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## In Horse and Buggy Era

Speaking on labor and related problems, Elmer Border said that in spite of equipment improvements in the last 25 years, courses are still in the horse and buggy era when it comes to carrying out mowing operations. "Mowers have been improved tremendously," Border declared, "but they haven't been speeded up sufficiently to even make a dent in our most expensive maintenance operation. If the manufacturers really want to help us they'll concentrate their research and engineering in producing faster equipment without sacrificing any of its present efficiency."

Border also pointed out that poor labor management plus benefits such as sick leave, paid holidays, etc. reduce actual available manpower hours at courses by approximately 15 per cent. The benefits are here to stay, Border said, but the supt., by learning first to manage himself, can save his club many lost work hours through better scheduling and more efficient deployment of his labor force.

Marion Luke, the laconic supt. from Augusta, revealed that the day after the Masters tournament is out of the way, the club starts preparing for the next one, although the bulk of the work for each tourney is handled between Jan. 1 and the early April date on which the event gets started.

## What's Fast Grass, Marion?

Luke described a few of the little humorous touches that are associated with the tournament. When a pro has a good day, he said, the grass is fine; but let him blow a round and he'll swear that better turf can be found in a cow pasture. At least once a year, Luke manages to victimize a city-bred newspaperman with the gag that the greens are fast because fast grass is planted at Augusta. But he always has been able to intercept the hapless fellow before the latter manages to get this startling bit of intelligence into his paper.

About 40 extra workers have to be em-

## To Chicago

The 1959 GCSA convention will be held in Chicago from Jan. 25-30. Detroit was expected to make a bid for next year's supt's meeting but gave up the idea when it was found that the city didn't have large enough hotel facilities for staging the convention.

## Eleanor's Divot

Eleanor Kerns, wife of Russ, supt. at Green Hill Yacht & CC, Salisbury, Md., recently won a "Most Original" prize in a local competition for a hat which she concocted from a 16-in. diameter divot taken from her husband's 12th green. The 8 lb. creation included a miniature doll in Scottish attire, a flag and a sandtrap (foreground) containing actual sand. It had to be sprigged into an inverted cooking pan so that Eleanor could wear it.



played a week before the Masters starts, Luke said, and they are around a week after the tournament is over, cleaning up debris. In more recent years the Augusta supt. has had his work multiplied with the introduction of TV towers which have to be moved around the course by his crew.

Earl Yesberger, who spent about eight years raising enough money to buy land and build a 9-hole course in North Olmstead, O., gave an insight as to how resourceful a fellow has to be to serve as proprietor, supt. and a few other things at a small club. Yesberger irrigates with a pump-in-center, spider web system that he installed and treats his greens by introducing dyed chemicals through it. The irrigation system is fed by a lake that Yesberger also constructed.

Citing some things that public course owners often overlook or are careless about, the North Olmstead owner said that he is very finicky about replacing broken flagpoles, keeping benches and bridges repaired, making sure that water fountains, ball washers, etc. are kept tidy and seeing that the course is kept free of debris. Yesberger also pointed out the money saving advantages of having both an intercom and public address systems at small courses, saying that this combination enables him to get along with fewer employees than he would have to have if he didn't use them.

## New Fertilizers

Dr. Jesse A. DeFrance, discussing new developments in turgrass fertilization, said that methylene urea compounds, containing 38 per cent nitrogen, have worked out well in tests because they have excellent slow release qualities. The same is true of the new synthetic polymers, also with 38 per cent nitrogen content.



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**CLUBHOUSE GROUNDS?** Differential on 30-inch Toro Park Special gives high maneuverability.

### **GCSA Banquet**

The annual GCSA banquet which was held on the evening of Feb. 6 at the Shoreham was attended by about 600 persons, a capacity crowd. Speechmaking was held to a minimum although Joe Valentine, Scotty McLaren, H. B. Musser, Lawrence Dickinson and Glen Burton were awarded plaques for their contributions to the advancement of turf management.

The ureaforms, also comparatively new, and which can be used alone or in mixtures, have proved to be fine fertilizing agents because of their uniform response.

