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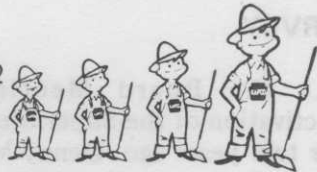
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### FROM THE EDITOR

What! More talk about budgets? You better believe it! Only this month the editorial attempts to answer some questions and offer a personal solution to this annual crap about "why is the operating budget at Duck River higher or lower than our budget?" This question is asked of each super at least once each year by an "interested member." The answer is obvious, but these people can't see the solution no matter how clear it may be. Regardless of what anyone says, club budgets, for any committee at any club cannot be in competition with those of other clubs.

Members like to compare their club with other clubs which is fine. Except for one rather obvious thing. Clubs are not in competition with each other — they are in competition with drive-ins, hotels, and any other eating places in the same close area where they are located. By the same token, no golf course budget can be compared across the board with any other club. There are too many variables to be included in every budget and on every course. The amount in each club's budget is directly dependent on items such as: the income of the club, the availability of funds specifically for the golf course, the demands of the golfers, the age and condition of the golf course, the initiative and ability of the superintendent, and many others.

There are as many variables within the operating budget as well. Some clubs include such things as the pro's salary, manager's salary, areas of new equipment, land repairs, club house operating expense and a variety of other items which have no business being in there but in actuality tend to cause concern to the uninformed member who is making his own cost and operating analysis.

There has been thought and talk by the editor and others of drafting a standardized budget form to be drafted and put in the hands of willing and cooperative supers not only in our own area, but across the nation, if this is possible. Critics are skeptical of this plan, saying it can't be done because everyone has his own set of budget figures and categories where each amount is set up and worked from. But contention by the editor is that it can be done, mainly because people have said it can't be. A negative attitude is an open challenge and with the cooperation of our area supers, this standard budget form will soon be a reality.

Advocation that the club adapt their budgets to suit

this form is not the idea. They could if they desired to do so, but the main thought behind the idea is for the form to be an all inclusive, not too detailed list of all possible categories where golf course supers are spending their club's money. Then in filling out the form, if one super finds an area on the form that does not apply to his operation, he simply marks it to show it is not applicable or simply leaves the space blank. On completion, these forms will be sent to the Mid-Atlantic Newsletter editor for review and analysis. They need not be signed and will be kept anonymous if the super and/or the club desires.

Adoption and utilization of this plan would be a great benefit to all supers as they prepare and carry out their budgets. It would eliminate the ever-present doubt by a few club members that "we may be being taken for a ride" when they hear of a budget that may be lower than theirs.

Ideas and opinions, both pro and con, are welcome as usual. But at any rate, once again we can see that facts and figures may become a real help for the super.

### SPECIAL FEATURE

Included in the Newsletter this month is a copy of an article which appeared on the front page of The Wall Street Journal on July 15. The article was well done and supers from all areas had members remarking to them about it. The article was mainly due to the efforts of the Buchen Public Relations firm whom the GCSAA had retained a few years ago. But after the article was printed, a letter comes to our attention stating that the Buchen firm is no longer being retained by our National association. Details are lacking, but it does seem a shame after such a fine article and all the favorable comment and sudden awareness on the part of a great number of club members all over the country that this will be the last attempt on their part. Hopefully, this article can be used in conjunction with budget preparations to impliment increases in wages, but if nothing more comes of it, at least many people have been made aware of problems that exist all over the entire country. Incidentally, Oscar Miles is one of Dr. Joe Duich's two year turf graduates from Penn State.

### BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors held a meeting on Aug. 11 at Gunpowder CC. One of the items discussed was concerning a joint meeting between V.P.I. and the University of Md. Director Lee Dieter will act as the liason between the two groups and will investigate the possibility at the V.P.I. Field Days to be held in September. Support for this conference ran high among the directors and it is felt that this will be the concensus of our members.

Bob Shields, past National President, discussed the

proposed plan for superintendent certification as submitted in temporary form to members of the new committee to review this. The only comment that was made by the board was that they felt that the local chapter should have more to say and do with the verification of the applicants than is presently described in the program.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Application for membership was reviewed for Donald Hendrie, present superintendent at the Annapolis Road G&CC in Annapolis, Md. He is applying for a class E membership and was sponsored by Jack McBride and George Thompson.

As with any membership application, unless written objection is received to an application within 30 days after publication, the applicant automatically becomes an active member.

### SURVEY

At the Board Meeting, the board approved re-activation of the Superintendent Survey which we did over two years ago. Denny McCammon will be handling this project as well as the confidential budget survey already discussed in the Editorial.

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