



# MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



Director  
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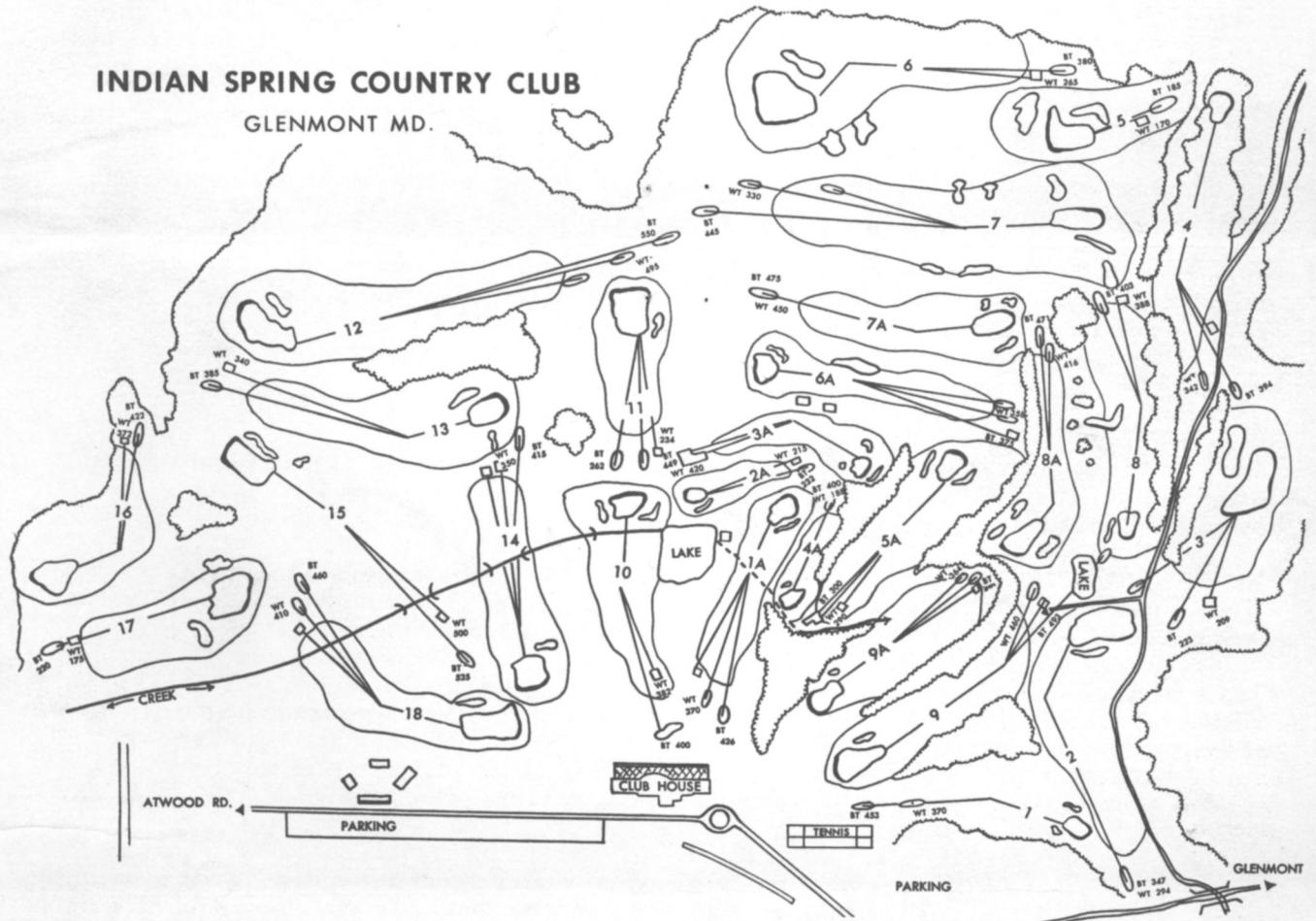
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No. 10

## INDIAN SPRING COUNTRY CLUB

GLENMONT MD.



