



The Bull Sheet

Official Bulletin

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents

Our 29th Year



DR. WILLIAM H. DANIEL

THE MARCH MEETING
SAMBO'S RESTAURANT
6600 GUNNISON ST., CHICAGO, ILL.
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 1955

SOCIAL GATHERING IN AFTERNOON
DINNER 6:00 P. M.

BUSINESS MEETING 7:30 P. M.

DELEGATE'S REPORT

EDUCATIONAL MEETING

DR. A. J. VLITOS, GUEST SPEAKER

1955 MIDWEST REGIONAL TURF CONFERENCE
PURDUE UNIVERSITY, MARCH 7-9, 1955
DR. DANIEL HAS PLANNED A MOST INTERESTING
PROGRAM. YOU CANNOT AFFORD
TO MISS THIS ONE.

EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE MIDWEST INSTITUTE OF PARK EXECUTIVES,
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. MARCH 9, 10.

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

Editor, William H. Stuppel, 43 Michigan Ave., Highland Park, Ill.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Midwest Regional Turf Foundation will hold its Turfgrass conference at Purdue University on March 7-9. I want to take this opportunity to advise you all to attend if at all possible. Dr. Daniel has done a wonderful job and we are certainly lucky to have somebody like him at Purdue. He should have our 100% support and we can help toward this by seeing that all of our clubs belong to the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation. I am sure that any number of clubs will be glad to belong if the facts are brought to the attention of the proper officials, and this can be done by personal contact by the Superintendent. Let's all get together at Purdue and give Dr. Daniel the encouragement to continue his good work.

I want to call to your attention to the Educational Conference of the Midwest Institute of Park Executives to be held in Chicago on March 9-10. It is too bad that these dates conflict with those of the Conference at Purdue. However, there are some very interesting topics on the program for March 10. So, it is possible that we can still attend on that day after we return from Purdue.

Our meeting this month will be at Sambo's again on the 14th and it promises to be a very interesting one. Our new Educational Chairman, Peter Bild, has been very fortunate to obtain the services of Dr. A. J. Vlitos of Boyce Thompson Institute. Dr. Vlitos was on the program of one of our meetings last summer and all who were present at that time can remember what an interesting man he is. Dr. Vlitos's subject will be "Chemical Control of Crabgrass in Turf and the Regulation of Plant Growth with Chemicals."

It will be a very educational month and I hope you take full advantage of your opportunities.

I want to thank Frank Dinelli for the nice job in my absence at the last meeting.

George Roloff, President

COMING EVENTS

Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Conference, Purdue University, March 7-9.

Fourteenth Annual Educational Conference of the Midwest Institute of Park Executives, Chicago Park District Administration Building, Chicago, Ill., March 9-10.

Regular meeting of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents Sambo's Restaurant, March 14.

April meeting at River Forest Country Club

Spring Dinner Dance at Midwest Country Club on April 23.

Spring Golf Tournament, Roselle Country Club, May 9.
July meeting, White Pines Country Club.

NEW MEMBER

Anthony August Sansone was elected a member of our Association at our last meeting.

There have been some reports of snow mold, but mostly on fairways and in sheltered places such as turf which is in shade during the summer months.

OUR MARCH MEETING

We will meet at Sambo's on March 14. There will be the usual social afternoon, dinner, business meeting and educational meeting. We are very pleased to report that our Guest Speaker will be Dr. A. J. Vlitos of the Boyce Thompson Institute. Dr. Vlitos got his Bachelor of Science Degree from Oklahoma A&M College in Botany and Plant Pathology, his M.S. from Iowa State College in Botany and Plant Pathology, Atkins Fellowship in Tropical Agriculture, Harvard University, his PhD. from Columbia University in Plant Physiology. Dr. Vlitos has been at Boyce Thompson Institute since 1950 working on problems of dealing with plant growth regulating chemicals and the nature of flowering in plants. His lecture at our meeting will be "Chemical Control of Crabgrass in Turf and the Regulation of Plant Growth with Chemicals."

