

## REPORT ON THE M.R.T.F. CONFERENCE

It is our humble opinion that the conference at Purdue in March was one of the best in a long string of good meetings. Certainly it was the best attended with the attendance figure hitting the four hundred mark and that's a big meeting. The speakers were all very interesting, with the Superintendents on the program doing an outstanding job. Certainly, the lecture on Japan by Miss L. E. Roarbacher of the Dept. of English of Purdue University on the last morning of the meeting, is something that will long be remembered by all who were there. It was something different and was enjoyed by all.

Of course, the annual banquet was one of the highlights of the conference, as is always the case. Our congratulations to Al Stewart for the performance of the Purdue Glee Club and to Red Mackey for his part at the banquet.

It was reported at the meeting of the M.R.T.F., that our membership is steadily gaining and that more and more research is being done with the increased revenue. It was most heartening to us all to hear the excellent annual report. At the election for the coming year, Frank Dinelli was elected Director.

## OUTLOOK ROSY

by

C. O. Borgmeier

The time when a shortage existed in many items of equipment and supplies is practically abated. Many new items are constantly being introduced. In the few cases where a shortage does exist, there are adequate substitutes available. On the other hand, shortages sometimes do develop because of unbalanced seasonal demand so it is sometimes wise to make purchases in the off-season. Here is a general appraisal of conditions in the various fields affecting the turf industry.

**Grass Seed:** Seaside Bent, Red Top and Merion Blue Grass in short supply; Kentucky Blue Grass, Fescues, Colonial Bents, Poa Trivialis and Rye Grass in plentiful supply. Good sod is in short supply. The demand exceeds the supply.

**Fertilizers and Chemicals:** In plentiful supply. More and better formulations to excite your interest. Milorganite is still on a ration basis.

**Insecticides, Fungicides and Weed Killers:** In adequate supply, new products from intensive research being offered.

**Machinery:** In good supply but demand indicates possible squeeze in late spring. Here the emphasis by manufacturers is on improved and more efficient models. 1955 models of mowers, sod cutters, aerifiers, etc. like the new cars you see on the streets, have more eye appeal, better quality and more efficient performance. So as not to inconvenience yourselves and to help the manufacturer and your supplier, place your orders in advance of immediate need.

Unlike the early spring of 1954 when business statistics indicated a recession under way, early 1955 spring business is influenced by a general feeling of optimism. There is considerable activity under way in the promotion of new schools, parks and golf courses. The Chicago district has lagged on new golf facilities but the pressure is building up and several new courses are under construction. Many new schools have to be built to keep up with the growing population. All new institutions including industrial buildings involve the use of grass, trees and flowers. As long as the building boom lasts the turf industry will be busy, too. However, in view of the erratic behavior of the stock market recently, maybe it's time to take off the rose colored glasses and keep our fingers crossed.

## ABOVE NORMAL APRIL WEATHER SEEN FOR AREA

The weather bureau says its 30 day outlook for April calls for temperatures to average below seasonal normals east of the Appalachians and over the southern half of the nation from Texas eastward.

"Above normal temperatures are predicted in a belt extending from the Great Lakes westward thru the northern plains to the northern plateau. In areas not specified near normal temperatures are anticipated.

"Precipitation is expected to be above normal over the southern third of the country below normal in the northern third, and about normal in the central third."



**ED STEWART**

**Supt., River Forest Country Club**

We learn that Harold Reid, long time Superintendent at Ridgemoor Country Club is resigning his position on account of ill health and plans to move to St. Petersburg, Florida. Harold has not been feeling well the last several years and figures that he will be able to take it easy in Florida. We wish to express our sincerest best wishes to Harold and hope that he will soon be restored to good health again.

Joe Canale says that he enjoyed his vacation in Florida and hopes to go back next year. Joe has been so busy that he hadn't had a vacation for many years. He heard reports from some of the guys who were in Florida last year and decided to try it himself. Now Joe is one of the most enthusiastic Florida boosters.

Dom Grotti is getting into shape for the golfing season. He has been playing golf all winter whenever the ground was clear of snow and says his game is of midsummer quality right now.

The Annual President's Dinner at Lafayette during the Conference in March was attended by some 24 Association members in honor of our President. This has come to be an annual event on the second night of our stay there. As per custom, the president was formally presented with the bill for the dinner and the president just as formally declared that he reckoned as how he couldn't find that much dough in his pockets and not having the power to declare it was on the Association that he was very much honored at the gesture, but that in order to get out of the banquet hall, he thought that each of those present this year, anyway, would have to pay for his own dinner.