### NEXT MEETING

The November meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Association will be held Wednesday, November 2nd, at Indian Spring Country Club in Glenmont, Maryland. Golf from 10 AM, cocktail at 6 PM and dinner at 7 PM. Carts, lunch and lockers available.

### OUR HOST



Edward Dembnicki, superintendent at Indian Spring, is our host. Ed was born and raised in Mowhaw, New Jersey. He graduated from Sufferin High School in 1941. He graduated from the Farmingdale Agricultural and Technical Institute of New York in 1943. While attending Farmingdale he majored in Ornamental Horticulture. In 1943, Ed enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to the Signal Corp. From 1945-1950, Ed was employed by A. T. & T. of New York. He spent 1951 as assistant superintendent of Dellwood Country Club in Rockland County, N.Y. 1952-1954 was spent by Ed studying for his B.S. in Agriculture at the University of Georgia, Athens, Ga. From 1954-much of 1965, Ed was employed by the University of Georgia working in their experimental station in Athens, Ga. In March of 1965, Ed was named superintendent of Indian Spring Country Club.

Ed is married and he and his wife, Catherine, have three fine boys, Paul, 19, (now studying at the University of Georgia), Steve, 17, and John, 8.

### COURSE

Indian Spring Country Club is privately owned and run by a Board of Governors. There are 1,250 members of Indian Spring and they have two fine golf courses to choose from to play, the "Big Chief" course which is 7,200 yds. completely irrigated and the "Valley Course", 6,500 yds. with fairway irrigation to come in the future. The courses were designed by Fred Finley. Edmund Ault has since done some redesign.

### MAINTENANCE

Greens: The 6,000 sq. ft. average, C1-C19. Greens are mowed at 1/4 Inch four times weekly. They receive 9 lbs. of N annually from either 12-4-8 or melorganite. A regular preventive spray program is followed at 7 to 10 day intervals. They are aerified, verticut and topdressed both spring and fall.

Tees: The 3,000 sq. ft. average, Merion and Kentucky Bluegrass. Tees are cut at 3/4 inch, 3 times weekly. They have been recently sprigged to U3 Bermuda and 6 lbs. of N is supplied with either 12-4-8 or ammonium nitrate. They are aerified, verticut and topdressed both spring and fall.

Fairways: The fairways are cut at 7/8 inch twice weekly. The Big Chief course receives 4 lbs. N annually supplied from 10-10-10 or 12-4-8, some ammonium nitrate is used on the new U3 Bermuda. The Valley Course receives 2 lbs. of N because of the lack of irrigation. Grass on the fairways is predominantly Pennlawn and Kentucky Blue.

Roughs: Roughs are cut at 2 1/2 inch approximately every 10 days. 2 lbs. of N is supplied annually from 10-10-10.

### DIRECTIONS

Take 16th St. to Georgia Ave. to Route 182 (Layhill Rd.) to Indian Spring Country Club. On the Capitol Beltway (Rt. 495) take Georgia Ave. exit. Follow on Georgia Ave. to Route 182 (Layhill Rd.) to club.

### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Angelo Cammarota

We have come to the time of year when a panoramic view of the countryside displays a harmony of color ending the growing season for all deciduous plants.

What a spectacular way for nature to bring down the curtain on a season of struggle for survival of all living plants. This has been a year we shall not forget very easily - from excessive rain in the spring to severe drought through the summer and again excessive rain in September has really been a struggle for anyone engaged in turf work. We can welcome with pleasure the coming of the dormant season for most growing things in our area.

Many club members may think that the work of the course superintendent is all over until spring. Little do they realize that we enter into another phase of the never ending duties of our profession.

1. Completing planned construction, renovation work and other golf course projects that we are able to do through the winter months.
2. Overhaul and repairing of all the equipment in our shops.
3. Attending turf conferences to keep up to date on new information from research centers, reviewing the latest in modern equipment that may help us to do a better job with our labor.
4. Most important of all is the preparation of the annual budget for the golf course. This is a time consuming task for most of us. In thinking of the preparation of the budget, it seemed that some of the rules that apply to public speaking can be used to properly present a budget to the board of directors of our clubs.
  1. Good preparation.
  2. Organize your material carefully.
  3. Be prepared to answer any questions.
  4. Speak clearly, and act confidently.
  5. Stand when speaking - stand in good light.

