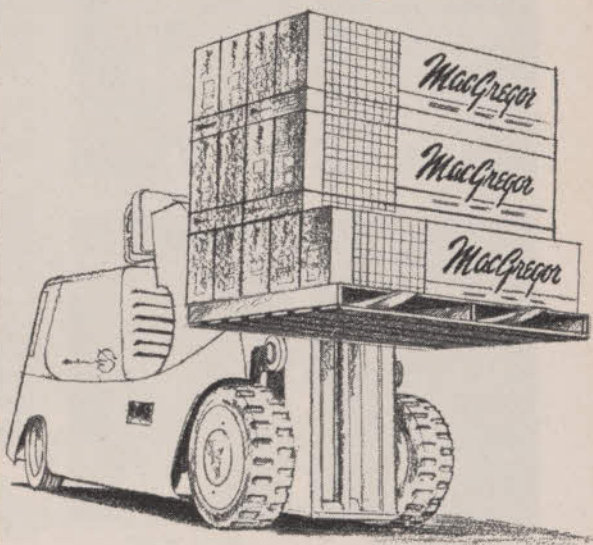


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Southern Turfmen Touch All Bases

"Southern Maintenance" was the theme of the Wednesday afternoon meeting. Marvin H. Ferguson, national research coordinator for the USGA green section, was chairman and introduced these speakers: Louis N. Wise, dean of the school of agriculture, Mississippi State U.; T. M. Baumgardner, Sea Island (Ga.) GC; James M. Latham, agronomist, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission; Tom Leonard, supt. River Oaks CC in Houston; Richard E. Schmidt, asst. agronomy professor, Virginia Poly Institute; Harry Wright, supt., Peachtree GC in Atlanta; Stratton H. Kerr, entomologist, U. of Florida; Homer D. Wells, plant pathologist, Georgia Coastal Plain Station; John A. Long, research specialist, O. M. Scott & Son; and Glenn W. Burton, geneticist, also of the Georgia Coastal Plain Station.

Not Enough Support

In reviewing progress made in turf management in the last decade in Southern states, Louis Wise said that training programs now are being offered at 12

schools, with Texas A & M setting the pace in view of the scope of its varied agronomical curriculum and research undertakings. The awakening of the South, Wise said, has of course resulted in more young men majoring in turf management and related courses, and has produced an increasing number of students who have earned Masters and Ph.D. degrees in the agronomy field.

Wise then charged that turf interests aren't doing their share in obtaining money for, or supporting university research projects. At some schools, he said, fine turf projects are being partly undertaken with funds diverted from appropriations for such things as crop and pasture research. He referred to it as a "kind of bootleg operation that can't go on much longer" and urged turfmen to try to get more money out of their state legislatures for their special projects, and to make greater contributions to them themselves.

A to Z of Overseeding

T. M. Baumgardner, Jim Latham, Tom Leonard, Dick Schmidt and Harry Wright composed a panel that discussed the ramifications of winter overseeding. Here are the highlights of their remarks:

Baumgardner: Our 25 test plots show that rye and poa trivialis are best for early overseeding, with a mixture of Seaside, Pennncross and Pennlawn producing more desirable results later in the winter season. In three years of testing we've escaped trouble from disease. That doesn't mean we have any secrets—it's just that the weather has been good to us. Georgia Bermudas apparently can't be overseeded with bents alone while Florida varieties can. It probably is because Florida Bermuda doesn't become quite as dormant.

On Again, Off Again

Latham: Many overseeding questions remain to be answered at this early stage. One is why a grass such as Pennlawn did fine one winter in the Atlanta area but flunked the test thereafter. Kentucky blue currently is the overseeding hope of the Southern supt., but it, too, may bloom this year and be a dud next year.

Leonard: Texas still is betting its money on rye. Numerous overseed combinations have been tried in recent years, but invariably we come back to placing most dependence in rye. It may be because there is a lot of hybrid Bermuda in the state. It's a struggle to maintain decent greens through the winter in the South-



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west, but at least they bounce back with vigor in the spring.

