

## IN RETROSPECT:

By John MacGregor

This dissertation must necessarily include the birth of the National Association, as it was the means by which all of the locals throughout the U.S.A. and Canada came into being.

In the late spring of 1926 a man came to visit me at The Chicago Golf Club where I was employed. He introduced himself as John Morley, Greenkeeper at the Youngstown Country Club, Youngstown, Ohio. His Club had given him a leave of absence to make a survey of the Golf Clubs in the Metropolitan areas of the East and Middlewest to ascertain whether or not the Greenkeepers of those areas would be interested in forming a National Association of Greenkeepers. He informed me that on his survey through the East, the idea had been well received, that most of those he had spoken to assured him they would join such a movement.

I believe my Club was the last one he visited in the Chicago District, among several others. It appealed to me, as at that time there were only two men I knew that I used to visit, Frank Mastroleo at Geneva Golf Club and Dave McIntosh at Glen Oak Country Club. However, I told him to submit my name for membership, when and if such a meeting was called.

A meeting was called at The Sylvania Golf Club Toledo, Ohio, September 26th 1926, at which time the officers and board of directors were elected. John Morley — President, John McNamara — Vice President, Wm. Rockefeller — Secretary, Alec McPherson Treasurer, Directors — Fred Burkart, John Pressler and I believe Joe Valentine and myself.

In due time I received a letter from the Secretary notifying me of my election to the board, also requesting me to arrange for a meeting in Chicago as soon as this could be arranged, and when the time and place could be ascertained, to notify the President so he could come and explain the Aims and Objects of the Association and to assist us in forming a local Organization of our own.

My first thought was how far should I reach out for prospective members. After much consideration I decided to send an invitation to all of the Greenkeepers in the states of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin, if such a thing was possible. I found there was a book known as the Frazer's Year Book with all of this information which I purchased, and found in it the names of Golf Clubs and the Greenkeepers all over the United States. My problem then was how to go about getting those invitations ready for mailing. I bought a Hectograph, and found twenty copies could be imprinted from one letter, so I had to write in long hand five letters for every 100 letters. Writing paper, envelopes and stamps had to be bought. For three weeks my wife, my three children and myself worked evenings and Sundays, at the end of that time I found that we had mailed 500 invitations.

The time set for the meeting was November 26th, 1926 and was held at the Great Northern Hotel Chicago, with John Morley and Fred Burkart of the National Association officiating. I had hopes of a pretty good percentage out of the 500. However, when the meeting was called to order, only sixteen were present, one came from Wisconsin, two from Indiana, thirteen from Illinois. President Morley explained the aims and objects of the Association, which was founded on Education, Justice and Benevolence. He then proceeded to organize our group. I was elected President, Alex Binnie - Vice President, Eddie Dearie - Secretary, and Fred Sherwood -

Treasurer. The board members I do not recall at this time. It was gratifying to note that all of the sixteen joined both our local and the national, and this was notably true for quite a few years.

At a later meeting, we decided on a name for our local, and were to be known as the Mid-West Greenkeepers Association, which I am glad to say has not lost its identity. We were host to the N.A.G.A. convention in March 1927, there were several speakers on the Program. The Equipment Show was not a feature until 1928 in Detroit. It might be interesting to you to know just how many attended the first convention. There were 68 members and I would say that was a very good representation.

During our infancy we had well attended meetings. Our regular meetings were once a month, and at those meetings everyone would go on a tour of the course conducted by the host Greenkeeper, in that way we got to know each other. Many questions were asked and there was less reluctance about explaining why one did this or that. Two weeks after the regular meeting we would play golf, no business, so we visited two courses a month. Before our association started no one would want to visit another golf course.

We became better acquainted with each other, and felt more free to discuss our problems and methods of solving them, although, as I look back to those days thirty years ago, we did not have the problems you are confronted with today. The only disease I can recall that gave us any trouble was large Brown Patch, and our remedy was an application of Lime which seemed to have the desired effect, indicating to us then that acidity was the cause. It seems to me even today that application of lime intelligently applied would eliminate a great deal of our Fungii troubles.

Our methods of maintenance were somewhat different than they are today. We believed in top-dressing our greens, and that was done religiously once a month, starting as soon as weather conditions permitted in the Spring and as late as November for the last dressing. (These dressings were approximately one yard to average green.) We had no mat on our greens, as the monthly dressings well rubbed in did not give the grass a chance to mat.

Progress has been made, there is no question about that, as problems have arisen over the years that have demanded research and brought into prominence such men as Noer, Daniels, Musser, Tyson, Stoutmeyer, Grau, Monteith, and many others, who probably never would have had an opportunity to bring their talents to bear on your problems.

Had it not been for the National Association I never would have had the opportunity of visiting hundreds of Golf Clubs, and traveling in twenty different States and meeting and knowing hundreds of men in your profession, whom I call friends. This alone is worth more to me than all of the time and money I have contributed toward its success. Our Organization is built on education, no one can ever learn enough, Conferences, Short Courses, Local or National Meetings, give one an opportunity to observe and absorb much. Read, write, learn and inwardly digest.

