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association annual meeting were 18 of its past presidents.

Jimmy Nichols, one-armed pro star, when guest of New Haven (Conn.) muni course pro, Tom Donahue, at one of Tom's clinics at New Haven Jewish Center, told big crowd of golfers that if golf pros were treated like other sports coaches, golfers would get much greater value from pro instruction . . . Hollywood, Fla., put on big dinner celebrating 25th anniversary of Sam Frost as pro at Hollywood's Orange Brook course . . . Sam has been at Orange Brook since it opened.

Jacksonville, Fla., Hyde Park muni course sold to Fred A. Ghioto, its pro, for \$615,000 and will be operated seven days a week for white golfers only . . . Hyde Park and Brentwood, Jacksonville's other muni course, have been closed after integration ruling was handed down by court . . . Roland Hurley, Brentwood pro, has bid in for that course.

City of El Paso, Tex., turns over Ascarate CC to county commission . . . John Handweg, veteran NY Met district golf club operator, his son, John, jr., and son-in-law Bob Hering, again are operating Scotch Plains CC, formerly known as

*(Continued on page 120)*

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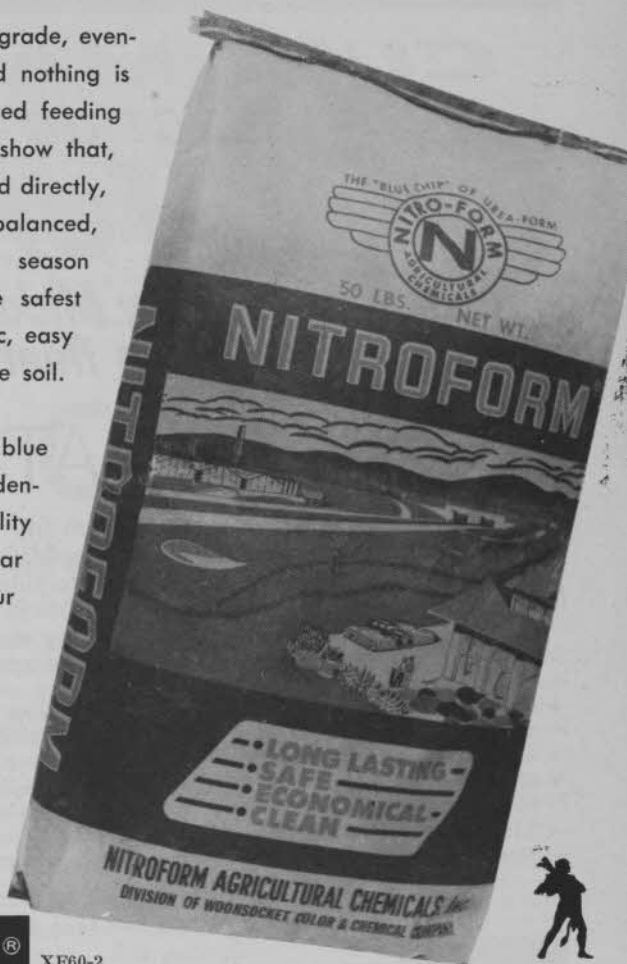


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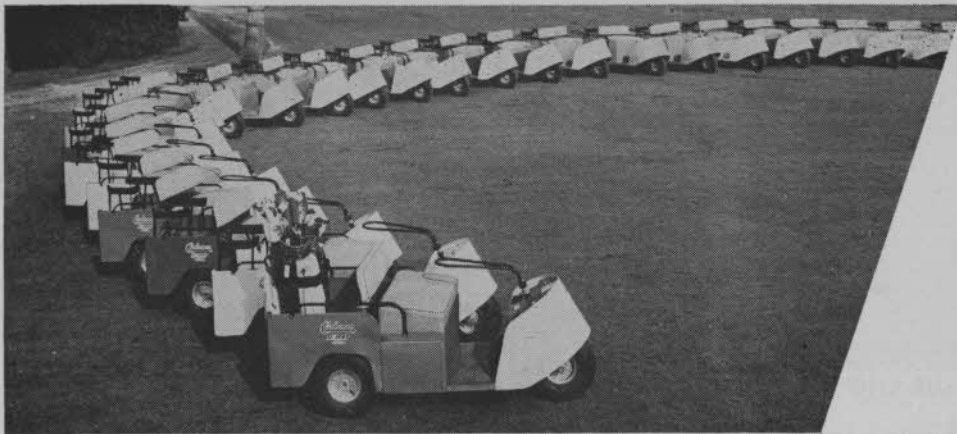


