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PGA President's Dinner, honoring the retiring Horton Smith, gathered the clan at Hotel St. Paul.

## Moffitt Elected PGA Head at Busy, Calm Meeting

By REX McMORRIS

**H**ARRY L. MOFFITT, for eight years a PGA national official, was elected president of the PGA at its 1954 annual meeting at St. Paul. The Heather Downs CC, Toledo, O., pro's previous service with the PGA has been as its treasurer for two years, its secretary for three years, and a national vp for three years. He has been a pro for 23 years.

Harold Sargent, Eastlake CC, Atlanta, Ga., pro, was switched after three years as PGA treasurer. He was elected the association's secretary. Sargent is a son of George, former PGA president. The new PGA treasurer was primarily responsible for the production of the highly effective PGA-Life film, "Keep 'Em on the Fairway."

Wally Mund, pro at Midland Hills CC, St. Paul, for 18 of the 25 years he's been with the club, was elected PGA treasurer. Mund, long active in PGA local and national affairs, was elected on the fifth ballot of a race which also had as contestants George Lake, Jimmy Fogerty, Bill Gordon, Emil Beck and Warren Cantrell.

There were virtually no contests for national posts other than treasurer, and that election concluded amicably with the unsuccessful candidates and their supporters cheerfully conceding the duties, responsibilities and problems of PGA officials are not to be eagerly sought.

Newly elected as PGA vps are George Hall, Ithaca, N. Y.; Micky Riley, Salt Lake City, Ut.; and Charles Congdon, Tacoma, Wash.

Jerry Barber was elected chmn., Tournament committee. Others on the committee are Fred Haas, Jr., Cary Middlecoff, Shelly Mayfield, Jackson Bradley, Pres. Harry Moffitt and Sec. Harold Sargent.

### Business Sessions Tops

The two-day pro department business conference which started the PGA general sessions were, in the opinions of attending professionals, the most profitable educational programs ever put on in golf business. George Lake, chmn. of the Business Operations session and Harold Sargent, chmn. of the Teaching committee set subjects and assigned speakers on programs covered elsewhere in this issue.

Lake and Sargent, according to pros present, established a pattern that should be followed in PGA sections in tremendously increasing pro service to clubs and pro profits.

The time-table presenting the pro business sessions first was devised by the PGA's retiring president Horton Smith and his administration last year in the hope that nation-wide newspaper publicity might be given to the work of club pros for all golfers.

However, the usual tough luck of the PGA with its tournament publicity wrecked the well-laid plans to get some of the sport section spotlight on the club professionals.

#### **Tournament Headache Again**

The hassle between the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of the L. A. Open at Rancho GC, Jan. 7-10, and the William B. MacDonald-PGA co-sponsored Pan-American Open scheduled for conflicting dates took the big play on the sports pages and gave the big headache to the PGA. Wires, letters and telephone calls from prominent Angelenos backed the case of the delegation of the LA Jaycees at St. Paul. MacDonald made a quick trip, offering to compromise.

Concessions also were made by the PGA and the LA Jaycees but not enough to bring them together on the LA tournament deal. The LA Open is one of the few remaining major events not co-sponsored by the PGA and although not in the same class with the National Open and the Masters' has a long history dating back to 1926, to when pros needed tournaments.

#### **Discuss Tourney Minor League**

Tournament affairs happily settled at St. Paul included a proposal to arrange southern exhibitions for the British Ryder Cup team en route to the Ryder Cup matches at Thunderbird CC, Palm Springs, Calif., Nov. 5-6, establishment of a championship at PGA National course, Dunedin, Fla., for those being PGA members 25 years or more, a recommendation of sectional qualifying rounds for George S. May's All-American tournaments, and endorsement of a minor league tournament circuit.

A tremendous amount of routine committee business was ably handled without any significant developments.

