

# Convention Story Contest

*E. B. Dearie, Jr., 3rd Prize; Bob Farmer and L. M. Evans, Tied for 4th Prize*

THE progress of greenkeeping was well demonstrated at the recent Louisville convention which was both inspiring and educational. To think that our organization has been able to advance so far since the Chicago convention four years ago is very gratifying.

The 500 greenkeepers, who attended the last convention, certainly were well repaid and, if they will only do their duty and tell their associates the real value of it, certainly every greenkeeper in America should attend the next convention.

Our conventions are becoming more worth while every year. The time is past when going to one of our conventions was merely a lark. From the educational standpoint alone it is evident that greenkeepers, who desire to keep in touch with the rapid strides being made in their profession, cannot afford to neglect these splendid opportunities.

## Convention is Good Investment

WHILE the expense of attending conventions sometimes seems high, it is certainly a very good investment. Would it not be a good idea for all greenkeepers to set aside a small percentage of each pay check towards their expense funds?

The development of maintenance equipment was illustrated at the golf show and the exhibit of tractors, spraying machines, compost mixers, sprinklers and all kinds of apparatus was very complete. It indicates that many inventive minds are co-operating in attempting to assist greenkeepers.

The contest for the making of the best model greens, which was won by both Joe Valentine of Philadelphia and Charlie Erickson of Min-



EDWARD B. DEARIE, JR.

neapolis, was one of the interesting features. The models, which had been artistically constructed, showed the desirability of imagination.

Kentucky hospitality proved that no mistake had been made in selecting Louisville as the convention city for 1930. The formal address of welcome in behalf of the mayor was not nearly as impressive as his informal speech.

The banquet, of course, was the foremost social event. President Morley was honored by being commissioned a Kentucky colonel. The after-dinner speeches were quite to the point and the entertainment program had been well chosen. The harp selections by the seven sisters were very pleasing.

## Educational Program Interesting

THE educational program was one of general interest. George M. McClure of Columbus was an ideal chairman and kept things moving. The speakers were not only fully informed on their subjects but they had prepared self-explanatory charts which interpreted their remarks in terms of practical findings. That men of such high calibre should share greenkeeping interests seems a very hopeful sign for the future of greenkeeping.

The opening speech was very vital. Lewis M. Evans of Philadelphia took as his topic "The Fraternal Side of Greenkeeping". His attitude favoring cooperation and the avoidance of jealousy in the greenkeeping profession is one which can be highly endorsed. Undoubtedly the future of greenkeepers, both individually and collectively, depends upon high standards of ethics.

Perhaps the principal speaker of the conven-



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tion was Prof. L. S. Dickinson of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst, who made two very important addresses. Explanation of relative seed values by Prof. Dickinson was very informative. He made a point of emphasizing the economy of the best seed.

The control of brown patch is one of the bewildering problems of greenkeeping. Prof. Dickinson's lecture on this subject was worthy of the most serious consideration. The experiments by him into the practical side of this problem during the past five years seem about to bear fruit. The definite relationship between temperature and brown patch no longer can be ignored. Recommendations regarding the poling of the greens as a preventive doubtless will save many clubs large sums in the future.

#### Sprague Explains Fertilizers

EXPERIMENTS at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment station with twelve types of fertilizers were explained very interestingly by Dr. Howard B. Sprague. His report of comparative results was very illuminating.

It seems to indicate that the acidity or alkalinity of the soil does not affect weed growth.

A message from Canada was delivered by W. J. Sansom of Toronto who suggested the advisability of paying more attention to the cultivation of the fairways.

The activities of the Green section as explained by Dr. John Monteith of the United States Golf Association seem to indicate that many more helpful suggestions are to be expected in the near future. It is a shame that more funds are not available for this fine work.

The relationship between nitrogen, phosphorous and potash, the three plant food elements, was explained by A. E. Grantham of Richmond very clearly. His opinion that best results in fertilizing are likely to be realized when applied while the plant is dormant should be seriously considered.

When O. J. Noer of the University of Wisconsin stated that competition between clubs has increased the greenkeepers' responsibilities, he performed a real service to our organization. It is high time that all greenkeepers should be awake to these conditions.

The importance of adequate drainage is realized fully by all greenkeepers. The talk by Wendell P. Miller of Columbus on this topic bristled with technical facts which evidently had been gained through practical experience.