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O. J. Noer (left), to whom 31st GCSA convention was dedicated, holds granddaughter who was flown in with sister and brother and mother (back to camera) in "This Is Your Life, O. J. Noer," dramatization which climaxed annual banquet. Mrs. Noer, at right, greets her daughter as E. H. Griffith looks on Warren Lafkin (left background), played the Ralph Edwards role. Noer, agronomist with the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission for more than 35 years, is retiring in 1960. (Story on page 94)

# Houston Convention

*Well planned education and social programs, Texas hospitality, made 31st GCSA show one to be remembered*

**A**LTHOUGH attendance at the 31st International Turfgrass conference and show of the GCSA, held early in February in Houston, fell about 200 short of the record established the previous year in Chicago, the event was typical of the educational, business and social success that course supts. have come to expect of their annual assemblies. Nearly 1,475 supts., agronomists, manufacturers' reps and others interested in turf registered at the Shamrock-Hilton for the six-day affair. More than 200 wives accompanied their husbands. Houston's weather was not quite as balmy as the conventioners had hoped it would be, but its hospitality, in

which it takes much greater pride, more than supplied any warmth that didn't show up in the thermometer.

The conference, theme of which was "The Complete Course," was dedicated to O. J. Noer, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission agronomist, who has spent more than 35 years helping supts. to grow the superior turf which distinguishes courses in the U. S., and who is scheduled to retire this summer. The dedication was appropriately climaxed as the photo and caption on this page show.

The education program was spread out over six sessions, described on the following pages. Social activities included a com-

plete round of shows, sightseeing trips, teas, etc. for the wives of the supts. There was also a big hospitality hour, sponsored by manufacturers and the association, for all attending the convention, a golf tournament for the supts., the annual banquet and various other kinds of entertainment.

### First Session

## Mayor Gives City's Key to Elmer and Conference Is On

The opening session, which was held on Monday morning, was in charge of Tom Leonard, supt. at River Oaks in Houston, who is a transplanted Oklahoman. Among those who he introduced during the pre-lunch gathering were A. W. (Al) Crain, agronomist for Goldthwaite Texas Toro, also a transplanted Oklahoman, and George Aulbach, a Texas pro (Lufkin CC), by way of Boston. Besides these immigrants, the greensmen heard John Outland, Dallas CC club mgr. and Mel Warnecke, of Atlanta's East Lake.

These speakers followed Mayor Louis Cutrer of Houston who presented the GCSA's outgoing pres., Elmer Border, the keys to the city, promised to void any parking tickets that the conventioners collected during their Houston sojourn and in typically proud Texas fashion, described the glories of the Lone Star state and, of course, Houston.

Al Crain showed films of courses in Houston, Beaumont, San Antonio and Austin and discussed the general weather, topography and soil features of Gulf Coastal areas and those that are within 200 miles of the Gulf. He predicted that the bent green line that stops with Dallas will be extended several hundred miles farther south in the next four or five years, thanks to experimental work that is now being extensively carried on in several southern states. Dallisgrass, Crain stated, continues to be the curse of the man who manages fine turf in Texas, while in the last few years, supts. in and around Beaumont and Houston have been handicapped in the spring, and even in the fall, by an abundance of rainfall that often seriously interferes with mowing.

### Must Hear Out Complaints

Jack Outland, who presented the manager's outlook on the country club situation, suggested that men of his calling, as well as professionals and supts., should resign themselves to the fact that part of

their pay at least is for the roles they play as "professional listeners to complaints." If we can live with that attitude, Outland observed, we'll not end up in a pile of ulcers. The Dallas club mgr. said that, in reality, members generally are easy to get along with and that too many club employees make the mistake of remembering only the grouzers.