Transition Period Important

Schmidt: In Virginia, supts. have to worry about how overseeded grasses thrive early in the winter, and then they have to go through a second ordeal of wondering when and how they are going to bow out late in the spring. Since the spring transition period offers the most problems, we have concentrated on observing what happens when Bermuda starts to come back. We have found that rye dies out a little too quickly during the transition period. Pennlawn probably is a little too slow in bowing out, although it holds up beautifully during the spring. Seaside, in spite of its late start, may be the best of the overseed varieties, mainly because it performs so well in the transition period.

Wright: If Bermuda is properly maintained in its season, it undoubtedly will react well when overseeding time comes. Aerifying and verticutting should be carried out about three or four weeks in advance of the actual overseeding. Watering is important in the first three or four days after the auxiliary seed is distributed. In the spring, Bermuda's comeback is greatly abetted by spiking and by keeping the moisture content of the soil at the proper level.

Control of insects, weeds and disease that are peculiar to Southern turf was discussed by a panel made up of Stratton Kerr, Homer D. Wells and John A. Long, all of whom are research specialists.

Two Types of Pests

Kerr, an entomologist who received his Ph.D. degree from Cornell University, described pests as being of two types — those that attack turf and those that infest the soil and feed on plant roots. The leading villains in the first mentioned category are the chinch bug, lawn caterpillar and the tropical sod webworm. All feed on grass blades or stems, Kerr said, weakening the plant and inviting disease invasion. The chinch bug is the South's most persistent pest, having a particular fondness for St. Augustine grass. An unfortunate rule of thumb, the Florida U. entomologist stated, is that pests prevail where turf is unusually lush. The best control agents here are toxophene and DDT.

The underground menaces consist of the white grub and mole cricket, both of



John A. Long

Glenn Burton

which feast on roots. Armadillos and skunks, in turn, feed on these pests, Kerr said, and so there is double jeopardy involved. Chlordane solutions are most effective in suppressing white grubs and mole crickets.

Common Disease

Homer D. Wells, U.S.D.A. pathologist who is connected with the Tifton agricultural division, cited cottony blight as being the most common disease of Bermudagrass. A good deal of care has to be exercised in trying to eradicate it because several of the fungicides used in controlling the disease injure turf if applied too heavily. Until recently, Phygon XL was considered to be the best control agent, but Bermuda is too readily allergic to its toxic qualities. Now, Dexon, not yet on the market, is the new wonder fungicide where the blight is involved, Wells said.

Cottony blight is a first cousin to the Yankee pythium and its mycelium spores take hold and spread rapidly when humidity of both air and soil are high. Wells suggested that improved drainage could help to prevent the onset of the blight since it is basically a product of an extremely wet or saturated soil condition.

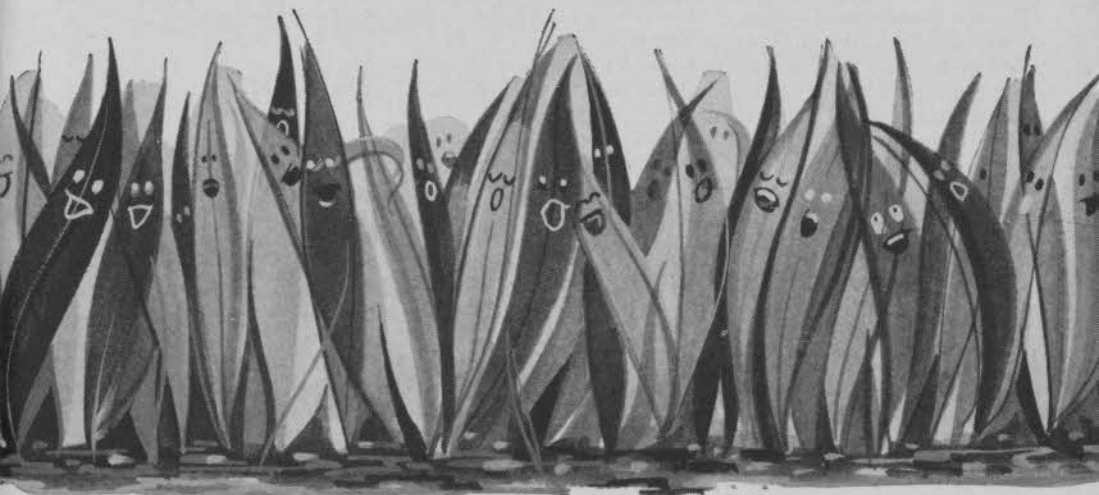
Battle for Food

The South, said John A. Long, O. M. Scott geneticist, isn't plagued with any particular weed or noxious grass that makes inroads such as is experienced in the North with crabgrass, but there are at least four or five important varieties that constantly threaten to get out of hand. "Where weeds or undesirable grasses are present," Long explained, "there is a constant if not spectacular battle with the Bermuda for light, food and water. Tests have shown that Bermuda development has been retarded by as much as 20 or 25 per cent where ordinary weed control or prevention methods

