

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

BERT H. ROST, Editor,
Midwest Rd. Nr. 31st Street
Hinsdale, Illinois

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Once again our calendar of Turf Grass Conferences and shows is drawing to a close for another year. Those of you that attended the 32nd International Turf Grass Conference and Show in Toronto, Canada will agree that it was one of the finest shows in many years. The hospitality shown us by the Canadians was equal to the famous Texas hospitality of last year. The hotel accommodations at the Royal York were unsurpassed in space and service. Roy Nelson, the Chairman of the Educational Program and his committee are to be congratulated for the fine selection of subjects and speakers. The participation by the Superintendents is improving each year. It is quite evident that our profession, as well as our Association, is moving forward under the able leadership of our officers and directors in the G.C.S.A.A. Dr. Gene Nutter should also be congratulated on the fine work that he has been doing in promoting our organization.

Here on the local scene, I am happy to announce that our new administration is also striving to move forward. Our Educational Chairmen, John Ebel and Ed Burke have drafted a complete program of subjects to be presented at our monthly meetings. They have selected a very fine committee to work with them, and as soon as they are able, a calendar of subjects will be published.

Paul Voykin has been working very hard as Chairman of the Arrangements Committee. He reports that most of the dates and places for our monthly meetings have been set. There are still a few dates to be filled, and he advises that he could use one more club from the North side for a Summer date. Anyone wishing to offer their club please contact Paul as soon as possible, so our schedule will be completed.

Don Stewart has reported that our Spring Dinner Dance will be held at the Elmhurst Country Club, Saturday, April 22nd. More about that next month.

This issue of the Bull Sheet, and our March meeting will be devoted primarily to the subject of Dutch Elm Disease. This is a problem of paramount importance to all of us, and we should acquaint ourselves with as much information on the subject as is available.

Quite recently there have been claims that a cure for Dutch Elm Disease has been found and patented. Without exception these claims have been tried and tested by the universities, and were found to be failures in controlling the disease. Read the letters and material presented on the following pages, and you will see that there are no sure cures on the market. I am confident,

however, that the various universities and commercial laboratories will eventually find a cure. Until then, we must continue the sanitation and spraying practices which have proven to be the only means of slowing up the epidemic of Dutch Elm Disease.

Sincerely yours, Ted Woehrle, President

U.S.G.A. MEETINGS

On January 27th and 28th, the United States Golf Association held its Annual Green Section Meetings and Membership Meetings in New York City. Your President and the following members of the Midwest attended the meetings; Chuck Eckstein, CDGA Board Member, Roy Nelson, Bob Williams, Warren Bidwell and Dudley Smith.

The main subject presented and discussed at the Green Section Meeting was that of "Efficient use of Men and Equipment." It was mentioned that perhaps the Superintendents have been presented program after program on the technical developments in their profession, and not enough has been presented on the efficient use of men and equipment.

The meeting was attended by 200 interested Superintendents and Club Officials. Discussions from the floor followed almost every talk. Bob Williams presented a talk with so much enthusiasm, that the discussion following the talk caused him to use forty minutes more than what was allotted him on the program.

While in New York we visited the famous Golf House. Should any of you have the opportunity to be in New York, you should definitely visit this point of interest — it will be time well spent. It is the USGA's Hall of Fame. They have models of many of the tools that were used in early golf course maintenance, as well as the early golf clubs and balls. The walls of the four storied building are covered with pictures of tournament champions of the past, as well as the present. The original rules of golf are displayed along side a picture painted by President Eisenhower. All the trophies that are presented at the major USGA tournaments are also displayed in the Golf House.

The USGA presented its first annual award to the outstanding man in turf. This year's award was presented to Dr. John Monteith, Jr. Herb Graffis of the Chicago Sun Times wrote the following story in his column on Sunday, February 12th, 1961 honoring Dr. Monteith:

**GRAFFIS PRAISES IMPROVEMENT OF GOLF
TURF**

By Herb Graffis

Reprint from Chicago Sun-Times, Sun., Feb. 12, 1961

John Monteith Jr. is a long, lean and quiet scientist who deserves partial credit for a multitude of marvelous performances in this era of sports.

Without Monteith's smart and stubborn research and teamwork with other agronomists you wouldn't have this year's finely conditioned golf courses, ball parks and football fields. You also probably wouldn't be looking forward to spring sweats in making your own yard look beautiful.

Monteith recently was given an award by the United States Golf Assn. for "distinguished service" in improving golf turf. He now is in charge of the grounds at the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs. From 1928 to 1942 he was director of the Green Section of the USGA. In that capacity he was responsible for

discoveries and developments that converted golf courses from merely mowed pastures into smartly groomed grass gardens.

That's how come Monteith, at long last, got the first of plaques the USGA intends to award annually for contributions to progress in turf culture. Not the least of his achievements was getting enough money from the governing body of golf to finance the skimpy pioneer program that led to miracles in development of new grass strains, insect, pest and grass disease control and fertilizing, watering and mowing practice on de luxe turf.

He Fought His Way

Monteith had to fight his way to the green pastures for play. When he began his sports turf work many thought the rugged and ragged Scotch golf courses were the paragon of sports turf.

One of the first problems of golf course maintenance with which Monteith coped was that of worm casts on greens. Younger golfers can't imagine how greens were pimped by worm casts. Monteith says he used to get hundreds of complaints of putts being diverted from the cup by worm casts but he never heard of one putt that was detoured into the cup by those tiny mounds worms pushed to the surface of a green.

Under Monteith's direction major problems of dandelion and other big-leaf weed elimination was solved. Before chemical weed control one of the sights of golf course maintenance around Chicago was a line of women crawling along and digging out dandelions. When dandelions infested golf courses you could lose a ball right in the middle of a fairway.

John MacGregor, an ancient and honorable Scot who continues to be active in turf maintenance, when he was greenkeeper at Chicago Golf Club devised a small gun that killed a dandelion with a shot of gasoline. It was an improvement over the digging method but long ago was superseded by the chemical control that came from work in which Monteith was engaged.

Chicago Started Early

Golf clubs in and around Chicago got into the scientific turf programs early. The Chicago District Golf Assn. got interested in Monteith's specifications of the promised lands for the golfers and got A. D. Lasker to establish experimental turf plots at his famous Mill Road Farm course, southwest of Lake Forest. Lasker engaged C. A. Tregillus of the Royal Canadian Golf Assn. Green Section as superintendent of his course. Tregillus in collaboration with a number of golf course superintendents started the type of turf research work now conducted by William Daniel and other sports grass experts at Purdue University with the Midwest Turf Foundation assisting.

The Mill Road course and J. Ogden Armour's course on his Melody Farm a couple of miles north of Lasker's place were casualties of the depression and taxes. After Lasker's death and closing of the Mill Road Farm course by the University of Chicago, which had fallen heir to it, Tregillus got himself lost in an anonymous job of immense importance. This versatile golf grass scientist worked hush-hush as the business manager of a little factory that remade the world. The little factory was under the stands at Stagg Field where the A-bomb was born.

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