

The following was written by Gerry Finn in the November 1971 issue of the GCSA of New England, Inc. NEWSLETTER

PROFESSIONAL ALL THE WAY

GCSAA Certification. Sounds very official, doesn't it?

At first, the suggestion that golf course superintendents apply themselves to an educational program brought a lot of giggles and eyes coated with suspicion from the fraternity. This, it was said, was just another way for the national organization to gouge its membership for additional income. This, alas, is not true. Certification is not a flouting of the profession's original purpose. It is an avenue to an end . . . the realization that the superintendent is more than a hired hand, that he is a product of a planned program to reassure club owners and members he can perform his chores in a professional manner.

Right now it's appropriate that we take hats off, bow down gently and give three cheers to the architects of the certification program. It must be said that they brought a scholarly approach to the testing grounds and their examination setup is just short of deciding a Rhodes Scholar. They were thorough, to be sure. That's the way it should be.

Certification is an offshoot of the old governmental objective of checks and balances. It has twofold returns. First, it gives the superintendent a sense of security in his profession and a certain amount of ammunition in his incessant effort to make his employer realize that his job is one requiring more than a hand to sow the seed.

And it also gives the club owner or corporation the benefit of knowing the certified superintendent is a man who is versed in every phase of the profession. A certified super doesn't have to rush to the textbook when a problem arises. He is fortified beforehand. Otherwise he doesn't become certified.

The arrangement for establishing the title of certified golf course superintendent has to be lauded even before it is put into operation. The national organization has really outdone itself in the preparation of a manual that serves as an examination guide for those who wish to gain this new and obviously well-planned status.

The certification program must reap dividends once the first of its graduates hit the open fields to announce to the golfing world that the golf course superintendent is not a member of the working force of a club by mistake . . . but by design.

The entire setup leading to certification is a genuine relative to a college degree. Applicants will not be babied or coddled as they seek to become certified. They will be required to take an examination on the sweeping topics of the golf course and finish said exam under the allotted six hours. And believe this typewriter, the test is not one of those true or false chance things.

One of the pleasant, if not sensible aspects of the program, is

the idea of having a candidate prepare for his certification test as long as he pleases. After the man's application has been processed he will receive study material to aid him in the examination. But he also will be allowed to take as much time as he wishes to bone up for the test.

The certification program of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is not a fly-by-night venture. And it is not one where automatic passing is the order of the day. Thanks to a well-meaning and hard-working number of program planners, the certification attempt looks to come across as a big winner. It is the product of men dedicated to perfection and men willing to stake their reputations on the idea of lifting the golf course superintendent to legitimate professional status. It is the call to prestige, the urge to make superintendents realize they must have some sort of guideline to retain their dignity and establish their knowhow as an integral part of the golfing community. It is for real and for sure. And its groundwork is solid a la mode.

---Gerry Finn

Forty-four men received their CERTIFIED GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS plaques and cards at the 43rd Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference and Show in Cincinnati.

#####

YOUR DIRECTORY IS ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER. REMEMBER DUES ARE DELINQUENT MARCH 31, 1972. CLASS A & B MEMBERS TO VOTE AT APRIL MEETING MUST HAVE 1972 MEMBERSHIP CARD. MEMBERS WHOSE DUES HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED WILL BE SO NOTIFIED AND DROPPED FROM THE MAILING LIST

#####

Attend the NORTHERN CALIFORNIA TURFGRASS EXPOSITION in Sacramento March 15, 16, 1972.

#####

HELP HELP NEEDED

Articles about your golf course

Bits of information

Items for sale, etc.

Please send to Lee Huang, 1646 Camino Verde, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

PLEASE