

## Hickory Hills Comes Back A Second Time Following Costly Fires In 1941 and 1954



Men's grill room of the newly completed Hickory Hills CC and pro shop (inset).

Since their club was destroyed by fire in 1941, and again in 1954, members of the Hickory Hills CC, Springfield, Mo., insisted on construction of incombustible buildings when their club was rebuilt again this year. Along with this, they demanded attractiveness, which was given them in the buildings' subdued contemporary style, plus the greatest possible degree of comfort in interior design.

The latter has been accomplished through the wide use of fiberglass accoustical tile and form board. Accoustical tile was installed in the ceilings in all the buildings to insure maximum quiet and also give a pleasant decorative touch. Form board was used exclusively in the men's locker room ceiling for its thermal as well as accoustical qualities. Because of high humidity here, a one-half inch thickness of fiberglass roof insulation was installed over the form board to reduce condensation.

### New Buildings Cost \$230,000

Cost of the new Hickory Hills buildings totaled \$230,000. The exterior is of Kansas, Phoenix and Texas limestone and the interior, in part, is of exposed brick and stone. Glass is used generously throughout the structure.

The club has a room for teenagers, a dining room that accommodates 400 persons, women's and men's locker rooms, cocktail and general lounges and a men's grill.

The club's pro shop fits in well with the general decor of the clubhouse. Interior walls are of stone and the front of the shop is a long expanses of glass overlooking the No. 1 tee. Arlin Stone, the pro, is the successor to such golfing greats as Horton Smith, Herman Keiser and Ky Laffoon.

## TV Cameras Grind As Ohioans Hold Field Day

By R. R. DAVIS, H. A. RUNNELS and J. B. POLIVKA

A total of 232 persons attended the second of a new series of turf field days at the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Wooster, Sept. 5. The group was composed of course supts. and other professionals who look after turf areas. Station KYW-TV, Cleveland, sent a mobile crew with cameras and sound equipment to cover the field day. This year's turf field day is the first to be covered by television in the history of the Wooster station.

Much interest was shown in the bentgrass strain trials carried on at Wooster. Arlington, Cohansey, Congressional, Old Orchard, and Toronto all are performing satisfactorily where dollarspot disease is controlled. Pennlu is very resistant to dollarspot disease but due to its aggressive habit has developed a serious spongy mat. Apparently very intensive management is necessary to keep Pennlu in good condition. The seeded bents, Astoria, Highland, and Seaside are not doing well at putting green height. Where cut  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch as for fairways they are doing very well.

Penncross bent, although seeded in the spring of 1956, already looks promising for golf greens. Although all the strains of bent appear to need a fungicide for controlling



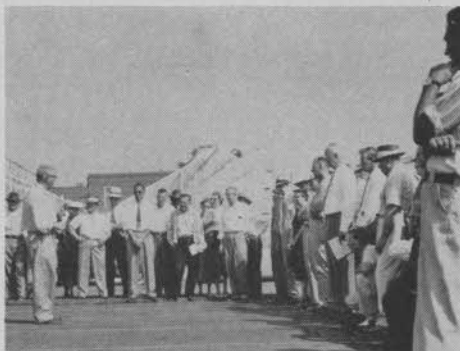
Lawson Deming KYW-TV interviews R. R. Davis.

dollarspot, there is a wide variation in the tolerance to the disease by the various varieties. Dahlgreen and Pennlu rate very high for natural tolerance to the disease. Astoria and Highland are also very resistant to dollarspot. Toronto, on the other hand, is very susceptible. Most of the other strains are in between the extremes.

### Merion Plots Outstanding

In four-year-old unirrigated plots containing bluegrasses, fescues, bents, zoysia, and bermudagrass, the Merion bluegrass plots are outstanding where cut at  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch or 2 inches. While common bluegrass and fescues are not adapted to short cut, Merion bluegrass makes a very tight sod at fairway height. Meyer zoysia and U-3 Bermuda, while looking quite well during the summer where cut short, are not well adapted since the growing season

is very short in northern Ohio. This year, Meyer zoysia plots did not green up until mid-May and two successive frosts later in the month set them back. U-3 Bermuda was even slower, it being the middle of June before the plots were green. A mixture of



Supts. listen to J. B. Polivka discuss insect control.

red fescue and Merion is now all Merion under relatively high nitrogen fertilization of 3 lbs. of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. per year.

