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The President's Message

I received about the best gift that I could possibly wish for on father's day — books from my family. (The fascinating **Fox Fire Book** and the beautiful but sad **Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee**.) I have always loved books and my house is full of them, in shelves my wife built especially for them. (She is a great carpenter.) I don't remember too vividly when I first began my infatuation with books, but I know that I inherited my enjoyment for them from my parents. As a young boy I remember peering over my Father's shoulder trying to make out the words. Much later when words began to make sense I began to read his books — the English ones, anyways. My father was born in Kars, Turkey, and he could read and write fluently in Russian. He read Doestovesky, Tolstoy, Nicholas Gogol, and others, in Russian and English. But he also had some books, even in those days, that he wouldn't let me read. (I think they were by Erskine Caldwell.) He also liked other "baddies," such as **Police Gazette** and **True Detective**. My father used to enjoy reading to my mother at night by the old kerosene lamp, and she in turn would read to him. Many of them were love stories in the Russian and Ukrainian languages, and their beautiful eloquence would lull my brothers and me to sleep. My dad liked to trade his latest journals (such as **Soviet Life**) and old earmarked books with his favorite cousin, whom we fondly called "Uncle Sam." They would discuss the pros and cons of what they read, much as a teacher does with students, late into evenings. If the book was a good one, or a great one, they would discuss or argue about some of its merits, but if it was a worthless one they would dismiss it without a word — except it never was traded with anyone, but stayed on the shelf gathering dust and cobwebs.

I never leave a convention town without first searching out its book stores, especially the old bargain ones, and usually finding some wonderful book I have missed or one I have read but don't have at home. My favorite author is Thomas Wolfe. I read everything I can find on him. It was my great fortune to meet and have coffee with Leslie Field, head of the English Department at Purdue University, last spring. He is one of the few remaining recognized authorities on Thomas Wolfe, and has edited a critique on him, including the famous "Purdue Speech," and has written many papers on this brilliant author.

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The following is a list of office telephone numbers for the entire Board.

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Mike Bavier	358-7030
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Paul Voykin	945-3350

And when I told him how my little kids saved their pennies a few years ago, and opened a special account for me at the local bank one Christmas, in order for me to add to it and purchase all the works of Thomas Wolfe, Mr. Field said, "Paul, you call on me every spring when you come to Purdue for your turf conference, and we will sit and chat." You'll have to forgive me if I tell you that I am terribly impressed with this invitation.

I guess the point I am trying to get across is that for me books have been a relaxation that I couldn't do without. Really, almost a therapy. Through them I have also met some wonderful people. I am sure that many of you feel the same way I do about the wonderful world of books. Reading good books is a good way to forget about Poa Annuua, hot weather, and the high cost of living. Best of all is to have a friend who also loves books, because then the enjoyment is furthered by the fact that you have some one with whom you can discuss what you have read.

My good friend Dudley just called. He has finished reading my book about Rodeos and wants me to return his best seller about Mayor Daley. Now here's a great combination for discussion during an election year, bronco busting and politics. — I think my father would have liked that.

Paul N. Voykin, President



Brad Anderson, Superintendent

The August meeting of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be held on Tuesday the 22nd at Thorngate Country Club. Brad Anderson will be host Superintendent. Thorngate Country Club is located at 600 Sanders Rd., Deerfield, Illinois. Check your road map for correct directions.

FUTURE MEETINGS !!!

- September 18th — Flossmoor Country Club, Flossmoor, Illinois
- October 10th — Briarwood Country Club, Deerfield, Illinois
- November Clinic: Tuesday the 14th and Wednesday the 15th at Medinah Country Club, Medinah, Illinois

Midwest Association dinner dance will be held at River Forest Golf Club on Saturday Night, October 14.



Editor

Editorial

This is the time of year that we start thinking about the national association for next year. Who is going to be responsible for its function? Will the men elected at our next annual Meeting in Boston in January, 1973 be the ones who are most qualified to carry out the many duties that they will be asked to perform?

The men chosen should be willing to sacrifice many hours of their time toward their appointment. If they are not willing to give this time, they should never accept the nomination.

Our Midwest Association, for the past nine years, has not had a man on the Board of Directors or as an officer in the G.C.S.A.A. Why? Certainly the Midwest Association has capable men who could do a very outstanding job. Where are we failing?

The Chicago area is looked upon by golfers who travel in all parts of the country as being an area that has some of the finest conditioned golf courses to be found any where. Many of our Superintendents have college degrees, and others have many years of experience. They are sure not lacking in education.

There was a time, and probably still is, when golf club members considered it a great honor to have their superintendents hold an office in the National or local association. Where has the interest and desire gone?

I was elected president of the G.C.S.A.A. in Boston in 1950, some twenty-two years ago. I considered it a great honor and so did Glen Oak C. C. It has done a great deal for me. In 1958, Bob Williams, Superintendent at Bob O Link G. C., was elected president. In 1963, Roy Nelson, Superintendent at Ravisloe C. C., was elected president. In these past nine years, the Midwest Association has had not one on the Board. Let us all make an effort to change this and get our Midwest Association on the front page. First, we must find the man who is willing and capable to permit his name to be sent to the G.C.S.A.A. nominating committee for their consideration. Should he become one of their choices, then it is up to every member to give him their full support and get him elected. If we are going to start grinding axes, we will get nowhere.