We have gone a long way in thirty years, from sixteen regular members to 105 is a healthy growth, every member should strive to become a member of the board of directors of either his local or national, even aspire to the Presidency. However, to achieve this he has to have the support of his local association. I hope that

those of you who are not members of the national will join and help elect the man you have chosen to be Vice-President. Our Mid-West Association has been noted since its origin as a model for progress and education. Many other local are adopting our program of education and look to us as the leaders in Association work. This is an honor indeed. Many good men have served as President and Directors of the Mid-West during the past thirty years, we have just concluded a very successful year under the leadership of Bob Williams.

We now enter a new year under the leadership of Amos Lapp, who I predict will be a real credit to the Association. Another notable change toward better understanding between the men in charge of private clubs and public fee clubs. This is evidenced by the fact that five of the eight members of the board are superintendents of daily fee clubs.

We must not forget that the National Association was not the first organized group of Greenkeepers in the U. S. The New England greenkeepers were organized in 1923 or 24 and were known as The New England Greenkeepers Club, so we must salute this group as the first to see the necessity for association.

### SPREADING IT THIN

We see by the sample ballot that Dave McIntosh of the Oak Hills Golf Club is running for Commissioner of Highways on the Palos Township regular Republican Party Ticket. The election is April 2nd. Good Luck Dave.

Al Rauch is now a director of the Bonnie Dundee Country Club. Al and his wife and family are now living in their new house south of the course. It is a beautiful place and beautifully furnished. Al plans to spend the summer working on the golf course. Most of the winter he spent in getting the new house under way and completed.

Harold Reed who served the Ridgemoor C.C. for many years and who spent the last two years in St. Petersburg, Florida, has returned to the Chicago district. Harold and Mrs. Reed finally decided that it was better that they come back to be closer to their grandchildren.

Emil Cassier expected to go to Florida this winter but took cold on his way home from Louisville and couldn't make the trip.

Henry Lang of the Glen View Club has recovered completely from his recent operation. He looks fine.

Gabe Rsettt of Skokie and his wife had a wonderful vacation touring Mexico after the Louisville meeting. Gabe took many pictures with his new camera and wishes he could go back till it gets warm here.

Frank Dinelli of Northmoor has stayed close to the club this winter watching and supervising construction of a 2 acre lake on the club grounds. Frank needs the lake for a water supply but is already planning how he can stock it with fish and weeds so he can fish close to home next summer.

Gordon Brinkworth of Olympis Fields C. C. has stayed close to the club too this winter supervising the installation of a watering sytem in one course. Gordon's son is feeling much better than he felt during the winter.

Mr. Gottschalk of the Morton Arboretum is planning a truf demonstration garden in connection with experimental shrub planting demonstrations at the Arboretum. There will be room for 65 grass plots 15 x 15 feet. This work will be started this spring unless work on the Toll Road takes priority when it will be done later in the year. The Nursery demonstration plots will be an extensive experiment in planting technique on evergreens and shrubs and will show the effect of 2-4-D, DDT and other things.

Ray Davis, looking over Burdetts Louisville pictures comments "That Wes Updegraff, he sure is slicked up looks like a preacher about to sermonize."

The Mole and his wife went dancing at O Henry's Ball Room last Friday evening and looked over the room Norm Kramer has set aside for the Spring Dance in May. It is a beautiful place and will have our own bar, and be very private. The music at O Henry's is always very good. Plan to attend, you will have a fine time.

**FOR THE FINEST IN TURF MAINTENANCE SPECIALITIES.**  
Manufacturers of Liquid Fertilizer Since 1939.

### LIQUA-VITA 15-10-5

The Original Liquid Plant Food for Turf  
Does a Fine Job — Costs Less

THIRAM 75	DENOL DSMA
BLITZ 10 PMA	PENETROL WETTING AGENT
BLITZ 48 CHLORDANE	X-15 TRACE ELEMENTS
CHELATED IRON COMPLEX	2, 4-D WEED KILLERS
KRO-FOOT-KIL	Complete Line of FUNGICIDES

**AMERICAN LIQUID FERTILIZER CO., INC.**  
AND

**ROKEBY CHEMICAL CO.**

P. O. Box 267, Marietta, Ohio Phone FRontier 3-1394

## FRANDSEN BROS.

GRAYSLAKE, ILLINOIS

BA Idwin 3-8841

Rt. 21 & 120

FOR YOUR TURF MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

Authorized Sales and Service

WORTHINGTON MOWERS & TRACTORS

JACOBSEN MOWERS — LEAF MILLS

FERGUSON TRACTORS — HUDSON SPRAYERS

PUMPS — GENERATORS — ENGINES



2620 Crawford Ave. Evanston. UNiversity 4-1842