A demonstration of several forms of nitrogen on a bluegrass sod showed that any form does a good job if properly used. Forms of nitrogen used were urea, both dry and as a spray, ammonium sulfate, activated sewage sludge, urea-form, and mixed fertilizer with slowly available nitrogen.

The value of Chlordane for controlling cutworms, sod webworms, and other insects was demonstrated. Repeated applications of Chlordane to bentgrass over a period of years may cause some browning in early spring and late fall. What appears to be a shortage of nitrogen in the spring causing the bentgrass to be slow starting growth may be a response to Chlordane. The Chlordane "injury" is not serious or permanent.

Much interest was shown in an exhibit of weeds with labels for identification. Pointers on identifying weeds were given and the best known methods for controlling them were discussed.

### Experimental Crabgrass Control

Station visitors were shown experimental crabgrass control plots on bluegrass sod where both spray and spreader applications of phenyl mercuric acetate and disodium methyl arsonate were made. Up to 5 applications of the materials were required for good control when starting the treatments after the crabgrass was approaching maturity. When applied in the small seedling stage three applications of the same materials did a fair to excellent control job. Alanap 1-1-F, a formulation for spreader application containing fertilizer, gave good pre-emergence control this year. Also, the new pre-emergence material, Neburon, continues to show promise.

The fungicide trials for controlling the dollarspot disease on bentgrass were of in-

*(Continued on page 105)*



# St. Louis Has Big Turnout for Field Day



Part of the delegation of more than 100 superintendents who gathered at Crystal Lake CC for the annual St. Louis district turf conference.

St. Louis district supts. staged one of their more successful Field Days on Sept. 25 for more than 100 persons who gathered at Crystal Lake CC for the district's annual turf conference. Speakers at the meeting included William Daniel of Purdue University, Marvin H. Ferguson, USGA green section and Jim Holmes of Mallinckrodt.

After observing weed control plots at Crystal Lake, the supts. were taken to Link's Nursery where they viewed experimental plots on fairways for weed control. Following this, they visited Westwood CC for a look at the No. 1 fairway, planted in U-3 Bermuda three years ago, and which

stands as a kind of monument to the fact that fine fairway grass can be grown and will survive through hot summer months.

At the evening meeting, Daniel, Ferguson and Holmes spoke and later presided at a general discussion of turf problems. Here it was brought out that as far as is known the St. Louis district is the only one in the country that is running private turf tests and doing its own research work.

Chairman of the St. Louis conference was Leo S. Bauman, Westwood CC, Clayton, who is a pioneer turfman and is credited with having played a leading role in getting the district's research project started.

## Turfmen Organize



Lou G. Vickers, Metairie CC, New Orleans, is the first pres. of the Louisiana Turfgrass Assn., organized at Southwestern Louisiana Institute in September. Other officers are: Vps: B. F. Carroll, Sherwood Forest CC, Baton Rouge and C. D. Smith, Barksdale GA, Shreveport; Secy.-treas. and Research Dir.: J. M. Peek, Assoc. Prof. of Agronomy, SLI. Directors are: Lt.-Col. H. C. Sheffield, Mike Barbato, Odis J. Lea; C. L. Deare; R. Z. Torrance and B. P. Robinson.

# Minn. GCSA Holds Two-Day Conference



Minnesota GCSA members gather on Toro Research Center green where sand-soil mixture is discussed

Nearly 100 representatives from golf courses, parks and cemeteries were on hand for the annual Turf conference staged by the Minnesota GCSA in Minneapolis in September. Most of the two day's activities were centered at the Toro Manufacturing Corp's research and development plots where studies and research in fertilizer, leaf mulching, putting green maintenance, Merion bluegrass fertility, and pre-emergent weed control herbicides were discussed.

## New Section Ready

At the time of the meeting, Toro agronomists had just finished preparing a new section of a green surface in which the soil was approximately 90 per cent sand. This was in keeping with recent developments at Texas A & M college and UCLA where soil mixtures of this kind have been intensively studied. Thus, Minnesota supts. had the opportunity of thoroughly exploring this type of green construction and maintenance.

