

MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



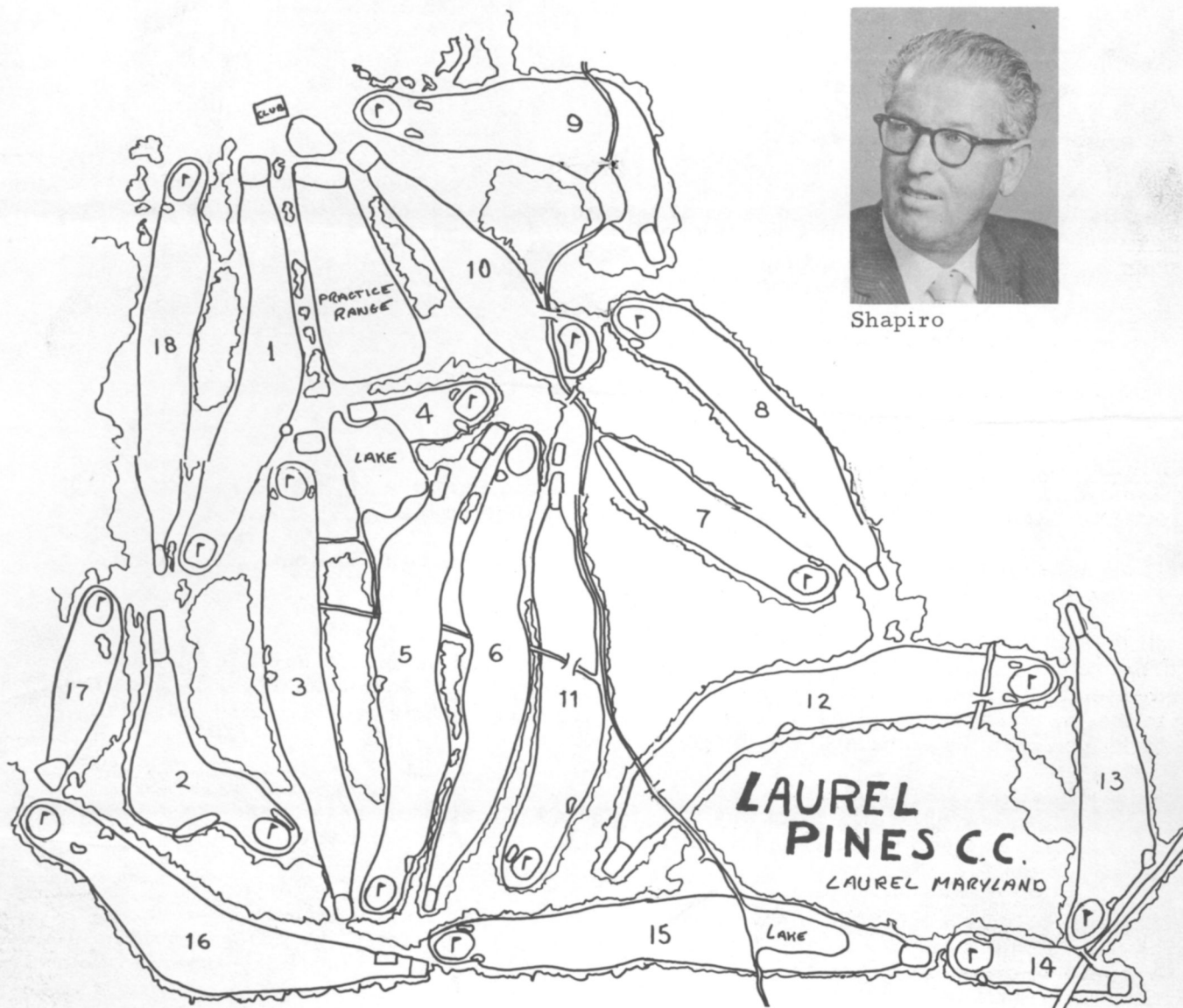
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Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the Advancement of the
Golf Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

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No. 9



Shapiro

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Association will be held on October 4th at Laurel Pines Country Club in Laurel, Maryland. The course and club house will be open all day for Mid-Atlantic members and their guests. The cocktail hour will be from 6:30 to 7:30 with dinner following.

OUR HOST

Gilbert (Gillie) Shapiro, the president of Laurel Pines, Inc., will be our host. "Gillie" is a Washington, D.C., native and graduated from McKinley High School. He became interested in golf in 1940 and joined Prince Georges Country Club. In 1953 Gillie moved to Norbeck Country Club and is a past president of Norbeck. In 1958 Laurel Pines, Inc.,

was formed with Mr. Shapiro as president and Laurel Pines Golf Course was built.

