

By now, many of you must think I am being a little unrealistic in my thoughts. However, is it not healthy to keep ourselves in check? Our day to day work is a perfect example of this in that any of us that run golf courses always have the members looking over our shoulders. Also, the salesmen know what happens when they come in with a price twice as high as quoted down the street—a perfect check and balance. Maybe a new and stronger "Code of Ethics" is in the works—if so, look at the plus side, which means it should benefit all of us. Anything worth having is worth working for and this could make a stronger Association for all.

MIDWEST AND WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION GET TOGETHER!

During the month of September, the Midwest Association and the Wisconsin Superintendent's Association held a joint meeting at the Playboy Club in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. The weatherman cooperated very nicely, and we had one of those super Midwest fall days. The Association golfers turned out in mass to enjoy a very outstanding golf course—maybe a little humbling, but a good course in superb condition.

As many of you know, the meeting of these two associations was discontinued some years back. The Midwest and Wisconsin boards and associations both felt that possibly this year was a good time to reunite old acquaintances. As many new or renewed ventures do not always run as smooth as one might hope, and this meeting was no exception, both boards still felt that we accomplished our goal of getting the associations together and exchanging our ideas.

Jim Latham was the educational speaker for the evening and, as always, Jim did a fine job of highlighting the summer of '75. For those of you not fortunate enough to attend, you missed a nice gathering. We were over our guaranteed number of 125, which was a good turn out.

I would hope that next year the associations will meet again and enjoy a day of golf, social gathering, and a very important educational session. Next year Illinois will host this joint meeting.

Mike R. Bavier

ACID RAIN

That acid soil of yours is getting more acidity. Two Cornell ecologists are guessing that the rain drops falling on the heads of residents in the eastern United States have increased acidity 100 to 1000 times above normal in the last twenty years—and this despite increased air pollution controls.

The acid rain is probably stunting forest growth, cutting into farm crops and speeding corrosion everywhere.

Editor's Note: Especially on fairways.

Ordinarily rain water is only slightly acidic, a level much like that of a potato. That acidity has climbed over the years, so that now it's closer to that of a tomato. Occasionally, some rains have fallen as acidic as pure lemon juice.

Nobody's sure what the ecological effects of acid rain are but they can't be good. Laboratory experiments on plant life show that acid rain will stunt and distort growth, decrease pollen germination and generally lower the quality of the material grown.

Source: *NEWS AND VIEWS*
The American Horticultural Society 5/75

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