

MEETING PLACES

Oct. 14 – Woodmont C.C. in Rockville, Md. Ladies will be welcome at the meeting. Host is Bob Shields.

Nov. 10 – Burning Tree C.C. Meal and business meeting will be held elsewhere. Place will be announced later. Host is Richard Anderson.

Dec. 2 – Indian Spring C.C. This will be our annual election meeting. Host is Ed Dembnicki.

REPORT ON VPI FIELD DAYS

The VPI Field days were held in Blacksburg on Sept. 3 and 4. The weather didn't cooperate at all and most of those in attendance were "unavailable for comment" after the rain started as the program began. The rain continued throughout both days and for all practical purposes, the event was washed out. The new agronomy area by the stadium has begun to show a lot of promise for no longer than it has been there. Much work has to be done yet as the plots are still being moved to the new location.

The evening banquet and program was held at Mountain Lake, 4800 feet in the sky high above the heat and humidity. Dr. E.S. Carins, an ecologist from VPI's Department of Biology was the guest speaker and told the nearly 200 in attendance some of the unusual problems their department is faced with. A question was raised from the floor concerning residual DDT in our surroundings and the Dr. made the comment to the effect that "Mother's milk has been found to contain 17.1 ppm of DDT, and that if it was in any other kind of containers it would be illegal for it to cross state lines.

ODDS AND ENDS

It was quite a surprise to see Lee Redman's ol' ugly face in the August issue of the Golf Superintendent. Lee is still on our mailing list and is at Bellerive C.C. in Creve Coeur, Mo. His idea about incorporating the National's emblem in the sign was good, and who knows, maybe the National will make them available to the supers for their maintenance buildings.

Just got the latest issue of Stan Metsker's Rocky Mountain Newsletter. Know where their annual two day outing will be this fall? In Vail, Colorado, no less! Would that be a meeting or would that be a meeting? The information for clothing was "temperatures will range from 70 in the day to 30 at night so dress accordingly." We, we will get our chance to see that part of the country in 1971 when the National will be in Denver.

Dick Schmidt from VPI addressed the Greater Washington GCSA last month and talked about his trip

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to Europe and England with the First International Turfgrass Research Conference which was held in July. He had several excellent slides and some interesting commentary about the cultures and practices of the style, methods, and beliefs of Europeans and their grass growing. Might be a nice idea to have one of the men in attendance on the program for some of the local conferences this fall and winter.

FROM THE EDITOR

This month's column is a combination book review and comment column. Our subject matter is taken from two separate texts and comment will be made accordingly. Agreement or disagreement should be made accordingly.

The first article we will discuss appeared in the August issue of the Reader's Digest. The title was "How To Grow A Perfect Lawn." The title itself suggests a note of levity, since a perfect lawn is an impossibility in this area as everyone knows. The article, however, was written by a J.N. Miller, no doubt a staff writer for the Digest, but he got his information from one Stanley Bulpitt, a nursery employee in Connecticut who "for twenty years has been building and maintaining hundreds of lawns of every size and in every kind of soil from Maine to New Jersey." Notice he stops far enough north to avoid trouble from the Mid-Atlantic region. Some of his comments were good, some not so good. But in any event, it seems funny that someone with a little more insight into the problem wasn't contacted, namely someone in our line of work. Paul Voykin, the super at Briarwood C.C. in the Chicago area, just published a book on the subject! You couldn't ask for a better source of information than that. Well, maybe next time, huh? Incidentally, reprints of the article are available from the magazine, if you are interested.

The next interesting article is one that appeared in the syndicated Parade section Sunday, Aug. 17. The article was written by Lloyd Shearer and was entitled "Artificial Grass Is Greener." In the article, statistics were quoted by Mr. Shearer to the effect that player injuries dropped 80% after installation of artificial turf. Well, this seems vague, doesn't it? Eighty percent as compared to what? Whose figures were these? There is an interesting story behind all this, too. Monsanto invited field men, stadium managers, and several other key people in these positions to view this material on a three day tour in the midwest. Result, several sold people. But on what? Dr. Gene Nutter in his Turf-Grass Times discussed the fallacy of the pseudo-grass some months ago. But obviously Mr. Shearer missed that issue. A couple of rather quotable quotes from this article on how good this fake grass is. Tex Schramm, the president of the Dallas Cowboys says, "By 1975, you

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