Gillie is married and has three children. His son, Lt. Jerome Shapiro, formerly of the U.S. Navy has recently returned from Viet Nam. Gillie and his wife, Sophie, also operated "Gillies 21," a liquor store in Washington.

THE COURSE

Laurel Pines Country Club is owned by Laurel Pines, Inc. Laurel has 300 members and approximately 45,000 rounds are played each year. It was designed by George Cobb of Greenville, South Carolina, and opened on the 200 acre site in July of 1959. It has green and tee irrigation with fairway irrigation to be added in the very near future. Also in the near future are plans for an additional nine holes to be designed by Edmund Ault.

Greens at Laurel Pines are of C-1 and C 19 and average 6,500 sq. ft. They are cut four times weekly at 5/16 inch or 1/4 inch. They receive 10 lbs. of nitrogen annually with 10-6-4 50% organic or milorganite as the source. A regular spray program for weeds, fungus and insects is followed.

The tees average 3,500 sq. ft. and are common Kentucky bluegrass cut at 1 inch. 328 and U3 bermuda is also present in some tees and this is cut at 5/8 inch. Eight lbs. of nitrogen is supplied annually with 10-6-4 25% organic. The tees are sprayed for weeds, fungus and insects only as needed.

The fairways are Kentucky bluegrass cut at 1 inch. Four lbs. of nitrogen from 10-6-4 25% organic is supplied annually.

The roughs are a mixture of Kentucky 31 and Kentucky bluegrass and are cut at 2½ inches.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB

From Baltimore - go south on Baltimore-Washington Parkway to Route 198 take a right on 198 to Route 197. Left on Route 197 to Laurel Pines on left.

From Washington - go north on Baltimore-Washington Parkway to Route 197 to Laurel. Follow Route 197 two miles to Laurel Pines on right.

GLOVER MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

The Third Annual Bill Glover Memorial Tournament will be held at our Laurel Pines meeting. Two beautiful Paul Revere bowls donated by Mr. John Connolly will be awarded to the low net and low gross winners. The tournament committee has more prizes for lucky golfers. So come early and play.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Angelo Cammarota

Mr. Dieter, our director, had to call once again to remind me of the deadline date for the Newsletter items. I must admit at times I am at a loss at what would make a good short subject for this portion of it.

Labor problems would take many more pages than we have in this issue. A discussion on the weather would be boring and sound like another alibi for some of the problems we had this summer. Other technical subjects are well covered by the many experts in our field in various publications.

Many of our association's problems are still with us. One in particular is the preparation of a "standard contract form" or, if you prefer to call it, "standard employment agreement" if the word contract is objectionable.

This project is in the hands of Edward Morse, BelAir Country Club, Bel Air, Maryland. He is endeavoring to assemble a composite form to include all the good features of any contract that is available. If you have one or know of any that may be available send it to Ed. Please help us complete this project. It is for the benefit of all the superintendents in our area. It is our responsibility to complete it.

We can not expect our National Association to establish or set any standards that will

certainly vary even in different areas within our own association. There is a definite difference between Washington, Baltimore, Virginia and the eastern shore of Maryland in the cost of living - not including other items.

This will apply to the U.S.G.A. Green Section and the Golf Foundation. I am sure they would prefer to be guided by the results of a survey by our association.

We should not expect or permit golf course architects and builders or other business consultants to quote pay scales for superintendents in our area. This should be dictated from the results of our own survey and completion of the standard employment agreement. This, I believe, must include a minimum wage figure for superintendents.

This is our problem. It is your profession; you must do all you can to protect it. Your response is needed. Your opinions and comments are welcome.

NATIONAL NOTES

by Bob Shields

If you are one of the many Golf Course Superintendents who ordered one of the new membership plaques and you have not received yours you may be interested in knowing the reasons for the delay.

The plaque is made of walnut wood which is in very short supply at this time because this same wood is used by the nation's furniture industry and, to a certain extent, is being diverted into national defense for use as stocks for military rifles.

We are sorry for the delay in shipping your plaque, not only for the inconvenience caused you, but also because the national board of directors wanted as many of these plaques as possible hanging on superintendent offices carrying on the work of selling the superintendent and presenting him in a good light. We thought the plaque would help do this.

National membership is still growing at a healthy rate as indicated by the September 1 membership report. A total of 17 new members joined the association during the month of August bringing the total to 2426, a gain of 187 over the same period last year.

The Mid-Atlantic will play host to the National Turfgrass Conference and Show at the Washington-Hilton Hotel during the week of February 5-10, 1967. As hosts, we will be responsible for ladies entertainment. This task has been assigned to chairman, Frank Haske. Frank will need considerable help from members and their wives to serve as hostesses and receptionists answering questions and helping lady visitors find their way around the hotel and the city. A great deal of the success or failure of the Washington Conference will depend on how we handle ladies entertainment so lets make sure we don't fail.

