Mid-Atlantic Well Represented at National Conference

Many of our Mid-Atlantic members made the conference February 8th-13th in Minneapolis. Members present were Dick Anderson, Warren Bidwell, Angelo Cammarota, Bill Emerson, Wayne Evans, Dave Fairbanks, Gerry Gerard, Herb Hienlen, Ron Hall, Holman Griffin, Mike Larson, Tom List, John Maley, Mike MacKenzie, Jerome Robine, Lou Rudinski, Jack Hall, Bob Shields, Fred Scheying, John Scott, John Tutich and Buck Whetzel. Our commercial representatives attending were Dick Hill, John Strickland, Greg Mergenthaler, Dick Hawthorne, Tom Harris, Russ Bull, L.W. Browne, George Cornell, Dick Jones, Don Kline, and Dave Cannavan. Our members who attended with their wives were Lee Dieter and his wife Rita, Sam and Sue Kessel, Gene and Gloria Day, Virgil and Karen Robinson, George and Jackie Thompson, Tom and Connie Miller, Ben and Hilda Stagg, Alex and Viola Watson, Carroll and Thelma Davis, George and Suzanne Cleaver, and Bob and Ruth Adams.

Not only was the Mid-Atlantic well represented in attendance, but in speakers as well. On Tuesday afternoon Jack Hall of University of Maryland gave one of the most interesting talks of the conference entitled, “Future Shock — Are You Prepared For 1984.” On Thursday afternoon our own Lee Dieter spoke as part of a panel on Cart Paths and their Maintenance. Holman Griffin, Mid-Atlantic Director for the U.S.G.A. Green Section spoke Thursday about the Construction of Cart Paths.

The Conference in Minneapolis was probably one of the best planned out and most efficiently operated conferences of all times. From the Keynote Address on Monday morning right on through to the Slide Presentation on Friday, the program went without a hitch. The Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents deserve a hearty well done for their hard work on a perfect conference.

P.S. Craig Rhoderick, Bob Orazi and Bill Livingston also attended the national.

Turf and Early Spring Equal Death

When alternate freezing and thawing are going on necessary soil granulation is taking place . . . If it is disrupted, serious compaction problems, that may persist through the season, can be induced. Turf is particularly vulnerable when it is coming out of the dormant stage. Grass blades are more easily damaged at this time than any other. Turf in the early spring is struggling for a roothold and, too, it is recovering from winter damage and needs a warming period in which to recuperate.

Superintendents, of course, have been aware of these things for many, many years. But too few of their members realize what takes place at the time when the grass starts to come back. Some are indifferent of course, but the majority will recognize the wisdom of closing the course or keeping it closed when it is explained to them why turf can be damaged during the trying days of early spring.