



Jerry Marlott - left, Frank Dinelli - center, and Jerry Dinelli - right. Northmoor Country Club.

RECENT BLIZZARDS EFFECT CLUB MANAGERS IN MANY WAYS

Just as the Golf Course Superintendent will remember the "blizzards of '67" for many months to come; so too will the Manager remember it for a long, long time.

The lucky Manager was the one who had planned on closing his club during February for vacations, and who went to the 40th Annual Conference in Los Angeles. However some had already been closed in January, or were scheduled to close in March; and to them it was a month of low sales and high labor costs. With many of the members unable to get into their own driveways, they could hardly be expected to patronize the Club dining room and bar during this period. Most Managers were already on "winter" or skeleton crews and could reduce them no lower, and sales were practically nil during this period. Many of the returning Managers found that the work assigned to the employees he left behind remained undone due to absenteeism, lack of deliveries by suppliers, and the fact that most of them had been kept busy just keeping the driveways open and the furnace going.

Many, too, found that the cost of heating during this period far exceeded their expectations and that salt and snow melting chemicals had hit a new high in usage.

However, most of us can learn something from catastrophes such as this, and if you read the newspapers well, there was an item which stated that "for the past five years, winter in Chicago has been getting more and more severe." If that be the case, what do we have in store for 1968? Perhaps, if you have a chance to change your closing dates you will check the temperatures and snowfall at the library and find out if January, February, or March can cause a natural decline in business for you. It might pay to also chart a graph of how much business you did do in these months during the past ten years and close the one which is the least productive. Closing in February has its benefits also in that the returning employee on March first is also on hand in case we

get a break in the weather and golfers are with us by March 20th or April 1st. So too, some of the outdoor work may possibly be done if the weather turns nice, and you will not have all of it to do in April and May.

But the greatest area of effect that the storm had on the Manager was that it caused him to "Be Prepared" in case it happens again. Many of us on the north side went through the four days of "no electricity" a few years ago, so the "big storm" was not as bad as it may have been to the unprepared. My club went to gas heat right after the "big storm" of '65 as we were long overdue to change over from oil. Small tanks and bad deliveries could leave one in bad shape during a big blizzard. Curtailment of service for two days a week has also helped to concentrate our business on weekends and get a better production from our employees, as Tuesday and Wednesdays are usually bad in winter regardless of the weather. Freezers now contain a few loaves of bread, some "brown and serve rolls" and more meat than normal, due to what we have gone through during these periods. We have also had some of our office help have some little jobs which they can take home with them, on weekends, just in case they cannot make it back on Tuesday morning. Emergency supplies of candles and a portable lighting plant are now in our storeroom. Yes, it was a "winter to remember" for the entire club staff.

Jerry Marlott

PURDUE UNIVERSITY, LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

From: WEEDS, TREES AND TURF

Dr. W. H. Daniel: It is reported that Purdue's graduating turf majors have the highest initial pay of any undergraduate group.

Dr. William H. Daniel, Professor in Agronomy, directs turf training at Purdue University, where undergraduate work has been an outgrowth of research and graduate study that dates back to 1943-45. Four-year undergraduates work toward a B.S. in Agriculture with a major in turfgrass management. This program was initiated in 1952 and has graduated more than 50 students.

Purdue's courses are designed to prepare students for positions as turf superintendents, sod nurserymen, agricultural salesmen, grounds supervisors, and related lines of work. Undergraduate enrollment currently stands at 20; there were five graduates in last year's class. Turf teaching is done by Dr. Daniel. Graduate enrollment usually numbers four students.

Entrance requirements of the University must be met by students in the turf program. Tuition for Indiana residents is \$165 per semester; details are outlined in the catalog, which can be obtained from the Registrar, Purdue University. Early application for enrollment is advised, with Aug. 1 the practical deadline.

Students in turf management at Purdue are encouraged to gain experience in turf research and practical field work prior to graduation. Work during at least one school year in the research program and one or two summers spent in some management and maintenance activity are expected of undergraduates.

Contact Dr. W. H. Daniel, Turf Specialist, Department of Agronomy, for more information on Purdue's turf program.