

dealers say, saw more damage to turf last winter than in perhaps 30 or 35 years.

Jack D. Mansur who operates a supply firm in Fryeburg, Me., remarks that because of the havoc wrought by the weather during the winter and spring months in his part of the country, clubs on small budgets wouldn't be operating now if poa annua wasn't thriving. Many greens in the area were almost completely denuded and in quite a few cases there weren't funds available to replace them.

Hampered by Lack of Funds

Less than 10 per cent of Maine's 68 clubs have ample budgets, Mansur continues. In many locations there is no treatment for disease until the disease occurs and at some clubs fairways haven't been fertilized for years. The equipment replacement situation is no better.

The big drawback, as Mansur sees it, is that dues at many clubs are still pegged at a pre-war level. About the only thing that has kept many courses going in Maine is that there has been a substantial increase in daily fee play.

Other reports from the northeastern section of the country, one from T. L. Gustin of Philadelphia Toro, and another from E. B. Skelton of Krebs Equipment Corp., Buffalo, are divided as to the status of the supt's budget but agree that the weather in 1958-59, and even in 1957-58, hit courses in their areas very hard.

Labor Situation Only Fair

In the Midwest sector, dealers report that the labor situation is probably as good as can be expected in view of the prevailing wage scale. There undoubtedly is too much dependence on high school and college help and older persons who are available are only mediocre employees. As for weather, W. F. Riley of Riley Lawn & Equipment Co., Indianapolis, and Leon Short, of Short & Son, Keokuk, Ia., says it has been about the same as usual in their areas in the last two years. However, J. Paul McGee of Minnesota Toro, Minneapolis, says that the effects of the recent severe winter were still being felt this summer and that the spring of 1959 was the worst one experienced in at least 10 years. Similar weather conditions prevailed in Milwaukee and Chicago, according to R. G. Howe of R. L. Ryerson Co., Milwaukee, and C. O. Borgmeier of George A. Davis Co., Chicago.

There is divided opinion as to how supts. are faring in the budget dept. One dealer says that supts. complain because almost unlimited funds are set aside for operating swimming pools, clubhouses, etc.,

Refner Observes Two 50th Anniversaries: Wedding and Tenure as Hillsdale Pro



Frank and Clara Refner, the bride and groom (Aug. 3, 1909) are flanked by Michigan pros, Ron La Parl, Frank Syron and Al Waitrous and Robt. Simpson, of the Hillsdale (Mich.) G&CC.

More than 300 members and guests attended an outdoor barbecue dinner and ceremonies in the Hillsdale clubhouse celebrating the 50th wedding anniversary of the Refners and Frank's 50th anniversary as the club's professional.

The club presented the Refners with a \$2500 check, wrist watches and announced that it was to stage a new event for a trophy named in Frank's honor.

Michigan Section PGA presented Frank with a plaque commemorating his 50 years of fine service as a professional.

On Aug. 10 Frank had his 74th birthday party with a dozen boys and 18 girls from his junior classes.

only to have the clubs skimp on course maintenance. Another opines that larger club supts. aren't suffering from a lack of funds but those at the smaller clubs are. Perhaps, the situation is pretty well summed up by Borgmeier who says that course maintenance funds probably are ample if not overwhelming.

Recommends Forceful Requests

Discussing budgets, Paul M. Jones of California Toro, San Francisco, declares that many supts. handicap themselves by not being forceful enough in going after the equipment and supplies that they need. "Economy," says Jones, "is a word that is rarely heard so far as course maintenance is concerned. Apparently, the clubs aren't pinching pennies, so the supt. should take advantage of this within reason." Budgets in the Los Angeles area also are quite adequate, according to Bob Adams of Pacific Toro.

Both men agree that the labor situation
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