



## William Milne Named New Midwest Turf Foundation President

BY CLARENCE WOLFROM

Maple Lane Golf Club

William Milne, superintendent at the Country Club of Detroit is the new president, of the Midwest Turf Foundation. At the annual meeting of the Foundation, held in conjunction with the Twenty-Fifth Midwest Turf Conference, at the Purdue University, in Lafayette Indiana, Bill was elected to preside over the Foundation for the coming year.

Over six hundred registered at Purdue, to attend the annual conference. Dr. Daniel Planed and directed the program in his own inimitable

fashion. Those in attendance went away with a broader knowledge of turf, and the problems of it's care and character.

It was a pleasure to be one of the many Michigan superintendents in attendance at the conference, to gain first hand information on new turf developments, and to renew old friendships.

Clarence Wolfrom, President  
Michigan Turf-Grass Foundation

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by ROBERT PRIESKORN *Western Country Club*

AS YOU SOW: This little phrase holds, in it, the wisdom of the years. Time has proven that it can not be contested. The young man with an eye on the horizon must have a staff on which to lean, for he will find the road is long and winding. The weak who are content to do as little as they can get away with must have a crutch, (usually a close friend.) Last there is the person who will find a club is the answer to his needs, and thus by evil will he plant his seed.

As you plant this year's tree from which you will take a staff, a crutch, or a club, keep that little phrase ever forward in your mind, for as surely as you do, SO SHALL YE REAP.

The Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association wish to extend their heartiest congratulations to Mr. Bill Milne, and best wishes for the future. Once again Bill has brought honor to his profession and to his home association. For this we say "Good Show Pres".

*We are quick to demand perfection of others, and slow to find it ourselves.*

*r. a. navarre*

### HARRY THOMPSON PASSES ON

MR. HARRY THOMPSON, past manager of the Bloomfield Hills Country Club, passed away Friday, March 16, 1962, at the age of 72.

Mr. Thompson was born in Birmingham, England. He managed the club for thirty-two years before he retired some nine years ago, when he moved to California.

To all his friends Harry was known and toasted "The Dean of Gentlemen."

# LIME, ONE OF THE ANSWERS

by CLARENCE WHITE

Orchard Lake Country Club

If you use fertilizer, you should use lime. I would like to recall what E. D. Longnecker, Department of Soil Science, at Michigan State University had to say on the subject of LIME.

## WHAT IS SOIL ACIDITY?

Soil acidity is a chemical condition that is unfavorable to many crops. It is caused in part by small quantities of various acids—carbonic, nitric, sulfuric, and phosphoric—in the soil. But a far greater part of it results from hydrogen that is held on the surfaces of clay and humus particles.

The acid condition keeps crops from getting enough of certain nutrients they need, and lets them get too much of others.

Liming an acid soil moves or changes it toward a neutral or to an alkaline (opposite of acid) state. The change is brought about by calcium—and magnesium if dolomitic lime is used—replacing the hydrogen on the clay and humus particles and in the soil solution.

To describe whether a soil is acid, neutral, or alkaline, the term known as pH is used. If a soil is neutral (neither acid nor alkaline) its pH is 7. Smaller numbers such as pH 5.0 indicate acidity, the smaller the number the more intense the acidity. Numbers greater than pH 7 denote alkalinity.

## WHAT DOES LIME DO?

There are two main reasons why lime pays off at such a good rate:

1. It reduces soil acidity to a level that crops will tolerate and yield their best.
2. It supplies calcium and magnesium which are both essential plant nutrients.

Other benefits are:

- By decreasing soil acidity, it makes phosphorus and molybdenum in the soil more available to crops.
- Aluminum, iron, and manganese, which may be present in harmful amounts in strongly acid soil, are made less available.

- It promotes growth and activity of beneficial soil bacteria and other microorganisms.
- It tends to improve soil structure indirectly by promoting (1) the growth of legumes (2) better root development, and (3) greater crop residues.

## WHAT IS AGRICULTURAL LIME?

In chemical terms, agricultural lime includes the oxide, the hydrate, and the carbonate of calcium or calcium and magnesium. Practically no oxide or burnt lime is used in Michigan as a soil amendment. Hydrated limes makes up about 1%, calcic limestone 28%, dolomitic limestone 38%, marl and calcareous tufa 31%, and lime refuse from various local industries approximately 2% of the agricultural lime now used in Michigan.