Another important feature of the conference assigned to the Mid-Atlantic is the mower sharpening demonstration. The plan calls for actual grinding of Toro, Jacobsen and Roseman fairway mowers. This is a new idea that has never been tried before and we don't know how big it will be or how much attention it will draw but it is a part of the educational feature of the conference and we must put it over. We will need men to answer questions, help control the expected crowds and move mowers to and from the exhibit.

An orientation meeting is being planned for the near future by Frank Haske. He suggests that Mid-Atlantic officers, directors and committee chairmen and their wives meet at the Hilton Hotel some night for dinner and a tour of the hotel so we can learn our way around. Frank will announce the date and the approximate cost as soon as arrangements are completed with the hotel and says that any interested people may attend by making reservations with him.

FAIRWAY IRRIGATION SURVEY OF THE NATION'S GOLF COURSES

by the National Golf Foundation

In response to the question: "Does your golf course have watered fairways?" submitted recently by the National Golf Foundation to 7880 golf courses in the United States, 3274 or 42% replied "YES." Fifty four percent (54%), representing 4287 courses, replied, "NO". Four percent (4%) did not answer the question. Replies were received from 7068 regulation length courses and 812 par-3's.

A study of the replies by five geographic regions of the country reveals the following: About 92% of the golf courses in seven far western states (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Nevada, Utah and Arizona) have fairway irrigation systems. Of the 1002 courses reporting, 918 have watered fairways.

Replies from 1117 courses in the 10 western states area (Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma) show that 49% of their golf operations have fairway watering with 552 courses giving a "YES" answer.

In a seven state mid-western area (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio) the percentage of courses having fairway irrigation was only 30%. 641 of the 2112 courses reporting have fairway watering systems.

A grouping of 10 southeastern states (Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina) have fairway watering at 473 of its 1456 golf course according to the survey - 32%.

Fourteen eastern states (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina) reported that 31% (690 of its 2193 courses) have fairway irrigation.

Of the 7880 replies received from the nation's golf courses the breakdown by type of course replying and the number and percentage of the total of each type having fairway irrigation was as follows:

TYPE OF COURSE	9's	18's	TOTAL	Have Watered	
				Fairways	Percent
Private	1546	1715	3261	1445	44%
Semi-Private	2096	983	3079	1112	36%
Municipal	530	558	1088	518	48%
*Military	152	96	248	134	54%
School-College	83	45	128	38	30%
Industrial	51	25	76	27	35%
U. S. TOTALS	4458	3422	7880	3274	42%

*Includes 29 Veterans Administration golf courses.

This study is one of a series planned by the National Golf Foundation in conjunction with its continuing nation wide surveys of the country's golf facilities and its accomplishing a perpetual nation wide golf course inventory.

Since new golf courses come into being each month, questionnaires flow out of National Golf Foundation's headquarters constantly. As the data received is fed into computers and results analyzed, other detailed information on the nation's golf facilities will be released.

WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY:

Compiled by James E. Thomas

LABOR PROBLEMS

The topic of conversation amongst most golf course superintendents today is labor. The comparison on the number of persons employed on different courses, and the size of the labor budget. The reason for all this is that every superintendent is feeling the pinch of quality help. It seems that with golf being as big as a business as it is today, most courses are overflowing and they are getting bigger in the future. The time is now for the country clubs to set their sights for future labor relations. Think today for the maintenance men of tomorrow. Labor conditions must be improved, first by higher wage scales and by fringe benefits, such as hospitalization and pension plans. Something to entice the young men of today to seek employment on the golf course. Unless the country clubs make it

more inviting and match pay and benefits with other labor, the courses will suffer in the next few years. The courses today must be well groomed, and, to keep this condition we must keep in mind all machinery and equipment purchased is only as good as the operator. And if we are to get every dollar's worth out of this equipment, we must have qualified men to operate it. We can not get the caliber of men that the superintendent needs, unless the country clubs are willing to help. (by John Espey, Sr., The Northeastern Golf Course Superintendents Association).

To add to what John Espey has to say: let's employ competent help, pay them well, furnish them with good tools and plenty of modern equipment to work with. Redesign our golf layouts so as to eliminate hand labor as much as possible.

Under the heavy player traffic of today, routine maintenance chores need to be done and out of the way before golfers arrive to play. Labor performances and operational tasks need to be streamlined; this calls for qualified help and sufficient machinery if the required job is to be efficiently accomplished.

The PRD of the USGCSA isn't quite living up to the expectations of Jack Barkett. And, just like he said he would, he told'em so last week.

