

Vol. 7, No. 5  
November 1953



# The Bull Sheet

*Official Bulletin*

*Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents*

*Our 28th Year*



CLARENCE MUELLER, SUPT.  
Glendale Golf and Country Club

THE NOVEMBER MEETING  
GLENDALE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB  
BLOOMINGDALE, ILLINOIS  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1953  
CLARENCE MUELLER, OUR HOST  
GOLF IN THE AFTERNOON  
BUFFET DINNER, 6:30 P.M.  
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT  
QUESTION BOX

BE SURE TO ATTEND OUR ANNUAL FALL DANCE  
AT MIDWEST COUNTRY CLUB ON NOVEMBER 5.  
MARVIN GRUENING WILL BE OUR HOST

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

Editor, William H. Stuppel, 543 Michigan Ave., Highland Park, Ill. Associate Editors: Al Johnson, Bert Rost, Bob Williams. Art Director, Paul Burdett.



### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, fellers, the last one thru is a lazy bum. All kidding aside, it has been a good fall to get the work done and I know that if you haven't scheduled too much for any normal fall that you are well caught up by this time.

There are still good things coming association wise. Our fall dance will be held at Midwest Country Club on November 5 and it should be the best yet. Come out and bring your friends.

The continued warm weather is letting the winter season and its activities sneak up closer and closer without our noticing. Keep your ears open for the annual invitation from the Michiana group for their annual banquet at Notre Dame. It is an affair well worth attending and we have been welcome for many years. Then will come Thanksgiving and Christmas and then I hope you will join the parade to Miami and the National Meeting there and that while you are there that you will have the best time of your lives. Make your reservations early and lets all get together for the meeting that we have been looking forward to for many years.

Ray Davis, President



### AN EDITORIAL

In the past many years there has been much progress in the Midwest area in the art and science of keeping greens. Much of this progress is due to the constant research programs that are conducted by our great universities. In this field we of the Midwest have failed to keep step and we have not yet found the combination that will open the door to the University of Illinois participating in turf research. In the field of individual endeavor, however, we of the central west excel. Our fellow members and each of us are constantly on the lookout for ways of raising golf course standards. Each year some active minded Superintendent makes a valuable contribution which helps smooth out a trying problem for our local membership. We try hard to do a good job of reporting these new methods and to give credit for its discovery to the originator. However, the Bull Sheet is read and then discarded by many, the practice becomes general and the man's contribution to the general cause is forgotten, and although one of the greatest virtues of our Association is the sharing of ideas and methods, we feel that a man who has done a great deal for the common cause should be honored in some way. It might not be a bad idea to have an annual award to the member who in the opinion of his colleagues has done the most to advance the high standard of course maintenance and contributed during the year to our general welfare.



It is reported that Alex Pirie has been on the ailing list. We hope that by the time you read this you will be feeling better, Alex.

### THE OCTOBER MEETING

On Monday, October 5, we held our Annual Fall Tournament at Tam O Shanter Country Club with Ray Didier as our host.

It was a beautiful day and a record turnout. Some 130 members and their guests signed up for the golf tournament and 151 were present at dinner in the evening. Ray's course was in perfect condition and there were many compliments on the course. The only trouble was that a number of the boys got started too late, probably forgetting that we were now back on Standard time again, and could not finish the last few holes. However, everybody had a good time and all went home happy. Some of the Wisconsin men liked our meeting at Medinah so much that they came back to play Tam this month. We are always glad to see them.

Our congratulations to you, Ray, on your wonderful course and our many thanks for a grand tournament. Also, many thanks to Golf Committee Chairman Dom Grotti for a great job.

Winners were as follows: Class A low net, 1 Al Pruess, 2 Dick Buchen, 3 Jock McIntosh, 4 Mike Polacci, 5 Stan Arendt, 6 Joe Canale. Class B low net, 1 Bob Williams, 2 Charles Vann, 3 Norm Kramer, 4 Ray Rolfs, 5 Al Bertucci, 6 Dave Mastroleo. Class C, low net, 1 Ray Runnfeldt, 2 Walter Killmer, 3 Bill Malpede, 4 Chuck Daugherty, 5 Al Rauch, 6 Jerry Transier. Class D low net, 1 Pete Bild, 2 Roy Chaplin, 3 Tom Flynn. Seniors, 1 Ray Gerber, 2 George Roloff, 3 Frank Mastroleo, 4 Emil Cassier. Guests, 1 LeRoy Kramer, 2 K. Williams, 3 Ed Busse, 4 Lee Knight, 5 Chas. Carr, 6 T. Schuler. High Score of the day prize, Ben Gee. Door Prizes, 1 Ben Gee, 2 Henry Lange, 3 Frank Mastroleo, 4 Chas. Shiley.

Prize donations were by Dave and Jock McIntosh and Paul Burdett.