6. Dress neatly.
7. Know thoroughly what you are going to present.
8. Prepare well, and practice presentation by rehearsing thoroughly all items in the budget.
9. Give reason for all increases and why it is necessary.
10. List notes on all categories of the budget, to properly answer any question that may come up for discussion.

The properly prepared budget can result in obtaining all the additional material and equipment you have requested. A good presentation will not only get the results you are after but will also help to improve your image to the directors, and will prove to them that you are a true professional in your field. The extra effort involved will pay dividends. So prepare well and practice the presentation.

Good luck and may the adequate budget you get for 1967 help you in your struggle for the coming season.

#### NATIONAL NOTES

by Bob Shields

The Executive Director of GCSAA, Ben Chlevin, was in Washington recently accompanied by Bruno Danby, his assistant.

A meeting composed of representatives of mower manufacturers and mower sharpener companies was held to discuss the details of the mower grinding educational exhibit which the Mid-Atlantic will sponsor at the coming National Turfgrass Conference and Show. We are assured by these people that they will take part in this new feature of the Conference by supplying the necessary equipment to do the job and technical people to answer questions if necessary. Local mower distributors will also have representatives on hand to explain and demonstrate how to sharpen their machines.

This mower grinding display is a Mid-Atlantic project that has not been tried before. We think it will attract a considerable amount of attention and add greatly to the Washington meeting. Some Mid-Atlantic golf course people may be needed to man the showrooms but we can take care of that later.

Paul Barefoot has been asked to design, plan and grow the plants for floral arrangement depicting our national emblem in plants and flowers. Imagine an 8 or 10 foot circle with different colored flowers and plants outlining the colors on our official emblem and displayed in the lobby of the hotel. It's a pleasant picture that would attract attention to our Conference and bring recognition to our profession.

It's budget time again and you are all busy getting figures together for next year. If you think you have earned an increase in pay, then don't hesitate to ask for it for yourself but don't let down if you don't get it. Keep trying. Ask for more money for your men also. Remember it cost as much for them to get out of a grocery store as any one else. Explain to officials that laborers were hard to get this year and will no doubt be hard to find next year. Keep your men happy so they will stay with you.

#### ALL GOOD THINGS MUST COME TO AN END

by Thomas Doerer, Jr.

Mr. James E. Thomas, past President of the National Golf Course Superintendents Association; twice President of the Middle Atlantic Assn.; a member of the USGA greens section, member of the Greater Washington Supts. Assn.; and a dedicated turf manager, retired from the Army-Navy Country Club as greens Superintendent after 15 years of service. Mr. Thomas, known to his many friends as Jim, is leaving our area for the great state of Texas. We will all miss Jim as he has been a father confessor and guide for many a superintendent in this and many other area's of the country. Before coming to Army-Navy Club, Jim had seen service at some fine clubs in Omaha, Kansas City, Pittsburgh, Chicago and San Antonio, Texas. Jim's knowledge and experience in Turf Grass is something to be envied. Our loss will be Texas' gain. We all wish him great success in his new endeavors.

Jim will be taking over the Superintendent's position at the exclusive Columbian Club of Dallas, Dallas, Texas. This club has the distinction of holding the second oldest club charter in the state.

Some twelve years ago the club built a fine 18-hole course for their members, and have recently decided to revamp the course with the prospect of making it one of the finest courses in the Southwest. We can only repeat by saying they are on the right road having selected Jim to direct the enterprise.



Texas happens to be Jim's boyhood playground and starting point for his success in the Turf field. Jim as a boy caddied and worked in San Antonio. I am sure his many boyhood friends will give him a warm welcome upon his arrival.

#### WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY

by James E. Thomas

Now that the drought of the last few years has been broken, and we have had more than sufficient rainfall during the last few weeks; it is well to review how the extreme dryness of the weather affected golf courses.