Following the tour of the turf plots, the group attending the conference saw a demonstration of the newest types of green-keeping machinery. On the evening of the first day, the Toro company was host at a dinner for the turfmen and on the afternoon of the second day, Minnesota GCSA members held their annual golf tournament.

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## Chapman Foursome Handicap System Changed

Dick Chapman has revised the handicapping of the teams playing the increasingly popular Chapman team event in which both team members hit tee shots then, on second shots, A plays B's drive and B plays A's drive. After both balls have been hit twice each team selects the ball it chooses to play out with alternate shots.

The Chapman revision allots 35 per cent of combined handicaps to teams with total handicaps of 1 through 5. From 5 on, the allowance increases by two-tenths per cent per digit. That is for a combined total of 6, the handicap allotment is 35.2, for 7 it is 35.4, for 8 it is 35.6 until it reaches the team with a combined total of 80. They receive the maximum, an even 50 per cent or 40 strokes.

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## Utah-Idaho Conference

"Better Turfgrass Through the West" was the theme of the two-day Utah-Idaho conference held at Idaho Falls Municipal Course, Sept. 28-29. Speakers included William H. Bengueyfield, USGA green section, Western dir.; O. J. Noer, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission; George Orullian, pro and Dell Hammon, supt., Idaho Falls Golf Club; Tom Mascaro, West Point Products Corp; James R. Watson, Toro Mfg. Co.; Dr. Stark of Wasatch Chemical Co.; and Al Emery. Jay Richardson, USGA green committee, and R. A. Freeman, mgr. of Idaho Falls Municipal Course, were program chairmen.

## Noer — Turf Roundup

(Continued from page 70)

The production of seed heads in creeping bent grass nurseries is responsible for off-type strains. Some growers attempt to stop seed production with weed burners. At Purdue William Daniel prevented seed head formation by using maleic hydrazide. Positive results were obtained even with very light dosages of this chemical.

### Soil Sterilization

Cyanamid and methyl bromide have been used mostly for soil sterilization before sowing grass seed or planting stolons. Both are good. Several weeks must elapse between the use of cyanamid and seeding or planting. It does not kill underground Bermuda grass rhizomes. Methyl bromide is very effective, and kills the rhizomes of Bermuda and quack grass. It fails with some hard coated seeds of clover. Seeding or planting can proceed within 48 hours after treating. The liquid is introduced into sealed polyethylene tents. The methyl bromide changes to a heavy gas which sinks into the soil. It is allowed to act for 24 hours. Then the tent is removed and soil is left for another 24 hours before seeding or planting. Treatment cost is high.

A new soil sterilant, "Vapam", looks promising. It is diluted and sprayed or sprinkled over the surface. Drenching with water immediately to wash the Vapam into the soil is essential and said to be the secret of success. Seeding or planting can start in 10 to 14 days.

The turf nursery of Toronto bent at Maple Lane CC in Detroit is pure bent. Even poa annua is absent despite its presence in the area alongside the nursery. Clarence Wolfram follows this program before planting stolons in late fall, and thinks it the plan of weed and poa annua control. The nursery area is prepared by plowing or discing. Then sodium arsenite is sprayed over the surface at 1 lb. per 1000 sq. ft. with a minimum amount of water. The area is worked with a spring-tooth harrow to bring deeper soil to the surface and sodium arsenite is used again at the same rate. He sprays and cultivates six times in all and then plants the stolons.

### Faster Play Facilitated by New Maintenance Ideas

Bill Brady, supt., Maple Bluff CC, Madison, Wis., suggests that the supt. and the green chmn. keep their eyes on chances to enable players to get around the course faster, but in having the game made too easy it isn't fun.

Brady says "The greatest improvement in playing condition at Maple Bluff this year has been the lowering of the cut on the blind holes. We used to have a 4½ ins. heavy bluegrass rough and this slow-

ed up play while golfers looked for balls. By lowering the cut to 1½ ins. out about 150 yds. the balls are easily found; yet, there's still rough that is somewhat of a hazard. The player who doesn't get 150 yds. already has lost enough distance and should be penalized more.

