

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, APRIL 1963

Dateline March 15, 1963.

On March 13th a large flock of Canada geese passed overhead at Biltmore heading north. What great power pushes these birds northward each year to a land that will turn against them in the fall and drive them southward once more through a maze of gunfire?

Ornithologists are not sure what force is responsible for this phenomenon. Is it *Necessity*; *Stupidity*; *Determination*; or *Faith*? As I watched these majestic Canadas flying along I couldn't help comparing ourselves with these birds. At the end of a difficult golfing season some of us feel that we have had it and wonder if there is an easier way to make a living. Some senior superintendents might say, "This is my last year in this business", but come spring most all of us are ready to "push north" again so to speak.

What makes us do this? *Necessity*? Most Golf Course Superintendents have many abilities and I think we could find other means of support without too much trouble. Same with the geese, they have easy living in the south. *Stupidity*? I think not. One has only to know the problems of maintaining a golf course today to know a superintendent can not be stupid. Ever have a flock of Canadians spook from your "set up" for no apparent reason when you thought everything was perfect? They are not stupid either.

Determination? All the determination in the world could not get the Canada goose to his northern home if it were not for his powerful wings and ability to fly great distances. Same with the superintendent. His determination to continue in the field of golf is not enough. He must have powerful "wings of ability" to carry him through.

Faith? This may not be the exact force or reason but I think it fits as well as any. It must be a kind of faith or instinct that makes these birds travel thousands of miles each year battling nature and man every inch of the way. The dedicated Golf Course Superintendents of America must have a similar faith or unshaken adherence to their profession for them to return year after year to battle nature and man in their quest for better golf turf.

John Ebel, President

JOHN MAC GREGOR PASSES ON TO GREENER PASTURES

John MacGregor, father to all Golf Course Superintendents passed away on March 6 after a long illness. John has showed signs of faltering several years ago but through determination was able to hold on for two years.

John came to this country from Scotland to take over the duties of Greenkeeper (a name he much preferred) at the Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton, Illinois. He remained there for over thirty years during which time he became the 2nd President of our National Association and one of its founders as well as one of the organizers of our local association. He remained very active in National affairs until the end.

After retiring from the profession he became a salesman with various supply houses so he could remain close to the life he loved and the men he associated with for so many years.

He is survived by his wife and two children, a son and a daughter. He was grandfather to three proud grandchildren.

John will be missed by many people in the field of turf maintenance.

LOCAL NEWS

Our last monthly meeting was held at the Midwest Country Club, Marv Gruening was our host. The meal was outstanding, of course it always is when we go to Midwest. Our business meeting was one of our better old fashioned meetings. A lot of business was discussed and good healthy debates were the order of the meeting. One thing we must all remember; debates should never get out of hand and become arguments. Gentlemen never lose their tempers.

All new members of the Midwest Chapter were recognized by the assembly with a standing round of applause. Roy Nelson, the secretary read off a list of 34 new members.

New Superintendents at the new clubs are, Marcus List at the Old Wayne Golf Club in Wheaton, Illinois. Dick Trevarthan at the Prestwick Country Club, Frankfort, Illinois.

Ray Gerber read the report from the Advisory Committee of the National Meeting held in San Diego. Many good points were mentioned. One in particular that seems to come up quite often is that of proper recognition of our membership card in respect to visiting country clubs and having facilities offered to us similar to that given the members of the PGA. It was suggested that if proper ground work was laid before entering a strange club, especially with the Superintendent in charge of that club, we would not encounter much difficulty along these lines. More than this point however, it was felt that our membership card in the National should be sufficient for admittance to National Tournaments. The National Headquarters advises us that this matter will be taken care of with letters to the USGA and PGA reminding them of this matter shortly before each major tournament.