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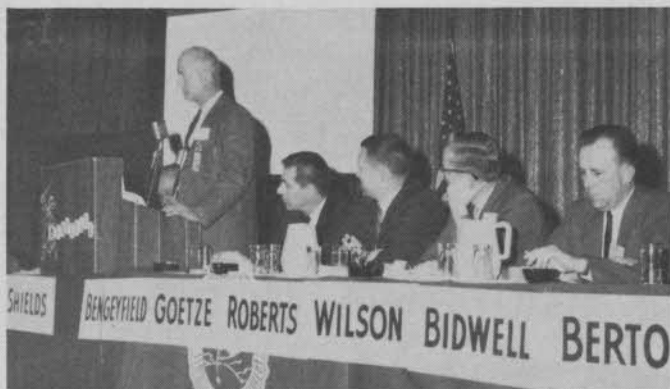


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Bill Bengueyfield, Norman Goetz, Ted Roberts and Charles G. Wilson (seated, l to r) are engrossed in what Warren Bidwell has to say.



haven't been used."

Long added that grass type weeds such as dallis- and goosegrass remove more nitrogen, phosphate and potash than broadleaf weeds and their roots are capable of absorbing twice as much water as Bermuda strains. In the last five years, however, arsenical herbicides have been developed that give excellent post-emergence control. What now is needed, Long concluded, are chemicals that knock out the undesirable grasses before they can emerge.

Effects of Shade

Speaking of the effects of shade on grass, Glenn Burton, the Tifton geneticist, explained that while trees slow down photosynthesis and retard turf growth, they also have their good points. For one thing, he said, they reduce damage due to drought, an important consideration in the South. In addition, they give protection against frost and tests have shown that chinch bugs aren't as prevalent in shady areas as in exposed locations.

Describing tests made at Tifton from 1958 to 1961 on the effects of light and shade, Burton stated that density and color of shaded turf are greatly improved if the cut is made at 2½ inches rather than 1½ inches. It also has been shown that grasses that do better growing in the sun also grow better in shade. St. Augustine and zoysia, he said, score high in shade tolerance, finer Bermudas have a fair to good rating, but common Bermuda doesn't fare too well in this respect.

What may hurt grass most in shaded areas, especially on golf courses, Burton concluded, is that more traffic is invited and consequent injury due to trampling occurs.

Neff Nearly Breaks The CGSA Bank

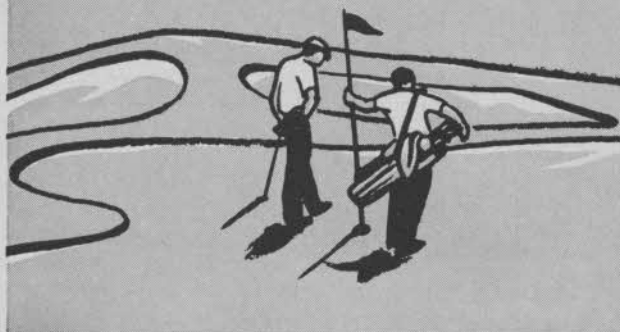
L. R. (Bob) Shields, the new GCSA director and supt. of Woodmont CC in Rockville, Md., was the m.c. of the Thursday morning session which had as its theme, Progress Through Knowledge. His speakers included William Bengueyfield, Western dir. for the USGA green section; Norman Goetz, turf specialist, Oregon State College; Edward (Ted) Roberts, supt. of the DuPont CC, Wilmington, Del.; Charles G. Wilson, sales mgr. of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission; and Warren Bidwell, supt., Olympia Fields (Ill.) CC. At the conclusion of the program, several supts. took part in a quiz program conducted by Andrew A. Bertoni, supt. of Meadowbrook CC, Northville, Mich.

