



MIDWEST BREEZES

The M.A.G.C.S. April 6 meeting held at Elmhurst C.C. was enjoyed by everyone present. The attendance was not up to par. Less than sixty enjoyed a steak dinner. Those who played golf reported the condition of the golf course was in super condition, this was made possible by our host, **Tom Diguido**, golf course Supt.

Directions for our May 4 meeting at Deer Creek G.C. at Park Forest, Ill. is from the North. Take 294 South to I80 - go west to Rt. 57. Then South to Rt. 30, then East to Western Ave. Then it is 4 miles South on Western. All others - consult your road map.

The U.S.G.A. meeting held on March 24 at the Marriot O'Hare Hotel was well attended. Golf course superintendents, green chairmen, club presidents, club members, and golf professionals were present to hear what the speakers had to offer. I am sure they left for home satisfied that this day was not a loss.

One of the topics discussed was "Sand Topdressing". This subject is still debatable. In the future it may be settled, I hope. Another subject was divots on bentgrass fairways. The speaker suggested that filling the divots with seed and soil will reduce the chance for a golf ball to come to rest in a divot hole. The hole will heal over more quickly and you will have a smoother fairway.

Dr. Vargis showed many interesting pictures on various subjects pertaining to golf course maintenance work. It has been said that one picture is worth a thousand words. One of his slides showed the right and the wrong way of spraying chemicals on greens and tees. Another slide illustrated the wrong way to hand water a green. This editor hopes every Supt. that was present made a note of this.

One of the speakers stated, "Many problems would not have happened if a little common sense had been applied before it happened." Should a problem of this nature take place, common sense will help solve the problem.

A few pictures were shown and a statement made that there was more disease noticed on turfgrass areas treated often compared to areas that were treated only when necessary.

It was also recommended that when a golf course turfgrass area is being checked for problems such as wilt, it should not be done from a riding vehicle. The proper way is by walking.

On March 25 the Chicago District Golf Association sponsored their annual green seminar at Butterfield

C.C. This is a super place to hold this yearly event. The facilities are the best; location could not be better. The service is tops and the food is truly outstanding. The speakers were all in their prime.

Marv Ferguson, golf course architect, did a splendid job on construction planning and the many things to guard against. When a golfer makes a poor shot he usually blames something or someone for it. It should be remembered the ball went where he drove it. **Dr. Ferguson** mentioned the high cost of maintaining a golf course and the indications are it will keep on unless the golfer is willing to accept a lower standard of maintenance. At the present time it appears he or she is a little spoiled. The type of construction is also a factor in maintenance cost. Some of the problems that are found are caused by the automatic irrigation system. He stated it may be necessary to reset the timing. **Dr. Ferguson** sure did an excellent job and mentioned many things that would improve the playing conditions and also help keep down the cost of maintenance.

Dr. Houston Couch was at his best. His subject was C15 turfgrass problems. He does not condemn this strain of bent. He is also sure the problem is not red leaf spot. I am confident that with his knowledge he will solve the problem. He made one mistake at this meeting. He stepped away from behind the podium and got in front of the man with the camera, which happened to be this editor. Everyone had a good laugh and this is hard to beat. The picture tells the story.

Mr. David Amory, C.D.G.A. green committee chairman acted as M.C. at the seminar and he sure never finds himself for the lack of words. This is a gift most of us do not have. The attendance was 245, a record! **Charles Price**, writer for Golf Magazine, gave a summary on golf, going back several years. This is always interesting at least to someone like myself. He mentioned the older architects such as **Donald Ross** being among the greatest. This editor will sure agree with this, because I had the pleasure of working with **Mr. Ross** in building Woodhill C.C. in 1916 and 1917 at Wayzata, Minn. This is considered to be one of the finest courses in this country.

A statement I do not agree with is in regards to the late **Tom Bendelow**. He was the architect at Medinah C.C. I also had the good fortune to work with **Mr. Bendelow** in the building of #2 and #3 courses at Medinah C.C. There have been some changes made on Medinah #3 since its' original layout in the middle twenties. Many people do not know the history behind #3 at Medinah. **Tom Bendelow** was also the architect at Big Foot C.C. at Fontana, WI. This is a great layout. Anyone who has played it will agree. Many parts of certain fairways had to be hand spaded. The reason was the peat bog would not permit horses and a plow. Tractors were not around for this kind of work. **Mr Price** made some interesting statements on golf cart paths. One of the statements was that there are over 12,000 miles of cart paths in this country.

Dan Schei, son of **Ray Schei**, supt. at Ruth Lake C.C. is the new supt. at Brookwood C.C. Congratulations, Dan and the best of everything.

EDITORIAL NOTE

In case you find mistakes in this bulletin, please remember they were put there for a purpose. We try to offer something for everyone in this periodical. Some people are always looking for mistakes.