#### **PGA MEETING SIDELIGHTS**

B. H. Ridder, newspaper publishing notable, expert senior golfer and member of PGA Advisory committee, was host to PGA delegates and other guests at epicurean dinner at University club, St. Paul, prior to PGA sessions. Ridder's sons, Bernard, jr., and Dan, also are fine businessman golfers. Bernie is on Western GA board.

\* \* \*

PGA Advisory committee sessions, with Chmn. David Griffith at the helm, had Harry Radix as acting sec. in absence of George S. May. May's doctors ruled out

his attendance. Jerome Bowes, Chicago, formerly pres., Western GA and donor of the America's Cup; and Floyd Akers, Washington, D. C., were named new members of Advisory committee.

Macdonald Smith, who died in 1949, was elected to PGA's Hall of Fame, getting 121 votes from golf writers and officials.

Ed Furgol received the PGA's "Professional Golfer of the Year" award at the President's Dinner. Furgol had 417½ votes to Ben Toski's 367½ from press, pros and golf officials.

Wallie Mund was a smooth and competent toastmaster at the dinner honoring the diligent and invaluable Horton Smith.

Harold Sargent paid tribute to three grand ones who passed from the golfing scene recently, Grantland Rice, Robert E. Harlow and Fielding Wallace.

Walter Silkworth, of the Philadelphia section presented that section's plaque to Herb Graffis "in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the game of golf." The surprise of the presentation and his uneasiness at not being with his comrade of many years at PGA affairs, Bob Harlow, had the normally fluent Graffis stumbling in expressing his deep appreciation.

#### **Golf Day Fund Distribution Approved at St. Paul**

NATIONAL Golf Fund, Inc., in its annual meeting, held during PGA meeting at St. Paul, approved distribution of funds raised by National Golf Day, 1954. Fifty per cent of the Golf Day income goes to the USO. The \$65,943 check will be given USO officials at Chicago, Jan. 6.

The PGA Benevolent, Relief and Educational funds got \$12,740; the caddie scholarship funds \$25,000, turf research work got \$10,700, AWVS for Swing Club activities got \$3000, Possibilities Unlimited got \$4000, U. S. Jaycees for junior golf got \$9000, U. S. Blind Golf Assn, \$2,000 and the MidAtlantic Blind Golfers Assn. got \$2000.

Fred L. Riggin, sr. was re-elected pres., National Golf Fund, Inc.; J. Edward King was re-elected vp; Tom Crane, sec.-treas.; and Milt Woodard and Herb Graffis, directors.

New members elected are Arthur R. Murphy of Life, Lincoln Werden of N. Y. Times and pres., Golf Writers Assn. of America; and Joseph C. Dey, jr., of the USGA.

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# Turfgrass Questions Answered

By FRED V. GRAU

Dr. Grau will welcome questions on course maintenance subjects from superintendents, green chairmen, club and public course officials. There is no charge or obligation attached to this service. Address Queries — Grau, Golfdom, 407 S. Dearborn St., Chicago 5, Ill.

**T**HE MANY questions that arise about turfgrass management point up how great is the need for information.

We have made much progress, but we still have a long way to go. If each of us had to learn the way alone, we would not make much headway. Fortunately we have organizations that enable us to pool our resources and to progress more rapidly. The Golf Course Superintendents Assn. of America is a shining example of the good results achieved through group effort. This year's meeting will be the 26th National Turfgrass Conference and Show — a long and successful record of working together.

Cooperation among superintendents has been an important factor in the progress of turfgrass science. But for a long time turfgrass science itself existed alone, a thing apart from other branches of agronomic science. Recognition of turfgrass science by the American Society of Agronomy in 1948 opened the way to greater accomplishment working side by side with men from related fields.

The Turfgrass committee of the Agronomy Society was organized to study the needs of the industry and to stimulate interest in needed research. At the first meeting of our committee in 1948, we made an educated guess as to the scope of the turfgrass industry. These speculations paved the way for the recent Turfgrass Survey in Los Angeles County which obtained concrete evidence of the size and scope of the industry.