The writer's experience for the season was that where there was a heavy stand of Poa Annu grass, it was soon wiped out by heat, humidity and dryness. Disease attacks were at a minimum, this especially held true in the occurrence of large brown patch, at times temperature conditions were favorable for the development of dollar spot particularly in Poa areas, there were more than the normal outbreaks of phythium caused by the misuse of water during periods of high temperatures and humidity.

Speaking of water, Dr. Fred Grau's article in the September issue of GOLFDOM is a most timely one. It should be read and filed away for future reference by all golf course superintendents and anyone interested in good turf culture. The article is clear, concise and to the point.

The droughty conditions of the past few seasons has brought about a hue and cry for more adequate irrigation systems, this is a need that cannot be argued with. Yet, far too many club officials and golf players are expecting these new irrigation layouts to be an overnight panacea for all the evils and ills happening to grasses on a golf course. They do not fully realize and understand that a modern automatic watering system is another tool of assistance in the field of good golf course management.

The wholesale loss of turf in the Mid-West a few years ago is an example of what might occur if an irrigation system is overused. Water should not be promiscuously used as if it were a play-toy; when this happens, there is the possibility of an unwanted invasion of weeds, clover and Poa Annu. Excess water can and will increase the need for more adequate drainage in certain locations, more need for weed control, more frequent mowing, along with a stepped-up program of fertilization. All of this calls for an increased operating budget.

Travel in different sections of the country the past few weeks has brought home to the writer that many of the new installations have both good and bad features, that the experience of trial and error operation of these new complexes will and can furnish valuable information, on what to avoid and what to look for, before plans of future designs are finalized. A sufficient supply of water, proper zoning of the system, correct sizing of water mains and pipe, along with a pump which will supply the needed pressures and furnish sufficient water to do the required job; all of which is a must if a successful functioning of the layout is to be accomplished.

This will be my last contribution to the Mid-Atlantic Newsletter, as I have accepted a position with the Columbian Club of Dallas, Texas, effective the first of November.

Having been in the area for almost two decades, the associations made during that period of time are going to be missed, but the memory will always be a most pleasant one.

To the association and its membership I extend my best wishes for their continued success.

Sincerely, Jimmy Thomas

#### SELECTING A QUALIFIED SUPERINTENDENT

by Thomas Doerer, Jr.

After reading many publications on the game of Golf, the promotion of Golf and the building programs all over the country, I find very little reading matter on the cost and care of maintaining these courses after construction. It is obvious that a course must be planned and built before it can be properly maintained. Much of this reading matter has to do with the selection of a qualified Architect, Golf Professional and Manager, but too little is mentioned with reference to a qualified Superintendent. Once the course has been designed and constructed, it either becomes an attractive and playable one or it becomes an

expensive maintenance problem to the owners. An expense far greater than the original cost. Because at the instance of the course planning, either the Architect, or the planning group had not looked into the matter of course maintenance costs with a qualified Superintendent.

After 34 years directly or indirectly associated with the game of golf, I personally have seen many cases where, in a year or two, many clubs are looking for a new Superintendent. This certainly is not good strategy for continuity in keeping a course well groomed and playable. In many cases this could have been eliminated at the time of construction by consulting a local chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association, of which there are some sixty chapters in the United States, or by contacting the National Association.

Agronomically speaking, each golf course has a personality of it's own, as do Course Superintendents. It would be prudent to contact your local chapter for some advise as to the personality you may need to help you save money, and at the same time keep some continuity in your maintenance program. This turnover of personnel whether it be a superintendent or an assistant is alarming and also very expensive to any club.

A class "A" Golf Course Superintendent is, or should be, in an executive position with his club and entitled to present his problems to an interested Greens Chairman or President, which-ever the case may be. Problems such as Salaries, job descriptions, retirement, insurance, etc.; should be dealt with in the same manner as industry does with it's personnel. This would help to reduce the alarming turnover of personnel.

Wage scales vary geographically the same as maintenance problems, so they would have to be dealt with on a geographical basis.

There are four steps to the construction and maintenance of each golf course: 1. The planners or owners. 2. The Architect and the builders. 3. The Manager. 4. The Golf Course Superintendent. Much thought should be given to the selection of each department head, particularly the Superintendent. The Superintendent automatically becomes directly responsible to the owners for the care and maintenance of approximately \$1,000,000 worth of real estate. This is no responsibility for an amateur or a misplaced Superintendent, if the club is to succeed.