DeFrance advised the supts. to learn everything possible about the needs of their grasses insofar as fertilizers are con-

cerned, particularly in the light of the soil and climate conditions in which they are grown. Determining what grasses need more fertilizer than others, he added, requires long and careful observation. This, plus a study of the release rates and other facts about the many types of fertilizers on the market, will enable the supt. to avoid overfeeding or starving the turf on his course, or perhaps seriously burning it, DeFrance said.

He also made a comparison of inorganic and natural organic fertilizers. The former, ammonia derived, he said, are fast release agents which have to be applied with caution to give desired results. The latter are fine for warm weather application because of their low nitrogen, slow release properties. He did not recommend them very highly, however, for winter feeding or starting new turf because they do not supply sufficient nutrients at the normal rate of application.

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### **Mid-Atlantic Group Dramatizes Monthly Meeting at Friday Windup**

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The convention's education program was concluded on Friday with members of the Mid-Atlantic GCSA acting out a typical monthly meeting; Merrill Whittelsey, golf editor of the Washington Evening Star giving the supts. hints on how they can create publicity for themselves; a talk on progress in management by Dr. O. J. Noer, which was supplemented by the showing of a film; and a summary of the conference by Dr. Fred V. Grau. In the afternoon, Raymond Korbobo of Rutgers University spoke on the art of landscaping. The final act involved a question and answer session with a panel of agronomists and supts. supplying the answers to questions that came from the floor.

The Mid-Atlantic's skit was delivered with a true professional touch because the members of the cast had lived their roles many times before in the process of attending monthly meetings. The plot revolved around a "Constructive Suggestion Report," a solid, condensed outline of how supts. go about improving turf and their courses. Charles Wilson of Milwaukee Sewerage Commission played the part of the gavel man. The skit was well received, with comment in the corridors indicating that most supts. thought the Mid-Atlantic actors had pulled off an exceptionally good production.

In advising the supt. to become his own promotion man, Merrill Whittelsey suggested that he first become acquainted with his local sports writers in order to be able to funnel news items to their papers with the likelihood that they will be printed. Whittelsey also said it isn't a bad idea to cultivate garden and home improvement editors.

"When tournaments are being held at your course," the Evening Star editor continued, "be sure you're around, properly dressed for the occasion, because if the fairways and greens are lauded by the contestants, you want to be there to take a bow. You become better known this way too — and that always helps!"

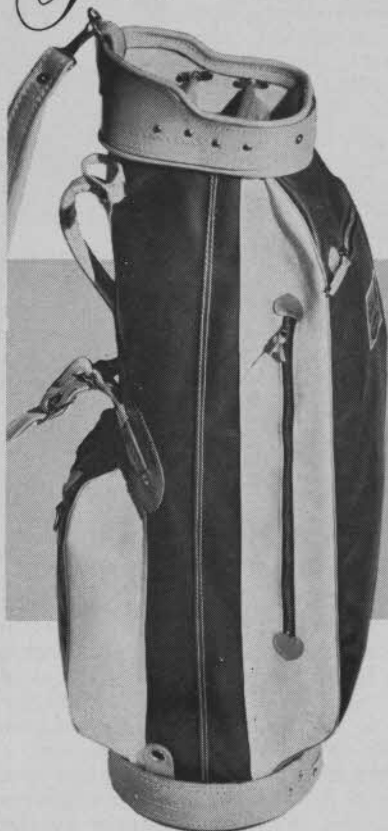
Illustrating how publicity can be broadcast, Whittelsey told of how he happened to overhear Charley Schalestock's ideas on air-conditioning a course, used it in an article the following day, and then heard a lot of people including Vice-President Dick Nixon, talking about it.

### **Needs Publicity Man**

Merrill also suggested that a growing organization such as the GCSA should give thought to hiring a publicity man. "There was little advance dope available on your meeting here," he said. "Writers and sportscasters in the Wash-



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ington area would have been happy to give you time and space if they had known you were coming. If you don't think you're ready for a full-time man on the job perhaps a public-relations agency could give you part-time help."