Much more of that type of information is needed. When we have figures that prove the value of our industry it is much easier to get administrators to take notice and to allot us our share of the funds for research. The aims of the committees are very practical ones!

Other practical accomplishments of the committee include discussion of certification of seed and stolons to protect the interests of you, the consumer. The commit-

tee reviews problems and makes recommendations for problems to be considered by research agencies.

The Turfgrass committee gives recognition to graduate students, and encourages students to participate in the turfgrass industry. New blood in the form of young men well-trained for the job is going to have a tremendous stimulation on the industry as a whole. It is significant that several of our agricultural colleges award a B. S. degree in Agriculture to students who specialize in turfgrass management. We are gaining recognition. And we have obtained international recognition through the International Grasslands Congress.

The work of the Turfgrass committee benefits the turfgrass industry in general. Recognition of the industry as a whole gives greater prestige to every individual engaged in it. Through the work of the committee every superintendent has gained stature and official standing. Superintendents are welcomed as members of the Agronomy Society because of the valuable practical knowledge which they can contribute. The more member superintendents there are, the greater will be their representation on the Turfgrass committee. This committee is making decisions that affect everyone in the industry and it is important that all phases of the industry be represented.

**Q—How can I become a member of the American Society of Agronomy?**

**A—**Drop a line to L. G. Monthey, Exec. Sec'y, American Society of Agronomy, 2702 Monroe St., Madison 5, Wis. Simply ask for an application blank. Or if you prefer you can address this column and an application blank will be sent to you. Most superintendents probably would prefer the associate, non-voting membership which includes a subscription to *Crops and Soils*. The cost is \$6 a year.

**Q**—We were unable to topdress our greens this fall. Is this likely to cause any adverse effects next season? (N. H.)

**A**—There is no reason for you to be concerned about not having been able to get topdressing on your greens. If they are in good condition they can go through the winter perfectly well without the fall topdressing. In fact, you may be better off. The fall topdressing might have sent the greens into the winter in a softer condition which would make them more prone to snowmold and other types of winter damage. It may be well for you to consider vertical mowing equipment on these greens early next spring to remove any dead stuff that has accumulated which would probably tend to increase trouble from disease in the spring and next summer.

**Q**—What do you know about the new crabgrass killer, di-sodium methyl arsonate? (O.)

**A**—This chemical has been tested in a limited way for about a year, and we do not yet have documented reports on it—only evidence from local testing. There it shows unusual promise for the control of annual grasses, including crabgrass and goosegrass. It is reported that there is only slight effect on the perennial grasses, even the bentgrasses. The action of the material appears to be different from that of sodium arsenite. It seems to be important that the soil moisture be favorable when the material is used. This chemical has been distributed thus far only on an experimental basis, though there are plans to market it on a national scale in 1955.

**Q**—What is a good size for a nursery of improved grasses? (Ore.)

**A**—The minimum size for a nursery would be one large enough to resod two putting greens. On most courses this would be about 10,000 sq. ft.

**Q**—We wish to try out an improved Bermudagrass on several of our greens. How heavily should we seed? Is the seed very expensive? (La.)

**A**—All improved Bermudagrasses are bought in stolon or sprig form. There is no seed of these improved grasses. The improved Bermudas cost anywhere from \$10 to \$40 for enough grass to establish 1,000 sq. ft., depending upon the kind, the source and the rate of planting. The higher figure is almost exactly the cost of creeping bent stolons which are used throughout the north and parts of the southwest. I would suggest you establish



### PLAYING SURE BETS IN GRASS

Turf experts inspect Desert In CC green at Las Vegas, Nev., where Wilbur Clark spent \$1,250,000 getting a finely-conditioned course. L to R Charles Wilson, O. J. Noer, James Watson and Howard Capps, Desert Inn pro.

the improved Bermuda in a nursery, which should be maintained in putting green condition. Then the improved grass can be introduced into the greens by plugging. By using a turf plugger, the greens can be changed without taking them out of play or inconveniencing the players.

