

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

TED WOHRLE, Editor,
8700 So. Western Avenue
Chicago 20, Illinois

OFFICERS

President - Warren Bidwell
1st Vice-President - E. F. "Al" Johnson
2nd Vice-President - Wm. H. Stupple
Secretary & Treasurer - Roy W. Nelson

DIRECTORS

Adolph Bertucci	Dudley Smith
Anthony Meyer	Kenneth Lapp
Walter Fuchs	John Ebel

The President's Message

When The Thunder Sleeps:

With the advent of the fall and winter season, we are reminded of the various ways many of the creatures of Nature, including man, prepare for the long months ahead.

Artists have depicted on canvas the flight of the wild geese to a warm climate. The illustration so often used of the squirrel storing nuts for the winter months is a symbol of preparedness that has been exploited many times by commercial interest throughout the land. It is a good point and well taken.

As a farm woman, my dear mother canned vegetables by the hundreds of quarts back some forty years ago—enough 'to do us', as the growing season progressed. In the early fall, many apples were sliced and dried for use in pie making once the fresh apples were exhausted. Upon arrival home from the one room country school, we youngsters were put to work shelling dry beans and peas or helping dad dig sweet potatoes, bringing in pumpkins from the fields or putting turnips in the root cellar for use in the deep of winter. Many of these practices are still in use today in many parts of rural America. The action at the sorghum mill is still a very vivid memory.

Far off in the desolate, yet very beautiful Valley of the Monuments on the Utah-Arizona line, near the Four Corners regions of our great Southwest, the people of the Navajo Tribe will soon hold their Ceremonial, 'When the Thunder Sleeps'. This is no ordinary chant with the stamping of feet and fantastic gyrations. The religious significance of this ancient and meaningful Ceremony goes back to the very genesis of the tribe's forebearers, their 'Ancient Ones'. At the time of this Ceremony their crops of peaches, beans, squash and other foods that have been introduced by the European white man have been harvested and stored for the long, hard winter in this high plateau country. Thus, they give thanks to Mother Earth, whom they believe to be the source of all life, for the favor of the rain gods, the bountiful crops and for the ever presence of the Great Spirit who keeps away all that is evil from their hogans.

It was at the entrance to this valley of monoliths

of brilliantly colored stone rising a thousand feet heavenward from the valley floor that I experienced one of Nature's truly great spectacles—the rising of the full moon late last January. While I was going crazy trying to calculate the proper setting for my camera, the valley was flooded with that soft, yet brilliant light that only a full moon can provide. It was another world, one that is dear to the heart of the Navajo, where he can celebrate in his own way with his very own feeling his ancient Ceremonial, 'When the Thunder Sleeps'.

Warren Bidwell, President

SEPTEMBER — A BUSY MONTH

The month of September was perhaps the busiest month for local golf course Superintendents in the history of the Association.

It all started with the annual Fall Field Day at Michigan State on September 9, 1964. They certainly are progressing with their program on turf research. A great deal of work is being done on winter damage and its cause and cures.

On Monday, September 14, we had the choice of attending our annual joint meeting with the brothers from Wisconsin or traveling down to Purdue University to attend their Annual Fall Field Day. (A repeat performance at Purdue was also scheduled for the following day, Tuesday)

For those that attended the Wisconsin meeting they were confronted with a rainy day. Despite the weather, 25 Superintendents from the Midwest attended along with around 75 Wisconsin members. Charley Shiley had the course in magnificent shape. North Hills is in good hands under Charley's Supervision. The Educational program included slides by O. J. Noer who recently returned from a European trip with Robert Bruce Harris.

Several Superintendents ventured down to Purdue and they were shown the latest work in Grass selections, Crabgrass Controls, Deeper summer time root promotion with anti-auxins, *Poa annua* control in greens. Calcined clay tests, Bentgrass tolerance to crabgrass preventers. The lowered Purdue Stadium was shown with its new field of turf. Crabgrass and *Poa annua* controls in watered bluegrass fairways, Bluegrass selections dating from 1950 to the present time, Zoysia release report, Ryegrass and timothy plots, slow release fertilizers—5 new experimentals were included. Creeping bentgrass kill in Bluegrass, and vertical mowing for manicuring turf.

On Friday September 18, many of our members journeyed on down to the University of Illinois for their annual Fall Field Day. Once again we were bothered by rain. During the morning portion of the program the rain held off until the program ended. During the afternoon presentation it began raining and continued to rain for the remainder of the day. Dr. Jack Butler and the other men participating in turf work at the University are certainly to be congratulated for the fine work that is being done. A full report on the program will appear next month in the Bull Sheet.

ASPHALT DRIVEWAYS - PARKING LOTS - ETC.

"Golf Course Work a Specialty"

LEMONT PAVING CO.

