Expert advice coupled with enduring patience has helped Minchen bring to the Carroll course first class bent greens designed to fit into the natural contour of the land. This is No. 8 green showing trees and shelter in the background that give individuality to an otherwise monotonous terrain.

you know must be put across, let somebody else, or numerous others, take the credit. Being somewhat stubborn and caloused won't hurt you any if you are going to be on a green committee 25 years.

When golf was introduced to Carroll about 1899, Hi Jeffrey of Hibbard, Spencer, Bartlett Co. and Preston Beale of the Standard Oil Co. brought the game out from Chicago. There were just two holes on the first course. Later Jack Hawkins, our first pro and greenkeeper, laid out a nine hole course, and taught Stanton Sherman, son of the sponsor of our present course, and some of the rest of us veterans.



Looking toward the clubhouse from No. 9 fairway, open door at the entrance to the Pine Room on the ground level serves as standing invitation for a pause between rounds.

Our first club died after World War I when the passing of George M. Stanton, the driving force of the old Carroll G.C., left the enterprise without a leader with fervent enthusiasm. Unless the small town club has at least one fellow of that sort it'll never get anywhere.

When golf was revived in Carroll in 1923 I was the fellow who was supposed to lay out nine holes on a 40 acre square tract. It can't be done. I have seen several interesting nine hole layouts on 20s, end to end, but never on a square 40.

One fault of our course as it was originally laid-out was that it ran counter-clockwise. With most golfers being addicted to a slice the out-of-bounds on the right is going to cause a lot of complaints and discouragement and lost balls. This might have been prevented if at the start the club had been willing to pay \$50 to Charley Johnson, then the pro at the Omaha CC, to give it a rough layout and some good basic advice. But, as in so many other cases, the club allowed a well-meaning and incompetent fellow to give it for nothing a layout that had to be corrected over years whenever we could argue out a loose dollar.

More Ground; Better Course

An important step in the revision of our course came when we finally succeeded in prying a little piece from Jim Wieland whose farm adjoins the course on the south. I was visiting with Jim at his house one day and pointed to a worn-out clayhill about a half mile away and alongside our course.

"Jim," I said, "the sight of that knob of clay staring a buyer in the face cuts about \$25 an acre from the value of your whole farm. I think I can get the club to pay you about \$250 an acre for that piece, and that's \$50 an acre more than your farm is worth."

"Damn if I don't think you're right," Jim allowed and the upshot of that talk, followed by some sessions on the clubhouse porch with Jim and me washing the dust out of our throats with a few beers, was that we added 2½ acres. The knob gave us space for two tees for our No. 4 short hole which was taken over from the original 40 acres, a big double green in the valley and an area where we could get some good black loam for top-dressing. Furthermore, it allowed us to switch our layout so players weren't knock-