"We also left a 10 ft. to 12 ft. strip of protective rough along out-of-bounds fences to keep the ball in the course. Especially along hard and dry fairways such strips save time and money for the player as much of our out-of-bounds is bordered by railroad bank and road.

### Research Does the Job

"Research has done a tremendously valuable job for us in providing chemicals with wider range of effective use. We formerly had to buy four or five chemicals for different diseases and go to the expense of applying them separately. Now one chemical will control several diseases in all kinds of weather and without shock or burn to the turf.

"Research that would be of high value to our course would be that developing a hardy grass for our iron-shot tees. We are too far north for good results with zoysia. The grass, we need, preferably of the texture of zoysia, must be able to stand the low cut of our bent tees."

### Areas Around Greens, Rough and Ladies Tees Need Study

Areas adjacent to greens and the rough often provide opportunities to step up maintenance with results that are conspicuous and pleasing to the players and the supt., says Walter Leix, supt., Shannopin CC, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Leix relates that at Shannopin this year areas adjacent to the greens and tees were limed and fertilized but, because of topography of those localities, couldn't be aerified. The rough was aerified, limed and fertilized. The Shannopin supt. calls attention to the usual case of budgets being stretched to the limit to do everything possible for the greens, collars, fairways and tees. Due to those primary demands, other areas often get less grooming than the supt. and chmn. would like to give them. When you can get around to giving rough, green and tee areas some special attention the work does a whole lot to make the whole picture of the course sparkle.

At Shannopin, several of the ladies' tees were enlarged. "Women's golf is increas-



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ing so much at most clubs that the ladies tees, which commonly are only makeshift jobs of design and construction that have been in 20 years or longer at many courses, can stand studious reconstruction," Leix points out.

This year Leix has had excellent results in applying the new crabgrass control chemicals and advises that this application of one result of research alone has been worth a great deal to his club.

As far as the program for golf turf research is concerned the Shannopin supt. opines: "Burt Musser of Penn State has the experience, knowledge and about everything else but money and additional qualified men to develop turf research along lines that will do most good for golfers. Golf course supts. and chmn. know how difficult it is to get the budgets they need and, of necessity, have tight operating policies. Practically every man responsible for course maintenance in Pennsylvania can testify that every penny Musser and his associates has spent in turf research has paid dividends to golf."

### **Suggests Turf Research Under Playing Conditions**

Lawrence Huber, supt., Ohio State University courses, Columbus, O., voices the opinion of numerous supts. in saying he would like to see more turf research conducted under actual playing conditions. Some subjects that, in Huber's judgment, need scientific study on courses where thousands of rounds are played are crabgrass elimination, poa annua control and compaction. The great practical value turf research has meant in course operation would be substantially increased if research specialists and supts. could devise procedure that would present conditions of actual golf turf use as the basis of research projects.

Huber says that in his own case his practical experience is kept closely coordinated with what he learns by observation of the tests made at the Midwest Turf Foundation plots at Purdue and other experimental stations, and with the experience of successful supts. he meets at the GCSA annual conferences.

One point that Huber stresses in commenting on this year's course maintenance operations is that standards of "house-keeping" at courses have been noticeably better than ever before. He says "better grooming definitely has improved playing conditions. Better equipment and more

of it, increased understanding of the details and policies of course management and, for the first time in years, a higher grade of available labor have enabled many supts. to give more polish to the job than has been possible before."

### **California Groups Hold Turf Conference**

The annual joint meeting of the Northern and Southern California GCSA was held at the Sunnyside CC, Fresno, Oct. 9. The joint meeting of the two groups has been an established custom for many years and was attended by more than 100 supts.

Verne Conklin, pres. of the northern group was host with Jack Baker, Valley Club, Santa Barbara, pres. of the southern group, assisting.

Winton Strong of Fresno State College gave the luncheon talk on soils and irrigation. Using test tubes, flower pots, coffee cans and orange juice cans, Strong told his audience much about water and its use, soils, soil compaction, irrigation and methods of making simple soil tests to aid management and irrigation practices.

### **Washington Junior Program**

The Junior Golf program of Washington, D. C., now in its 29th year, is keeping 400 boys "off the streets and on the fairways from April until fall," according to Frank Emmet, director, who has long played a leading role in providing recreation for youthful clubswingers in and around the nation's capital.

