

NATIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT

The M.G.C.S.A. was quite impressively represented by nearly fifty superintendent members and another twenty associate and honorary members at the 52nd International Turfgrass Conference and Show in Anaheim. Many of these members were accompanied by their families who enjoyed the final week of January in the not too objectionable climate of Southern California. Only on one day were activities nearly totally disrupted by inclement weather with the remaining days seeing mostly sunshine and temperatures in the 60°-70° range.

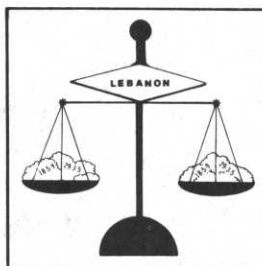
Tours and excursions were popular with M.G.C.S.A. members and their families during slack periods in conference activities. Nearly everyone took in the sights, sounds and excitement of Disneyland which was within walking distance of the conference center. Other outings which proved quite popular were trips to Knott's Berry Farm and Universal Studios. Side trips to San Diego and Mexico also attracted much interest. On the business end, a tour of Toro's Irrigation Plant at Riverside attracted much attention. Golf was naturally a popular event with play at the new Industry Hills complex, the site of the pre-conference tournament and golf course tour, an especially interesting and intriguing site.

The education sessions were particularly stimulating. Emphasis focused on items and situations we can all look forward to in the '80's and how to effectively deal with them. Attention was given to economically coping with problems which might arise in the near future concerning maintenance and management of turf, equipment and personnel.

The U.S.G.A. Green Section Educational Conference held in conjunction with this year's conference was very beneficial and a bonus to many superintendents. Holding these two conferences at the same site at the same time makes a great deal of sense and has the effect of "killing two birds with one stone" so to speak. This session was well attended and greatly appreciated by all of us.

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As usual, the equipment show was the focal point of the entire week. It was well worth the trip to be able to see virtually every piece of equipment, service, fertilizer and chemical available at the same location. This is the ultimate experience in the world of comparison shopping.

Unfortunately, our candidate for national director, Jim Lindblad, having been nominated from the floor, didn't quite succeed in his bid for election. However, his showing was more encouraging than disappointing. Jim received a considerable amount of exposure this year and should he decide to run for office next year, he should do quite well.

All in all, the 52nd International Turfgrass Conference and Show was enjoyed by all M.G.C.S.A. members in attendance. I'm sure that each individual and each organization that was represented will benefit greatly because of their participation. The time and energy were well spent.

Dale Caldwell
Chairman
Editorial Committee