MARVIN GRUENING, Supt. Midwest Country Club

## OUR ANNUAL FALL DANCE

Don't forget to attend our Annual Fall Dance, which is this year to be held at Midwest Country Club on Thursday evening, November 5. John Polocovick, owner-manager and Marvin Gruening, Supt., will be our hosts.

It's been a long hard season, so it is time for a little relaxation and you can't do it any better than kicking up your heels a little on the dance floor. The Committee swears that this will be the biggest and best yet. A good orchestra, buffet supper, wonderful hosts, good fellowship, what more do you want. So bring your wives, sweethearts and friends and come out and have a good time. Also, there will be many door prizes.

O—O

## WISCONSIN NOTES

The Wisconsin Greenkeepers held their annual fall tournament at Oshkosh Country Club on September 21. Les Verhaalen reports that it was a nice day and 31 turned out for golf. Joe Knies won the honors for the day and was crowned Wisconsin Champion for 1953. Jack Fram was host.

Les is keeping busy this fall rebuilding his tees and has planted a nursery of 26,000 square feet to Old Orchard bent to be used on five new greens next fall.

These Wisconsin men think nothing of travelling long distances to attend meetings. Onie Williams came all the way from Green Bay to play at Tam O Shanter.

O—O

## EARTHWORM IS OVER-RATED AS IMPROVER OF SOIL

Out in California a professor has turned on the worm.

We've always heard that the earthworm was good for the earth. Now we're told they're over-rated.

"There is nothing to be gained from buying earthworms to improve soil," says Milton A. Miller, zoology professor of the University of California.

The professor looks with a cold eye on the claims of earthworm "promoters" who make claims about "hybrid worms."

"The public should be wary of exaggerated claims as to the benefits to be derived from 'seeding' the soil with earthworms, or the profits to be obtained from making a business of raising and selling worms," Miller was quoted as saying in the magazine, Better Crops with Plant Food.

"The question is not, do earthworms help the soil, but rather, how do earthworms compare on an economic basis with other methods for soil improvement?" Miller said.

Wonder what the earthworms have to say about this, Prof. Miller.

O—O

Our good friend, Joe Kelly, will probably be seen more often at our meetings. Joe has moved from La-Fayette, Indiana to Kankakee, Illinois.

The beautiful weather of this fall has certainly been wonderful, but it would have been perfect if there had been a little rainfall also. Some of the boys were trying to recollect when the last good rain fell. As far as they could figure it was away back in July, at a time when we would rather control moisture by artificial watering, but now we would like to see some heavy rain so we can quit watering.

## SOD WEBWORMS DAMAGE TURF

Serious and widespread damage to lawns and golf turf was caused this summer and fall by sod webworms. They are present every year, but ordinarily not in sufficient numbers to attract much attention. It is thought that their unusual abundance in 1953 was probably due to their gradual concentration in artificially-watered areas of grass during the past several years and the unusually high survival of overwintering forms as a result of the mildness of the weather of last winter. This condition identically parallels that of the summer of 1931 when there was so much damage done to turf by web worms and was due to a hot, dry summer following an unusually mild winter. It may be that there may not be another such extensive outbreak for years. However, more damage is done to turf by the webworm than is generally realized. Other reasons are given for the failure of turf when it is due to the webworm and not realized as such.

Sod webworms are the larvae of young of certain small, whitish moths or millers frequently observed flying about over grass-covered areas, particularly during the early evening. Practically all webworms feed on grasses. The young worms feed on the grass leaves and start at once to form protective silken webs in which they remain during their larval life and from them derive the name "webworm." As the worms become larger they construct, close to the surface of the soil, little burrows or tunnels covered with bits of dirt, lined with silk. They now cut off the blades of grass entirely and drag the into the burrows, where they feed. Severe injury may be caused in a few days time when the infestation is heavy; hence immediate steps must be taken to effect control.

One of the older methods of control was with kerosene emulsion. This method from the standpoint of cost and effectiveness was practical. However, there are several newer remedies, which although more costly, are just as effective and much easier to use. Pyrethrum extracts are effective but very costly if used over large areas. Arsenate of lead sprayed on infested turf at light rates at regular intervals effects very good control of webworms, it requiring very little of the poison to kill the worms as they feed on the sprayed grass. However, probably the best and cheapest control is with chlordane. Golf course superintendents who spray their greens regularly throughout the summer and early fall with light amounts of chlordane ranging from ¼ pound actual chlordane to ½ pound actual to a 5,000 square foot green have very little trouble with the worms. In all treatments, several applications must be made as there are a number of hatches of the worms throught the summer and fall. 1953 seems to have been a banner year, there being webworms in the turf right up to the end of October in the Chicago district. Most of the damage reported was mainly in watered fairways, especially where there was an abundance of bent grass.