(RAY MURPHY TRUCKING)

115th & Archer Ave. (Rt. 4-A) — Lemont, Illinois
RAY MURPHY CLearwater 7-6701

Monday, September 21 found our members participating in a joint meeting with the Club Managers Association at the beautiful Midlothian Country Club for golf and dinner. Ed Duehr, Host Superintendent had his headaches that day because of the heavy rain the day before. One of his fairways was completely under water. Despite this fact he had the rest of the course in great shape. I have never seen so much bent in watered fairways in the Chicago area. The Superintendents won all the golf prizes.

OCTOBER MEETING

Our annual Golf Tournament will be played at our next Monthly meeting. The Host Club will be Briarwood Country Club in Deerfield, Illinois. The meeting date has been set for Tuesday, October 13, 1964. Sharpen up your game and play the challenging golf course that Paul Voykin, the host Superintendent, has groomed so well all summer.



Left to right — Dr. Jack Butler, Dr. Mike Britton James Holmes, Dr. William H. Daniel, Roy Nelson, Warren Bidwell.

SPECIAL MEETING

LA SALLE HOTEL, August 21, 1964

At our last monthly meeting held at Olympia Fields Country Club on August 3, 1964 it was suggested that our Association attempt to hire some individual to come into our area and investigate our problem. This person in turn would make a report on his findings and perhaps give us some good clues as to what really happened.

This was approved by the majority present. On Friday, August 7 President Warren Bidwell called a Board meeting to discuss problems involved in securing such an individual. The outcome of the meeting resulted in a compromise. After realizing that one individual would find this too big a task it was decided that we call on the Chicago District Golf Association to help us. After discussing the various ramifications of this problem it was decided to ask Dr. William H. Daniel of Purdue and Dr. Mike Britton and Dr. Jack Butler of the University of Illinois to participate in a panel discussion along with two of our Superintendents from Chicago. Next we needed a Moderator and only one man fit this bill. Jim Holmes, our Midwest Agronomist representing the United States Golf Association, was the man. The meeting date was set for 3:30 P.M. Friday, August 21, 1964 at the La Salle Hotel in Chicago, Illinois.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Charles Eckstein, one of the biggest backers of the Golf Course Superintendent, representing the Greens Committee of the Chicago District Golf Association. After remarking on the reasons for the meeting, he turned the program over to the affable Jim Holmes. Jim pointed out that we were assembled to discuss two things: What happened to our fairway turf? and, What are we going to do about it?

It must be pointed out at this time that there were over 200 attending. Several states were represented Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Indiana and Michigan. The group was made up of Superintendents and their Chairmen as well as many Club Officials and interested Commercial People.

The panel consisted of:

- Dr. William H. Daniel, Purdue University
- Dr. Jack Butler, University of Illinois
- Dr. Mike Britton, University of Illinois
- Mr. Roy Nelson, Superintendent of Ravisloe Country Club
- Mr. Warren Bidwell, Superintendent, Olympia Fields Country Club

Dr. Butler's opening remarks follow:

No one thing was to blame — Each environment is different. Soil conditions, drainage, management, variety of grasses and amounts of rainfall all entered into the picture. Conditions are different everywhere. The man who lives with the problem is the man to pinpoint the reasons for the problems.

Dr. Britton's opening remarks:

We have experienced wet, hot, and humid conditions this past month. These factors are perfect for disease. Mike showed several slides at this point illustrating what the disease looked like and the damage that it had done. Moisture is the key to our problem, whether in the soil or in the air. Last severe attack was in 1955. This disease may hit every year or it may skip many years. Annual Bluegrass seemed to have been more susceptible to Pythium damage than either Bent or Common Kentucky Bluegrass. There are no adequate chemical controls at present for the prevention or cure of Pythium.

Dr. Daniel's opening remarks:

We have had other years when this pest was prevalent. Some worse and some not quite as bad. If there is a breeze or if the humidity is below 40% by 10:00 A.M. there is little damage from disease. If we have high temperatures, high humidity and no wind for several days we have trouble with disease. It seems to incubate at night.

Mr. Warren Bidwell's opening remarks:

Are we not as a group of Superintendents trying to strive too hard for perfection? Aren't we trying to soup up the grass too much? Aren't we as a group of Superintendents too color conscious? Don't we invite many of our own troubles? The competition with the club across the street is perhaps too keen. We use more fertilizer each year. Some old timers practice minimum feeding programs to help them through time of stress. They sacrifice looks for ease of maintenance during rough times.

- MERION and KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS
 - C-15 SOD and STOLONS
 - PENCROSS BENT SOD
- DEARIE and STRUD SOD NURSERY**
 or Thornton's Turf Nursery
 R. R. 2 - Box 72 - ELGIN, ILLINOIS
 SHerwood 2-5030