Lou Powers' caddie training program at Detroit muny courses is pattern for other municipalities . . . Golf League at Motorola company's Phoenix (Ariz.) research laboratories installing golf practice facilities for employees.

Warren Townley, for past 22 years promgr., Woodstock (N.Y.) CC died in Jersey City hospital after long illness. He is survived by his wife, two brothers and three sisters... Warren brought many into golf and taught them how to enjoy the game.

Ruth Woodward, talented amateur golfer who has handled women's golf for Golf World, is engaged to Edward Cornell Kip Finch, asst. to publisher Henry Luce of Time magazine... The former Joyce Wethered, now Lady Heathcoat-Amory, announces her retirement from competitive golf to devote her spare time to gardening... In the opinion of many she was the greatest woman golfer... PGA of America made an instructive picture of her in slow motion film, along with Jones and Vardon instruction movies.

Golf Monthly, published by Sanei Shobo, Golf Monthly Pub. Co., 21 Saneiche, Sinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan, began with an October issue. It's plentifully illustrated with many photographs of Army golfers and their wives in competition with Japa-

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nese players. It is 64 pages and cover, with page size 9 by 11%. It carries a good amount of advertising for a first issue with one ad being a half-page of a Japanese golf practice range.

Oceanside - Carlsbad (Calif.) Junior Chamber of Commerce raising funds for construction of 9-hole \$60,000 course . . . Chester West named supt. Chico (Calif.) muny course ... Hartford, Conn., to build new clubhouse at Goodwin park course . . . Vernonia (Ore.) Lions Club members considering buying local course owned by Dr. C. R. Howarth, St. Helens, Ore. ... Bobby Locke's marriage goes on the rocks in Johannesburg court ... Mrs. Locke's attorney said Bobby's never home ... She is to get approximately \$12,000 cash and \$75 monthly until their 7-yearold daughter is self-supporting.

Arthur Frerichs will replace Dick Kerney, who is retiring to a well deserved life of ease at Lake Worth, Fla., after more than 20 years as manager of Passaic Co. GC Paterson, N. J. . . . Joe Aneda, for-merly pro at Elkview CC, Cardondale, Pa., will be new pro at Newark CC, Neward, Dela. . . . Jack Phelan leaves Clinton CC. Lockhaven, Pa., to become pro at Williamsport (Pa.) CC ... Wayne, N. J. getting new 18-hole fee course designed by Robt. Trent Jones and owned by Kaywin Construction Co., Fairlawn, N. J. ... Wm.

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Sweetland is retiring from pro business after close to quarter century of fine service to game. His home club course, Battlehill GC, Union, N. J. has been sold for development of industrial sites.

Harold "Had" Langdon leaves Pleasant

Valley CC, Connellsville, Pa., to assume pro duties at Colonial CC, Harrisburg, Pa. ... Alex McIntyre moves from the Edison Club, Schenectady, N. Y., to take charge of pro operations at Catskill (N.Y.) CC... George Fazio has purchased a Ford automobile agency in Cambridge, Md. ... Danny Williams, Jr. will be pro at Rock-away Rick CC, Danville, N. J. and Kahkwa CC, Erie, Pa., will greet Jay Hebert as their new pro .. At Springmeadow CC, Farmingdale, N. J., Joe Dante will be the new pro this year and at Coblesville (N. Y.) CC, Bill Smith takes over pro duties.

Homer Darling, pres., Juniper Hills GC., Northborough, Mass., has started work on the addition of 9 holes to the existing 9holes of the popular fee golf course . . . Harry Hanson has moved from Benton (Ill.) GC to assume duties as supt. of Evansville (Ind.) two 18-hole muny

courses.

Gene Sarazen's first six pictures of extensive series on incidents and scenes at famous U. S. and British courses will be released soon for television and club movie

(Continued on page 114)

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THE BUSINESS JOURNAL OF GOLF

**MARCH** • 1952

# Technical Study of Turf Gets Top Billing at GCSA Meet

Technical problems of golf course maintenance received intense attention of the 750 golf course superintendents and the equipment and supply men who attended the Golf Course Superintendents Assn. of America's 23d national turf conference and equipment and material exhibit, held at Neil House, Columbus, O., Feb. 3-8.

Limited, but expert, consideration was given to the cost and personnel management of golf course maintenance despite the many and increasing headaches superintendents are having with mounting costs and shortage of competent labor. The accent had to be on the turf itself for the simple reason that golfers' demands for excellent turf all seasons and under all conditions has reached the point where there are far more problems than studious, practical course maintenance authorities and the research experts have been able to solve.

The Central Ohio GCSA, under leadership of Lawrence Huber, did very well as host to the convention. The 51 exhibitors had their displays adjoining the conference hall, and there was no scattering of attendance. Arrangements were made to make effective employment of convention time very convenient.