Jack told us awhile back that he intended to file a strong protest to the U. S. Golf Course Superintendents Association about the lack of publicity given the superintendents in the PGA tournaments and right on down to the small town counterpart. The PRD is the public relations department . . . an agency Jack feels could do a bit more to give the superintendents the credit they deserve.

Jack, President of the local association and super at Griffiss, got a bit annoyed at a story in which participants in the U. S. Women's Open criticized the condition of the greens at the Hazeltine course. "The pros, the club, presidents, the greens chairmen, they all get the credit they deserve. But the only time the superintendents are in the spotlight is when something goes wrong," Jack says.

They are about the most unpublicized group going, it's true, but the superintendents are well-organized. The national association publishes a superintendent's magazine and has superintendents-at-large who answer distress calls across the country. If they can't help the local super, they find someone who can.

Locally, the Utica area supers meet once a month at different courses, play around, dine and then talk shop, trading tips on green and fairway care, sprays, fertilizers, fungicides, grubs, soils and the million and one other things of interest and concern. Occasionally a chemical salesman will speak to the group, outlining the merits of his products. College professors and PGA representatives also speak on occasion, keeping the supers up with the latest developments.

"If you use a wrong chemical or a wrong amount, you can burn a green in 15 minutes," Barkett points out. "You can go to bed with a lush green and wake up the next morning with nothing."

And chemicals are only a part of the picture. The greens have to be cut to just the right height, about a quarter-inch. "Cut it too low and the green is more likely to become diseased," Jack says. "Too high and the golfers will complain about slow greens."

Do you water your greens every night or every other night?

Is a fertilizer that sprays on more effective than the brand that rolls on? These are the decisions in the lap of the super, and his action is what determines the condition of the course you play.

An aspiring super can go to college and major in agronomy, then has to serve a two year apprenticeship before taking over a course. Others have to serve at least eight years as apprentice, "and you really have to like it," Jack says. He still takes correspondence courses to keep up with the latest developments.

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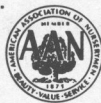
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Even in the winter the super is - or should be - on the course occasionally, Jack says. It's no job for those who aren't dedicated. And it's a job that deserves some recognition.

We hope his letter receives some attention. (July issue, "Our Collaborator", North-eastern GCSA.)

The observations of Jack Barkett point out how important good public relations are becoming; in fact, they are as necessary as good maintenance. Golf players in their enthusiasm for the game give little thought or consideration to the efforts that are needed to keep a course in condition for their enjoyment. Yet, a program of education is sorely needed as to how important the golf course superintendent is to the game. He needs to be recognized and not taken for granted. How this can be brought about is a sixty four dollar question.

EQUIPMENT SHOW

National Capital Toro, Inc., Silver Spring, Maryland, with Toro, unveils "The Greatest Show on Earth" at 10:30 A.M. on Thursday, October 13th at Meadowbrook Recreation Center, Beach Drive, Rock Creek Park, Chevy Chase, Maryland. See all the new Toro products including irrigation by Moist-O-Matic - National Capital Toro. Also are local distributors for Ryan, Parker, Giant Vac, Goodall, Cyclone, Hardi - Complete Turf and Golf Course Needs.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE - LET'S MAKE IT A SUCCESS

It is not too soon to think a little about the National Conference and what we can do as individual members to make the affair a success.

Get together with the planning committee. Give them your ideas and your support in getting things organized. Talk the conference and show up at your club. Plan to take your greenschairman and other club officials.

Our wives can be a big help. We need them as official and unofficial hostesses for the conference. Lets make the visitors to our area feel welcome and at home.

If we all give just that little extra effort we can make this conference go down in association history as one of the best and most memorable.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Joseph G. Baidy
Manor Country Club
Class - B

Delbert Wayne Hamersley
Army-Navy Country Club
Class - A

The above applicants will be considered for membership by the board of directors at their next meeting, unless there is objection in writing within five days after mailing of this notice.

DELEGATES

Sheldon Betterly and James Thomas have been appointed delegates to the advisory committee of the National Association.

COMING ELECTIONS

Frank Haske is chairman and George Gumm and Bob Shields are members of the nominating committee for this year.

MEETING PLACES

Bob Milligan is looking for a meeting place for the December election meeting. Also anyone interested in hosting the association next year may contact Bob.

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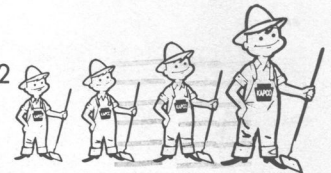
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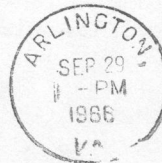
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