

John Darrah was President for the year 1942. Up to John's administration, the Association was strictly a membership organization. During that year, associate members were admitted. Membership increased at once.

Ray Gerber was the next President and served during the years 1943-4. Membership continued to increase and interest continued. During Ray's reign, he worked with the C.D.G.A. in building two putting greens and a pitch and putt course for the veterans at Hines Hospital. . . . the boys at the hospital really enjoyed their Pee Wee Golf Course.

Ray Didier was the President during the years 1945-6. The question box had become regular routine at the meetings. The short course at Purdue had also developed into a yearly event and was well attended. The turf committee was very active and contributed much valuable information.

Don Strand was the next President elected for the years 1947-8. The association progressed greatly. Membership increased. Don was a very active President. The turf committee continued functioning and kept after the University of Illinois about an experimental garden. The committee also helped those who requested aid. The greenkeeper's calendar was a valuable contribution to the profession. Bob Williams was the author.

Mel Warnecke was the President for the year 1949. The fine work of the committees continued under Mel's leadership. Golf at the meetings was stressed and more men were playing golf, which is a great asset to themselves and their club. It is surprising what you see while playing golf that you do not see walking or riding over the golf course.

William Stupple was elected President for the years 1950-1. The 1950 National Convention was again held in Chicago at the Sherman Hotel. Bill was the General Chairman and the committees functioned well under his leadership. The most successful convention ever held was the result; the ladies will vouch for that, I am sure, so far as they were concerned. Bill is doing a fine job as President.

The meetings are well attended; instructive and educational. The turf garden so long fought for is near reality. The University of Illinois is eventually very much interested. The committees are active and producing excellent results.

Remarkable progress has been made in mowing equipment. Twenty-five years ago many were still using push type putting green mowers. It took a great deal of convincing to change to power those who were skeptical. However, today every golf course has been converted to the power putting green mower. It is fortunate, too, because it would be almost impossible to induce the present day workman to push a putting green mower. Fairway mowing equipment has been greatly improved so that fairways today almost without exception, have beautiful evenly cut turf. Rough mowing has become a simple operation today because of the development of mowers which enable one to mow rough more frequently and economically. When one looks back to the days when rough was cut with the sickle bar, and the raking together of the cut grass and hauling away of the grass, one can realize the advancement in mowing equipment.

When you look back and remember the types of sprayers that were in use years ago, one wonders how it was possible to accomplish what had to be done. Today it is a pleasure to operate the latest type sprayers because of the economy in time, material and labor, so we can truly say we have progressed.

The U.S.G.A. green section, and many universities have contributed enormously through research at the various experimental gardens and short courses, toward more economical maintenance. Chemicals have been developed for the control of weeds, brown patch, dollar spot and other fungi, earthworms, ants and other pests, fertilizer practices, better grasses for putting greens and fairways although location, climatic conditions play a very important part in the type of grass used.

All of these advancements have been brought about during the past 25 years.

The superintendent of today is a serious student of the profession. He is intelligent in his application of the information at hand. The next 25 years will see advances in maintenance methods just as revolutionary as we have seen during the past 25 years.

May the future of the Mid-West Superintendents' Association be a bright one.

PLEASE NOTE

The date of the Pro-Superintendents meeting at St. Andrews has been changed from Oct. 1 to Oct. 8.

MAINTAINANCE HINTS

The job of keeping the grass cut at the base of trees and under fences has long been a problem to golf course superintendents. Here at our club, the job required about eighty-five hours labor and a power trim mower. I have seen the job done using a scythe and then raking the cut grass and hauling it away, which would require at least twice as much labor and expense. When the grass has been trimmed, it is only a matter of three or four weeks and the whole job must be repeated. With the present labor costs being what they are, we are continually trying to reduce labor wherever possible. With the foregoing in mind it occurred to me that we would be much better off with no turf at all at the base of trees and the golfers would be better off, too, as they would prefer to hit a ball from bare ground as compared to hitting a shot from a clump of overgrown grass. We set out to accomplish the job of having bare ground at the base of our trees rather than turf that occasionally grew too high for either good golf or good groomed appearance. We started out with a three gallon Hudson sprayer filled with fuel oil and sprayed around all the trees in one area and waited and watched to see what the results would be. After a period of two weeks, we were so well satisfied with the looks of the job that we went ahead and treated every tree on the course. The time was about 24 hours labor and the material amounted to about thirty gallons. The spray covered about 14 to 18 inches out from the base of the tree. The average time for treating each tree is about 15 seconds. Some new growth started after three months and a second application has been made that will last the balance of the season.

I was afraid at first that there might be some damage to the trees but it seemingly has no effect on them. I checked this possibility with several tree experts and they agreed that no damage should occur as long as the material is kept away from the bark of the tree. Undoubtedly other materials would serve the same purpose. We picked fuel oil because we had a supply available, and its cost was very reasonable. An additional time and labor saving was effected by placing the sprayer on a caddy cart and wheeling it from tree to tree.

Bob Williams