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Your Standard Is Best Course Golfer Sees on TV; Dunlap Elected

Golf management must "care" about the golfer—the fellow who is paying the bill—the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation conferees were told at its annual meeting at Purdue University.

Marvin Merritt, assistant supervisor of the Cincinnati, O., golf public recreation commission, pointed up change in public golf in the 1960s in reading a speech prepared for delivery by the commission's supervisor, Robert J. Strauss. Strauss, recuperating from an illness, was unable to attend.

"Public link golfers are demanding better courses. Competition is keen for the greensfee dollar. He migrates from course to course. His locker room is the trunk of his car, and he knows what a first class course looks like because he sees them close up every weekend on television."

Course superintendents must constantly stay abreast of changes in management practice, he said. These have multiplied. Public courses are crowded seven days a week, from sunup until sundown. Problems in getting the work done have increased, and this may mean some maintenance will have to be done under lights.

Golfers are increasingly demanding year-round golf, he added, noting that Cincinnati's municipal golf receipts in January, 1971, were more than \$13,000.

Design of new publicly operated courses has these characteristics: easy walking terrain; large greens and tees—so markers and cups can be moved more frequently; wide open fairways, minimum rough for low cost maintenance and fast play; few, if any, sandtraps; and watered

fairways, if free city water or natural water is available.

The future of golf is tremendous, he said. He also foresees tremendous opportunities for new, well-trained golf personnel who possess enthusiasm, love of work, and capacity and willingness to learn.

A Purdue student, John Thorne, said that growth regulating chemicals have a bright future in turf management. Among them are compounds which inhibit formation of seedheads and reduce grass leaves, thus cutting down on the frequency of mowing.

Five Purdue University students specializing in turf studies received a total of \$1,200 in scholarships.

Recipients of golf course superintendents' scholarships valued at \$350 each were William C. Brazeau, West Lafayette, and John R. Cartmill, Evansville.

Other recipients were Lee Overpeck, West Lebanon, \$200 Mueller sod scholarship, and Barry Sage, Seymour, and Richard D. Hudson, Warren, each \$150 Michiana golf course superintendents' association scholarships.

Officers of the Foundation, elected for 1971-72, are John Dunlap, superintendent, Oakwood Club, Cleveland, O., president; Louis E. Miller, superintendent, Louisville Country Club, Louisville, Ky., vice-president; and W. H. Daniel, Purdue turf specialist, executive secretary (re-elected).

New directors are David Fearis, Peoria, Ill., James Timmerman, Orchard Lake, Mich., and Dudley Smith, Orland Park, Ill.

More than 600 attended the conference, co-sponsored by the Foundation and Purdue's agronomy department.

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