Speaking of personnel problems, Outland declared that too many clubs hire non-supervisory help rather haphazardly, don't make clear what is expected of these people and don't tell them what is due them in the way of benefits. If more pains



Mel Warnecke



George Aulbach

were taken in hiring, particularly by the mgr. and supt., Outland added, more loyalty to the clubs would be developed.

### Joint Responsibility

In discussing what players want in a course, George Aulbach opined that if the first tee is kept free of debris, people get the immediate impression that the entire layout is tidily maintained. This puts them in the proper frame of mind to start out with, George continued, and may result in their viewing the rest of the course with a less critical eye. Aulbach believes that the pro should be equally responsible with the supt. for keeping the No. 1 tee area properly policed.

The Lufkin CC pro said that on most courses he has seen there are far too many signs. He favors a movement that will do away with about 60 or 70 per cent of them. If major changes in local ground rules are made, he said, the pro and supt. would do well to notify members of these by letter rather than by posting signs which usually aren't heeded anyway.

In the matter of maintenance for play, Aulbach stated that he feels that a majority of supts. could do a better job on practice greens. Fairways and regular greens

at 90 per cent of our courses, he observed, are well maintained, but the same can't always be said of traps and the roughs. More attention probably should be given these hazards, George declared, because the least neglect of them makes play even more difficult than it should be for the high handicap shooters.

### Togetherness at East Lake

Mel Warnecke of East Lake suggested that if any coolness has developed among the supt., pro and mgr., they should keep in mind that close cooperation on many occasions probably has saved the skin of at least one or possibly all three. A further argument for working together is that the triumvirate should present a unified front as often as reasonably possible.

Describing how togetherness is practiced at East Lake, Mel said that he and the pro and mgr. have regular monthly meetings, that these two officials are always invited to his bi-weekly breakfast conferences with green committee members, and that one or the other occasionally attend turf gatherings with him.

### Beats Throat Cutting

"All this may have a taint of logrolling," Warnecke conceded, "but it certainly beats throat cutting. As far as I am personally concerned, I feel that it has enabled me to do a better job because I have learned a great deal more about the members' viewpoints than I would ordinarily know if I hadn't worked closely with the pro and club mgr. I'm reasonably sure that they feel the same way."

## Second Session

# Celebrity Says Texas Golfers Don't Have A Handicap System

Following the introduction of celebrities by Stan Graves, supt. at Woodmont CC, Rocky River, O., and O. J. Noer of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, three speakers were heard on the Monday afternoon program. They were Wayne W. Huffine, Oklahoma State University agronomist, who traced the 75-year history of turf research in the U. S.; John M. MacKenzie, Toro's Minneapolis plant mgr., who spoke on the supervision of labor; and John Hill of Texas A & M College, who discussed safety.



(L. to r, top) Wayne Huffine, John Henry, Stan Graves, Henry Ransom (Bottom) Bob Morris, Marty Marion, Jess Neely

... they made their bows as celebrities.

The team of Graves and Noer, a long-time GCSA convention fixture, called such notables as Tom Davison, Jess Neely, Henry Ransom, Bobby Morris and Marty Marion to the podium. Davison of the Houston Post told the audience that Texas is the one state that doesn't have a handicap system for its golfers — and nobody seemed the least surprised. Neely, Rice University's football coach and something of a turf expert in his own right, described the Owl stadium of a few years back as having an excellent drainage system but with soil so compacted that water couldn't reach it. Ransom, former tournament star and now an East Texas gentleman rancher, recalled getting a \$500 bonus check from George S. May in 1950 because he was discreet enough to tell George that he had no suggestions as to how the World's Championship should be conducted after practically every pro who participated had offered his advice to the Tam O'Shanter impresario. Morris, current Texas PGA champion, described what it takes to win a Texas championship. Marty Marion, the onetime baseball great, opined that another major league in both football and baseball should open up these sports to many talented athletes who aren't getting a break because of the present limited opportunities.

