

USGA Annual Meeting

Bruce Cadenelli, Superintendent, Caves Valley Golf Course



he USGA began its second hundred years with its annual meeting on Saturday, January 27th in Orlando, Florida. A milestone was achieved for the association with the election of Judy Bell as president. She becomes the first woman to head the organization.

During the course of the evening, two awards were presented by the USGA. A new award, named after Joseph C. Dey, Jr., was given to Mr. Charles N. Echstein of Hazel Crest, Illinois. The award is given to recognize one's service to the game of golf as a volunteer. Mr. Echstein has worked within golf for the past six decades in numerous volunteer capacities. With that track record of service, what more can one say? A splendid record indeed!

The second presentation, the Bob Jones Award, given for distinguished sportsmanship in golf, went to Betsy Rawls, one of golf's finest woman champions and administrators. True to her character, she was most humble and modest in her acceptance speech, and thanked those who had assisted her along the way. A classy speech from a truly classy lady!

Outgoing USGA President, Reg Murphy of Baltimore, in his final act in office presented his "wish list" of items he hopes to see the association address in the coming years. The five items on his list were:

1. "Change the rules of golf to allow spike marks to be repaired the same as the rules allow for pitch marks to be fixed." Golf, which obviously is slow to change, may take its time with this one. Although, as the use of non-metal spikes grows, the problem may well diminish over time on its own.

2. "Finish championships on Sunday afternoon." Mr. Murphy would like to see the final round begin earlier in the day to allow for a nine-hole playoff in event of a tie after 72 holes.

3. "Move the USGA Museum and Library so that more who play and love the game could enjoy its content." He did not suggest moving

USGA Headquarters, but finding a way to make possible greater access to these golf treasures. Presently, on an annual basis, only 20,000 people visit Golf House. That number should indeed be far greater.

4. "Find a way to remove stones from bunkers." As he sees courses in his role as a golf administrator and rules official, he finds this to be a real (or reel) problem. Bunker sand, its qualities and playing characteristics, have long been debated by club officials, players, and course superinten-

dents. As one who has been around golf for twenty-five years, I suspect the debate will continue.

5. Last, but certainly not least, "Keep golf a game." Do not allow money, technology, or lawsuits to obscure our vision of this wonderful game. Remember that millions of ordinary people enjoy the game for the sheer pleasure they find in it. In a world of ever increasing technological advances, this may indeed be the most difficult challenge of all. ■

Dues Statements, Member Surveys Sent

By now, all MAAGCS members have received their 1996 Dues Statements. Attached to the Dues Statements, is a Member Information Survey sheet. We would like to update our Member Database and keep it current. We can only do so if all the members complete the surveys and return them to MAAGCS with their dues payments.

If you have changed jobs, address, or phone numbers in the last two years, we definitely need your updated information. Please take the time to complete your surveys and return them (and your dues payments) to MAAGCS by the first of April, 1996.

Michael J. Gilmore – Secretary, MAAGCS

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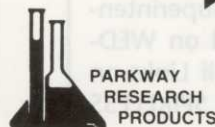
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