

GCSAA Dedicates Its New Headquarters

A vision of meeting the future challenges of golf course management unified the crowd gathered to dedicate the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's new international headquarters.

GCSAA members, golf industry VIPs and local dignitaries arrived in force on September 7, to celebrate the formal dedication of the association's new state-of-the-art facility in Lawrence, Kan. The two-day celebration also commemorated GCSAA's 65th anniversary.

GCSAA President Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS, presided over the formal ceremony and officially gave the new headquarters building to its members, saying that the new structure embodies where the association has been, what it stands for now and where it is headed.

"This building is a symbol," Cadenelli said. "It is more than brick, mortar and steel. It is a symbol of how far this organization has come in a relatively short—but also long—period of

time. More importantly, it is a symbol of the profession. We have truly become a leading profession throughout the world of golf."

Cadenelli added that the entire association owed a debt of gratitude to all of the past presidents who helped bring GCSAA to where it is today.

Rep. Jim Slattery, a U.S. congressman from Kansas' 2nd District, also attended the dedication and addressed the crowd. Slattery, familiar with environmental matters, said the association should be proud of its new building and of its accomplishments in the environmental arena.

"This is truly a spectacular building," Slattery said. "I'm absolutely convinced that those who succeed you will be able to take pride in your vision and creativity."

In closing his keynote remarks, Cadenelli pointed to GCSAA's future: "This building represents our (GCSAA's) willingness to meet the future head on. The future of golf course management is challenging. The regulations with which we must comply, the concerns over the environment are critical. I am convinced that golf course superintendents will be able to meet those challenges.

"This building is a dedication and commitment to excellence."

GCSAA Mourns the Passing Of Its Last Charter Member

Chester Mendenhall, a past president and the last of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) founding fathers, died September 25 at a hospital in the Kansas City area at age 96.

Mendenhall died 18 days after helping to dedicate GCSAA's new headquarters building and observe its 65th anniversary in ceremonies in Lawrence, Kan., where GCSAA is based.

Taking part in GCSAA's building dedication and anniversary proceedings September 7 "meant everything to Chet," said his wife, Sue. "Chet said many times after GCSAA invited him to participate, 'I've got to stay well.'"

During the ceremony, Mendenhall delighted the crowd with recollections from GCSAA's past. He also cut the ceremonial ribbon, officially dedicating the new building.

An enthusiastic advocate of the association and the profession, he helped GCSAA develop into more than a regional organization by moving its annual conference and trade show to the West Coast in 1949. Previously, the event had been confined to the Midwest and East.

"GCSAA was a big part of Chet Mendenhall's life," said GCSAA Executive Director John M. Schilling. "Not only did he help found the organization and serve it diligently over the years, he also personally recruited many members. To

Chet, GCSAA and the profession represented a cause. Unassuming though he was, Chet worked fervently for the organization virtually until his last breath. We shall miss him, but he will live on in our hearts and in the history of GCSAA."

Mendenhall entered "greenkeeping" in 1920 at Sims Park, Wichita, Kan., and became a charter member of what is now GCSAA on March 1, 1927. He became superintendent at Wichita Country Club in 1928 and moved to Mission Hills (Kan.) Country Club in 1934, where he stayed for 31 years. He spent the next 10 years designing golf courses in Kansas and Missouri.

Mendenhall served as a director of GCSAA from 1940 to 1946. He was elected vice president in 1947 and served as president in 1948. He received GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award in 1986 and the United States Golf Association's (USGA) Green Section Award in 1990.



Study Will Aid Environmental Researchers

A new study on pesticides and fertilizer use will help guide scientists reviewing the environmental impact of golf course management.

The study, which documents chemicals typically used to control weeds, insects and diseases on America's courses, is being provided to the United States Golf Association's (USGA) Environmental Research Committee, thanks to funding from the GCSAA Scholarship & Research, Inc., a non-profit science and education foundation.

"This survey and subsequent report continues GCSAA's commitment to working closely with the USGA in turfgrass and environmental research," said Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS, president of the board of trustees of GCSAA Scholarship & Research. "The information from this report will assist researchers who are carrying out work funded by the USGA by providing them accurate data as to which materials are being used on America's courses.

"Obviously, we share the USGA's commitment to sound environmental management of our nation's golf courses and are pleased to assist them in any way possible," he said.