Interesting talks were made by W. O. Hollister of Kent, Ohio, on care and fertilization of trees and by James A. Smith of London, Ohio, on the "area method" of making compost.

#### Morley's Re-election Popular

THE unanimous re-election of John Morley of Youngstown, Ohio, to the presidency for the fourth time was highly satisfactory. The officers of the organization are leading it to the front very rapidly and their re-election seems a sign of wisdom. While the passing of John MacNamara is to be regretted, the election of Fred A. Burkhardt as treasurer was very timely.

The success of the Louisville convention—and it most certainly was a splendid success—brought credit to the untiring work of George Davies, Fred A. Burkhardt and others who made it possible. It is only fitting that Joe



Williamson and George Sargent should be given every cooperation in putting over the next convention.

The program of the last convention was so generally satisfactory that it is impossible to criticize. It might be suggested that various greenkeepers throughout the country be asked immediately to concentrate their individual attention upon separate problems so as to be able to present their findings at the next convention. Perhaps short debates on important subjects would be of general interest.

The enthusiasm generated at these conventions is very helpful. The door is being opened to intelligent greenkeeping and it is impossible to ignore the march of progress.

### Louisville Golf Show and Convention

By BOB FARMER



THE Fourth Annual Convention of the National Greenkeepers of America was held in Louisville, Kentucky. It would hardly be fair to speak of such a meeting without giving a word of praise to the choice of location. Louisville is centrally located and affords many conveniences for any convention held in February. The climatic conditions were excellent with the exception of two days of rain. Birds were singing and the grass was getting greener each day. Sight-seeing trips were made possible, due to the fact that the schedules for the educational programs were limited to the afternoons, which left the mornings free.

The outstanding feature of the convention was the display of equipment. Anything that is "bigger and better" demands attention. The satisfied smile that seemed to crop out upon all the faces of the equipment dealers was self explanatory of the appreciation of the efforts of the Show Committee.

Jefferson County Armory had plenty of floor space for a unified display of this kind. It was closely situated to the Kentucky Hotel which was another ideal factor. The rectangular arrangement of the equipment booths

???????

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was good. All dealers were adjoining each other and had sufficient room to display their wares.

The equipment display of the Golf Show was by far the largest of the National Greenkeepers' Conventions thus far, which is an achievement well worthy of mention. The efficiency of loading and unloading of equipment in such a building was increased considerably over previous locations.

#### Putting Green Contest Interesting

THE Putting Green Contest was a very interesting feature. Many of the greenkeepers had a few sleepless nights in the dead of winter over this rival competition. The classification of the East vs. West tended to create a pride of the greenkeepers in the contestants' workmanship representing their respective localities. Such demonstrations of building model putting greens to scale teach the observer the art of building, moulding and perfecting greens.

Many one shot holes have been designed and laid out and completed which, when finished have oriented the aerial routes of well-played wood and iron shots of our better golf-

ers of today. However it takes genius, labor and determination to duplicate such a feat even on a small scale when the architect knows that never a click of the iron will be heard at the tee, nor will he hear the plunk of the ball into the cup on the green.

All this Mr. George Davies did at the Fourth Annual Convention of the National Greenkeepers. He wasn't satisfied to use artificial grass so he took some blue grass sod to the greenhouse, where the necessary factors heat, light and water could be procured to keep the grass green for such an occasion. This uniquely laid out hole was short lived, but it most assuredly made a lasting impression.

The Educational Conference was very interesting throughout. All talks were educational and were applicable to the trains of thought that run through a greenkeeper's mind during the season. Some of the talks referred to soils and its constituents, some to fertilizers and its effects on weeds and some to seeds and grasses or the plant pathology concerning their diseases. All more or less pertained to Agriculture, which concerns a large part of our

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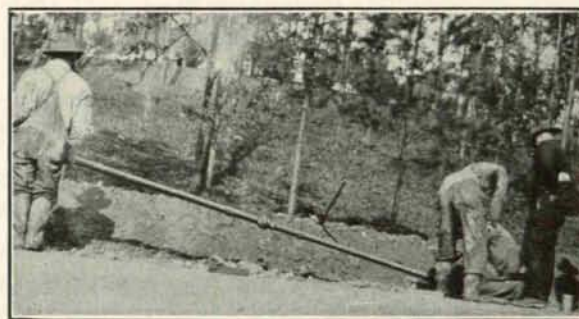
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work, but in order that the National Association of Greenkeepers may vary their educational speeches, why don't we include many of the other departments of education which are instrumental in greenkeeping.