This year, the Washington Junior group sponsored three high school leagues and promoted five tournaments. In past years it has played host to the USGA Junior championship, Simpson Cup (International team matches) and Western Junior championship. The USGA Junior tournament is scheduled to be held under its auspices again in 1957.

Arrangements also were made to send Washington Junior stars to leading national tournaments this year in Massachusetts, North Dakota and Toronto.

Sixteen pros have graduated from Washington Junior ranks and more than 50 amateurs who have won local or national recognition as star golfers got their start in the program. Golf Writer Merrell Whittlesey of the Washington Star was also introduced to the game through the Junior program.





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## Grau—Turf Roundup

(Continued from page 58)

We can't blame the chmn. because they come and go and a dentist (6 handicap) isn't really expected to know too much about course needs. Someone must tell him in writing.

Through contacts with leading supts., several valuable lessons have been learned. One is that there must be an item in the annual budget for Equipment Replacement. Raises usually do not go to the man with greasy clothes who keeps on patching old wornout machines until they are held together with baling wire, chewing gum and prayer. The supt. with clean clothes and bright new (or new-looking) equipment is far more likely to have his paycheck fattened annually.

"Saving the club's money" by maintaining obsolete equipment is doing no favor to the club and no one gives or gets credit for that. The time to get new equipment is when the budget is prepared — not when a machine breaks down from old age during the middle of the season. When this happens the committee is likely to say, "Didn't he know the condition of his machinery? Why didn't he ask for replacement when we had our budget meeting?"

Most golf clubs have just so much money they can spend in any one season or year. A few have special assessments for additions. With better understanding of finances, and by demonstrating his ability to develop and handle a budget, the supt. of tomorrow will be given much more opportunity to see and to work within the whole financial picture of the club. When this happens club and the supt. both will be in sounder positions.

### Learning the Business of Golf

What sort of picture does this paint for the supt. who is on the job now who has not developed needed business knowledge? Is the picture black and hopeless for him? Not at all! Among the ranks of the golf course supts. there are many who have developed excellent business and accounting methods. In the Q & A department recently we named several, necessarily omitting many others. Their methods are available or could be made available. In most cities there are night schools where one can learn business principles. The chmn. himself may be the most help of all. Frequently he is a successful business man who can help the supt. set up a sound system. The best part of this is that the two would be working together! A mutual understanding will develop which will be beneficial to all.

So far, not a word about turf — diseases, insects, fertilizers, grasses, etc., etc. This is the technical side of maintenance, ineffective without a fair budget which is sufficient to provide all needed items to maintain the kind of a golf course members want.

As I see it, arrangements must be made to provide the supt. with everything he needs, with the understanding that the course is

his responsibility. Credit or blame rests then on the supt.'s shoulders only. How much better this setup than where the chmn. personally tries to give orders to workmen and usually ends up with things in a mess.

A successful chmn. recently said to me, "I figure my job is to be interested in and to know what is going on, not to interfere, and to go to the board and get what the supt. tells me we need to keep a good golf course".

Included in the duties of our supts. of tomorrow is the matter of reports. Nearly everyone likes to get a report. In order to write a good report one must be able to use the English language effectively. He must be logical, know the subject thoroughly, use non-technical language, be brief, and make reports at regular intervals.

Keeping the chmn., committee and board informed may be a very good way to establish a basis for regular salary increases. If the supt. makes a report only when a pump burns out or tractor breaks down he could earn a very low rating for himself. Reporting the good things regularly can minimize occasional unfortunate occurrences. A bit of human psychology is a very useful part of one's training.

## Golfers Decorate Walls with Achievement Awards

Golfers who like to have evidence of their prowess out where everyone can see it have a friend in Dode Forrester, Hobs (N. M.) CC pro. Whenever man, woman or junior at Dode's course shoots the lowest score of his or her career, scores a hole-in-one, eagle, breaks the course record or wins a prize in a club tournament, the Hobbs pro awards them an appropriate certificate.

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Quite a few awards have been made since Forrester originated the idea early this year and many of them are hanging on walls in homes and offices throughout the city.