

## WINTER SPORTS AT EXMOOR

Winter sports at Exmoor has become big business. The skating and hockey rinks have been established close to the club house for the members convenience. The warming house or skating house as it is called is an attractive permanent brick building, pine panelled with a huge fireplace, central heating system and all facilities for convenience. This building is used in the summer months for a tennis club house and shop. An attendant is on duty in the house at all times during the skating season. A record player with outside amplifiers does much to add to the skaters enjoyment and especially for the figure skaters. The Club has engaged a skating instructor who is on hand to give lessons in skating to the beginners and advanced figure skating to the figure skating enthusiasts. It is amazing how figure skating has grown in popularity in the last few years. The rink is made as attractive as possible with wind breaks and decorated with left over Christmas trees and of course flood-lighted at night, making it a truly delightful spot, which of course adds immeasurably to the pleasure of the sport. The ice is kept as perfect as possible by resurfacing at least once a day and on big days such as Saturday and Sunday and special party or Carnival days, two or three times.

The latest addition to the Winter sports program is Curling. This ancient Scottish game has become one of the most popular of the Winter sports activities at Exmoor. With four sheets of ourdoor ice we now have over a hundred men and forty women who are enthusiastic curlers and although our Chicago winters are not the best for winter sports, the game is being played at an increasingly large number of Country clubs thruout the Chicago District. There is a room set aside in the skating house for the exclusive use of the curlers and this is their club house where they "stack the brooms" and talk over the game. They have inter and intra club leagues and really have a wonderful time. The curling ice is built on specially prepared stone surfaces and the ice must be kept as level as possible at all times. The rinks run from West to East and are shaded from the sun by canvas walls to keep the surface of the ice as perfect as possible.

There is also skeet and trap shooting and a permanent club house for the shooters.

This Winter sports program has resulted in a year round club and a busy club. The club house stays open all twelve months of the year with almost a full staff. The whole operation of winter sports is rather expensive, but with the increased use of the club and the resulting increased revenue, more active club and a well satisfied membership, it is written off as a very profitable investment. The maintenance of the rinks by the Grounds crew has resulted in the year round employment of six men, which is a real break for the Superintendent during these times of hard to get labor.

Bill Stuppel, Grounds Supt.

Mavor Boyd writes that he is now a grandfather. "I don't mind being a grandfather," says Mavor, "but I don't like sleeping with a grandmother."

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## MIDWEST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held on Monday, January 8th, at the Hotel Sherman in Chicago. Following a report by President William Stuppel, chairmen of the various committees presented their annual committee reports which showed that 1950 had proven a year of numerous activities and considerable progress.

Dr. William Daniel gave a progress report on the affairs and activities of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation in which he reported considerable progress in the experimental work being conducted at Purdue. He also gave a favorable report concerning membership in the M.R.T.F. for the coming year.

Dr. O. J. Noer presented his Annual Report to the Midwest Superintendents in which he brought out, with the aid of colored pictures, that, to use his words, "1950 was as good a year as 1949 was a bad one." As a result of the year's findings Dr. Noer's conclusions were that, despite the vast advancement and continued improvement made during the past 25 years in the field of turf and turf management, Mother Nature still plays a very important part in any venture in turf.

As a result of the election of officers, the following officers were elected for the coming year: William Stuppel, President; Frank Dinelli, 1st Vice President; Ray Davis, 2nd Vice President; Bert Rost, Secretary; Walter Kilmer, Treasurer; Directors, Henry Lange, Al Johnson and George Roloff. Emil Mashie and Matt Bezek remain as holdover Directors.

January marks the beginning of the 25th year of the MIDWEST.

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