It should be a very interesting meeting.



DR. A. J. VLITOS

ILLINOIS LAWN EQUIPMENT OPEN HOUSE

The new Worthington and Jacobsen Distributor invites you to attend their first annual open house at the company headquarters, 9919 West 143rd Place, Orland Park, Ill. on Thursday, March 17, 1955 from 10 A.M. until 5 P.M. In addition to a buffet lunch and refreshments, factory representatives will be on hand to answer any questions. Door prizes will be awarded.

SOIL NEVER WORN OUT; ONLY ABUSED

Land does not wear out, as was once believed.

Soil can suffer erosion, or loss of fertility by poor farming practices, but, in the sense of "wearing out," it can't be destroyed.

Many American soils are more productive today than they were 200 years ago. But in Europe there are soils which have been farmed continuously for more than 2,000 years and they are probably many times as productive as they were originally.

Muck soils, such as the soils about Lake Okeechobee, can be destroyed through farming. But it is not the farming in itself that destroys these soils. It is the drainage that must be done, which results in the soil disappearing through oxidation.

OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

Our meeting at Sambo's on February 14 was enjoyed by some 50 members. It was a very nice meeting with the social gathering in the afternoon after which we partook of Sambo's famous steaks and a very good meeting in the evening. President Roloff was unable to attend and the gavel was taken over by Vice President Frank Dinelli, who did his usual fine job of presiding over the meeting. After the business meeting a Question Box panel consisting of Matt Bezek, Henry Lange, Ray Davis and Amos Lapp with Peter Bild as moderator was appointed and the Question Box followed.

THE QUESTION BOX

Q.—What is the advantage or disadvantage to mixing large seeds such as fescue and rye grass separately and sowing separately so as to avoid settling out in grass seed mixtures.

A.—In some cases it might be advantageous to sow seeds separately, but it is the opinion of some that it would be a waste of time and that if seed is well mixed before using that settling out of seeds is of minor importance.

Q.—Explain the use of detergents such as Dreft in golf course maintenance.

A.—Detergents are used in sprays as wetting agent. It has been reported that Brown Patch can be better controlled when detergent is so used.

Q.—How much Arsenate of Lead is needed to control grubs, etc. on fairways.

A.—About 200 pounds per acre every three years.

Q.—How many pounds of grass clippings are removed each year from a 5,000 square foot green.

A.—This depends a good deal on condition of turf. Dr. O. J. Noer made quite a study of this several years ago at Brynwood in Milwaukee.

Q.—When is the best time to apply lime.

A.—The best time is in the fall for agricultural limestone so that it can get down into the soil by the following spring. Hydrated lime can be applied during the summer in small amounts.

Q.—What is the best time of year to trim trees.

A.—During the dormant season of fall and winter. It has been found that some disease problems are caused by trimming trees during the growing season. There is a better callous formation at the wound if done in the dormant period. Careless use of paint will sometimes kill back bark at wound.

Q.—Is there any general movement toward an increase in wages or hourly rates for labor.

A.—There is no general movement reported but there is some variation in wages according to work done.

Q.—What can I do to help water circulation in muck and peat soils.

A.—Open soil by mechanical means. Do not let soil dry out.

Two of our respected members from the far South Side are engaged in a knock down drag out fight that threatens to rock the town of Matteson. John Boettger and Eddie Wohlenberg both have filed for a vacancy on the Park Board for Matteson. Eddie is running on a platform of freer use of the ball diamond and lights to be turned on and the Field House open during the Ice Skating season. The Mole has not yet been able to contact John to report what his platform will be but has been reliably informed that it is equally earth shaking. The Bull Sheet will keep you informed of the battle as the blows are traded. Election comes in April.

GRASS ROOTS VERSUS GRASS BLADES

A weak turf usually has a weak root system. Why is it necessary to have grass roots to have turf? What makes a shallow root system? Why do roots become shorter as the season and the greenkeepers face becomes longer?

It is common knowledge that the bulk of the so-called plant food and water is absorbed by the roots. We say "so-called" plant food because we do not feed plants but merely supply the raw materials and the plant manufactures its own food.