There are many architects of today who would be willing to give information regarding course construction which would be useful to the greenkeeper who takes charge of a new course. The greenkeeper of today who is expected to take charge of a new course under construction, is also expected to check costs of the various operations of construction for his club. Water systems, cost comparisons of gravity and electric controlled pumping units vary. Which is the better and what are the factors that enter into such a decision?

Managerial problems could be discussed in such a meeting. Greenkeepers employ from 12 to 20 men and should strive for the highest degree of efficiency of handling these men at all times. Where should the barn be located? Do you approve of sectional tool sheds or boxes? Professor Dickinson from Amherst offers some very good and practical suggestions



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in his managerial course of study for the 18-hole golf course.

The field of greenkeeping, being so broad, it would be well to avoid repetition in our programs. The proximity of the lecture room area to the golf show display was harmonious and very agreeable.

During a convention there must be entertainment, and that we did have. The hospitality of the southern people is hard to beat. The menu announced in the "National Greenkeeper" was not explanatory of the good food we enjoyed at the banquet. Who could not laugh, and laugh heartily at the many jokes told by our after dinner speaker? His "negro mammy tunes" were indeed amusing. The very fine and talented entertainment given us after the dinner seemed to be enjoyed by all.

In the course of the evening there also happened a most impressive incident, which was when the Governor of Kentucky sent a representative to our convention to crown our worthy and honorable president Mr. John Morley, a Kentucky Colonel. This honor was bestowed upon Mr. Morley because of his work



and sense of duty, having given unselfishly of himself to promote the interests of golf and of the Greenkeepers of America and Canada today.

### From the Old Arm Chair

By LEWIS M. EVANS

THE trip home from Louisville is over and I am back again in Mudville and evening finds me in the old arm chair looking out of the window at the evening shadows lengthening.

My thoughts carry me back to Detroit and the old Fort Shelby hotel and I sit and draw a mental picture of the Show and Convention held by the National Association of Greenkeepers. I walk through the lobby meeting old friends and new and then I go down the stairs to see the golf course equipment, etc. Wonderful. That doesn't explain it and to think that all the details pertaining to it had been handled by fellow greenkeepers. It doesn't seem possible and as I walked around the ground floor and that small balcony it seemed as if I was dreaming.

The Convention and Committee meetings took up much of the time and the last day

soon arrived and I headed homeward convinced that I had witnessed the most wonderful Convention and Equipment Show that had ever been held and I questioned if I would ever see one as wonderful again. I shall always keep a warm spot in my heart for Detroit for I am convinced that it was there that the plant of fraternalism became deep rooted and it brought across the line our Canadian brothers whose friendship we are so proud of today.

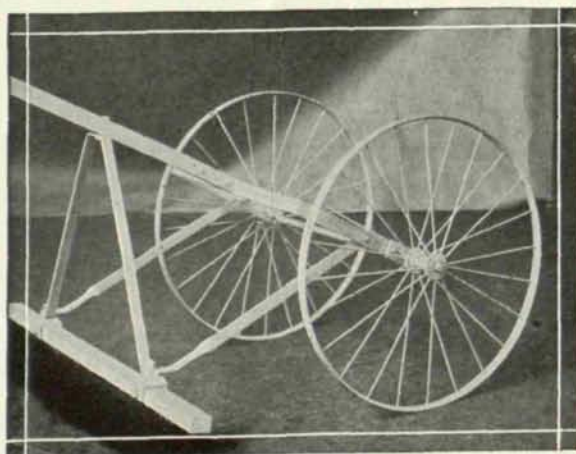
The hand of time moves quickly and a year has elapsed and I arrive in Buffalo and go to the Statler hotel the Association's headquarters for the Convention and Show. I know that the speakers for the Convention are all that one could desire but how about the Show!

The morning for its opening arrives and I prepare myself to be disappointed, "It can't compare to the one in Detroit last year," I said to myself. I start through the lobby and stop many times to greet my old friends and those who are attending a Convention for the first time. Finally I go into the Show and the sight was simply startling. The equipment wonderfully arranged in that beautiful Ball Room and Foyer and there amid all that splendor I couldn't help but murmur, "Surely Fate has been kind to us."

