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GCSA CONVENTION

(Continued from page 86)

Fifth Session

Education Discussed by Young Supts.

The Thursday afternoon program saw three of the younger supts., **Frank Dobie** of the Sharon Club, Cleveland, **Tom Burrows** of Glencoe (Ill.) GC, and **Richard C. Blake** of Mt. Pleasant CC, Boylston, Mass., speaking on the transition from classroom to actually working on and supervising the maintenance of a course. They were introduced by **Charles G. Wilson**, sales manager and chief agronomist for the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission.

Wilson also was the moderator of a "Quiz the Experts" panel. The panel was composed of these supts.: **Carl Bretzlaff**, Meridian Hills, Indianapolis; **Colin Smith**, Shaker Heights, Cleveland; **James E.**

Thomas, Army-Navy Club, Arlington, Va.; and **Leonard Strong**, retired, Saucon Valley, Bethlehem, Pa.; and the following agronomists: **James R. Watson**, Toro Manufacturing Co.; **Bill Bengeyfield**, USGA green section; and **O. J. Noer** and **Fred V. Grau**, both of whom are now serving as turf consultants.

Gets A Second Education

Frank Dobie said that a young fellow just out of school gets something of a jolt when he leaves the cloistered life and starts running headlong into obstacles such as restrictive budgets, demanding members and personnel problems he never realized existed. If the schools have failings, Dobie stated, it is in not sufficiently emphasizing these facts of life. He conceded, however, that turf schools have to be like other institutions of learning in that they can only teach the technical aspects of a profession, and must leave the practical solutions to the education a man gets after he takes a job.

One of the big advantages the young man out of turf school has, Dobie said,

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is that he usually can find an older supt. to whom he can turn when he runs into situations that are just a little beyond his scope. However, he shouldn't make the mistake of thinking that the experienced man can or is willing to carry him forever. He should look upon this assistance as being no more than a fill-in until he learns to find the answers himself.

It All Fits In

Addressing his remarks to the young turf students in the audience, Tom Burrows said that several subjects that are offered in agronomy schools don't seem to make much sense while they are being studied, but a student eventually learns that they fit into the big pattern. "Turf management curriculums are well designed," Burrows stated, "because educators are practical and wise enough to seek the advice of men in the field in setting them up. A course isn't thrown at you just to round out your schedule. Everything you are taught is important, as you ultimately discover."

After leaving school, Burrows said, a young supt. should think of setting up

some kind of a continuing education program for himself. This consists of keeping abreast of the newest developments in turf management, reading books and technical articles and attending monthly meetings of his local GCSA group. "Above all," Tom concluded, "learn to play golf. There is nothing more ridiculous for a person who is around a golf course at least 325 days a year than not to know something about the mechanics and strategy of the game. It is impossible for him to be a well rounded supt. without this knowledge."

Goes Beyond Technical Knowledge

Dick Blake, who received his turf education at the U. of Massachusetts and Rutgers, after serving with the Marines during the Korean war, said that mere technical knowledge is no longer adequate in course maintenance work. He pointed out that studies have shown that a supervisor spends one-third of his time communicating with people who work under or around him. So, that calls for the supt's devoting a good amount of time to developing the knack of reasoning logically, and then being able to express himself

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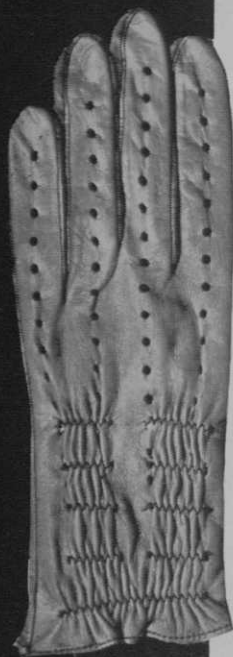
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so that the people with whom he deals understand him.

The Boyleston greenmaster also said that record keeping has taken an increasing amount of his time year after year, and that his club expects him to be completely aware of the cost and performance of the supplies and equipment he uses in maintaining his course so that he knows his way around when it comes to purchasing. "A young fellow who feels that mere knowledge of turf is enough to take care of him in our business," Blake said in conclusion, "is in for a rude awakening. He is going to find that there are hundreds of things with which he has to be familiar if he is going to run such a big operation as a golf course."

Gets GCSA Scholarship

Following Blake's speech, Albert B. Frank, a student at Ohio State University, was presented a scholarship certificate by Charlie Wilson, on the behalf of the national GCSA. Frank, who will get his degree this spring in plant physiology has compiled an outstanding record as an

undergraduate student. He plans to do research work in thatch control upon entering graduate school.

What the Panelists Said

Here are some of the panelists' answers to questions asked of them by the audience:

Jim Watson — Golfers have little conception of the enormous damage that can be done to grass if a course is opened too early in the spring. Compaction, too, can be severe if the ground is too wet.

Carl Bretzlaff — If water is visible and the grass looks spongy, greens simply aren't ready for play in the spring. If members insist on it, the supt. should request an additional budget appropriation to repair the damage that will be caused.

O. J. Noer — Automatic sprinkling systems are fine for greens provided valves can be regulated for hand watering.

Leonard Strong — Depressions and knolls are factors that have to be considered when automatic installations are made.

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Bill Bengueyfield — The best selling point for an automatic system is that it gives ten minutes when you want ten minutes. You can't regulate a night watering man. He may give you 40 minutes when you want only ten.

Colin Smith — I know of several cases where architects have condemned properties as possible course sites. But sometimes the owner is determined to build a course, regardless of the adverse recommendation.

Watson — If bentgrass is strong enough, it can withstand pre-emergence chemical applications. But, in effect, it's a race against time. Bent probably should be at least a year old before it is treated with pre-emergence products.

Fred Grau — No research man is yet willing to say that 18 fairways will escape unscathed when pre-emergence chemicals are used. Some are bound to show some injury, undoubtedly because the turf on them isn't hardy enough to withstand treatment.

Charlie Wilson — There may be a future for bluegrass and fescue fairways, but only where the supt. knows how to water them. Bluegrass may hold up all right, but I'm dubious about the fescue.

Noer — To convert to bent fairways in the Northeast, the pH level should be close to 6.5. Lime may be applied to bring it up. We seem to be going overboard on soil tests. Many supts. are getting their courses aerated by the soil testers. As I see it, soil tests should be developed for all elements and not just a few.

Watson — Dew is a fungi source and should be washed off. (This was in reply to a supt. who said that he read in a USDA Yearbook that dew delays the onset of transpiration, and should be allowed to burn off.)

Grau — Fertilizer tests made in non-irrigated soil may not be foolproof. There has to be enough water to activate microorganisms or all fertilizers won't show optimum release performance.

Noer — Regardless of what test charts show, the function of fertilizer is to grow grass. What may be overlooked in these tests is that different fertilizers don't react uniformly in all types of soil.