Instruct the Employee

Bill Bengueyfield discussed aspects of labor management, saying that the supt. would have a better understanding of employee relations if he occasionally put himself in the place of a subordinate and tried to understand the latter's feelings, emotions and attitudes. Bill went on to explain that "telling" a person to perform a certain task is a long way from "instructing" him how to do it, especially when the person never has attempted to do the job before. If the latter is the case, the supt. may be running the risk of seeing the man get injured, damage valuable machinery, or ruin costly turf by sending him out to handle a task he knows nothing about.

Continuing in this vein, the USGA

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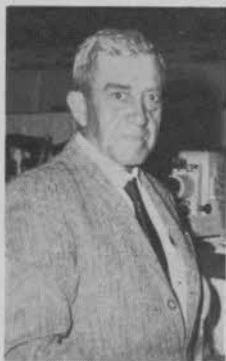
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Paul Neff (above) and
Marion Luke.

green specialist said that as far as he can see supts. should devote more time to teaching their employees what they want done. Many plead that they are "just too busy" to do such things, but what they don't consider is that they aren't hired to mow greens or fairways and repair machinery, but to see that these things are done properly.

In his discussion of certified and quality seed, Norman Goetze said that supts. perhaps aren't as careful about checking delivery labels or tickets as they should be. He advised the turfmen to talk to agronomists and dealers in order to learn more about the different types and qualities of seed that are on the market, and to insist on certification of the products that are ordered. In this way, inferior materials handled by unreliable dealers won't be foisted on them.

Certification, Goetze explained, involves two things: purity and germination. Analysis sheets showing percentages of purity, other crops, weeds and inert matter are available with quality seed, and the purchaser should always ask to see them. Minimum germination standards also are specified for certified seed, thus giving the buyer assurance that he is getting desired quality.

Safety in Maintenance

Ted Roberts suggested that the services of the National Safety Council, which provides teaching aids and printed material, posters, etc., should be used by country clubs in promoting maintenance safety. At his club, Roberts said, safety shoes, protective gloves, helmets and goggles have become required equipment because experience has proved that their use cuts down appreciably the number of accidents and injuries. Rubber, and other protective gloves, he emphasized,

are especially worth their small cost since analyses of industrial and other injuries show that the hands are easily the most vulnerable parts of the body.

The supt., the DuPont turfman said, should be personally responsible for housekeeping and storage around the maintenance building, seeing that all potential booby traps are eliminated. Roberts also suggested that clubs should have safety committees making periodic inspections of grounds, buildings and machinery to help in the elimination of unnecessary hazards. "The more people you have looking for these things, the more you are going to uncover," said Roberts in offering this recommendation.

Resistance Broken Down

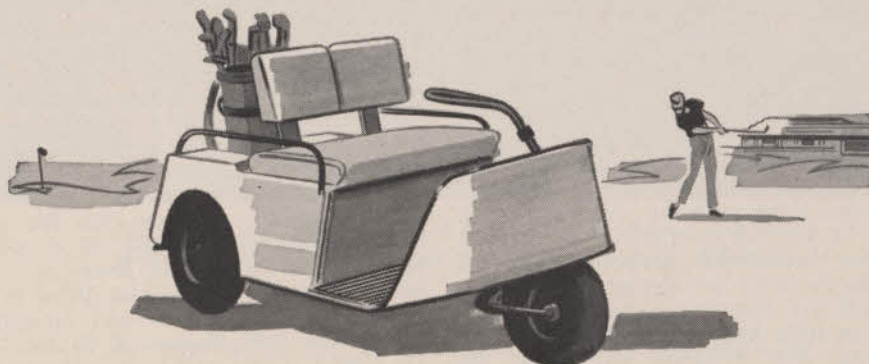
Alluding to a "super highway" for golf cars that winds through the 27-hole rough at Shady Oaks CC in Dallas, Fertilizer Charlie Wilson of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission said that just about quells the last bit of resistance there may be to vehicular traffic on golf courses. "As all of us have been saying for the last two or three years," Wilson continued, "we have to live with them, so why not make the best of them? Around 90 per cent of our private clubs are using cars and, where there are sensible regulations covering their use, nobody can deny that they are good for many players and thus good for the game."