Again that last day arrived all too soon and as I bid "good bye" to my friends with the usual "hope to see you next year" I headed toward Mudville once again. The trip home gave me many hours to thoroughly go over the happenings of those wonderful days, the wonderful show, the wonderful speakers, the wonderful entertainment provided in fact I should have covered the entire subject with the one word "wonderful." We have reached the top I said to myself and this was the finest Convention and Show that I shall ever see or any other greenkeeper for that matter. I was a better greenkeeper when I came home from Detroit but I am still a better one for having gone to Buffalo.

Another year has rolled around and time finds me with the old carpet bag packed and headed for Louisville. Enthused? No. Oh it might be a good Convention and Show, about on a par with Detroit but it can't touch Buffalo that I am sure. It was in the cool gray dawn

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of the morning when I arrived and a taxi soon took me to the Kentucky hotel. The travel stains have been removed and I am down in the lobby talking to my fellow greenkeepers from all over the United States and Canada.

"If good speakers and numbers spell success," I said to myself, "well then this is going to be a pretty good Convention." "Hey there Styme," yells a good friend to me, "come over to the Show." We went across the street and into the main door of the Armory. Oh boy! Gosh what a sight. Why the Registration desk has even been improved on. Would you look at all that equipment and how wonderfully it has been arranged. Say, aren't the booths arranged great? The decorations are wonderful.

Wait a minute don't walk so darn fast. What's this? A miniature one shot hole with real grass on it and real water in the creek. Say that's great. Who built it? George Davies of the Big Spring Golf Club. Say that's a novel idea and that fellow "Davy" is sure an artist. My laws what are these? A couple of miniature greens built out of sand. Well this is the greatest ever. Wait until I read the signs

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that are on those greens. A Western team competing against an Eastern team in green construction and trapping also draining and the prize \$100.00. This is the greatest thing of its kind ever held.

What's the curtain over there? Oh that's where the meetings are to be held. Come on let's go in and listen to the talks on golf course problems. Those speakers are great. Did you ever dream you would see greenkeepers put anything across like this? I complete the mental picture of the wonderful entertainment that was provided at the banquet, also the theatre, the wonderful display of fellowship during those days and then as those splendid things pass before my eyes I am again saying "good bye" to all those good friends and with the old carpet bag packed I am heading toward Mudville once more, proud of the fact that I am a greenkeeper.

It was the greatest ever so far. I'm startled by a voice calling and it's the wee Wife announcing that supper is ready and my mental picture of the Convention and Show at Louisville has been brought to an abrupt end.





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Now is the time when the water meters click or the pumps throb to keep the greens, tees and fairways green.

That wise guy who first said "Green as grass" probably never had anything to do with a golf course in July and August.

Brown patch season is on. If you are having good luck fighting it, why not pass your idea on to the other fellow who is having his troubles. It may help him out.

The recent contest on the golf show and convention at Louisville brought out some good points. Suggestions are always helpful and we will try to follow any good ones.

The membership drive is still on. Did you send in that name you were going to?

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There is only one way whereby we can increase our fraternal activities.

If you are planning taking a trip this summer, why not make it your business to visit the greenkeepers in the place you are going. The secretary will be glad to furnish names of greenkeepers whom you can call on in all parts of the country.

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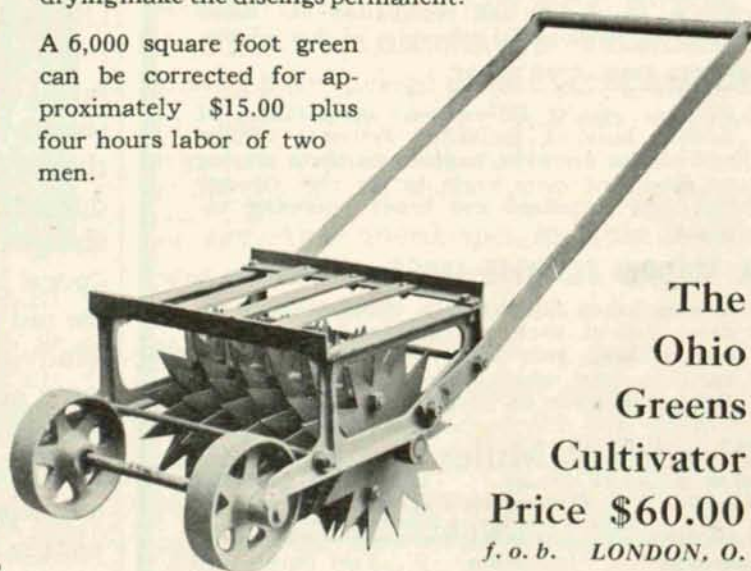


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# Mid-West Greenkeepers' Page

BY A. L. BRANDON, *Secretary*

The Tournament committee seems worried about Gus Graham's golf game (at present he holds the Midwest trophy) especially concerning his playing in the rough continually at Chain O'Lakes—Gus is rather clever—we think he is working for a larger handicap—personally we know a sure method of ruining his game, but on second thought we believe we have donated a few nickels to his prosperity.