However, this doesn't explain why Bent grass roots get shorter as the season progresses. The fact is that roots are not only a means of taking in raw materials, but they are vast storage rooms for plant food or sugars that the plant has manufactured. The plant needs these sugars along with nitrogen for growth. If we force the plant to grow by applying nitrogen, a certain amount of these sugars is used up. If the consumption of sugars is greater than the production, the plant must draw on its reserves which are in the roots. Whenever this happens roots become shortened.

When is the consumption greater than the production? The cool season grasses produce very little sugar at temperatures above 85 to 90 degrees. To make matters worse the consumption of sugar is increased at high temperatures. This could account for the shortening of the Bent grass roots in our greens as we go into the hot weather. Likewise if we apply excessive rates of nitrogen and force the grass to grow, consumption of sugar may be greater than production. That may be why the experts advise us to cut our application rates in half in the hot weather.

We can then control, to a certain extent, the consumption of grass roots or the material they largely consist of by regulating the applications of nitrogen. It looks like a slow even release of nitrogen would be desirable. Keeping the rates very low in late Spring and Summer and saving the heavier applications for Fall.

—The Green Breeze

INSECT SUSPECTED AS CARRIER OF OAK WILT

A tiny black and brown beetle, less than ¼ inch in length, may be responsible for the overland spread of the oak wilt disease. This information was released simultaneously by plant scientists at Iowa State College and the University of West Virginia, two of the research agencies where studies of the disease have been in progress for several years. In the experiments that proved these insects, which are members of the family Nitidulidae, capable of carrying the oak wilt disease, beetles were collected as they fed on infected oaks and transferred to cages enclosing wounds made in isolated healthy oak trees. In some cases typical wilt symptoms developed within three weeks. It was found that as few as two of the beetles thus taken could carry enough of the fungus inoculum on their bodies to infect a healthy tree through freshly made wounds.

Scientists point out, however, that this is a mechanical method of transmission made under rather strictly controlled conditions; that while the results of the experiments place insects generally, and the nitidulid beetles particularly, under mounting suspicion, it still remains to be proved whether or not this is the manner in which the disease "jumps" considerable distances in nature. It is known of course, that the disease can spread from infected to adjacent oaks thru natural root grafts.

—SHADE TREE DIGEST

ENERGY CAUSING RAIN DWARFS THAT OF HYDROGEN BOMB

Weather experts regard rainfall as the most important meteorological element.

Forces that make the hydrogen bomb seem feeble by comparison are utilized by the atmospheric engine that causes rain to fall.

Generally, it rains when moisture laden air rises and cools as it expands.

Damp air may ascend when it is heated by the sun, forced to follow an upward slope such as a mountain, or is compelled to surmount an intervening wedge of cold air.

Result of Collisions

Most rain in Chicago and other middle latitudes of the earth is the result of warm and cold air collisions. However, the amount of rainfall is increased in areas where the warm air must climb an ascending terrain.

Heavy rain resulting from the forced rise of damp air over high ground is observed in the United States on the western slopes of the Rocky mountains and the southwest monsoon area of India. Rain falling on the lee slopes of mountains is never as heavy as that experienced on the windward slopes.

Never Rains in Antartic

Peculiarly, it never rains in the antartic. Instead of rain, that land receives its only moisture in the form of a granular snow, called neve which must be melted before it can be used to quench the thirst.

Veteran explorers warn newcomers to Antartica never to put raw neve in their mouths. To do so will result in sores and abrasions from the coarse substance which is but another form of frozen rain.

Rainfall of Europe

Over most of Europe the annual rainfall exceeds 20 inches, while it is less than 20 inches over most of Asia, excluding Ondia, Tibet, and China.

The annual precipitation in a long tongue of land extending from Arabia across to northeastern Mongolia is less than 10 inches. Less than 10 inches also fall yearly in a small area of Arizona, the central regions of Australia, and a section of southwestern Africa.