O. J. Noer, assisted by Charley Wilson, showed the supts. all the many improve-

### **Ladies Not Forgotten**

A well planned program for the ladies kept wives who accompanied husbands to the GCSA convention well occupied throughout the five days they were in Washington. Numerous tours were arranged for the women along with coffee get-togethers, movies, a surprise party, luncheon at a well known sea food restaurant in addition to one at the Army-Navy CC in Arlington, and the annual banquet which was preceded by a reception.

ments that have been made in the way a course is constructed as well as managed in the last 10 years or so. In his running commentary, that accompanied a film showing of the best features of many courses throughout the U. S. and Canada, Noer pointed out the easy ways of doing things as compared with the devious and backbreaking methods used not too many years ago. Noer described most of the new courses built in recent years or in the process of being constructed as being "architecturally sound, designed for streamlined management." For this, he added, the supt. owes a great debt to course architects who certainly have moved ahead of the times.

Fred Grau's summary of what had gone on at the educational conferences from Monday through Friday, consisted of capsule notations on what each speaker had said. Grau then told the supts. that they should do everything possible to develop their executive abilities since their position has evolved to the point where country clubs now are depending as much on their leadership qualities as on their technical knowledge.

### **Wisconsin PGA Meeting**

Wisconsin Section, PGA, will hold its spring meeting on Apr. 21 at the Medford Hotel in Milwaukee. Gordon Watson is in charge of arrangements for the affair.

## **E. J. Smith Dies in Charlotte at Age of 70**

E. J. Smith, pres. and treas. of E. J. Smith & Sons Co., Charlotte, N. C., died on Feb. 9 in that city at the age of 70. A native of Stillwater, Minn., Mr. Smith established the Southeast Toro Co., Jacksonville, Fla., in 1925 and eight years later set up the firm that bears his name. His company is one of the Southeast's leading golf maintenance suppliers



and Mr. Smith was closely connected with many GCSA members. In 1957, Carolinas GCSA presented him a plaque in appreciation of his services to the supt.

Mr. Smith was a member of the Charlotte City Club, Optimist Club and Carmel Country and Saddle Club. Survivors include his wife, the former Rubie Beam, three sons, George R., Wayne B. and Sherrill C., all of Charlotte.

### **Middlecoff Hasn't Qualified for Tournament of Champions**

Only one golfer, Cary Middlecoff, has played in all five renewals of the \$40,000 Tournament of Champions which will be held at the Desert Inn CC, Las Vegas, Apr. 24-27. But the Memphis dentist is in danger of being shut out this year because he has yet to win a major tournament and thereby gain a spot in the '58 field. Only two other golfers Gene Littler, three-times winner of the Las Vegas competition, and Doug Ford, have qualified as many as four times for the Tournament of Champions.

No player is admitted to the Tournament of Champions on past record or because of having a big name. The only entrance requirement is winning a major PGA event during the 12 months preceding the playing of the Desert Inn tourney. Since the tournament was started in 1953, the Las Vegas sponsors have contributed \$200,000 to the Damon Runyan cancer fund and another \$35,000 from this year's receipts are slated to go to this cause.

The Northern California PGA is handicapping all pros in the area for 1958. This is being done in order to equalize competition, particularly for Seniors.

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"'Uramite' has cut costs and helped maintain our course in such attractive condition for three years that play has increased. In spite of heavy rains, greens supplied with 'Uramite' are in beautiful shape—the best I've ever seen. Steady, season-long supply of nitrogen from 'Uramite' promotes regular and strong turf growth. I plan to continue and increase my use of 'Uramite.'"



A uniform supply of nitrogen from Du Pont "Uramite" promoted sturdy, regular growth on this turf at Virginia Country Club.

### **"URAMITE"—the nitrogen with built-in control**

Du Pont "Uramite" is 38% nitrogen—from methylene ureas of the highest quality. Applied in the fall or spring, "Uramite" resists leaching, supplies nitrogen uniformly to assure your turf long-term, sturdy, healthy growth and vitality. Uniform granules of Du Pont "Uramite" are free-flowing, clean and completely odorless.