### Reviews Research History

In the last 20 years, according to Wayne Huffine, turf experimental stations in the U. S. have increased from 10 to 30 and numerous commercial concerns have set up research divisions. This country's experimental activities were started in 1885 by a New Hampshire resident, J. B. Olcott, who developed several strains of grass; the

state of Rhode Island came on the turf research scene in 1890 and the U.S.D.A. about 20 years later.

In 1927, the first creeping bents were made available, Huffine said. Ten years later at least a dozen in all had been developed, but it wasn't until after World War II that the public really became aware of the bent strains. Much of this awareness, of course, came about due to the golf industry's early and wide use of bent.

Improvements of fungicides, herbicides, insecticides and fertilizers generally coincided with advances made in turf culture, the Oklahoma agronomist stated. However, it wasn't until after World War II that manufacturers intensified their efforts in discovering and producing control materials that either cut down greatly on product bulk or simplified their application. With all the research that is now going on, Huffine predicted that in the case of herbicides, for example, specific preventatives for controlling individual weeds or undesirable grasses soon will be on the market.

#### Supt. A Labor Manager

John MacKenzie of Toro said that the most important job of the professional manager, whether in turf work or any other field, is the determination of overall objectives and the specific steps that must be taken to accomplish them. He stated that since 75 per cent of the course budget goes into labor, the supt. must think of himself primarily as a labor manager. This means that he must not only be completely familiar with every maintenance job but know the capabilities of his employees well enough to assign each and every one to the job which he does best.

The supt., he added, must be willing to devote all possible time to job instruction, be constantly on the alert for ways of improving operations and make repeated studies of his work schedules to cut down non-productive effort.

As for direct dealings with employees, MacKenzie said that the cardinal sin that supervisors commit is disregard or slighting of persons who work under them. He advised the supts. never to take lightly an employee's suggestion for improving an operation because, if nothing else, it proves that the person is at least thinking about his job and not merely going through the motions. He concluded his remarks by saying that it is well to keep in mind that 19 out of 20 people are conscientious workers who will do good jobs if some effort



Tourmasters when 325 GCSA members made a swing around Houston to visit four courses and Rice University stadium were Tom Leonard, Gene Bockholt and Hugh Pitts (l to r). Midway through tour, supts, replenished selves at Sonny Du Bose's Houston CC with succulent barbecue and side dishes to match.

is made by management to show them how they fit in.

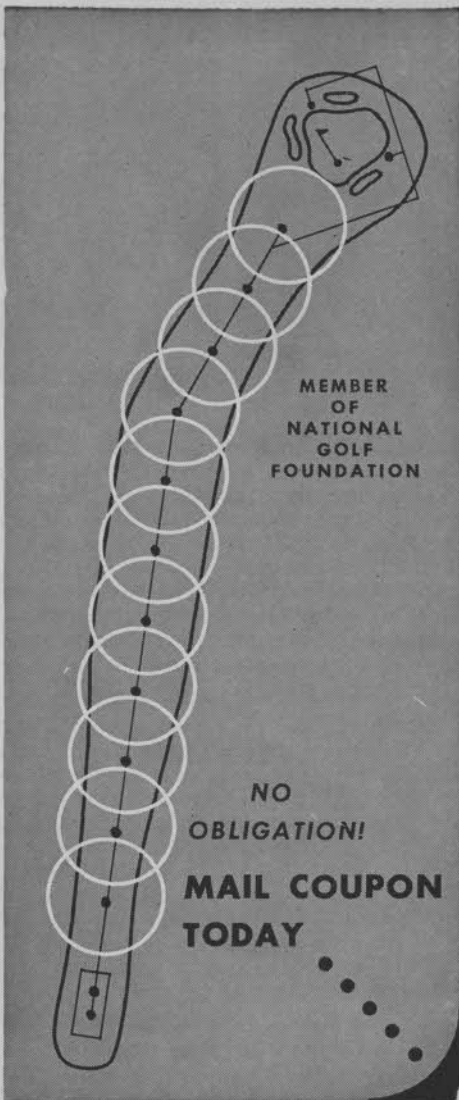
#### Three-Point Safety Program

John Hill, after citing the awesome annual losses in life, property and man hours due to accidents in this country, suggested the following three point program for improving the safety record:

1. Fit the employee to the job by judging him on his physical ability and mental alertness;
2. Tell the employee how an operation is to be performed; demonstrate it for him; and then have him show you that he understands how it is to be done;
3. Always insist that the proper mechanical tool be used to do a job; plan the safety program as carefully as the maintenance program; and hold regular safety meetings.