Two of our most faithful members were absent at our last meeting, Mr. John MacGregor, of Chicago Golf and Mr. Alfred Bul-ler, of Lakeside, Michigan—seems sort of odd to have a meeting with them absent.

The season is fast approaching when your greens may look like a million dollars in the morning and a nickel in the evening.

Our worthy President, Matt Bezek of Beverly Country Club reports brown patch working during the chilly part of May.

Last month we attempted to give a resume of general conditions in the Chicago District—since then the weather has slapped us plenty—however after a chilly finish in May, combined with a lack of rainfall, most courses presented a backward condition. (the general precipitation for the season is abnormally low, con-

sidering average seasonal rainfall) The first portion of June brought high hot winds which further parched the already dry turf. Now with timely showers things have somewhat regained their lost vitality and color.

Continuing the unofficial committee for common annoyances relative to maintenance of golf courses—how about the member who continually compares your course with one which spends 30 to 50 per cent more, annually for maintenance.

The May meeting of the Midwest Greenkeepers at Chain O'lakes, Antioch, Illinois, was well attended.

Mr. Fred O. Hawkins certainly had things in excellent condition. Chain O'Lakes is a fee course and certainly rates as one of the best in this district.

We are indebted to the Tournament Committee for the following:

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to hand in at least three scores played at these meetings so the Tournament Committee can arrange your handicap. My advice to you is to be on hand, turn in your scores before your game gets too "hot."

At Medinah Country Club I wedged myself in on Gus Graham's foursome and I learned many of his weak plays. At Chain O'Lakes, he was in the foursome ahead and they were slow owing to Gus playing too much in the rough. If you want to study the

other Greenkeepers games be on hand at our next meeting in Rockford.

—J. T. Langell.

Our next meeting will be at Harlem Hills Country Club, Rockford, Illinois. Mr. Andy Gillett, Greenkeeper has assured us of a fine time, Monday, June 30th.

Come Out, Midwest Members—let's see you at Rockford.

## New England Notes

BY LLEWELLYN L. DERBY

**G**REENKEEPERS' Field Day at Rhode Island State College at Kingston Monday, May 26 attracted a group of 54 persons who were intensely interested in what is going on there and mightily well entertained.

Assembling on the college campus at ten thirty in the morning the party was tendered the official welcome of the institution by Acting President John Barlow.

T. E. Odland briefly described what was to be seen on the experimental turf plots and from eleven o'clock until lunch time an inspection was made of the extensive work being done, ranging from old lawn plots established in 1905 to the new golf green plots. Strains and variety tests, seed production of bent grasses, and fertilizer tests with R. I. bent include the types of work being done on these golf green plots.

Following an excellent lunch in East Hall, Director B. E. Gilbert presided at the green-

keepers' meeting and introduced Prof. L. S. Dickinson of Massachusetts Agricultural College whose topic was "Managerial Suggestions."

An open forum with a question box brought the indoor program to a close and the group adjourned to view exhibits and demonstrations of golf course equipment.

A. N. Peckham was the leader on a visit to nearby fields where velvet and R. I. bent are being grown for seed.

The day's program was brought to a close with a trip to the new Bonnet Shores golf course on Narragansett Bay now under construction under the direction of Woodworth Bradley.


Greenkeepers of the New England Association swung their clubs with might and main and we trust with considerable skill at the Unicorn Country Club at Stoneham, Mass. June 2 on the occasion of their annual 18-holes of medal play.

J. McCormick, home greenkeeper, won the low gross in the big field of 45 when he turned in an 80. T. Swanson of Bear Hill was second with an 86, and third prize went to R. D. Deckham of the Rhode Island Country Club with an 89.

The low gross guest prize was awarded to T. Kow who made the circuit in 75, and a low net score of 68 was turned in by J. McDonough of Salem.

Other scores were: E. B. Lord, Southbridge,

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