

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To all members of the Association, I would at this time like to take the opportunity of wishing a very MERRY CHRISTMAS.

The season past has been, I believe, a most successful one for most Golf Course Superintendents in this particular area. It is, however, rather disturbing to me to note that there were some reports of turf trouble that were not directly attributed to weather conditions. Along this line, if I may, let me remind you that Greenkeeping is still an art and cannot be reduced to a mechanical or routine procedure. In these days of rapid developments in turf culture, and keen competition between golf courses for the best, we are all too apt to forget and become too reckless in golf course maintenance procedure. Improvements in turf maintenance, wider knowledge thru education, improved chemicals for use in turf work and better machinery, notwithstanding, the Superintendent's good common sense is still the most valuable asset to his golf course. Let us be cautious in the use of new chemicals, new ideas or in trying to "keep up with the Jones," or listening to club members complaints or demands and try to give the turf a real break.

William H. Stupple, President.

WILLIAM HENRY OATES

It is with great regret that we announce the passing of our good member William Henry Oates, Superintendent of Arrowhead C. C. in Wheaton, Ill. Mr. Oates had been at Arrowhead for some 15 years and manager of the club during and after the war. He passed away October 30 in his 66th year leaving his wife and a son, H. A. Oates. We have lost a good member and a good friend. We will miss him.

MRS. BURDETT SR.

It is with a great deal of regret that we announce the death of the mother of our good friend and member, Paul Burdett. Mrs. Burdett passed away on Sunday, November 11, and was laid to rest on Wednesday, November 14. We wish to convey our deepest sympathy to the Burdett family.

EXCISE TAX REPORT

After study and interpretation of the new 10% Federal Excise tax levied by Congress in the new tax law, the Department of Internal Revenue has removed all institutional mowers of 30" or more from the list. This means that tractors, gang mowers, and all large power mowers are tax exempt but mowers less than 30" in width such as trim mowers and greensmowers are subject to the 10% levy. It is hoped that greensmowers will also be removed from the list. With ever rising costs making for higher prices it is a great relief to have large institutional equipment exempted from the Excise tax. In the interest of economy and conservation Power Mowers while just as efficient will probably be stripped of all ornamental gadgets for appearance only in 1952. It could be that the engineers will come up with improved performance.

C. O. Borgmeier.

THE MEETING AT BONNIE DUNDEE

The Association's "weather man" pulled a boner when he allowed that the weather on November 5 might be such as would allow us to play golf at our meeting at Bonnie Dundee. Maybe he was crowding his luck or thought he was getting to be pretty good after the wonderful day of our last meeting at Chicago Golf Club on October 15. However, be it as it may, it was a good try and they can't blame you for trying. The heavy snow of the preceding Saturday laid a blanket over the course and although Monday turned out to be a bright sunny day, there was too much snow for golf. A number of the boys gathered together in the afternoon for card playing and a bull session. In the evening Miss Harms, club house Manager, laid out a truly delicious buffet dinner. There was plenty to eat and was enjoyed by all. At 7:30 the meeting was called to order by President Stupple. After the roll call of officers and reading of the minutes of our previous meeting, the various committee chairmen made their reports. Bert Rost, Research Chairman, reported on the meeting with Dr. Grau, Dr. Voigt, Dr. Rhodes and members of the committee on October 17. Ray Davis, Entertainment Chairman, gave his report on the forthcoming Fall Dance at Roselle, on November 17. Ray Gerber reported for the Employment and Placement Committee. The meeting was opened to general discussion of the proposed Experimental Turf Garden at Lisle and many of the members came up with some valuable suggestions on the proposed work.

The meeting was turned over to Al Johnson, Educational Chairman, who presented a very interesting program of movies and colored slides. George Davis showed a very fine picture of the actual eruption of a volcano in the Hawaiian Islands in 1950. He also presented a movie of the 25th anniversary day of Walter Hagen's winning of the National Open at Midlothian in 1914. He also showed a movie of Pete Stewart battling a shark in Florida waters, although we never did get to see the shark, Pete swore up and down that he had one on the line and that it was a big one. Paul Burdett, as you probably know, had been taking pictures all summer long and he took this opportunity to show them to us. He had pictures of many of the Superintendents in their various activities and a very interesting series on his trip to Beltsville in October. George also showed us a movie he took at the meeting at Beltsville. All in all, it was a very interesting evening. Our sincere thanks again to Jock Anderson, Miss Harms and Al Rauch for their wonderful hospitality.

Mrs. Rauch, Al's wife, made the homemade bread which we enjoyed at the buffet. It sure was good.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee had a meeting on November 8 to further discuss the proposed project of the turf gardens at Lisle. The proper wording of the final draft was discussed and then it was decided to have a meeting with Mr. Milton Carleton, a well known writer on Horticultural matters, and find out if he could add any material as to the proper basis for the project. Mr. Carleton would attempt to enlist the interest of the American Seed Trade Association.

Bert Rost, Chairman