**Q**—We do not have a very large budget to work with. Can you tell me an inexpensive way to remove heavy mat from greens? (Wis.)

**A**—I do not know of any inexpensive way to remove heavy mat from greens because it will either take a machine or it will take expensive hand labor. Probably it would be less expensive to remove the mat mechanically with a vertical mower than with hand labor. The machine can be used in many ways, but once you have spent your money for labor it cannot be used again.

**Q**—We have considerable trouble with pocket gophers on our course. We have been trapping them but it is impossible to keep up with them. Can you recommend an easy way to eliminate them? (N. Dak.)

**A**—Apparently gophers relish crisp lettuce leaves. Superintendents have found that sprinkling zinc phosphide powder on lettuce leaves and inserting them into a fresh gopher run is very successful.

**Q**—Every year we are troubled by clover showing up in the greens in late September and early October. Does it remain alive during the winter months or reseed itself each year? Can we control it with sulfate of ammonia? What is the best method of doing this? (Pa.)

A—Since your clover does not appear in early spring or late summer, but in late September and early October, it indicates to me that the grass may be weakened by a combination of brownpatch and dollarspot. It also could be due to the fact that your greens have not received sufficient fertilizer during the summer to make them strong enough to resist the invasion of clover later in the season.

Clover does stay dormant during the months that it is not showing on the surface. Clover does seed itself but it does not necessarily have to reseed itself. The root system can stay alive over many months or even years.

Applying sulfate of ammonia may not completely eradicate the clover, because it can come back unless you establish a turf dense enough to prevent it from returning. This essentially is done through the introduction and proper management of strains of grasses that are disease-resistant and are aggressive enough to choke out the clover. One of the best in recent years has been the new Pennlu strain of creeping bent. This can be introduced into the greens with a cup cutter or a turf plugger, and the players will not be inconvenienced in any way while this is being done.

When applying sulfate of ammonia on clover it is best first to bruise the clover by rubbing with the shoe, the back of a rake or some other device. Then the sulfate of ammonia scattered dry on the clover will quickly burn the clover leaves. After a few hours in the sun the sulfate can be washed into the green where it will nourish the grass but the clover will take longer to recover.

**Q—Will you please comment on the enclosed clipping, referring to the control of goosegrass, silver crab or crowfoot with a phenyl mercury and 2, 4-D mixture? (1a.)**

A—I would be quite unwilling to recommend this treatment for Washington or Congressional greens in the Iowa territory. I am very much afraid this mixture would irreparably damage the bentgrasses if there was any slip-up in the rate or method of application. In some cases the phenyl mercury and 2, 4-D mixture has been used on bentgrasses, but at a very reduced rate and under particularly favorable conditions. I do not believe that anybody is recommending this treatment in a general way.

You must consider that in the instance mentioned in the clipping, the mixture was

being used on Bermudagrass, which has a tremendous power to recuperate from anything that is done to it. The bentgrasses on your greens probably do not have the same ability.

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### PGA Seniors Set Dunedin Big Week, Jan. 24-30

**H**UGH BANCROFT, pres., PGA Seniors, and his venerable associates have set the program for the PGA Old Settlers' week which will culminate Jan. 30 in the final round of the PGA Seniors' championship at the PGA National course, Dunedin, Fla.

Jan. 24 will be open for warm-up play. Senior pro, best-ball foursome and the annual meeting will be on Jan. 25 and the annual banquet will be Jan. 26.

Wm. Teacher & Sons Ltd. again picks up the tab for travelling expenses for section qualifiers for the PGA Seniors, the match between the US and British Seniors' championships, and the Teacher's trophy awarded the winner.

The PGA Quarter Century Club, for those who have been PGA members 25 years or more, will be played during the veterans' gathering. Prize money from the Professional Golfers' Corp., Knoxville, Tenn., has been arranged by Quarter Century Club pres. John Inglis.