However, more than 100 inches of rain fall yearly along portions of the west coast of Africa from the equator to 10 degrees latitude north, in parts of Assam, and a costal strip of Burma.

List Record Rainfalls

Following are some of the heaviest rainfalls recorded in a 24 hour period:

Berlin, April 14, 1902, 6.6 inches; Alexandria, Egypt, Dec. 9, 1888, 9.6 inches; Bruton, England, June 28, 1917, 9.7 inches; Cherrapunji, India, June 14, 1876, 41.4 inches; Baguio, Philippines, July 14-15, 1911, 46.7 inches, and Fiji, Aug. 8, 1906, 37.6 inches.

Probably the wettest spot on earth is Mount Waialeale in Hawaii, where the average annual rainfall from 1928 thru 1939 was 505 inches, while at Cherrapungi in Assam, an eastern province of India, 270 inches of rain fell in August, 1841.

Walter Kilmer at Ravisloe C C reports that the club is building a 54 ft. shelter house at the first tee. Walter is also installing a Ford Tractor motor in his old short coupled tractor to completely rehabilitate the outfit which has served the club so well in the past and is not replaceable.

MIDWEST REGIONAL TURF CONFERENCE

March 7, 8, 9, 1955

PRACTICES ARE INFLUENCED BY PRINCIPLES

The establishment and maintenance of quality turf ready for use requires a large number of practices. Mowing, watering, fertilizing, aerification, fungicide application and insect control on the putting green, the lawn or athletic field are a group of procedures. These procedures are practices attempting to follow principles which provide good turf.

When the problems and questions of each person attending are considered, that is also the time to consider the principle and why a practice is proposed. The individual managing turf areas can thus enlarge his concept and understanding.

A special thanks to the more than 50 persons appearing in the program to make this Conference a success. Everyone attending can, through his interest, enthusiasm and questions, make it a profitable Conference for himself and his organization.

REGISTRATION AND FEES

Attendance is open to anyone interested in turf and its management. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m., March 7. A fee of \$10 is payable now, which includes banquet ticket, proceedings and group picture. For further information write to:

W. H. Daniel, Department of Agronomy
Purdue University Lafayette, Indiana

WALKING TOUR

There will be a walking tour (six blocks) to the newly occupied Life Science Building and Greenhouse. The groups assemble at 10 or 11:00 a.m. in lobby opposite registration desk. Go out front door of Memorial Union to State Street, turn west (right), go past traffic light to new building on left. Enter by groups from west doors. Stops can be made to observe new office of Exec. Secy. of M.R.T.F. (Room 3S30, south corridor, third floor) and new lecture rooms.

In the greenhouse stops will be made at forage crops breeding, *Poa annua*, zoysia and crabgrass control experiments.

MONDAY, MARCH 7

9:00 a.m. Registration begins—Foyer. Mrs. Kaye House—Office Secretary

10:00 a.m. Tour of New Life Science Bldg. and Greenhouse Experiments

Eugene Johanningsmeier, Field Technician
Dick Craig—Senior, Turf Management

11:00 a.m. Second groups start above tour

12:00 Noon Luncheon for Chairmen and Marshals
Chestnut Room—G. O. Mott, Treasurer, M.R.T.F.

SOUTH BALLROOM

Chairman—Frank Dunlap, President M.R.T.F., Supt., The Country Club, Cleveland, Ohio

Marshal—Ward Cornwell, Vice-Pres., M.R.F.T., Supt., Supt., Lochmoor Country Club, Grosse Point Woods, Mich.

1:20 p.m. Welcome To The University—Dr. N. J. Volk, Associate Director Agricultural Experiment Station, Purdue

1:30 p.m. Plant Carbohydrates Must Balance Nitrogen—M. R. Teel, Instructor, Dept. of Agronomy, Purdue

2:05 p.m. Nutrient Absorption by Plants—Dr. J. R. Watson, Agronomist, Toro Manufacturing Co., Minneapolis, Minn.

