

SPREADING IT THIN

Bill Rueck of the Mah Nah Tee See C. C. of Rockford has about the farthest to come to the meetings. Bill just about has to take a whole day for each meeting.

John Coghill has been repairing and painting the clubhouse at Silver Lake getting ready for a good season of Golf. John says there is a lot of interest in golf, a lot of tournament activity and league play and that all this adds us to a healthy golf season.

John Darrah is working with the Cleary Corporation to promote sales of PMAS in this area.

Jerry Transier of the Smith Co. reported a new daughter January 15th, 6 lbs. 13 oz.

L. L. Sterland, Sales Manager, of the Semesan Division of the DuPont Co., was with us at the March meeting.

Mrs. Wm. Rueck, wife of Bill, has taken up oil painting and has painted the walls of the kitchen of their new home at the Mah Nah Tee See C. C. with a mural painting of Cypress Gardens. She is doing good work. Maybe someday she will be another Grandma Moses.

R. H. Marbury is leaving the district after 29 years of calling on courses and 42 years in the business. His home after April 1st will be Stuart, Florida, where Bob plans to fish and rest and keep busy at the many things a man has to do. Bob says he is going to look over the hunting and fishing situation, so if you go to Florida look Bob up.

The Glen Oak C. C. and Ray Gerber are undertaking an extensive building program this winter. Ray has a new section of his service building about under roof and when this job is completed the building will be almost double its original size; he has had the bottom of the water tank replaced and will have that job done and painted very soon and is in the middle of building a parking space that will cover a full acre of ground. Ray has been busy all winter.

Gerald Dearie of Edgewater C. C. is recovering nicely from an operation undertaken Feb. 6th. Gerald feels like a new man and is getting his strength back nicely. Gerald underwent the operation instead of attending the National Conference at Atlantic City.

Most everybody who attended the Illinois Turf Conference March 14th felt that it was a good conference. A lot of people turned out indicating that there is a lot of interest in grass in this district. The plots and flats grown in the greenhouse planned by the research and Education committees commanded a great deal of attention and the grasses grown to demonstrate the types of grass that can be grown from seed were carefully examined. The Midwest can be proud of the contribution it has made to this conference. We hope the committee is able to plan a bigger more effective one for next year.

The George Roloffs spent their vacation in Phoenix, Arizona. George says that the weather was fine and that you could play golf every day.

Elmer Bertucci, Supt. of Old Elm Club, visited Hot Springs, Missouri this winter as has been his custom for a number of years. His family was a little worried about him at one time because they had not heard from him for awhile, but Elmer says that he was enjoying the mud baths, etc., and forgot to send a post card home.

Turf looks good this spring with very few reports of snow mold in the Chicago area. However, Les Verhaalen reports that there is some in the Milwaukee area, especially on banks of greens and on tees.

Adolph Bertucci is a candidate for election to the office of constable of West Deerfield Township of Lake County in the election of April 7. We wish Adolph the best of luck.

We think these figures are official, but we may be wrong. At Davis Open House on March 4-5, there were consumed 14 barrels of beer and nine barrels of oysters besides great amounts of other food. Frank Dinelli, who claims to be the oyster eating champ of the Midwest, was not able to attend and we felt sorry for him because those three oysters were really good.

Midwest member, George Polillo of Galesburg was at the Davis Open House and he inquired if it would be possible to have a committee of Midwest members visit his course sometime in the future to help him solve his problems. This was referred to our Placement and Advisory Committee Chairman, Ray Gerber, and at our March meeting he asked for a committee to assist him in visiting George's course. Don Strand, Bob Williams and Bill Stuppel volunteered to make a trip to Galesburg with the Chairman sometime in the near future.

Ted Hammerschmidt really put on a wonderful lunch for us on March 14 at Woodridge. It was enjoyed by all who partook.

We were very happy to have with us at the Illinois Turf Conference, Dr. Bert Musser, who had made the tour of all the turf conferences in the middle west and stopped off to visit with us. Also attending were Bill Cleary and Tom Mascaro.

The George Roloff family was saddened with the death of Mrs. Roloff's mother on March 13. Our sincerest sympathies to the family.

A group of Midwest Superintendents gathered at Sambo's on the evening of March 12 to enjoy Sambo's hospitality, partake of his delicious steaks and to spend a social evening together.

It rained all day on March 14, the date of our Illinois Conference, but there were very few complaints from the Superintendents. The opinion seemed to be that we need the moisture in the ground and that the bad weather would keep some of the more enthusiastic members off the course at a time when the frost is just coming out and when a great deal of damage can be done in the way of compaction. The rain brought out the little remaining frost which was in the ground and the water soaked away and the ground began to firm up. Some of the boys observed that knotweed had sprouted right after the first of March, even before all the frost was out of the ground. There seems to be an awful lot of it this year, probably due to the bad summer and dry fall of 1952. Most of it, in most cases, is along the edge of fairways in the case of watered fairways and almost any place where the grass thinned out last season. It is the plan of many to do something in the way of eliminating the knotweed this spring by spraying. Sodium Arsenite, Arsenic Acid and 2 4, D will effectively control knotweed if applied in the right manner. However, we would like to warn those having a great deal of bent in the areas to be treated, that 2 4, D is rough on bent and no mistake.

We will be faced with very few shortages of golf course supplies this year except a shortage at this time of Bluegrass and Redtop seed.

Jimmy Bedoni is very proud of his new service building now nearing completion at Bryn Mawr Country Club. The building is completely fireproof built of brick and concrete. It measures 53 feet by 110 feet and is really a honey.