A dedicated class "A" Superintendent, in majority of cases spends your money and takes care of your property as if it were his own investment. He uses sound judgement in the selection and costs of machinery, advise to the board of director's on course changes, hiring of personnel who are qualified to operate and maintain the equipment, budget the funds to a maximum benefit of each dollar spent, consult on occasions with the club manager and Golf Professional on course matters pertaining to the suggestions (not opinions) of the members in order to keep harmony and good public relationships at his respective club. I have personally been at one time or another confronted with some of these suggestions and from experience found them very expensive and time consuming, and today time is money.

I would not at this writing be naive enough to say that these suggestions are the answer to a perfect golf course; however I, would say if they are followed, you would find many courses greatly improved.

So in planning a new course, give as much time and thought to the selection of your course Superintendent as you would to the selection of a qualified Architect or builder.

As I mentioned before, contact your local or your National Golf Course Superintendents Association for their assistance in the selection of your Superintendent. Do not take someone's word or opinions in such an important decision.

#### COMING ELECTION

The nominating committee announces the following slate for the election coming up at the December meeting.

President ... Angelo Cammorata	Directors ...	
Vice President ... Sheldon Betterly	Bert Yingling	Edward Dembnicki
Secretary-Treasurer ... George Cleaver	Bill Emerson	Lou White
	George Thompson	Jack McClenahan

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Two of the above list will be elected for three years as directors.

Any nominations will be accepted from the floor as long as the candidate is a Class A member.

#### POSITION OPEN

Reston Golf Course, Reston, Virginia. Apply to Mr. Buchanan, Executive office, 703 471-4307.

Fountain Head Country Club, Hagerstown, Maryland. Contact Greens Chairman.

#### NEW MEMBERS

Paul Irving Gildersleeve  
Chester River Yacht & Country Club  
Chestertown, Maryland

#### CYLINDERS (Illustrating Breakdown in Communications)

Near where I live there is, in a rather large area; a group of cylinders which are situated in some kind of relationship with one another. Now, these cylinders are not unique to my part of the Metropolitan area, but can be found throughout the city and the country, or even the world for that matter.

In the particular group with which I am most familiar there are nine of these objects, but they can be found in groups of 18, or even at times 27 or 36.

The distance between the cylinders varies - no two being exactly the same distance apart - neither is it necessary for them to be symmetrical in arrangement.

There are little spheroids which move in relationship to these cylinders. These spheroids move from cylinder to cylinder as well as between cylinders. It is possible to have several hundred spheroids in the general area of the cylinders at the same time, but usually only one. Occasionally as many as four are in a cylinder at one time.

The cylinders are sequential, and the spheroids follow the sequence of the cylinders, although not always in a straight line.

Also, surrounding some of the cylinders, but not necessarily in the same relationship to each, is a loose granular material. In addition, there is a fairly hard matted material closely associated with each cylinder.

The spheroids are propelled and guided by energy produced by an object, not necessarily attached to them, but which has its own source of energy. The spheroids are slowed by friction between the spheroid and the area surrounding the cylinders.

In addition to the spheroids there are other circular pieces of equipment associated with, and in relationship to, the cylinders. Other sharp metallic objects also are associated with the cylinders.

Occasionally the area surrounding the cylinders may become damp. When this happens, the spheroids have a distinct tendency to travel more sluggishly and more energy is required to propel them.



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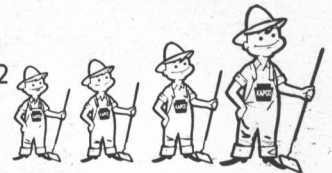
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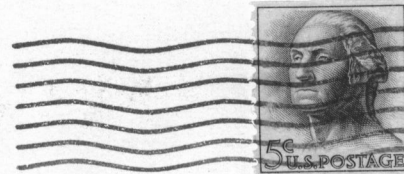
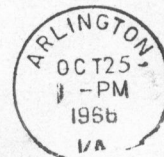
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