This will be the 16th PGA Seniors' championship. Jock Hutchison won the first one in 1937. No championships were played in 1943 and '44.

The Tournament committee is headed by John Watson and includes Jack Williams, George Ferrier, Ralph Beach and Gene Sarazen. Special committee for the annual reunion consists of George Livingstone, Charles Mayo and George Dodge. Officers of PGA Seniors, besides Bancroft are Honorary pres. Otto Hardt, 1st vp Marty Cromb, 2d vp Carroll McMaster and sec.-treas. Willie Whalen.

Mrs. John Watson heads the banquet committee of the PGA Seniors Ladies' Auxiliary.

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For doing valuable work added to already heavy schedule editors of the bulletins of the various sectional course superintendents associations deserve hearty thanks from their colleagues and golfers in their sections. These fellows gather a lot of close-up stuff that can be used right on the jobs in their areas.



# Pro Business Examined by Experts at PGA Meet

**P**RO department business amounting annually to more than 65 times all the prize money in major and minor tournament golf for a year got intense business-like study the first day of the 38th annual meeting of the PGA.

PGA Vp George Lake who is Chmn., Educational committee of the association, put across in this session the idea he's had of impressing upon club pros the fact that theirs is a leading sports industry and must be handled accordingly.

After overtures by Pres. Horton Smith and Vp Wally Mund, Lake brought on J. Edward King, Vp, Time, Inc., and Life magazine's Promotion Director Hudson Stoddard. They presented an illustrated review of National Golf Day, co-sponsored by the PGA and Life, and plans for the 1955 Golf Day.

King reported the receipts from 1954 Golf Day as \$128,795 in the U. S. and \$12,904 in Canada. Life picked up heavy tabs for promotion expenses. Participation in the event has grown each year but obviously needs better planning and operation on the club and pro ends. Organization is developing, with the Junior Chamber of Commerce outfits most active.

King presented a plan for having PGA sectional officials compile names and addresses of club officials whose cooperation in National Golf Day is essential. About 60 per cent of PGA members' clubs were represented in Golf Day last year.

The PGA-Life instruction and promotion film "Keep 'Em in the Fairway" had about 800 showings during 1954 in the U. S. and several foreign countries.

Betty Brooks of the Life promotion dept., together with PGA members, suggested that a woman champion play against women entries this year. Ed Furgol as National Open champion will be the man the 1955 field will play against.

National Golf Day probably will be spread over several days this year. Arrangements are under way to get the event scheduled on golf club events calendars prepared early in the year.

## "Par for Pro Dept." Planned

Herb Graffis outlined the script for the PGA Educational committee sound slide film on "Par for the Pro Department."

Graffis told of interviews and correspondence with PGA members, manufacturers, salesmen and retailing experts in other fields in assembling the film material. He said that although every pro playing knows what par is for the course the pro doesn't definitely know what par is for his pro department operations, hence doesn't know specifically how to rate his performance.

He presented 18 points for "pro department par" which aroused considerable discussion among pros at the St. Paul meeting.

Among the outsiders' views of pro department operation which Graffis relayed was one of a prominent retailing authority who said he was mystified by the general pro shop practice of keeping under glass and difficult of access the balls the pros wanted to push as being best for their customers' play and most profitable for pros, while keeping the cheap balls out in the open, easy to reach and plainly priced.

The authority said that even under competitive pressure on lower grade ball sales it would be wiser for pros to give their top quality golf balls an even break in merchandising.

## Pros Need "News Nose"

"A nose for news" as an important qualification of the successful club pro was described by George Edmond, nationally-known sports writer of the St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch staff.

Edmond said that prompt telephoning or messenger delivery of scores by the pro or an assistant was a necessary routine but was sometimes neglected or carelessly handled. Papers do not always have sports section space enough to handle all scores but pros can learn what the papers can use by making friends with the golf writers.

Anything unusual in the way of golf news, even a hole-in-one under strange conditions, always is eagerly sought by sports departments and pros should keep on the lookout for such happenings.