O—O

It was long after dark and the men were still coming in from the last green at Tam O Shanter. It was a flashlight finish. We will probably have to make our Fall Tournament an all day affair if its popularity continues to increase as it has in the last few years.

The large attendance at our meetings this year is a great tribute to those of our Association who have struggled so hard to build bigger and better meetings and strengthen our membership. Also, the selection of top golf courses has done much to popularize our meetings.

## SPREADING IT THIN

Ray Didier, in a serious discussion of the cost of sand trap maintenance said, "I put two men in the sand traps on May 15 and on October 15 I bring them in for the winter."

Ray Davis discussing Bermuda grass, "Like Norm Johnson says, you stand too close to it on a hot day and it climbs up your leg."

We noticed three of our Supts. poring over a map of Florida using one pair of dime store glasses with one ear hook off between them. They found what they were looking for, however.

Joe Jemsek of St. Andrews and Coghill, left late in September to fly to England to watch the Walker Cup matches.

Mel Warnecke has really reached a new level. He is now the Master of a pack of Cub Scouts. His son, Skip, is a Cub, the pack needed a Master and Mel answered the call. He is heart and soul in the movement and his fondest desire is to promote a series of golf lessons for his Cubs. We hope he will be able to produce a pack of topnotch golfers.

A number of Superintendents were the guests of Vic Kadish on September 30 at Tripoli Country Club in Milwaukee, Wis. Orval Decker is the Superintendent at Tripoli and had the course in beautiful shape. The men played golf in the afternoon and were treated to a wonderful steak dinner that evening. Needless to say, a good time was had by all.

Bill Krafft says he has played Tam O Shanter every year for many years but this year it was the most beautiful he has ever seen it.

Gerald Dearie's son Gerald F., is home from the air force to stay. He will work with his father at Edgewater.

Some dozen Wisconsin superintendents, led by Howard Gabbey, Wisconsin President, attended the meeting at Tam O Shanter.

Frank Dinelli says his Zoysia looks beautiful and that he is going to sod it into a tee next spring if all goes well. Mrs. Dinelli just bought Frank a 35 mm camera, projector and screen. Frank is going to have a lot of fun with them.

Remember to make plans for the National Conference in Miami.



### WHEN TURF AIN'T RIGHT

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and the members complain,  
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when there's plenty of rain,  
Or helminthisporium  
and fungus blights,  
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Encouraging words by Al Rauch, "I played pretty good for a change at Tam O Shanter."

Ray Didier, our host at Tam looked very well after quite a siege during the summer but went back to the hospital for a short time the day following our meeting. We hope you are feeling better, Ray, and take it easy.

Park Ridge Country Club under the supervision of Bert Rost, Supt., is rapidly completing a 65,000 square foot lake designed by Scotty Stewart, irrigation engineer, to hold 2,000,000 gallons of water as a reserve supply to meet summer watering needs. The pond will be served by two 15 inch tiles draining a wide area, and a 4 inch lead from the city water mains. A new pump house, water lines and much other work remains to be done but the hole is dug and Bert wants rain. The lake will create two new water holes on the course. The work was done in record time, just two weeks after the start of construction. about October 1, the major construction was completed. 13,000 yards of soil was moved.

As might be expected Bert is a most popular guy right now with a lake like that. Bert is busy studying the most approved method of stocking the lake with the proper proportion of bass, bluegills and crappies to insure good fishing. He is interviewing fishing applicants at the service gate. The Mole got a spot under a burning bush on the east side.

Ray and Mrs. Davis are not all excited about going to Florida. Ray says, "I can't see any fun in setting in the back of a boat going back and forth all day long trying to hook a fish big enough to feed a good sized boy." Maybe Ray doesn't get excited, but you should see he and Martha go into action at P.T.A. meetings. Martha gets the books up to date for the treasurers report and Ray tunes up his voice to sing in the five man quartet and they really have a time. Last year the P.T.A. raised \$750.00 on one ham dinner.

Bob Williams and Don Strand left for Manhattan, Kansas, to attend the meeting of the Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association the week of October 17. We understand that Bob was to be on the program.

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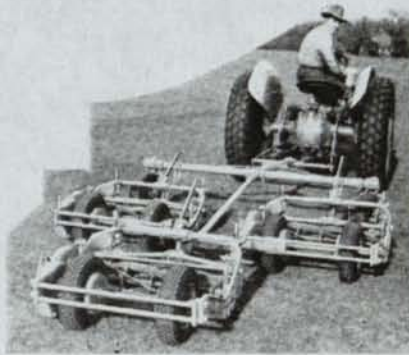
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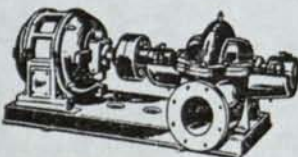
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