The Central Ohio group provided buses for a tour of Columbus golf courses on Monday before the indoor conference program. Weather didn't permit much walking around the courses. The hosts also put on a "get acquainted" session Monday evening and a merry banquet Wednesday evening. Wives of the Central Ohio superintendents conducted a busy and entertaining program for the 100 wives of the visiting superintendents and supply men.

To succeed William H. Johnson, supt., Griffith Park courses, Los Angeles, as president, the association elected Malcolm E. McLaren, supt., Oakwood CC, Cleveland, Ohio. Leonard Strong, supt., Saucon Valley CC, Bethlehem, Pa., was elected vp and Agar M. Brown was re-elected sectreas. Bill Beresford, Los Angeles CC and Norman C. Johnson, San Jose CC, Jacksonville, Fla., are new members on the board of directors. Willis H. Glover, Fairfax CC, Richmond, Va. was re-elected. Holdover members are: Frank Dinelli, John Abbott and John Price.

The question of an increase in annual dues to include \$1,000 life insurance policy is to be decided through a referendum of the entire membership, voting to be by mail ballot. The 1953 convention was set for Atlantic City, Feb. 8-12. Florida superintendents are bidding for the 1954 convention to be held in Miami or Palm Beach.

Equipment exhibits showed interesting developments in simplification and in ingenious use of materials and design to assure rugged performance during a period of shortages rather than any radical departures in construction. Substitutes for steel and iron pipe received considerable attention. The extent to which golf course maintenance has become a chemical operation was shown in many exhibits of fungicides, weed control chemicals, insecticides and equipment for applying these chemicals.

The opening session of the conference, Wednesday, was under the direction of Philip I. Cassidy, Weston (Mass.) GC supt. Pres. Johnson keynoted the conference in reminding the superintendents they had to have the answers to one of the most difficult and exacting of all agricultural operations.

Mayor James A. Rhodes of Columbus, an ex-caddy who has become conspicuously successful in municipal management and who founded and heads the National Caddy Assn., told of his observation that golf merited an important place in the American "pursuit of happiness" philosophy. Mayor Rhodes said that golf's influence on the kid caddies in itself adequately warranted the costs of the game.

March. 1952



Capacity attendance at morning and afternoon sessions of the two day educational conference attested to the fine

He emphasized the basic importance of the superintendent's work in providing the most pleasant, sturdiest-wearing playing conditions without forbidding costs. He also lauded the late Maynard G. (Scotty) Fessenden and other officials for their understanding of the general contributions of golf to the health and happiness of the American as well as their understanding of the complex situations with which the superintendents have to contend.

Rhodes established his strong political position on astute management of city finances. He plans to enlarge Columbus public golf facilities with an RFC loan which he maintains will be soundly handled with golf course income and which will make use of property now having very low tax valuation and esthetic value. Building of the proposed courses will increase adjacent property values to the extent that city and county increased taxes will be a substantial sum, created by the self-supporting and self-liquidating public golf. Rhodes believes that public course golfers, if organized, could present their case strongly enough to secure needed expansion of public golf facilities.

Equipment maintenance received expert advice from Purdy Carson, field and sales engineer of Worthington Mower Co., and Charles Gardner, engine specialist of the Briggs and Stratton Corp. These addresses appear in full in GOLFDOM, as do the papers of Ted Booterbaugh, supt. of the Grand Hotel's Lakewood course at Point Clear, Ala., who spoke on "A Northern Superintendent's Results in the South," and of B. P. Robinson, the Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment station, who talked on "The Future of Turf in Southeast."

#### Poa Annua Gets "The Works"

Wednesday afternoon's session, presided over by Willis H. Glover, supt., Fairfax (Va.) CC, was devoted to the best organized, most complete discussion of poa annua, ever presented. Whether poa annua was to be regarded as a desirable golf course grass, and if so how could it be retained during the playing season, or if poa annua was not desirable how could it be eliminated, received the full treatment from a team of superintendents headed by O. J. Noer and a research and extension team led by Fred V. Grau.

The supt. team included Dave Bell of St. Clair (Pittsburgh dist.); Frank Dunlap, Country Club of Cleveland; Lawrence Huber, Ohio State University courses; Orville Young of Moraine CC, Dayton; Arthur R. Twombly, James Baird State Park, Pleasant Valley, N. Y.; L. E. "Red" Lambert, Oakwood CC, Dodson, Mo., and Paul Weiss, Lehigh, Allentown, Pa.



program scheduled by pres. Wm. Johnson and his able helpmates for the more than 750 attending the annual meeting

The research and extension team had Wm. H. Daniel, Purdue; H. B. Musser, Penn State; Alexander M. Radko, Green Section; Jesse A. DeFrance, University of Rhode Island; Ralph Engel, Rutgers university; and B. P. Robinson, Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station.

Summaries of cases presented by various experts appear in this issue of GOLF-DOM.

Despite the testimony of authorities no conclusive decision could be reached, thus showing the answer to the poa annua problem isn't as easy as some club officials think when they want to fire a superintendent who can't whip poa annua.

