

## THE JUNE MEETING

Our June meeting most certainly should be one of the best of the year. We are meeting with the Central Illinois Golf Course Superintendents and the Michiana Golf Course Superintendents at Herman Woehrle's Kankakee Valley Golf Club at Kankakee, Illinois on Tuesday, June 7. Besides getting together with the superintendents of the other associations, we will have the pleasure of having O. J. Noer as our speaker for the evening. As is always the case, O. J.'s presence at our meeting will be most valuable to us all. There will be a golf tournament in the afternoon, and for an added attraction, Herman says the fish are biting good and that those not playing golf, or even if you do play golf, bring your fishing tackle along. There are even rumors that there will be a nice prize for the one catching the biggest fish. It should be a great day, and to make it easier for some who have to travel a great distance to get there, there will be rooms available at the club house for those wanting to come down on Monday and spend the night there. Please make reservations with Herman if you are interested. Here's how to get there. From Kankakee, take Route 17 six miles east until you cross the Kankakee river bridge and one block east of the bridge is a sign about Kankakee Valley Golf Club. Turn south on blacktop road three miles into the club property. Of course, anyone coming in from the east will have to adjust himself to these directions. Let's all turn out to make this joint meeting something to be talked about.

SPRING, 1955

We can't remember in the last 40 years, at least, when there ever was a spring to compare with the spring of 1955. There might have been weather to compare with it, but if there was it was a mighty long time ago. Spring in the Chicago area is usually a great number of cold, wet days with a few nice days in between. This year the weather has been nice all the way thru from the middle of March with the exception of a few bad days, two of which were our meeting days in April and May. During April there were not more than four or five nights when there was any frost. In May there were a few snowflakes in the air the morning of May 9, with a killing frost the night before. Since then there has been, up to the time of this writing, but one frost and that was a killing frost in some sections. The spring was three weeks ahead of usual on the middle of May. It has certainly been a busy time for golf courses and especially a good break for daily fee courses. Play from all accounts has exceeded that of any year for a long time. It has been a great spring for new construction on courses, but it has been pretty tough on the Superintendent, what with the shortage of labor and everything coming on at the same time. Club members expect turf perfection with the weather and from all observations in the Chicago area, golf courses are coming pretty close to the mark. It is a great tribute to the superintendent to accomplish as much as he has done this spring. When we travel from one course to another we cannot help being impressed and amazed at how much is being done in many cases with so little help. Precipitation early this spring was far behind normal. The dry weather started in March and with some warm days coming together the latter part, there was some loss of turf due to drying out on backs of greens and other high spots. Many of the superintendents could not get their irrigation systems in working order soon enough and grass suffered. It was found that there were very few roots to the grass in such areas and as soon as the tops dried off, grass began to wither. Some greens in fact, were so short of roots that the turf became spongy and when play began they became rough and were very difficult to cut without scalping the turf. To some of the oldtimers, it looked like another drought year such as 1934 was, but we are glad to say that the good all day rain of May 22 took a big load off of our minds as far as irrigation is concerned.

## WEATHER AND THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

Evening red and morning gray  
Sends the traveler of his way  
But evening gray and morning red  
Brings down rain upon his head.

Joe Graffis predicts a change in the weather when his big toe aches. Bill Stupple knows, too, when his back aches. These are common ways of weather predicting.

In nearly all walks of life the weather plays a most important part. No where is this more important than in the turf profession. We hope for the proper proportions of temperature, sunshine, and rainfall, and quite often are so blessed. Sometimes, we are cursed with unbalanced atmospheric conditions of temperature and rainfall extremes. At such times it takes all the ingenuity you possess to alleviate the effects.

Over a period of many years and responding to frequent calls for advice—which we are loath to give—when the turf, especially on greens and tees has suffered severe damage during a hot spell, we believe that mismanagement of water especially, and fertilizer to a lesser degree, are the important factors. Naturally all the fungus diseases are ready to sprout during hot weather, too. But, here an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

So it is all important to know in advance, if possible, when dangerous weather is in the offing. The U. S. Weather Bureau spends great sums of money to predict weather, and the weatherman's predictions of 24-48 hours in advance are better than 80% accurate. You, yourself, can do a pretty good job of weather prediction by watching your thermometer and barometer. There are many amateur prognosticators. Some of their methods are not as funny as they may sound. Mostly, they base their predictions on keen observation of wind direction and cloud formations.

Talking with several experienced Superintendents develops the following observations:

During June, July and August, watch your weather closely. You can fairly accurately gauge hot spells 48 hours in advance. If a rainstorm is anticipated go easy on the water and forego it entirely. A double dose of water may be the beginning of trouble. Forget about the fertilizer and weed killers until a cool front moves in. Frequent light watering on greens and tees during hot spells is preferable to soakings.

So, for fun and help in your profession, take a keen interest in the weather. Your knowledge of weather and its advance diagnosis will positively help your and may save you some grief.

---

Our August meeting will be at Oak Hills C C with Jock and Dave McIntosh. They have promised a good dinner and they always have an excellent golf course.

Jerry and Beryl Dearie of Edgewater are the proud parents of a daughter Debora Lee, born Wednesday, April 27th at 4:46 P.M. Jerry, who is the son of Gerald Dearie of Medinah C C, is already buying golf clubs for the Women's Professional Golf Champ. The Future Champ weighed in at 7 pounds 12 ounces.

Gordon J. Duguid Jr. weighed in at 8 lbs. 13 ounces on April 22nd at 8:20. He joins his proud parents, Gordon and Pina and a brother and a sister.

Wonder what has happened to our guiding weather man, Bill Stupple. Bill usually picks the day to insure good weather but we have been slipping lately. Maybe our committee that picks the days has not been consulting as it should with Weatherman Bill.