

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

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Turquoise Curtain — A Change

In our wanderings, West of the Pecos, we wished to see just one of man's recent efforts to help his fellowman along the road to a better life. Thus, after our visit to Betatakin Indian Ruin, we traveled North on U.S. 89 to see Glen Canyon Dam and the man-made, Lake Powell.

Glen Canyon Dam has a threefold purpose. Water for irrigation of Navajo lands will make them more self-sufficient, power for improving the lot of the vast, undeveloped area and, when filled, the great recreational potential of Lake Powell, with its eighteen hundred miles of shore line.

In discussions with the Public Information Officer at the Bureau of Reclamation office near the dam, I inquired if a golf course was being considered as a part of the facilities of the area which will be administered by the National Park System. Much to my surprise, I learned that a nine hole course has existed for five years just below the dam on the mighty Colorado. As I followed his directions to the club, I wondered how a turf establishment could exist on this barren piece of earth, known geologically as Navajo Sandstone.

So, on this Saturday morning, January 25th, I had the pleasure of meeting the founding president of Glen Canyon Country Club, Mr. V. M. Haight and current president, Mr. Ferris. Over coffee and through further introductions to other members, I learned of the struggle to establish their nine hole course on this plateau desert country; of how, during the second year, they lost seven of the nine greens because of cut worms before anyone knew what was happening. Of how it was necessary to keep snow fence erected between fairways to slow the movement of the blowing sand during the windy season which occurs during March and April. Also, of the time when the seeded Bermuda fairways had just germinated and along came one of the localized and very fierce desert storms and covered up about half of the seedlings to the extent that they had to bring in the graders and start all over again. Fortunately, water for the irrigation system is in abundance as it would be wasted from the sewerage system. If you are in the

'rough', believe me you are in the rough. Outcroppings of sandstone, pure red sand, typical desert growth and sheep droppings comprise the 'rough'. Yet, the Navajo still retain their grazing rights to this area. This 'do it yourself' golf course project has brought many days of recreation to the men who built Glen Canyon Dam.

After viewing the red man's hand made, five storied Betatakin Ruin, with its one hundred fifty rooms which was abandoned almost seven hundred years ago and trying to understand the full scope of our super giant, seven hundred foot high dam at Glen Canyon, you realize that we are living in a progressive period of our civilization. Going back for a moment, let us take a look at the intervening period between the year 1300 and the present, in relation to the Navajo people.

The Tree Ring Method of dating shows our scientists that normal moisture conditions were once again available West of The Pecos, during the very early 1300's. About this time there came a new migration of red skinned people from the north, seeking food and perhaps a much warmer climate. They were hunters and wanderers, foraging off the land, caring little if the life of a foe was taken in the procurement of his food or possessions. These people are said to be distant relatives of those who had preceded them years before and had fled because of the Great Drouth.

It is this segment of the Navajo tribe that occupied the area we know today as the Four Corners region of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah at the time of the westward migration of people of European descent — the white man. The story of the white man, with his long rifle versus the red man and his bow and arrow is an oft told tale, one of much controversy and still being adjusted in the courts of justice today.

Integration of these First Americans into white man's society has been a long and arduous task. It was only natural that a deep seated resentment should occur when game, the red man considered his was slaughtered either by necessity but more often for the sport of it. He was forever forced to seek food elsewhere until there came a day when the new hunting grounds no longer existed. After many wars and broken treaties on both sides, the reservation system for red man control gave the bureaucrats in Washington a real field day.

The Navajo of Northern Arizona were no exception to this general confusion and misunderstanding on what to do with the red man. So they, like most other tribes had before them, fought for their existence. In 1863 Colonel Kit Carson, whose life was already replete with adventure, was to guide the army into the Navajo country, there to round every red man, woman and child that he could find and march them off to a life of complete regimentation near Ft. Sumner, New Mexico. His scorched earth policy netted him over eight thousand people. By 1868, after a million dollars and one thousand dead Navajos, the government and the various chiefs signed a new treaty which set up the present Navajo reservation where they reside today. In our modern vernacular, this 25,000 square miles of reservation has come to be known as the Turquoise Curtain.

While many of their ancient customs are still practiced, the integration of these people into our

modern society continues, more recently at a very accelerated pace because the younger generations have come to realize that education is the key word to this adjustment period.

With revenue from oil and uranium right on their lands to work with, the Tribal Council has retained the firm of Chambers and Campbell, business consultants of Albuquerque, to survey the tourism potential of their scenic reservation. Plans for investing millions through the year 1975 have been projected and reported favorably in the Navajo Times, their weekly paper, which I receive and read with considerable interest.

A part of this dollar spending to attract the white man tourist will have a direct relationship to our profession. Our golf course superintendent friends in Phoenix, Arizona, Art and Jack Snyder, have been retained to design and build a golf course by the Navajo Tribal Council on their reservation north of Window Rock, their capitol. This will be in the 7000 foot elevation of their Ponderosa Pine forest where they have a one million dollar sawmill in operation. Dumb Indians? No longer, for their young people are attending the various colleges throughout the country. Yes, today they are after the white man's dollar, not his scalp.

Warren Bidwell, President



**SAY YOU SAW
IT IN THE
"BULL SHEET"**

The Woehrle's Have Number Three!

Ted Woehrle and his wife Mary are the proud parents of a son born March the 22nd. This is the third child. They have another son and a daughter. Mother and son are doing fine. Ted will pass out ciars at the next meeting.*

* Between 9:00 A.M. and 9:30 A.M.

NEXT MEETING

The April Meeting of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be held at the Braeloch Country Club on Monday, April 6, 1964. Harry Neilsen will be our host. If the weather is cooperating on that day there will be golf. Harry promises us a fine home style meal. The Educational Program will consist of a speaker from the Stauffer Chemical Company on weed controls.

NOTICE

If there is sickness or death in the immediate family of any one of our members please contact Al Johnson, Chairman of the Benevolence Committee, at TA 5-3809 or TA 3-8682. Al will take the appropriate steps to notify the membership, or send flowers, whichever is necessary. The success of this program depends on the entire membership.

LAST MEETING

The March Meeting of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held at the Flying Carpet Motel on March 16, 1964. There were 81 in attendance. Several of the hardier members ventured out to the sporty short course and played golf during the afternoon. The Flying Carpet has a nine hole par three course in conjunction with the Motel. Andy Voykin is the Superintendent. The temperature was warm and the wind was strong, but the golfers enjoyed it.

After a delicious buffet style meal we held our monthly business meeting, President Warren Bidwell presiding. Various Committee Reports were read including the report from our National Delegate and the report from the delegates of the Advisory Committee meeting in Philadelphia. During New Business President Bidwell appointed Dudley Smith and Al Johnson as the delegates to the Advisory Committee at the National Meeting in Cleveland next year. It is advised that all members of the National should keep this in mind, and present any comments that they might have concerning the National Association.

The Educational portion of the program consisted of a panel of Superintendents that discussed their fairway fertilizer programs. The panel was made up of Dudley Smith and Don Gerber on unwatered fairways and Ted Woehrle on watered fairways. All three men readily admitted that they are still looking for the ideal program and that they are still working on theories. Urea Formaldehyde fertilizers are definitely being considered for the future.

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