#### Watering A Clue?

Bell said poa annua began to be a problem with watered fairways at St. Clair and took over from bluegrass and fescue. After poa annua took over about 70% of his fairways Bell began killing it with heavy treatment of sodium arsenite which also killed the rest of the grass. Then he spiked and seeded with 100 lbs. Colonial bent per acre, hooking the seeder behind the spiker so the spike holes couldn't be closed

Except in one case when a heavy rain fell quickly after the sodium arsenite application and nullified the treatment, Bell was mowing the new fairways in three weeks. He has continued that program on three fairways a year.

Paul Weiss also used sodium arsenite and reported results so far look as good as his sodium arsenite crabgrass elimination treatment, but he wanted to wait two or three years before he regarded sodium arsenite as the right answer in poa annua elimination. He remarked that the treatment was not one to be applied by novices.

Lawrence Huber gave interesting testimony on poa annua being kept through the summer in areas where cold (about 50 degrees) water was applied.

Frank Dunlap reported that soil testing folowed by adequate fertilization in order to give permanent desirable grasses the best chance to compete with poa annua was basic procedure in the Country Club of Cleveland campaign. He is closely watching results of light spray application of sodium arsenite to see if that will do the work or be defeated by dormant poa annua seed in the soil, and how the weather and time of application will affect the treatment.

Orville Young reported closer mowing, increased fertilization, sodium arsenite spray, bent seeding and just enough water to keep the bent alive as promising items in his efforts to control poa and encour-

(Continued on page 84)

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### How A Pro Found Profit Hunting for New Ideas

By "A Young Old Pro"

I've seen more than 30 seasons come and go as a golf professional in the United States. I've seen five lads I first observed as alert and pleasant caddies, then took under my wing and trained as fine assistants, graduate into very well paying projobs and serve their members so well I can boast about them as assets to my professional reputation.

In my own case I haven't equalled the income that I hear some pros talk about as their own earnings, but I've done well, raised a good American family, own a home, and have enough saved so unless inflation goes wild I'll be able to take my wife and myself comfortably to the end of the line. And, that's not doing bad as a retail merchant with a small market. It's a whole lot better than I'd probably have done staying at my trade in Scotland. I have the respect and friendship of my members, some of whom I knew first as children and started them in golf by cutting down old clubs for them. I belong to the American Legion, the Masonic order and a community service organization.

I get along with people. Sometimes I think that's as important in handling a club job well, as knowing golf. Hard-to-handle members, that every pro gets, now are some of my best friends, although I've always been careful not to have my club business relations and my own and my wife's social life become too closely involved with the social affairs of members.

#### Learning with Assistants

My assistants are for me, even these days when the kids seem to be more interested in playing careers than in golf business careers and have been misled, like many a pro, by hearing fancy fables about big money in pro golf. They know I want them to succeed in the business. If I didn't think they had it in them to do well I wouldn't have hired them.

I am not easy with them. Teaching and learning aren't easy. One time I heard two of my boys, who have become fine master professionals, talking about the work I had them doing and one kid said, "He acts like he's the Pope." I walked in then and said, "Boys, the Pope has the job of making you decent men and saving your souls from hell. I've got the job of making you both damn fine professionals and saving you from a lot of trouble you'd get into if you had to learn this business

by making mistakes that would cost you your jobs. The four of us all have very tough jobs, so let's get along with them."

As I look back at that and other cases

As I look back at that and other cases of training assistants I realize that many times the assistants were training me. As I figured out what I had to teach them I became aware of what I should do in planning my own work.

In this business you grow every hour or you slide back. You see ideas that you can apply to the pro department. Some of them work others don't. But at least they all keep the members reminded that you are on the job and trying to do the best and the latest for them. The new ideas keep them awake to the pro instead of getting accustomed to just having the pro and his shop around, like the bar and the showers. One of the good ideas I picked up was from an article in GOLF-DOM in which a pro told about what he'd learned from a school teacher about teaching golf to youngsters. That led me into getting some very good ideas on teaching from a high school teacher who is a golf nut.

#### Don't Freeze on Learning

One of the risks of this business is that of getting our teaching pattern so set we may be slow in shifting it to the changing times. There are pros—and good ones, too—who are inclined to think that every new instruction idea is crazy. What we really need is more curious and exciting ideas that get our customers interested in golf instruction. They're all looking for magic and so are we. I want to have every man, woman and child in my club scoring around par, although I know it would be a miracle if some of them would break 100 four times in a row.

Remember when Alex Morrison came out with unorthodox ideas and a lot of the pros laughed or feared that Morrison would have the golfers so messed up they couldn't break 200 and would quit in disgust? I made money out of Morrison. When members mentioned him to me I said, "Well, I have read and thought about his book, too, so as soon as you have time for a lesson, we'll go out and see what there is in his system for you." Snead's, Nelson's, Hogan's and Novak's books all made money for me. They advertised golf instruction. Some of the ideas of these boys worked for my members. Others