



# NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 1952

## SPRING

Spring, with that nameless pathos in the air,  
Which dwells with all things fair,  
Spring, with her golden suns and silver rain,  
Is with us once again. H. Timrod

But, "the first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another". Mother Nature however, did her best on March 20, to overcome what the last day of winter did to us with that cold white blanket. Whether it be warm or cold, rainy or snowy, sunshiny or cloudy, we know that spring is here. There are tell-tales all about. Blooming skunk cabbage, bursting pussy willows, brilliant crocuses, beautiful blue birds, and that babbling brook.

Any grown-up can look back to that noisy spring brook of boyhood days. That favorite brook. Tiny, quiet, and gentle in the summer but vigorous, frisky and energetic in the spring. Re-fueled and re-vitalized by melting snow and frequent rains the spring brook seems to personify spring. The awakening after winter's slumber.

This is a crude simile but, if the greenkeeper would transpose the melting snow to encouragement and the spring brook to his workmen it might be a thought for this 1952 golf season. Everyone responds to encouragement. A compliment here, a cheering word there, sets off a spark of inspiration and a reasonable full exertion of powers within. The Greens Committee might take note that encouragement works wonders with the greenkeeper, too. There is an enormous force in a few words of encouragement.

So much for the spring shower. Now what happened at our last Waltham meeting and what transpired at the Amherst turf conference? Two fine turf heroes were in the limelight—Dr. De-France at the Waltham meeting March 3 and Prof. Dickinson at the Amherst Conference March 13 and 14. These two men through their endeavors and accomplishments have given the greenkeeper an abundance of tools to work with. They have focused their searchlights so that we might better see into the dark corners of our profession.

The March meeting at Waltham was well attended as usual. Ray Koon, director of the Field Station, was on hand with greetings. His bewildered audience were shown samples of an oddity of nature which he had collected known

PUBLICITY—Philip Cassidy, Frank Wilson, and George Webster. EMPLOYMENT — Mike O'Grady, Ch., Herbert Johnson, and John Latvis.

The name of John J. Brock, Leo Martin Memorial Golf Club, was proposed for regular membership. To show their appreciation the Greenkeepers Club voted to contribute \$25.00 toward a public address system fund being raised by the Boston Market Gardeners Association for the Waltham Field Station. It was also voted to have our secretary inform all associate members of the club when they reach full membership privileges. FAR AWAY FROM HERE there is a lonely soldier boy longing for that spring tune-up on Rhode Island's good green sod. This being against Uncle Sam's wishes a letter from the boys would be the next best thing. Write to Tony Caranci, Jr., US 51044738, Co. G, 145th Reg. 37th Infantry Div., Camp Polk, Louisiana. Incidentally, it is interesting to note that Tony Caranci, Sr., a retired Police Chief and previously 15 years under Pat Tameo, has taken his son's place at Louisquisset while Junior does a good turn in the service. Good Luck to both of them.

The fine Turf Conference at Amherst was a busy, constructive, and interesting one. The two day educational program featured worthy subjects and well known speakers. The culmination of this annual event was the conference banquet with Prof. Dickinson as the center of attraction although he didn't realize it fully. This was the 25th anniversary of his origination of the winter school for fine turf maintenance. Following the banquet a pleasurable entertainment was provided by the University Chorales, young men and women with marvelous voices who have made quite a reputation this year on radio and personal appearances throughout the State.

The climax of the evening was the presentation of gifts to Prof. Dickinson as follows:

From the freshmen and graduating classes of the winter school to an able and likeable teacher, a veteran in turf culture, and a friend. From Agar Brown, secretary-treasurer, National Golf Course Superintendents Association, an appropriate scroll honoring Prof. Dickinson for his sterling contribution and service to the fine turf world and for his enviable 25 year record in originating and conducting the winter school for greenkeeping.

From Prof. Dickinson's many turf school graduates, greenkeepers, golf professionals, and friends

as burr balls. They appeared to be dried organic matter ranging in size of a baseball to a grapefruit, which he found on the bottom of water pools. The rolling motion of the pool built up a ball of fine leaves and twigs. Dr. DeFrance gave an interesting talk on "Recent Observations of Research" including characteristics and behaviors of green, tee and fairway grasses, chemical weed controls and an optimistic note that a satisfactory control of Poa Annuua would be found. He announced that the 1952 Turf Conference at Kingston would be held August 20 and 21. A turkey barbecue at Kingston is being proposed. Make a note of this date.

The attendance prizes at this meeting were won by Frank Chiesasa, Norman Mucciarone, and Al Sikoris. President Cody announced the selection of the following committees: WELFARE—Albert Allen, Ch., Guy Tedesco, and Joe Oldfield. TURF RESEARCH — Homer Darling, Ch., Arthur Anderson, and William Mitchell.

far and near in appreciation for all he has done for them, a check for \$1500.00 for his personal use, benefit and satisfaction.

A bouquet of roses was presented to Mrs. Dickinson for the part she has played in the drama as a helpful, encouraging and patient partner and companion. Thus ended an evening of gratification in honoring one who so humbly, conscientiously, and untiringly has accomplished a 25 year record of service in fine turf work.

"He who soweth bountifully, shall reap also, bountifully". May his success continue and his harvest of satisfaction never cease.

The next, and last indoor meeting until December, of the Greenkeepers Club of New England will take place at the Waltham Field Station, April 7. Luncheon at 12:30. An interesting program has been promised. We'll see you there.

H. DARLING, Editor



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