

THE BULL SHEET, monthly publication of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Editor, William H. Stupple, 543 Michigan Ave., Highland Park, Illinois. Associate Editors; Bert Rost, Al Johnson.

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THE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

You will soon receive by mail the SURVEY OF GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE, developed by our information committee. I would like to take this opportunity to again review the purpose of this effort and to ask for your wholehearted support in completing the forms and promptly returning them.

Club officials are interested in costs and have always compared costs of one club against another. They have never compared the factors that regulate costs. The CDGA has endeavored to compile data but somehow the request for information never got to the superintendent and his situation has not been helped to the degree that it should have been. Incomplete information has been compiled by the CDGA and our club officials have used this information as a yardstick for lack of anything better. The time has come for us to alleviate this situation and to help our officials and ourselves by taking the guesswork and rumors out of golf maintenance statistics and give them the facts. When our final report is compiled we can show them with facts why we spend more or less money at one club over the low, medium, or high average.

We hope, too, to bring out in the open the age old question of superintendents' salaries. Any category of professional people have a so called "price" attached to their services. The "price" for supts. is undoubtedly the lowest of all department heads at most clubs while our responsibilities are at least equal, if not more, than the others. We are at present at a loss to delve into this subject of salaries due to the fact that we do not have any information regarding the present day scale. We ask and hope for your cooperation in returning the questionnaires, so that many of these items can be clarified. Once we know by fact what the high, low and average salaries are, we will have better grounds upon which to base our asking price. Through our natural instinct to want to be above average, we can and shall all benefit together.

I want to take this opportunity also to express our gratitude to the information committee of Ray Gerber, Don Strand and Bob Williams for the time and effort they have given in the preparation of such a complete document. Their biggest job, that of compiling the summary of all the returns, still lies ahead; but we know that they have what it takes to see a job through and we will all cooperate to our fullest in filling out and returning the questionnaire promptly.

Ray Davis, President

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OUR HOST, HAROLD REED

Harold Reed of Ridgemoor is our host for the June meeting. Harold is an oldtimer in the world of golf activities. He has been Superintendent at Ridgemoor for the last 10 years and before that was at Oak Park Country Club, where he was very fortunate to be assistant under that old master, Eddie Dearie. Harold is the father of two children and has one grandson. Harold and Mrs. Reed celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Sunday, April 6.

TALKING TURF

Dr. William H. Daniel

In turf it seems true that no two years are the same. When I visited the Chicago area in May, 1951, you had no snowmold but some ice freezing injury in low undrained pockets on greens. In May, 1952, almost every golf course had some areas on greens where snowmold had been active for a limited time. The fall preventive treatments used by most superintendents has been carefully applied at recommended rates. However, the time and amount of the snowmold was as much dependent on the way the snow lay and melted as any other factor. By May 7 many of the areas were definitely recovering and only a few areas needed replugging. Much of the bent in fairways was lost; some of it will recover very slowly, if at all.

The depth of root penetration under greens was quite a bit less in 1952 than in 1951. Those putting greens of excellent soil condition, well aerated, and without matting or thatch had only 8 - 10" of roots compared to 14 - 16" last year at the same time of the growing season. The improperly constructed greens, which had tight subsoils and rather heavy surface covering, had at least 4" of live roots in 1951. However, this same type of green had not over 1" of roots in 1952. Such greens possibly will need close attention and management if severe weather occurs during the 1952 season.

The fall, 1951, and spring, 1952, has been a very poor grass planting season. Dry weather in late fall and an early cold fall gave seedlings little chance to develop. Late fall plantings of Merion bluegrass were exceptionally badly damaged. Two reasons may be offered for this. First, the Western growers harvested their Merion bluegrass seed early as is their practice with fescue. This caused a very definite dormancy in Merion which resulted in thin stands and slow germination. Second, the small, slow-growing Merion plants were easily dried out overwinter. To avoid this, Western growers have been encouraged not to harvest their Merion, which doesn't shatter after ripening, until it is matured in the stand. Also, those interested in planting Merion should avoid late fall plantings. Early fall, prior to October 1, should be satisfactory. Late fall plantings should be mulched slightly if possible. Also, the alternative to late fall planting is a winter (dormant) planting between Thanksgiving and April 1. Spring plantings of Merion look very good since the seedlings are resistant to leafspot.

Many superintendents are now aerifying greens with very little damage to the putting surface. They avoid tearing the turf away from the holes by dragging or severe brushing.

There were approximately twenty turf areas visited including Beverly, Westgate Valley, Silver Lake, Edgewood Valley, Hinsdale, Medinah, The Sod Nursery, St. Andrews, Park Ridge, Tam O'Shanter, Rolling Green, Skokie, Timber Trails, Glen Oak, proposed turf plots at the Drug and Hort. Experiment Station, Woodridge, Aurora, Geneva, Chicago Golf, Paul Burdett Co., George A. Davis Co., Vaughan Seed Company.

To Bob Williams, Al Johnson, Bert Rost, Paul Burdett and Ray Gerber go a special thanks for their arrangements and hospitality.

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GOLF WINNERS AT TIMBER TRAILS

1. Blind Bogey, John Coghill; 2. Norm Cramer; 3. Ray Runfeldt.
1. Low Net, Dick Buchen; 2. Al Pruess; 3. Frank Mastroleo.
4. Chas. Vann; 5. Bob Chamberlin; 6. Andy Dunn.