

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of THE  
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE  
SUPERINTENDENTS.

TED WOHRLE, *Editor*,  
8700 Si. Western Avenue  
Chicago 20, Illinois

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is just around the corner! This often used saying is very appropriate at this time both for the weather and for our Association. The weather has been very cooperative this winter for easy maintenance of our courses. The frost has left the soil several weeks ago and the warm temperatures along with some welcomed rain has started the rapid growth of grass on the tees and greens.

Spring is just around the corner! - also holds true for our Association. We are experiencing a new and healthy growth in enthusiasm and interest. We have witnessed a change of attitude which I am certain will benefit all of us. The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is very fortunate in having an active Educational Committee which has dedicated itself to continuing the high standards of education for which we are famous.

Last month's meeting at the Villa Moderne Motor Hotel was a good example of our interest in obtaining the latest information pertaining to one of our problems here in the Midwest. The movie and lecture was perhaps one of the finest presentations of this type ever offered to us. I am thankful to Mr. Herrbach and the American Oil Company for their fine work in producing this movie on the Control of Dutch Elm Disease. The narration and photography were outstanding.

My only hope is that the enthusiasm which is being displayed at this time will continue for the entire year.

I would like to remind all of you that our Spring Dinner Dance will be held at the Elmhurst Country Club on April 22nd. Ed Burke and his lovely wife will be our Hosts. Don Stewart, the chairman of the entertainment committee promises us that a good time will be had by all. The only thing that will make this a successful social function is the attendance and support by all of us.

Good Luck to all of you in easy maintenance this coming summer.

Your President,  
Ted Woehrle

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BY THE BOARD

by Paul N. Voykin

An organization that continues to exist strongly for many years consists of these main ingredients; cooperation, loyalty and spirit. A positive attitude for the cause so to speak.

I believe the Midwest Association of Golf Course

Superintendents has these outstanding qualities, therefore making it one of the largest and strongest in the country. Our members can proudly say this is the "Major League" of golf courses. Nowhere in the world are there courses as carefully maintained and meticulously manicured as here in the Chicagoland area.

This high pinnacle of success has been reached through many years of great effort by our wise senior superintendents. We can maintain the standard they have set and continue to progress only with their help and advice. Cooperation, loyalty and spirit will make this an outstanding year.

I would like to leave you with this thought from Kiplings Second Jungle Book.

"Now this is the Law of the Jungle — as old and as true as the sky. And the Wolf that shall keep it may prosper, but the Wolf that shall break it must die.

As the creeper that girdles the tree-trunk, the Law runneth forward and back —

For the strength of the Pack is the Wolf, and the strength of the Wolf is the Pack."

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THE TRANSITION PERIOD

By John MacGregor  
(Fairways)

The title, I believe, is appropriate to that era of the early twenties. Fairways then, to say the least, were little better than pastures. Before we get too deep into this subject, let me explain that we are speaking of Northern Golf Courses, and do not include Southern, Desert or Western Golf Courses. I believe there are others here today, besides myself, who experienced the changing picture of fairway turf.

Some golf clubs, before the twenties, had seeded the fairway areas with Fescue's others with Blue Grass. Those grasses, like Topsy, just grew! No effort was made to fertilize, in fact, fertilizer manufacturers had never been approached about producing a balanced fertilizer for golf course turf. When you come to think of it, why would anyone want to fertilize fairways when there wasn't enough equipment to mow the grass as it was?

Some clubs were graduating from the horse drawn mowers to tractor drawn. Most of the clubs at that time were using horses, one horse single unit mowers to three-gang mowers for team hitch. There were two types of gang mowers. One type was the side wheel drive and the other the roller type drive.

1920 was the year, I believe, when these units really got going in five-gang units. A tractor was also developed to pull the gangs. This tractor had large drive wheels about four feet in diameter with a bull-gear attached to the rear axles. You could hear those gears grind a couple of blocks away. The speed was not over five miles an hour, but with the new combination of tractor and five gangs the fairways could be mown in about three days.

When I say the rough on many of our present day courses is better than the fairways of the early twenties, it is true.

The remainder of this talk will be my experiences in this changing picture of growing and developing fairway turf.

I came to the Chicago Golf Club, Wheaton, Illinois in the year of 1921 to help with the re-construction of the golf course. The reconstruction was being done while keeping nine holes in play, after deciding on the line of play for the nine holes to be used during this