In summing up, Hill declared that safety should be approached from a defensive standpoint. "It is not enough to post signs saying, 'Work Safely'" he said. "The employee must be impressed with the idea that he is vulnerable to all kinds of accidents and that he must be constantly alert to avoid them."





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## Weighty Topics Are Discussed as Research Men Have Their Day

The theme of the Tuesday afternoon meeting was "Progress in the Field." William H. Daniel of Purdue University spoke on the poa annua problem; Herb Graffis, GOLFDOM's editor, discussed public relations; Eliot C. Roberts, Iowa State University agronomist, talked on the role of nutrition in aiding turf growth; California's research activities were described by Victor B. Youngner of the University of California, Los Angeles; and the session was concluded with a showing of a turf management film prepared by the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission. In conjunction with the latter, a time-lapse motion picture of the movement of water in soil was shown.

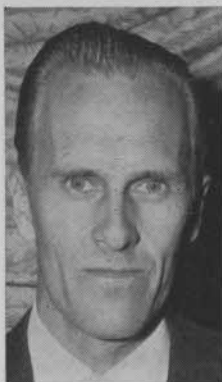
### Poa Annua — Deny, Ignore or Grow It

Speaking of the poa annua enigma, Bill Daniel said that it can be denied, ignored, or as some supts. do, follow a program for growing it throughout the year. The latter calls for frequent watering, good aerification and fertilization programs and heavy fungicide treatments when disease threatens. But even with all these measures, poa has a way of acting treacherously — it often fails when it is wanted most.

The principal control for poa annua, Daniel stated, is the combination of good management and use of arsenicals that restrict the growth of poa while, at the same time, tolerating the growth of desirable grasses. Tests and observations made at Purdue University, Daniel said, indicate that of the arsenicals, calcium arsenate probably is the most effective when both control and safety factors are taken into consideration.

For fairways, best results probably can be obtained through application of 6 lbs. of calcium arsenate per 1,000 sq. ft. (powder) and 10 lbs. (granular) in the spring and fall, and at a rate of 6 and 8 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. of greens. Caution is recommended in the latter applications, recommended to be made twice a year, because light applications develop sufficient toxicity. If lead arsenate has been repeatedly used, the green application shouldn't run more than 4 or 6 lbs.

Manufacturers and experimental sta-



V. B. Youngner



M. E. Bloodworth

tions, the Purdue agronomist said, are constantly trying to improve the arsenicals and in time they probably will come up with products that will give highly effective poa control. In the meantime, if the supt. does not consider poa desirable, about the only way he will be able to come close to controlling it is to set up a program wherein he makes uniform applications of arsenicals on a regular schedule.

### Word Is Getting Through

Speaking of public relations, Herb Graffis said that club members still don't have a very firm grasp of what the maintenance dept. has to do to make the course the beautiful piece of property it usually is. "But," Graffis added, "they're learning. Ten years ago about all they knew was that you kept the grass mowed. Now word has gotten through to them that you are well rounded specialists who have a wide knowledge of chemistry, agronomy and several other weighty subjects.

"At this point they're impressed — they stand somewhat in awe of you," the Golfdom editor continued. "The thing for you to do is keep impressing them by giving them more information about the maintenance dept. Of course you have to go through certain channels to do it — through your green chairman or green committee, the bulletin board or the club magazine. But the thing is, keep alert for the opportunity to funnel news about yourself and your dept. to the membership. It's going to work in your favor."

Graffis complimented the GCSA on the excellent way in which it presented its request to the National Golf Fund for an increase in its share of National Golf Day receipts (the request was granted) and suggested that each supt. make his budget request in the same businesslike manner.