

COHOON'S CORNER

○ The GCSAA International Conference and Show, recently concluded in Dallas, Texas, by all appearances was a tremendous success. The educational sessions which I attended were all crowded, the trade show had its typical three-ring-circus atmosphere, and—once again—misery had company at the national (Jack Frost) golf championships.

○ The conference experience got off to an ominous start as I sat on the airplane for four hours because an ice storm had closed Dulles Airport. Well, at least we were flying to a warm location. When I got off the plane in Austin, it was snowing, and, not only that, we hit the trifecta. It snowed on each day the tournament was held. The tournament became a test in clothes management: those who packed the most were the winners. Our association had four members who "finished in the money" in their respective flights. Nick "Pappy" Vance, CGCS, finished second net in the Senior I flight, George "Sandy" Renault III, CGCS, finished eleventh net in the second flight, while Bill "The Shark" Shirk, CGCS, was seventh, and Steve "Blade" Cohoon, CGCS, was twelfth in the first flight gross division. All have been released from the hospital and their frostbite is much better now.

○ After the championships, all attention turned to the conference in Dallas. While in Dallas most members stayed in the Loews Anatole, which more closely resembles an enclosed city than a hotel. It was here that the joint hospitality suite was held on Friday night. The attendance was terrific with no less than ten chapters participating in hosting the event and John F. Streeter, CGCS, coordinating the affair.

Many Mid-Atlantic members were present and everyone seemed to enjoy the food, drink, and fellowship.

○ The biggest attention getter in the trade show—besides the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders—was the introduction by both Jacobsen and Ransomes of the first electric riding greensmower. As I understand it, the first production unit won't be available until at least next year. It sounds like a great idea except you won't be able to warm up your hands by the tailpipe in cold weather anymore.

○ During the conference, the GCSAA and the University of Iowa College of Medicine announced the results of the mortality study that was initiated by the GCSAA last year. Please take time to read the article concerning that study in this newsletter. It contains valuable information every superintendent should be aware of.

○ The election process went very smoothly this year in stark contrast to the turmoil that took place last year. Joseph G. Baidy, CGCS, was elected president. Paul S. McGinnis, CGCS, R. Scott Woodhead, CGCS, and Bruce R. Williams, CGCS, were elected to director for two-year terms, and Tommy D. Witt, CGCS, was appointed for a one-year term. In addition, 13 of the 15 bylaws amendments were ratified. The only ones defeated were bylaw issue #5 which dealt with adding partial membership classes for golf course employees, and Issue #6 which called for allowing club officials to join as non-voting members. Most issues were settled by a large margin and were consistent with the opinion of our delegates.

○ The event was capped off by another banquet gala highlighted by the presenting of the "Old Tom Morris Award" to Byron Nelson, and the musical entertainment provided by crystal Gayle and the Oak Ridge Boys. Mr. Nelson got off the line of the night: after listening to a lengthy and eloquent letter from President Bill Clinton he commented, "If I had known he was going to write such nice things about me, I would have voted for him!"

○ All in all the conference was enlightening and entertaining, and now enough of that nonsense, it's time to get back to work. The season's here again.

1994 Legacy Awards. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's Legacy Award Program offers educational aid to the children and grandchildren of GCSAA members through the auspices of the GCSAA Scholarship and Research Fund, Inc., a charitable and educational trust. Legacy Awards are \$1500 per academic year. the deadline for applications is April 15, 1994. Call Sean Remington for more details.

Our Sympathy

Upon returning from the GCSAA meeting in Texas, I was saddened to learn of the passing of Cliff Case on February 8. For the younger members of the Association, Cliff was instrumental in the forming of the Maryland Turfgrass Council and frequently held meetings in his office. Cliff was a true friend of many of us in the Mid-Atlantic for over 40 years. Many a time Cliff would stop by area clubs late in the day to deliver needed turf products. He always had time to share his humor and good will, as well as his vast knowledge of pesticides. We will all miss him.

—Lou Rudinski