2:30 p.m. Coffee served at break

2:50 p.m. The Students Purdue Serves—Prof. N. M. Parkhurst, Associate Registrar, Purdue

3:20 p.m. A Student Reports—G. W. Roach, Senior, Agronomy Major, President of Acacia Fraternity

- 3:30 p.m. Bentgrass Fairway Improvement—Dr. O. J. Noer, Agronomist, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, Milwaukee, Wisc.
My Experience with Improvements—A panel
Ray Davis, Supt., North Shore C.C., Chicago, Ill.
O. W. Young, Supt., Moraine Country Club, Dayton, Ohio
Bert Rost, Supt., Park Ridge Country Club, Park Ridge, Ill.
Harry Mesloh, Supt., Clovernook Country Club, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 6:00 p.m. Banquet—North Ballroom
Speaker—Prof. G. J. Mackey, Director of Athletics, Purdue
Purdue Glee Club—A. P. Stewart, Director

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

DIVISION A

WEST FACULTY LOUNGE

- Athletic Fields, Nurseries, Cemeteries and Lawns
Chairman—Oscar Borgmeier, George A. Davis Co., Inc., Chicago, Ill.
Marshal—Horace Godwin, Manager, H. F. Godwin & Son, Detroit, Mich.
- 9:00 a.m. Merion Blue Grass Experiences
C. Habenicht, Manager, H. & E. Sod Nursery, Tinley Park, Ill.
P. E. Drachman, Lawnmower and Chairman, Evansville Country Club, Evansville, Ind.
R. G. Hurst, Supt., University of Michigan Athletic Dept., Ann Arbor, Mich.
H. H. Godwin, Manager, H. F. Godwin & Sons, Detroit, Mich.
- 9:40 a.m. What Mixture Grass Seed?
J. R. Watson, Agronomist, Toro Manufacturing Co., Minneapolis, Minn.
Joe Lentz, O. M. Scott Seed Co., Marysville, Ohio
Harold Bohling, Landscape Nurseryman, Munster, Ind.
- 10:40 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m. Fertilizer Usage
J. B. Kelly, Salesman, G. A. Davis Company, Chicago, Ill.
Omar Ford, Fertilizer Testing, Department of Biochemistry, Purdue
Dale T. Friday, Agronomist, Nitrogen Division, Allied Chemical & Dye Co., Indianapolis, Ind.
O. J. Noer, Agronomist, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission Milwaukee, Wisc.
Chairman—Calvin Covert, Supt. of Grounds, Woodward Governor Co., Rockford, Ill.
- 1:20 p.m. Weedy Grass Control Principles—Bruce Rogers, Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Purdue
- 1:45 p.m. Crabgrass Control—Discussion for Group Leader—Dr. F. V. Grau, Agronomist, West Point Products Corporation, West Point, Penna.
- 2:20 p.m. Zoysia for Lawns and Nurseries
W. H. Daniel, Turf Specialist, Purdue
P. E. Drachman, Greens Chairman, Evansville Country Club, Evansville, Ind.
M. H. Ferguson, Research Coordinator, Green Section, U.S.G.A., College Station, Tex.
Frank Dinelli, Supt., Northmoor Country Club, Highland Park, Ill.
- 2:40 p.m. Break
- 3:00 p.m. What is your question?"

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

DIVISION B

Golf Courses

- Chairman—Marion Mendenhall, Supt., Kenwood Country Club, Cincinnati, Ohio

Marshall—Lester Verhaalen, Supt., Byrnwood Country Club, Milwaukee, Wisc.

9:00 a.m. Report on Experimental Green—Taylor Boyd, Supt., The Camargo Club, Cincinnati, Ohio

9:20 a.m. Disease Development is Slow—W. Klomprens, Research Pathologist, The Upjohn Company, Kalamazoo, Mich.