Edmonds stressed accuracy in reporting scores and spelling names and giving details. Pro opinions as column material he rated highly.

He said that as a general rule the

morning papers preferred "spot" news material and the afternoon papers could use material in which the time element wasn't paramount. He cautioned pros to give all papers an even break. Edmonds also told how publicity on a "Diehards" tournament played in fall had extended the season in the St. Paul-Minneapolis district.

#### **Watson Describes Course Work**

Dr. James Watson, chief agronomist of Toro Mfg. Co., in a talk illustrated by colored slides, told of problems and advances in course maintenance. Watson briefly described features of the new grasses and new chemical treatments. He said that course design now was taking smarter consideration of drainage, machine maintenance, and larger tees to reduce expensive wear and maintenance.

Watson also said there's a need of beautification of courses. At the entrance of the clubhouse grounds is the place to begin better conditioning by beautification, he remarked. Spotting colorful umbrellas and chairs around the clubhouse grounds and first tee is advisable.

More frequent cutting of fairways instead of taking a 1/2 in. or more at a cut of fairways has resulted in turf improvement, said Watson. He also commented on improvements in watering practice.

Where the pro could help greatly in improving course maintenance by understanding the course superintendents' problems accounted for another valuable phase of the Watson talk. He said that the first three greens of many courses were damaged by players getting on them before the sun had removed the frost. He recommended that pros prevent this early play when frost was a peril.

#### **Smart Ones Are Team Workers**

Norman C. Johnson, Pres., Golf Course Superintendents' Assn., and supt., San Jose CC, Jacksonville, Fla., in speaking on "Departmental Cooperation at Golf Clubs" said teamwork between supts. and pros had greatly improved with common information and understanding.

He said that in his own work he'd always got along well with the pros at his clubs because he had a pretty fair idea of what they were up against in their operations and they knew enough about the problems of his job to appreciate that course maintenance was specialized and difficult work; tough enough with grass without having complications with unreasonable players.

Johnson recalled that when he was with

Tommy Armour at Medinah, Armour was a great help to him in getting acquainted with the advances and reasons for procedures and disappointments in course maintenance and in being a sympathetic interpreter of the superintendent's ambitions and obstacles.

Johnson remarked that the numerous duties of pros, superintendents and managers were so pressing and important departmentally that in a larger, active club specialists were needed in coordinated work. The smaller clubs with sharp budget limitations required combination job work that called for a considerable extension of the educational work of superintendents', professionals' and managers' organizations.

Kip Bowen, pres., Bowen and Hull, makers of Joyce golf shoes and distributors of other pro shop merchandise brought into focus the lessons of successful retailing to be applied at pro shops. The Bowen talk will appear in the February issue of *GOLFDOM*.

#### **Dey Leads Rules Discussion**

Joseph C. Dey, Jr., executive director of the USGA, presented the new USGA film "The Rules of Golf—Etiquette."

Joe said pros have a prime responsibility as paragons of sportsmanship in line with the high traditional spirit of the game. Any pro who is guilty of bad-tempered conduct or loss of self-control isn't "colorful" but is disgusting to men, women and children who know the true spirit of golf and disagreeably discouraging to those new to golf, Joe said. Furthermore the offending pro has a definitely adverse effect on all phases of all well-conducted pros' business, the USGA official declared.

Dey got Warren Orlick, Horton Smith and Bill Jelliffe on the platform as a panel to consult the Rules of Golf book in answering rules questions. Joe pointed out that one trouble in citing the rule that applied was that many didn't take any basic training in where in the book to look for the right answer.

One rules problem presented by Jimmy Thomson of Spalding's remained unanswered by Dey and the panel, after much discussion. The answer eventually will be forthcoming from the USGA Rules of Golf committee.

Thomson's case: Both players were playing balls of the same brand, number and color marking. Both players sliced. When the two balls were found one was unplayable. To which player did the un-