# maintain the finest turf with long-lasting Du Pont Uramite® (Fertilizer Compound)

**“... supplied our turf with nitrogen  
uniformly for about 6 months,”**

reports Eddie Berardy, Superintendent,  
Lake Merced Golf and Country Club,  
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“I’ve used ‘Uramite’ since 1955 for the base of my fertilizer program on greens with very satisfactory results. ‘Uramite’ produces a healthy, strong, uniform-growing turf that requires less water. Applying 20 lbs. of ‘Uramite’ per 1,000 sq. ft. in spring and fall eliminates the need for top dressing. And turf-supplied ‘Uramite’ resisted dollar spot during a season of heavy infestation on other turf.”

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## How About Golf Cars

(Continued from page 51)

be a preliminary exploration of the golf car picture, to uncover certain basic facts in order to get a better idea of what information might be obtained through later and more complete questionnaires, a wealth of significant data was uncovered which we can examine best by looking at the results of each question as it was asked in the survey.

### Answers to Survey

#### QUESTION 1. Are Golf Cars in use at your course?

Of the 984 professionals answering, 563, or 57.4% said they had golf cars in use from less than 1 year, up to 5 years. 421, or 42.7% said they had no golf cars in use at present.

#### QUESTION 2. If so (if you have cars), how many? Are they enough?

5769 golf cars were reported in use by courses having them. Tables I, II and III show how cars in use are divided among private, semi-private and municipal golf courses. Tables also show breakdown of courses in each category by years of use. Thus, the 425 private courses (75.4% of courses reported having cars) have 4711 or 82% of cars reported. 94 semi-private courses (16.7% of courses) report 818 or 14% of cars in use. Municipal courses (44 or 7.9% of courses reporting) indicated 240 cars or 4% of cars in use.

Examination of tables I, II and III will also reveal the answer to the second half of question 2: "Are these enough?" Note that, in each category (private, semi-private and municipal) 50% or more of the courses either indicated more cars were needed or they were undecided.

#### QUESTION 3. How many years have you had golf cars?

Of the 563 golf courses of all types reporting golf cars in use, 121 or 21.5% had cars 1 year or less; 168 or 29.8% had cars 2 years; 151 or 26.7% had cars 3 years; 87 or 15.5%, 4 years; and 36 courses or 6.5% had cars 5 years. Tables I, II, and III show a breakdown of private, semi-private and municipal courses by numbers of years cars have been in use.

#### QUESTION 4. If you are not now using cars are they contemplated in 1958?

Of the 421 golf professionals who reported no golf cars presently in use at their courses:

69 or 16.3% said they will get cars in 1958:

at 35 private clubs

#### 2,738,162 Doz. Balls Sold in '57

A total of 2,738, 162 dozen golf balls were sold in 1957, according to figures released by the Golf Ball Manufacturers Assn. Sales in 1957 were almost identical with those of 1956 although the weather in the latter year generally was more favorable for golf. Prospects for 1958 are considered bright by John W. Sproul, pres. of GBMA, who says that a steadily increasing number of golfers and a gain in course facilities indicate an increase in sales.

at 28 semi-private clubs  
at 6 municipal golf courses  
90 or 21.4% were undecided or did not answer whether they would get cars in 1958:  
at 44 private clubs.  
at 32 semi-private clubs.  
at 14 municipal golf courses  
262 or 62.3% said they would not get cars in 1958:  
at 110 private clubs.  
at 95 semi-private clubs.  
at 57 municipal golf courses.

#### QUESTION 5. Number of cars secured on the following basis:

- (a) Leased from makers for rental to your players?
  - (b) Purchased outright for rental to your players?
  - (c) Individually owned by players?
- The survey revealed that, of the 5769 cars reported in use, 2095 or 36.3% are leased from makers for rental to players; 1715 or 29.7% were purchased outright for rental to players; and 1959 or 34% are individually owned by players.

Careful examination of columns 9, 10 and 11 in tables I, II and III, shows a significant and growing trend over the past 5 years toward 'fleet' operation of golf cars at golf courses, making cars available to players on a rental basis. Experience has proven that golf car fleet operation is more practical and permits better control of car use. This results in smoother handling and more efficient maintenance with greater convenience to player-users.

#### QUESTION 6. Who at your course is responsible for securing the cars?

Answers to this question (see table VI) indicate that, following the decision by club officials that golf cars are to be made available, the professional, in 66.5% of the