10:00 a.m. Chemical Principles in Weed Control—Bruce Rogers, Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Purdue

10:20 a.m. Questions on Crabgrass—W. H. Daniel, Department of Agronomy, Purdue

10:40 a.m. Break

10:50 a.m. Progress in Poa Annuua—W. W. Amick
W. H. Daniel, Department of Agronomy, Purdue

11:00 a.m. Preparing for Motorized Carts

M. Ferguson, moderator—S. W. Regional Director, U. S. G. A., Green Section, College Station, Tex.

J. Brandt, Supt., Danville Country Club, Danville, Ill.

Carl Bretzlaff, Supt., Meridian Hills Country Club, Indianapolis, Ind.

(Comments and suggestions by others encouraged)

Chairman—A. L. Michel, Mallinckrodt Chemical Co., St. Louis, Mo.

Marshall—Ray Phillips, Supt., Louisville Country Club, Louisville, Ky.

1:20 p.m. Nitrogen Use and Why

D. L. Likes, Supt., Hyde Park Country Club, Cincinnati, Ohio

Colin Smith, Supt., Shaker Heights Country Club, Cleveland, Ohio

Bob Williams, Supt. Beverly Country Club, Chicago, Ill.

L. Huber, Supt. of Ohio State University Golf Course, Columbus, Ohio

2:40 p.m. Break

3:00 p.m. Labor Policies at My Course

John McCoy, Supt., Cincinnati Country Club, Cincinnati, Ohio

Don Strand, Supt., Westmoreland County Club, Skokie, Ill.

E. Schneider, Supt., Evansville Country Club, Evansville, Ind.

3:30 p.m. Share the Question—Panel

Henry Lange, Supt., Glen View Golf Club, Golf, Ill.

Howard Gabby, Supt., Johnson Park Golf Club, Racine, Wisc.

Mal McLaren, Supt., Oakwood Country Club, Cleveland, Ohio

Al Linkogel, Manager, Link's Nursery, Creve Coeur, Mo.

7:00 p.m. Movies

8:00 p.m. Annual Meeting Midwest Regional Turf Foundation (Everyone invited). Meeting of Board of Directors follows.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

Chairman—Orville Hocker, Former Supt. of Parks, Dayton, Ohio

9:00 a.m. Research and Distribution of Pennlu—W. H. Daniel, Turf Specialist, Dept. of Agronomy, Purdue

9:20 a.m. Corrective Maintenance of Shrubs—H. W. Gilbert, Landscape Architect, Dept. of Horticulture, Purdue

10:00 a.m. Fulbrighting in Japan—Miss L. E. Rorabacher, Dept. of English, Purdue

10:40 a.m. Put Yourself in His Place—F. V. Grau, Agronomist, West Point Products Corporation, West Point, Penna.

11:30 a.m. Close of Conference

12:00 Noon Advisory Council Luncheon

SPREADING IT THIN

Carl Beckstrom's son, Carl Jr., got married January 15th. Carl Jr. served a term with the Army in Germany, has been with his father since he was old enough for summer work on the golf course and now is attending night classes in Real Estate and Insurance sales at a School in Chicago. We wish you a good life, Carl Jr.

Edward Burke is now Greenkeeping Supt. at the Elmhurst C.C. Eddie has been a machinist an assistant in a pro shop, a caddie and is looking forward to a career as a Grounds Supt. He is in the midst of painting equipment now.

Winter has taken its toll in pain among the wives of our members. Mrs. Lapp, Amos' wife from Elgin, Ill., fell while walking with Amos, hit a curb on the way down and broke her wrist. Now Amos and the kids are doing the house work while Mrs. Lapp directs with her arm in a sling.

Mrs. Burdett of Lombard, according to reports went skating in the brisk below zero one Saturday night. While skating hand in hand, Burdett fell down dragging Mrs. Burdett with him. Burdett got up but Mrs. Burdett spent the next five days in the Elmhurst Hospital. The part that was hurt is unmentionable but exceedingly painful and now she practices the piano while sitting on a pillow. The day she returned from the Hospital, a skating instructor from River Forest called up to ask her to join a skating class. After Mrs. Burdett explained that she would probably do no more skating this season, she commented that Burdett had suggested that she take some lessons so she could fall more gracefully.

