RAY GERBER 1899 — 1983

Raymond Gerber, acknowledged “Dean” of midwestern golf course superintendents, died July 6th at Elmhurst hospital after a brief illness.

Ray’s fifty-five active years in golf course management began at the Woodhill Country Club in Wayzata, Minnesota. After nine years at Woodhill, he moved to the Pine Valley Golf Club in Clementon, New Jersey where he was sent by the Toro Corporation to oversee the use of their mowing equipment. While at Pine Valley, Ray married his wife Julia, also from Wayzata, Minnesota.

Ray returned to the midwest again to help in the construction of the Medinah Country Club in Chicago, Ill. In 1936, Ray took over the position of Golf Course Superintendent at the Glen Oak Country Club in Glen Ellyn, Ill. and held that post until 1970 when he retired to the status of Superintendent Emeritus. For the past 11 years Ray has kept active in Golf as the Editor of the Midwest Superintendents Association monthly bulletin, The Bull Sheet. As Editor, Ray received national recognition awards from the National Golf Foundation and from the International Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Typifying Ray’s devotion to family and profession is the following quotation from his remarks upon receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association, their highest award.

One of the hardest things a person has to do is to say “Good-bye” to a friend he knows he will never see again. At least, this is the way it is for me. That friend is Ray Gerber. I had the very good fortune to count Ray as my friend and advisor. I really got to know Ray Gerber when I started to work here at Glen Oak C.C. That, in itself, is a story worth repeating.

Ray saw me at one of the Midwest meetings and bought me a drink. During the conservation, he said I ought to stop by and visit with him at Glen Oak in the next week or so. Well, I did, and at the time, he mentioned that he was thinking of retiring and wondered if I might be interested in the job. I started at Glen Oak C.C. on May 1st, 1970, and have been here ever since.

The deepest sympathy of the members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is extended to the Gerber family due to the death of Ray. Ray Gerber has been an inspiration to our association and has made The Bull Sheet one of the premier newsletters of golf course superintendents in the country.