

## AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE

As you perhaps know, five interested Illinois citizens recently established the ILLIONIS TURFGRASS FOUNDATION as a not-for-profit corporation.

The purpose of this foundation is "to establish a turfgrass research and educational fund to be used to support turfgrass research and educational programs at the University of Illinois." The Foundation will also promote turfgrasses, the turfgrass industry, and associated industries in the improvement of turfgrasses consistent with the best interests of the public.

The Foundation founders have asked me to serve as Secretary, and my most pleasant first task is to cordially invite you to become an active charter member. Please accept this letter as that sincere invitation.

Let me tell you a little more about the Foundation and its plans.

First of all, the business and affairs of the Foundation will be governed by a Board of Directors composed wherever possible of one representative of each major group included in the dues schedule listed on the attached form.

Close cooperation between the Foundation and the University is to be maintained through an Advisory Council. The Council shall review all research and educational projects conducted with funds supplied by the Foundation and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Funds supplied by the Foundation will enable the University to expand its turfgrass research and educational programs. Currently, lawn grass plots are being maintained at the Horticultural Farm at Urban and at the Drug and Horticultural Experiment Station at Downers Grove. Creeping bent strain plots and sodding studies will be initiated during 1960. The plots will demonstrate results of fertilizer and herbicide treatments on the various grass species.

The University has also initiated a turfgrass research project to develop improved methods for establishment and maintenance of turf and to provide turfgrasses more adaptable for soil and climatic conditions in Illinois. Several of the horticulture staff will act as leaders, and a half-time graduate assistant has been assigned to the project.

The Department of Horticulture also maintains a turfgrass soil testing laboratory, teaches a course in turf management and answers queries from home owners and others who have lawn grass problems. A circular titled "How to Have An Attractive Lawn" is used to help answer queries. Approximately 50,000 have been distributed in four years. Nearly 15,000 circulars on Zoysia grasses have also been distributed.

Some field visits and meetings dealing with turfgrass problems are also being conducted by horticulture and plant pathology extension personnel. Also, an experiment on turfgrass for cover on Illinois highway road-sides is being conducted by the Agronomy Department.

Plans are already being made for the future. The Department of Horticulture has set aside five acres of ground on its research farm in Urbana for turfgrass work. Strain testing, fertility, weed control, height of cut and other maintenance problems will be studied with special emphasis on home lawns. Funds have been allotted for turfgrass plot work at the University's Dixon Springs Experiment Station in southern Illinois.

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Your financial support and active participation in the Foundation will enable the University to speed up its present turfgrass programs and initiate new projects that will help supply facts and figures which can be used as a basis for making authentic recommendations to Illinois home and industrial lawn owners, landscape operators, sod growers, golf course superintendents, and others who are seeking information on the establishment and maintenance of turf.

You will be kept informed on the progress of the Foundation and University research projects by a periodic newsletter and University research and extension publications such as the one enclosed.

An Illinois Turf Field Day that will feature the annual meeting of the Foundation and an educational short course will be held annually.

If you have any questions, please write to me or contact any of the incorporators. They are as follows:

Mr. R. Milton Carleton, 322 N. Garfield Ave., Hinsdale, Ill.; Mr. Bertram H. Rost, Midwest Road Nr. 31st St., Hinsdale, Ill.; Mr. George Vaughan, Vaughan's Seed Store, 61 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago; Dr. Ralph F. Voight, 166 Dentistry, Medicine, & Pharmacy Bldg., 808 S. Wood St., Chicago 12; Mr. Ben O. Warren, Warren's Turf Nursery, 8400 W. 111th St., Palos Park, Ill.

Very truly yours,  
Harleigh Kemmerer  
Secretary

#### CLIPPINGS —

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dinelli are the proud parents of a new baby boy, Frank, born on January 5, 1960. The baby has two sisters aged 5 and 3. Joey passed out the cigars and collected on some bets at the same time.

Peter Bild took over a new job as Superintendent of Glen Flora Country Club, Waukegan, Illinois, on January 1st.

Beginning January 1st, Al Purvey of McHenry Country Club turned his job over to Mike Michaels who has been Al's Assistant for the last eight years. Al will remain with McHenry Country Club as adviser and fishing expert.

Frank Dinelli and Bill Stupple took a fishing trip to the Florida Keys in December. The stories of their exploits sound fishy, what with Frank's arm ailment he was unable to pull in the big ones and they got away which usually is the case with whoppers.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Davis and family had a most enjoyable vacation in St. Petersburg, Florida over the holidays. Ray reports the weather was excellent and fishing good.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Reed took off for St. Petersburg, Florida, December 30th and will take in the Houston Convention on their way home. Harold will find a new irrigation system going in at Ridgemoor when he gets back.

Mr. and Mrs. George Roloff are on their vacation to the Gulf Coast and Florida. They will stop off at Houston on their way back.

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