

NOTRE DAME RENOVATES FOOTBALL FIELD WITH DOWFUME MC-2

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The very valuable 2.2 acres of turf of the football playing field within the stadium at the University of Notre Dame had shown increasing deterioration over the past several years. This was most noticeable in a central "aisle" more or less centered on the field which receives the heaviest traffic.

Efforts had been made over past years to restore the turf by fertilization and seeding but these measures had not resulted in any permanent improvement. The field was not satisfactory during the 1954 football season and University authorities decided to renovate the turf completely in time for the 1955 season.

Originally we were prepared to sod the area with established turf. This has the advantage that it gives a green surface immediately. For a football field it has the disadvantage that the sod does not always join tightly with the underlying soil. Football players have been known to lift a cleat-shod at the height of some exciting play only to have an entire sod come with it. In addition sodding is expensive. It was decided to seek an alternative if a satisfactory one could be found.

In view of the gratifying results of a technique used at Alabama Polytechnic Institute* and at Mississippi State College, we decided to work the area, add new soil, organic matter and sand, and then fumigate with Dowfume MC-2 under plastic covers. This latter treatment was to kill unwanted grass, weeds, and weed seeds as well as possible harmful soil nematodes and insects prior to newly seeding the area.

The Dowfume MC2 fumigant was applied at the rate of one pound per 100 square feet. Following a short aeration period, the soil was leveled and planted with a mixture of 75 pounds each of Kentucky and Merion bluegrass which had been given a preplanting treatment to hasten germination and establishment. The seed was soaked in water for two days and then kept moist for eight days on a concrete floor. The one inch layer of seed was raked over several times. After this treatment the Kentucky bluegrass seed had begun to sprout. The entire 150 pounds of moist seed was then thoroughly mixed with 300 pounds of milorganite to facilitate handling and seeding with the usual equipment. Seeding was done on April 29 with spreaders adjusted to deliver approximately 400 seeds per square foot.

During dry weather, sprinkler irrigation was used in accordance with moisture requirements as determined by 12 strategically placed moisture blocks. First mowing was on the 34th day after which the grass was mowed twice a week for five weeks. Then the schedule was three mowings per week. In 15 weeks the grass was rooting to a depth of 9 inches and the field was practically ready for heavy football traffic. There was no undesirable grasses nor weeds in the entire area and the new turf has developed uniformly. We feel that we now have a turf that will stand up well and will present a satisfactory appearance during the entire football season beginning on September 24 and finishing up on November 19.

*Down To Earth, Vol. 10, No. 2, Fall, 1954.

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendent's Association will be our host for our joint meeting at Nipewink Manor Country Club the second Monday in September.

SPREADING IT THIN

Activity the Saturday before Easter gave excellent promise of heavy summer play on golf courses. Most of the South side courses offered freshly cut greens with a beautiful green cast presenting a promise of more beautiful and satisfying conditions to come as the south wind looses its winter chill and the sunny days get warmer and longer. May we all have a good, enjoyable, troublefree summer.

The above was written in good faith early in April and as of April 24 we are still waiting for the warm soft weather and rain that will make things really get up and grow. So far the soil gets dryer and dryer, each morning the sprinkler system is thawed out and set going to bring some measure of moisture into the soil. The Magnolia blossoms that should be smiling on us now have all been frozen and now we hope that May will bring the warm spring rains.

One of the few stay at homes this winter, who did not go to California was Bill Swantz of Hinsdale. Bill and his wife went to Florida and ran into the unseasonable cold January weather that prevailed there this winter. They stayed only three days in Miami then came home to get warmed up. Bill tells of putting on his overcoat and standing over a stove in the middle of the day and shivering. Maybe we ought to be glad we did not get to Florida this last winter.

John Coghill at Silver Lake C. C. has added a most beautiful addition to the clubhouse during the winter. The area has been more than doubled and the new dining room looks out of an array of plate glass windows onto the golf course. It is beautifully decorated and furnished. Norm Kramer, too, is most proud of the new addition and of the refinished and refurbished club house.

Ray Runnfeldt of the Winnetka Parks has built a 14 foot open cockpit runabout boat which he expects to power with a 20 H P outboard motor. He expects to use it on Lake Michigan this summer.

Dave McIntosh of Oak Hills also made a boat during the late winter. This one is also a runabout which Dave expects to power with a 7 H P outboard. He plans to use it on the Oak Hill pond and to let the kids play with it. Next winter maybe he will build a bigger one.

Elmer Lempke is moving into the brand new home he built in Niles, Illinois the last week in April. It is a two bedroom ranch style, full basement with an attached two car garage and a nice kitchen.

Stan and Ethel Corey of Chapel Hills are moving into their new apartment at the club. The clubhouse has been rebuilt and enlarged, and two apartments added.

Jock and Mrs. McIntosh of Oak Hills are welcoming their new son, James Clarence McIntosh, who was born April 4th. James Clarence is their second son. Our congratulations to Jock and Mrs. McIntosh.

Don Stewart, second son of our old friend, Pete Stewart, is now Supt. at the Joliet C. C. at Joliet, Ill. Don reports the course has come thru the winter in good shape and is hoping for a calm and uneventful summer.

Bill Saielli of Exmoor and one of his sons, spent 3 weeks during March at Miami, Florida. Bill loves Florida.

John Coghill attended the April meeting at Elmhurst C. C. with his oldest son John Jr. 12 years old. John Jr. enjoyed his chicken dinner.