Wilson, though, debunked the claim made a year or so ago that the walking golfer puts just as much pressure on turf as the riding one. It was supposedly scientifically proved that the tread of a shoe is just as heavy as that of a tire, Wilson explained, but what was overlooked is that the tire exerts continuous pressure where that of the person who is walking is only intermittent. The Sewerage Commission sales mgr. also pointed out that turf injury due to car traffic may not show up for perhaps as long as a week or two, particularly when grass is in good shape. "There is a good lesson in that, though," he said. "It shows that we should be aerating, etc., when the turf is looking its best. In that way we can head off or reduce the effects of any injuries it may have suffered."

Wilson concluded his speech by saying that the golf car industry has conscientiously cooperated with the supt. over the years by trying to do whatever it can to reduce turf wear and tear. It has designed and re-designed to come up with models



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in which weight is better distributed, he said. It also has slowed down acceleration and smoothed out the braking system. "I haven't any doubt that we can look for continued improvement," Wilson stated.

Cooperate with Manager, Accountant

Warren Bidwell spoke on the relationship between the supt. and club mgr. He said that it should be recognized and accepted that all activity revolves around the clubhouse and, therefore, it is important that the mgr. be kept informed of all happenings around the club in which the members may have more than just casual interest. "If," said Bidwell, "you're undertaking a fairly important rebuilding job somewhere out on the course and the mgr. doesn't even know it is going on, you can imagine how embarrassing it can be for him to be confronted by members' questions about it without having the least idea of why it is being carried out. Yet, this goes on practically every day. What we don't stop to realize," the Olympia Fields greenmaster continued, "is that this makes the maintenance dept. look just as inadequate, if not more so, than the club mgr. Members begin wondering if we are pulling together or deliberately working against one another."

Bidwell also pointed out that the supt. probably could do a lot more to improve his relationship with the club accounting dept. by keeping records and accounts in a more businesslike fashion. "Many of us," he declared "are sloppy bookkeepers. We fill out requisitions, purchase orders and payrolls literally on the insides of chewing gum wrappers and expect the accountant to okay purchases and prepare pay checks on the basis of these requests. Then, if they are held up because the accounting dept. can't decipher our entries, we become terribly perturbed."

Paul Confounds Quizmaster

The more than 40 speakers must have uttered nearly one-half million words before the program finally offered its first change of pace following Bidwell's address. It came in the form of a \$64 quiz program in which Andy Bertoni, the suave Northville, Mich., answer to Hal March, queried the following turfmen as to what they knew about subjects relating to their profession: Mike O'Grady of the CC of New Bedford, Mass.; Marion Luke of CC of Florida, Del Ray Beach; Al Caravella, who the audience had met be-



Part of the California delegation is shown at a breakfast given by B. Hayman Co., Inc., Los Angeles. Next year these people will be hosts to the GCSA convention.

fore; and Paul Neff of Scioto in Columbus, O., who nearly bankrupted the GCSA by sneaking in an answer to a question that he shouldn't have known even if he had been tutored beforehand.

Mike O'Grady showed brilliant oratorical skill in circumnavigating the queries thrown at him and finally wound up with \$8 (in silver) for figuring out such a brain-teaser as Hagen's first name must have been Walter. Marion Luke climbed to the \$32 plateau but missed after defining the difference between "superintendent" and "greenkeeper" as being \$7,000 a year. Al Caravella pocketed \$16 by enumerating the ingredients in a commercial fertilizer, but declined to go further, saying he wanted to protect his winnings so he could afford a Miami Beach haircut.

Paul Neff's coup came after five perfectly innocuous questions, all of which he answered without any hesitancy, were laid in his lap. Then, Bertoni riffled to the bottom of the deck and came up with a query that Prof. Burton A. Musser and Dr. Fred V. Grau, working together, probably couldn't have fielded given 24 hours: "How much topdressing would it take to cover 5,000 sq. ft. of green to a depth of $\frac{1}{4}$ in.?" Neff didn't even draw a deep breath in replying, "Three and $\frac{3}{4}$ yards!" Panic followed, additional funds were sent out for, and if the GCSA shows a deficit for 1962, you can blame it on an egghead from Columbus, O.

Discuss Irrigation at Final Session

The final conference session, presided over by Dick Viergever, supt. of the Olympic Club of San Francisco, had as its theme, "Golf Course Irrigation." The speakers included: Elmo Dowling, Rainy

(Continued on page 136)