

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dateline: Nov. 8

This being my **last** President's Message I will now formally thank the entire membership for allowing me the honor and privilege of serving the Midwest Association during 1963. My service, whether it was good, bad or otherwise, has been a gratifying experience. An experience that I would recommend each and every qualified member to strive for.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the efforts of the officers and directors who have actually done most of the work this year and thank them for the loyal and untiring support they have given the organization as well as me.

I suppose this would be an opportune time for me to list all the accomplishments we have made this year. However, my arm doesn't bend that way, so instead I'll comment on an item or two that I feel leaves little to be desired. Trying to define the first item is rather difficult, but for want of a better word I'll use **Faction**. My observations of the members of the "Midwest" over the years had led me to believe that as a group the "Midwest" has great potential. Potential to make a mark for itself both locally and nationally. It has loyal members. It has intelligent members. It has honest members and ambitious members. It also has members with intent. Now, the "Midwest" needs all of these qualifications to make it go. However, when we get to intent we sometimes run into trouble, because there are those whose intent it is to "lend" and there are those whose intent it is to "take away". By "lend" I mean those persons who have over the years given their best with all that was in them to make the "Midwest" and themselves a little better without recompense. The "takers away" are those who for no apparent reasons except lack of self-confidence or security, perhaps, remove their shoulders from the wheel and become part of factions that are stumbling blocks in the path of progress. Fortunately we have many more "lenders" than we have "takers away". Shall we all look at ourselves and ask which one am I?

The next item for concern which I believe to be of prime importance is **Purpose**. Why does the "Midwest" even exist? I guess it is because way

back somewhere some people thought there was a real need for unity and education in our field. Two very good reasons. Don't you agree?

However, today we hear comments, few though they might be, to the effect that we don't need educational programs at our meetings. Let's just have a ball every month and the hell with everything. Well, I like fun — you can't beat it. But how long do you think we'd last as a real organization with pleasure our only purpose? Not long, I think.

The picture for the "Midwest" is not entirely dull, however, if it does not allow these stumbling blocks to become too numerous and out of proportion. I believe factions will always exist and they are best ignored lest they thrive on too much attention. In other words take them for what they are and nothing more.

On the brighter side of the "Midwest" affairs we have enjoyed a healthy increase in membership, good attendance, and a Bull Sheet that past editors and all members can be proud of. May it continue in this vein for years to come.

Now if you will allow me I would like to regress slightly in a nostalgic way to pay written tribute here to a man who taught and led me to these pastures. Were it not for him I would not have met and known so many fine men in the Midwest Association. This man was John L. Ebel, my father, who made way for me in the world of golf in 1948. Having known him and all of you has, I think, made me a better man. Thank you.

John Ebel, President

P. S. Thanks Ben.

WESTERN OPEN COMES TO TAM O'SHANTER

An exciting new chapter in Western Open history will be written in August when the 61st Western Open is staged at Tam-O'Shanter Country Club, Chicago's most celebrated tournament site.

No course in Chicago and few in the country can boast a tournament background like Tam's. It was there that George S. May held his back-to-back All-American and World tournaments until 1957. It was at Tam that Lew Worsham made one of golf's famous shots—the wedge approach for an eagle-2 on the final hole to win the 1953 World title.

Now it is at Tom O'Shanter that Arnold Palmer will defend the Western Open which he won last summer in a suspense-packed finish at Beverly. Chicago golf fans saw the year's three top players—Palmer, the leading money winner; Julius Boros, the National Open champion, and Jack Nicklaus, the Masters and PGA champion—all finish in a tie at 280 after 72 holes.

This trio met in a tense title playoff the next day. After 17 holes it still was a tight three-way battle. Only when Nicklaus overshot the 18th and Boros missed a decisive nine-foot put on that green did Palmer wrap up his second Western Open crown.

True to tradition which dates back to 1899, the Western Open provided one of the year's most thrilling and dramatic golf shows in the country. This becomes the guarantee to golf fans who come to Tam O'Shanter.