Since their youngest boy got himself married off Don and Mrs. Strand have taken advantage of their new found freedom. Don and Marge spent almost a month in Texas and Mexico after the meeting at St. Louis, and Marge went south to Florida when Don Jr. left for his vacation Feb. 15th. So Don Sr. is now a bachelor and available for dinner dates.

Al Schaper of the Sod Nursery and Mrs. Schaper spent three weeks touring Texas and Arizona and Oklahoma, traveled 6000 miles and thoroughly tried out the new Chevrolet. Al reported that he went 115 miles in 93 minutes if I remember the story rightly. The Strands, Schaper's and the Gerbers all met at Pharr in the Rio Grande Vallev in Texas and spent some time together. Don made an excellent guide to Texas, he loves it and knows it thoroughly.

Marv Gruening and his family of the Midwest C. C. spent their vacation this year in Wausau, Wisconsin. Marv reported very vigorous weather with the temperature at 20 degrees below.

Some 50 members of the Midwest Association sat down to dinner at Sambos Feb. 14th. In spite of the longing of many of the men to be with their families on Valentines day, the crowd radiated good fellowship and every one had a good time. Bill Stuppel was there, back a week early from a cold and windy Florida, Scotty Stewart, the irrigation specialist tore himself away from his drawing board where he has been working over a complicated pumping station, Geo. Roloff our president, was absent at a zoning board meeting but Vice President Frank Dinelli handled the gavel excellently, Nels Johnson climbed out of a tree to make himself available to answer questions on pruning, John Darrah dug himself out of the drifts along Route 30 to get there, Ray Davis hurried from a meeting with his chairman and we all sat down to a delicious steak dinner. Geo. Dahlman had a flock of new stories and he and Scotty Stewart entertained one end of the table all evening.

Bert Rost spent his vacation in Minneapolis. Bert said it was too cold for skating.

Don Strand gave an encouraging report on the program set up to strengthen the financial position of the National.

Ray Davis is to be on a panel at the Purdue meeting.

Gordon Brinkworth reported briefly on his trip to the West Coast and he believes that our courses stack up well with the best in the country.

The Clubhouse at Glen Eagles C. C. burned to the ground Thursday morning, Feb. 17th. Walter Fuchs stayed with the blaze till it was over. The fire had such a good start before it was discovered that it was impossible to save anything.

Our officials are working toward a joint meeting of the Midwest, the Michiana and the Central Illinois associations to be held early this summer.

Although it seemed that everyone was going to be away for the winter, it is surprising how many places hummed with activity all season long. The repair work is about done with usually only a few tractors left to be worked on, and the mowers and equipment is all lined up in the sheds shining in paint looking as good as it did the day it left the factory. There are many Supts who have stayed close to home this season hoping to get a week or two extra next year so that they can have a little time before or after the Long Beach, California, meeting to see something of the fabulous State of California, and many a Christmas bonus check for '54 is being carefully hoarded for use in Feb. '56. The Mole hopes that we all have better weather in California than we had during the last meeting there. At that time it was cold and rainy, too.

Clarence Mueller's son Glen, age 6, spent a week during the middle of February in the Hospital for an operation. Hope you are feeling better, Glen.

Gordon Brinkworth now drives a new RED Nash Ambassador. A friend, after looking it over commented "Gordon, when are they going to install the fire siren". It is a beautiful car, a hard top convertible.

Bob Williams is now driving a new Buick. At this moment the Mole has no details.

Ray Gerber, Don Strand and Bob Williams will carry an important part of the program for the Midwest Institute of Park Executives in Chicago, the second week of March. Don will discuss the starting, propagation and growing of a turf nursery; Bob will discuss Turf Grass Management, and Ray will discuss Use and Misuse of Equipment in Turf Grass Management.

The Mole and the Gopher

Did you know that in warm moist weather the growth of algae in the upper three inches of soil may add as much as six tons of organic matter per acre? These organisms convert carbon dioxide gas into cell material. Some of the so-called blue-green variety are nitrogen-fixers. They enrich the soil by making their cell protein from nitrogen in the air.

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