

WINTERKILL, SNOWMOLD FIND GOLF GREENS AREN'T SPINACH

By Charles Bartlett, Chicago Tribune

"S'no use, boss," said Wolfgang Winterkill to his chief, Silas Snowmould, late last night as they conferred on a patch above the Grant Park garage.

Winterkill and Snowmold, as all right thinking golfers know, are two of the deadliest winter enemies of golf grasses. For years they have been making regular raids on the fairways and green of northern and central states courses. For years they have driven greenkeepers nearly daft with thir underground invasious of good, honest soil. Spring after spring the fruits of their insidious incursions have greeted unhappy members.

"Whaddayamean, 's'no use?" snarled Snowmold. "I figure we have these guys on the run again. I told you to cover that Midwest Golf Course Superintendents' huddle out at Big Oaks tonight. What gives?"

"Like I say, boss, 's'no use," Winterkill whimpered. "They got us licked. They're too smart. Been gettin' that way real fast, too. These Midwest guys never stop goin' to school, even when most of the chumps aren't swingin'. Why, last month, they spent two whole days over at the Chicago campus of the University of Illinois. Something they called a soils clinic. Mornings, afternoons, and nights, they listened to a lot of sharp pep talks by Dr. Ralph Voight of the Illinois college of Pharmacy and a couple Toro company agronomists named James Watson and Jack Kolb. A lotta their chatter was about soils and biotics—"

"Biotics!" Snowmold paled, "I'll be a Japanese beetle! Drugs they're usin'! Why, the dirty ———."

"Tough but true, boss," sniffled Winterkill. "They've been set for us for months, guys like George Roloff of Roselle, Ray Gerber of Glen Oak, Bob Williams of Beverly, Bert Rost of Park Ridge, Frank Dinelli of Northmoor, Bill Stuppel of Exmoor, Elmer Lempke of Tam o' Shanter. They're even switching jobs on us. That Gerald Dearie is going to Medinah and Ray Davis, who use to be their president, will be at North Shore next season.

"Tonight I found out that most of them have already treated their courses with something called Tersan.

"Guess what they're hoping for? They were telling this Dr. O. J. Noer of Milwaukee that their idea of the perfect golf winter around here is 15 degrees above and no snow!

"Yes, Noer, who is one of the smartest agronomists in the business, gave them his annual spiel, and it doesn't look good for us if these superintendents are doing all he says they're doing to run us and the rest of the mob out of here. I don't think it will do us any good to import that cannon named Dutch Elm, either.

"What chance we got against these Midwest guys when they're layin' for us all winter? Never stop workin'—nor thinkin'. Their only beef is they don't have enough help for all that they're doin'. Like that Gerber. He's layin' about 1,500 feet of 8 inch tile across the 18th, 17th, and second at Glen Oak. That Williams is taking out some superfluous traps and watchin' that Beverly soil like a hawk. And the crust of that Bert Rost! Weeks ago he dyed all the greens at Park Ridge a deeper green for the crazy ones who play out there all winter. Rost is the guy who built that artificial lake at Park Ridge a year ago. I guess you know the million and a half gallons he can pump out of that ain't improved our health. And Dinelli is another one that's too smart! He's made lightning rod installations on five shelters and four fairway trees at Northmoor.

"Right now, when they aren't out on the courses, these people are in their barns repairin' mowers, tractors, sprinklers, and hose. No, boss, they're too hep for us. I can't dig 'em any more. Leave us lam right now, and I don't mean to St. Louis, either. Their whole mob is going to be there next month for the 26th national turfgrass conference of the Golf Course Superintendents of America. Going to name Bill Beresford president. So we can cross off the Los Angeles Country club. That's Beresford's place. Going to hold the 1956 National Amateur there."

"Guess you're right kid," Snowmold agreed. "Let's head for Texas. Maybe we can tie in with a few northers and wreck that Bermuda they're tryin' down there."

Bob Marbury who retired to Florida several years ago was at our last meeting. Mrs. Marbury has been ailing and Bob brought her to Chicago for medical treatment. We hope the Mrs. will soon be well, Bob.

The newly installed artificially refrigerated curling rinks at Indian Hill and Skokie Country Clubs are completed and in running condition. It has been said that curlers are just about the fussiest people in the world and that conditioning and maintaining curling ice is a much more painstaking job than even maintenance of putting greens.

The curlers at Indian Hill presented Al Johnson with a television set and an easy chair for Christmas. Al says the problem now is when is he going to get time to use them. Mrs. Johnson was with Al at St. Louis and says she was glad for the opportunity to see Al again. Al's curling keeps him going from early in the morning until late at night. We have heard of golf widows but she claims she is a curling widow.

WORTHINGTON & JACOBSEN MOWERS

South of Alt. Route 30 (12th St.)

AUTHORIZED FACTORY DISTRIBUTOR — SALES — SERVICE — PARTS

ILLINOIS LAWN EQUIPMENT, INC.

9919 W. 143rd St. — ORLAND PARK, ILLINOIS — ORLAND 2979