

# Newsletter

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ENGLAND

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F E B R U A R Y , 1 9 5 6

The weather is such an important factor in the every day life of the Golf Course Superintendent one cannot go far wrong in discussing it. Particularly, since we are all still mindful of the adverse conditions of last year. What is the summer weather going to be in 1956? At the moment the turf on all golf courses in this area is quite dormant. It is lying under a six to eight inch layer of snow, with plenty of ice on the bottom and frozen ground under that some two to three feet deep. What will be the condition of that turf the end of March, and then again in July and August? Will it be another hot summer and will we be pestered again with hurricanes and heavy rains? It is doubtful if we would be better superintendents if we knew the answers. All the same we are curious enough to take a peek if we had the opportunity.

The Government Weather Bureaus are reluctant to forecast the weather more than a few days in advance although their present knowledge of the high speed jet air streams tempt them to make monthly predictions. They say, however, that they have no reliable method of long range forecasting of weather except the simple-minded "average" of what happened in the last 5, 10 or 15 years. How ridiculous. Then there is another method of forecasting based upon scientific astronomy, taking into account the relative positions of the sun, moon, earth and other planets. This sounds ridiculous, too, because so little is known about it. This editor, however, has been impressed with the accuracy of the astronomical seasonal temperature forecasts by Ernest Wykes of California during the past several years. For instance, he predicted for the Northeast areas in the Daily Planetary Guide Book last December 1954 that the months of July and August 1955 would be extremely hot and dry. Much

thousand sq. ft. without injury. Its price may seem prohibitive until labor saving and ease of handling is considered. The best method of application is by spreader.

*"If a man empties his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest."* — Franklin.

Narry Sperandio did an excellent job in properly introducing the educational program and later ably conducting our business meeting in the absence of President O'Grady, 1st Vice-President Francis, and 2nd Vice-President Allen. The first two, it was understood, were still in California. Their reports on the National Convention at Long Beach will be anticipated at our next meeting. The following applications for membership were read:

*For associate membership:*

Walter C. Greus, Cedar Glenn Golf Club  
Roger Hines, Sherwood-Natick Golf Club  
Thomas Farrington, Wampatuck Golf Club

*Regular membership:*

Donald Mitchell, Kearsarge Valley C.C.,  
Sutton, N. H.

Incidentally, our present membership has already passed the 100 mark, the highest in our history we believe.

*"Progress is the activity of today and the assurance of tomorrow."*—Emerson.

There were two committees appointed by the chair to expedite and bring up to date our association affairs, as follows: 25 Year Pin Committee, Cassidy,

August 1955 would be satisfactory, not too dry, not too above average. The reason being that Mars, the most heat radiant of all planets, was to be in the north where its heat reflections came directly on the earth. *What does he say about 1956??* A much cooler summer can be expected. A fairly early spring. A better spread of rainfall. No wholesale dumping of rain in a few hours. Mild early fall. Cool late fall. Mild winter 1956-57 and again a hot summer in '57 but not as hot as 1955. Much less destruction from storms and hurricanes in 1956. Let's see how this works out.

Our regular meeting held February 13, at the Waltham Field Station was another harmonious and enjoyable gathering. The usual excellent luncheon was followed by the attendance prize drawing, going this time to Guy Tedesco, William McBride and Albert Allen. The educational feature for the afternoon was sponsored by the Sawtelle Bros. and the Dupont Company. Here are brief notes on the talks: *Bob Miller spoke on Turf Diseases and Control.* — Tersan and Semesan for dual use may be mixed and applied together without counter reaction. Use as little water as possible in order to keep down labor cost. Use 3 oz. Tersan and 1 oz. Semesan per 1,000.

*William Boyd on Weed Control* talked about 2 4 5 T both Animine and Esther for control of clover using 1 lb. per acre. The use of esther is safer where drift may be expected to do some damage. There is less damage with fall applications. Mid-October is the best time for clover control. Spring usually okay but some damage may be apparent then. The recommended strength for 2-4-D is 1 pint to the acre. The use of C M U on driveways may cause damage to nearby shrubs and trees. Be careful with this. In traps fairly successful. Follow directions. Ammate most popular for ivy control. One spraying and a follow-up should keep clear for several years.

Dupont's New Uramite was explained by George Stewart. It's a combination of formaldehyde and urea in the proper combination to feed out slowly through the season with one application. Containing 38% nitrogen it is recommended for both crops and turf. It may be used as high as 10-12 pounds per

S. Mitchell and A. Cody. By-Laws Committee: Darling, Ash, Cassidy, N. Sperandio and Tedesco. The latter committee is requested to meet at 11 a. m. on the date and place of our regular March meeting for preliminary work. The positions filled announcements were flying thick and fast at this meeting. Orville Clapper introduced his new man, Ted Stevens, who replaces Aubrey Clapper. Sam Mitchell introduced Don Mitchell as the manager of their New Hampshire turf production. Narry Sperandio announced that his brother Tony was leaving the Framingham C. C. to accept a position with Paulini Bros. Garden Shop, Newton Center. It was also learned that Ed Curran had left Lexington C. C. to accept a civil service position at the Framingham Post Office. We all wish these nice fellows the best of luck and wonderful success in their new locations. They will be a distinct loss to our association. Tony has done a remarkable job as our Educational Committee Chairman, always handling the outdoor and indoor meetings efficiently, diplomatically, and expeditiously. And we thought Ed Curran had a promising future in our association. We shall miss them both.

#### FOR SALE

- 1 Carpenter Mower Grinder.
- 1 Toro Sod Cut.

Contact — Arthur Anderson, Brae Burn.

The above advertisement is a reminder to our members that here is a little used medium to buy, sell or exchange many things in golf equipment. What little it has been used has been successful. The cost is 10c a word.

#### THE MARCH MEETING

Place — Waltham Field Station, Waltham, Mass.

Date — March 5th.

Luncheon — 12:30.

Subject — Aero-Cyanamid. Speaker from the Cyanamid Company. This product deserves our close scrutiny.

WILL YOU BE THERE?

H. DARLING, Editor