



One's education is never complete.

Has the Green Section Ever Made A Mistake?

by DONALD D. HOOS

Director, Western Region, USGA Green Section

These remarks were made on January 4, 1924, by Dr. C. V. Piper, the first Director of the USGA Green Section.

“I WANT TO EXPLAIN briefly what the Green Section is, since I find there is a great deal of apprehension in regard to it. It is a cooperative organization of golf clubs, who supply the funds through their annual dues.

“The objectives of the Green Section are purely altruistic. We are trying to help the golf clubs for their own benefit and for the public. One of my economist friends tells me this is all wrong. He says, ‘You know, the function of the

rich is to get all the money they can from the bourgeoisie and the proletariat, who are not able to use it intelligently; therefore, whenever there is a chance to pry money from the idle rich, that is the proper thing to do.’ He says, ‘Let these fellows get all the money out of the golf course that they can.’

“We do not take that point of view at all. We have learned that the average golf club is only a few jumps ahead of the sheriff, and that the clubs are not as rich as they are said to be. Some men in business, in dealing with golf courses, do not seem to understand this fully. Most of the clubs do, and I think they realize we are working for their benefit.

The best asset of a business house is satisfied customers, and a lot of the golf clubs have not been satisfied with the dealings they have had with some business houses.

“Lloyd George told a story the other day that I thought was very clever, a story of Theodore Roosevelt that I had not heard before. Roosevelt remarked, ‘It is very strange that whenever I say “Thou shalt not steal” there is a panic in Wall Street.’

“Now we have never accused any businessmen dealing with golf courses of being crooked. We never mention favorably or unfavorably, in correspondence or otherwise, the name of any



firm doing business with golf clubs. We lean backwards to try and be absolutely fair to everyone. If we have anything to say, it is made in the form of a general statement, but some people apparently take these general statements home and say, 'Well, this means me; those fellows are after me.' Well, of course, we are not to blame for that. We certainly have never mentioned any firm as being crooked or as using unethical methods. We suspect that some have probably done so and we want them to quit it.

"The Green Section, for its further growth and development, depends upon people who are the members of the Green Section. A whole lot of clubs in the country are not members, and the only explanation we can make is that they do not understand what it is all about. I find that to be the case very frequently. They simply do not understand that here is an organization that is working for the benefit of the golf club, has nothing to gain, no ulterior motive, except working for the progress and good of golf.

"Now I want to make it clear that there is still an enormous amount of work for the Green Section to do, and I cannot see that it is ever going to end — not alone in the matter of investigation, but also in the matter of education. Education is notoriously a long and slow process. For example, after practically every paper that has been given here, you have asked questions galore; in other words, you are after education. We are trying to put forth nothing until we have a pretty convincing argument that it is correct. And in this very complex problem of greenkeeping it is very easy to reach erroneous conclusions. You have had a couple of demonstrations of that.

"Now, in closing, I want to thank all the Green Section members for the support they have given in the past. Golf clubs have been very highly appreciative. We have letters of the most complimentary sort, which, of course, add to our pleasure in giving service. We do not claim to be infallible. We realize we are dealing with very complex problems and we listen to

suggestions. We want every greenkeeper to experiment on his own account; he may discover some very valuable things. The field is wide open, and we want to encourage investigation in every way, which is the only road to advancement."

THE HISTORY OF the Green Section is one of service and working for the benefit of golf clubs and the professional advancement of the golf course superintendent. There are no ulterior motives here, nothing to gain except the progress and improvement of golfing turf. Education and the development of new information must never cease.

The Green Section still needs your support through your use of the Turfgrass Advisory Service. For a sub-

scription fee of \$500 annually, your club may receive a full one-half day visit from the highly skilled and trained Green Section agronomist in your region. His visit and following report will provide the latest research information, turfgrass management techniques, insight and an invaluable, sound reference source for the turfgrass management program at your golf club.

Has the Green Section ever made a mistake? Of course we have, just as everyone else. But there's no need for anyone to repeat the same mistakes over again. Use the Green Section's 60 years of experience in research and tens of thousands of on-site visits to golf courses throughout the Western World. We can help in providing your course with better golfing turf. We always have.

The Turf Advisory Service: What It Can Do for Your Club in 1982

The USGA Green Section Turf Advisory Service has a new look, a new dimension and a new direction for 1982 and beyond. As noted elsewhere in this issue, the Green Section has just embarked upon the largest and most significant turfgrass research and plant breeding project in the history of turfgrass management! The thrust will be toward development of minimal-maintenance turfgrasses for all golf courses in the future. It is a multi-million-dollar, long-range effort to provide excellent playing surfaces at lower costs. If it is to be successful, the Green Section needs your support.

Subscribing to the Turf Advisory Service is the best way to support and encourage the Green Section program. For an annual fee of \$500 (less than one-quarter of one percent

of most golf maintenance budgets today), your club will receive a full half-day, on-the-spot visit from an experienced, highly trained and qualified Green Section agronomist in your region. Each visit is followed by a full report covering the recommendations offered (based on the latest research information), reviewing proven turf management techniques and offering sound, invaluable insight for a solid turfgrass management program at your club. It is the best buy in golf management today.

Full details are available from your regional Green Section office. The address may be found inside the front cover of this issue. Your club will be doing something great for itself — for you — for all of golf. The Green Section in 1982!

(Opposite page) Science is a part of turfgrass management.