

**April Editorial by: Fred Opperman
Director Midwest AGCS**

First off I want to thank the membership in their vote of confidence by electing me to the Board of Directors of the Midwest Association of GCS. It seemed my first official duty was to play bartender in our hospitality room in Boston for our national conference. I, being a smart new director picked Monday night knowing that it would be very slow (normal closing time is midnight) since the host association held their "Boston Tea Party" that night. Well it was slow that night, that is until 11:30 P.M. and then all h--- broke loose. We not only had our whole group from the Midwest there, but we had some from Michigan, Wisconsin, New York, California, and to top it off a large delegation from England besides. Our hospitality room was just that, that night. I've been one in the past who has been critical of all the money spent on that particular room. But that night we created more friendships than money could buy.

The amusing part of the night being that at 1:00 A.M. I had to close the room and stop all drinks. I thought by signaling the crowd, by turning out the lights, that they would take the hint and go. Well the English boys took the hint and started kissing all the wives goodnight. Some of the girls there had quite a time and were almost mauled. There was also one gentleman there who, I won't mention by name, (but is the editor of this publication) was standing out in the hall telling more people to come in while I was attempting to close the hospitality room. This same gentleman, (who we all know is very young and handsome) on his way back to his room for the night was approached by a young lady seeking companionship. Needless to say she was graciously turned down. But the next morning this gentleman certainly had a spring in his step and a smile on his face.

The more serious side of my responsibilities is the education committee on which I serve. We have for the past two months now been working on the Midwest Clinic scheduled for November 13th & 14th and to be held at the Medinah Country Club again. It is the standard of our clinic to have about 75% of the speakers Superintendents and the rest of the speakers from Universities, Manufacturers, and other allied associations and trades. Our theme this year is "Responsibilities of Today".

Shortly, or if we already haven't done so, we will be asking YOU to participate in the Clinic. We try every year to get "fresh blood" so to speak or fellow superintendents who haven't been on the program and who will add a lot to the Clinic. We realize and you realize that not everyone is a gifted speaker but our Clinic is designed this way for our membership to participate. A person only learns by doing and learning is the name of the game in our PROFESSION.

As always is the case when one serves on a committee we are constantly searching and seeking new ideas or ways of improving our organization. The easiest way to achieve this goal is thru **you**. We need to hear your ideas, your comments, your gripes, your wants, your needs, and your wishes. In my particular case I want to hear your needs in what you want at the educational sessions of our monthly meetings and at our Clinic. If you would take time **Right Now** and jot down a few items that you are thinking about and send them to Roger LaRochelle or myself it would be a great help. There is an old saying that a short pencil is better than a long memory.



Dr. William Meyer

Dr. William Meyer gave an excellent presentation at the March 14 meeting on, "Research on Turfgrass Varieties."

"SATCHMO"

O, yes, I know "Satchmo" well. The article about "Satchmo" that appeared in the February Bull Sheet was very appropos — it seems like those "flight by night" salesmen come out of the woodwork about this time of the year.

The knocking on your door will ease some after you have asked a few to leave but will continue since the companies these salesmen work for usually don't keep the same men too long. A new man is just around the corner to come see you. Maybe the answer is to see salesmen strictly by appointments (other than local). O.K. guys?!

My arms (my wife's, too) would have to be stretched to accommodate all the watches I've been offered in the last few years. They know all about that watch they're going to give you but ask them about their product and all they can say is, "I just gave my last label out but so and so up the street bought six 55 gallon barrels." Woopie! Have you ever taken time to ask Jim up the street if he ever bought any? You might be surprised to find 9 out of 10 times he never even let "Satchmo" in his shop.

The Chicago area is fortunate to have some of the most knowledgeable turf salesmen in the country. They have been selling in the area for years, they work for reputable companies, and they know our problems. They will answer questions truthfully because they know they will be seeing you in a week or so. These men also are the ones, that attend our educational meetings and listen with intense interest. (By the way, some of them really do enjoy being able to attend, too.)

So why support "Satchmo"? Shouldn't we support the people that are selling to us today and will be tomorrow?

Well, I must close for now — there is a knocking on my door. I wonder what he has got for me today?

Mike R. Bavier