## PRESENT DAY FERTILIZER PRACTICES

Present day fertilizer practices increase crop yields, thereby increasing the removal of calcium and magnesium from the soil by crops.

On the average each pound of nitrogen contained in commercial fertilizers leaves an acid residue in the soil sufficient to neutralize 2 pounds of high grade ground limestone. Thus the 45,000 tons of fertilizer nitrogen being used yearly in Michigan creates a need for 90,000 tons of agricultural lime.

Present day high analysis phosphate fertilizers (45%  $P_2O_5$ ) contain less than  $\frac{1}{3}$  as much calcium per pound of  $P_2O_5$  as did the ordinary 20% superphosphate used 20 years ago.

## IS OVERLIMING POSSIBLE?

It is possible but there is greater danger of underliming. The writer has observed fields where 100 cubic yards of marl per acre have been applied without harmful effects. But from the standpoint of economy this was an extreme case of overliming. Also the writer has observed cases where the application of 2 tons of limestone meal per acre to naturally high-lime lake-bed soils has resulted in both boron and manganese deficiencies in crops.

However, if soils are sampled and tested periodically and limed accordingly, the danger of overliming from the standpoint of both economy and causing minor element deficiencies is eliminated.

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# A SOLID TEAM IS THE ANSWER

*Editor's Note: The following article is an excerpt from a USGA publication, January 1961. A new season is under way and many new Green Chairmen will be taking the "Helm" for the first time. This article is a good guide for the new chairmen and a short reminder for the established Chairmen.*

## DUTIES OF A GREEN COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

"Your job as Green Committee Chairman and Green Committee Member," writes Richard S. Tufts, former President of the United States Golf Association, "is to serve your fellow members by maintaining the type of golf course that the majority of them want. A tough layout that is a challenge to the expert may not be enjoyable to the average golfer—of which there are so many. Certainly, your job is not to rebuild the course the way you want it.

The duties of the Green Committee Chairman and Members cannot be handled effectively in a passive manner. They will demand your time and your attention. Your wife may complain that she is a grass widow.

You should be willing to learn and spend some time reading journals, pamphlets and magazines dealing with turfgrass. You should attend an occasional turfgrass meeting. A good Chairman should be an active golfer, but not necessarily the club champion.

A good chairman should avoid problems, by knowing his limitations. There will be many bridges that will not have to be crossed, if problems are avoided.

A golf course program of maintenance and management is an intricate combination of men, materials, climate, grasses, etc., what is good for one course is not always best for the course down the road. Don't be "Bulldozed" into doing things because everyone else is doing them. Leave the program to your Golf Course Superintendent, for it is his responsibility to grow turf for golf. A good Chairman need not become a turf expert. He must, however have sufficient knowledge to answer questions asked him by the Members and the Board of Directors.

Visit the course occasionally while the men are working and thus understand their problems. Good Chairmen have found that the best time to acquire the confidence of the Superintendent, as well as a better understanding of his job, is to go out with him at 6 o'clock in the morning when he faces his problems for the day. Walk the course with him. "Morning is made for those who see it".

## WHO IS THE SUPERINTENDENT?

In recent years the old-time profession of "Keeper of the Green" has made rapid strides. Golfers continually demand higher standards of maintenance. To meet these demands, today's turfmen must call on the latest in agricultural research and technical information. They must utilize modern equipment.

Although the modern Superintendent is first and foremost a grower of grass, the fields from which he draws his information have become extremely broad.

He must have some knowledge of plant nutrition, plant pathology, entomology, weed control, watering techniques and an understanding of plant life in general.

He must know how to handle men (and members) effectively.

He must have ability as a mechanic, a landscaper and a keeper of records.

He should help in the preparation of the maintenance budget.

He must be a planner and a purchaser.

In short, he must be capable of providing a high degree of maintenance proficiency, operate economically and keep abreast of new developments. He is a busy man.

A sense of team play between every Chairman and Superintendent is paramount. No team can work well together unless there is a feeling of loyalty and confidence among its members.

If you share in the problems and hardships, you'll share many fine moments together, as a solid team.

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## *Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Assoc.*

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