

## MEETING NOTES

Everyone had a wonderful time June 8 at Inverness Country Club. Host superintendent Mike Bavier had the course in great shape, especially the roughs, where I was most of the afternoon. It is too bad however, that our members who play golf cannot follow the rules of golf and cart etiquette. Several members of Inverness complained that our people were not fixing ball marks and divots and were driving carts in restricted areas. We, as an organization must show every respect to clubs which allow us to use their facilities. Remember, with new legislation, it is becoming increasingly difficult for private clubs to host outside parties. We are indeed lucky to have the privilege of using these facilities — let's not abuse it.

The intent of this meeting was to honor Mr. Oscar Borgmeier. It took considerable effort to organize this tribute — which was a surprise to Oscar. Many thanks to all involved, our people, Mike Bavier, Denis Straus, Howard Baerwald, Alby Staudt, Bob Breen, Joe Canale and Ray Gerber, who was master of ceremonies; to Toro and DuPont for providing the hors d'oeuvres; and to Inverness Country Club and their staff for doing such an excellent job.



Ray was kind enough to send me a review of the proceedings — he writes: "Dear Roger: I do not know if you made any notes on our July 8 meeting at Inverness C. C. As you know, this is the day the Midwest Association honored Oscar Borgmeier. Golf during the day was followed by a cocktail hour and dinner. Nearly 130 of Oscar's friends attended this surprise testimonial. Ray Gerber was M.C., Dr. Jim Watson from Minneapolis and Charlie Wilson from Milwaukee gave a talk on their relationship with Mr. Borgmeier, also, George A. Davis Sr. reminisced about his 42 years as a partner in business. Mr. Borgmeier was presented a scroll by Charlie Wilson on behalf of the O. J. Noer Scholarship Foundation of which he was one of the founders. He was also presented a plaque in appreciation from the Midwest Association. Among the other speakers were Paul Burdett and Walter Fuchs who spoke from the competitors association with Oscar. It was a great party for one of the finest persons anyone would want to associate with.



The retired superintendents who attended and were honored for their many years of service on a golf course were:

- Stan Arendt — 43 years on a golf course as a superintendent
- Frank Dinelli — 43 years on a golf course, 39 as superintendent
- Walter Hoyt — 39 years as superintendent
- Ray Gerber — 55 years, 35 as superintendent
- George Roloff — 45 years, 35 as superintendent
- Ira Jury — 28 years, 24 as superintendent
- Al Purvey — 41 years as a superintendent
- C. A. Peterson — 43 years as a superintendent
- Ray Davis — 46 years, 43 as a superintendent
- Ruben Thomas — 44 years, 8 as a superintendent
- Bill Stuppel — 45 years, 35 as a superintendent

This is a record I am sure most other local chapters will find hard to match; 472 years of golf course work, 381 years as active superintendents all attending this party and in the pink of health. I am sure, a record of dedicated men."

The August meeting will feature a round table discussion and highlight a report by Oscar Miles, on this year's Western Open. As you might know, a certain golfer complained about the length of the fairways, not a kind word about anything or a question about fairway length, just a complaint.

(Turn to page 6)

## MEETING NOTES

This was given considerable play by the area newspapers who also printed a rebuttal by Oscar. He pointed out the difficult weather conditions encountered in June requiring the higher cut, but more important, he said that there were many people, members, staff, volunteers and his crew who had put in many hours in preparation for the tournament to give the pros the best possible conditions and this was sort of a slap in the face to them.

The whole situation however, really burned me for several reasons: first, we are all in the same business, pros, managers, and superintendents — golf. None of us should publicly berate any of the rest. Second, every effort is made to make sure that the pros play on the finest golf courses, they have absolutely no kick coming. Third, they all play the same course so no one has an advantage hence, to blame the course because of playing poorly is simply childish. Fourth, this very complaint seems to be at the root of our present dilemma with **Poa annua**.

The good players, pro and amateur, have pressed for a shorter cut on fairways. At first, the **Poa** was an insignificant factor in fairways and the bluegrass seemed to take it. Later on, we started suffering the consequences of this short cut — bluegrass weakened and **Poa annua** became more dominant.

Watering systems were added to fairways and now we have the real thing. **Poa** on fairways has caused more grief to clubs and superintendents than any other factor. Conversion, which I am now experiencing, is more hell than any chemical company plays it up to be. Again, I refer to this one factor — height of cut — as the culprit for many of our woes, just look at the edge of fairways where the bluegrass is beautiful, the difference in maintenance is not water, nor fertilizer, nor pesticide, it is simply height of cut. Maybe we should start blaming our problems on the way the pros play!

Enough of my tirade; make an effort to attend the August meeting — everyone has **something** to contribute.

### A LETTER

Dear Roger:

This sad story is written at home, maybe it has reached you already. William L. Orlosky, Supt. of the Cherry Valley Club, Brentwood, N.Y. and Secretary of the Long Island GCSA, was killed May 7th on his own course during the Association's first field day. Bill was in full charge of the field day and the accident happened about 9:45 AM when Bill was tapping a keg of beer. Evidently, the carbon dioxide faulted with the pressure causing an explosion causing his immediate death.

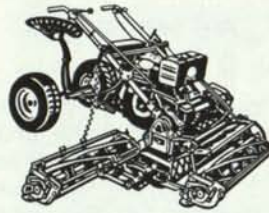
The crowd was large, the day was excellent with the success of his efforts assured. The field day was cancelled immediately. Bill leaves a wife and two children with one on the way any minute.

May the good Lord be with him and take care of his family.

Leo Cleary

# Davis

## HEADQUARTERS for QUALITY EQUIPMENT



LOCKE



HECKENDORN



LOCKE-MANCO



DEVERE



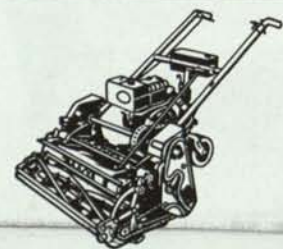
HAHN-WEST POINT



LOCKE-MANCO



LINDIG



LOCKE



TURF VAC



RYAN



**George A. Davis, Inc.**

5440 Northwest Highway, Chicago, Illinois 60630

312-763-6363