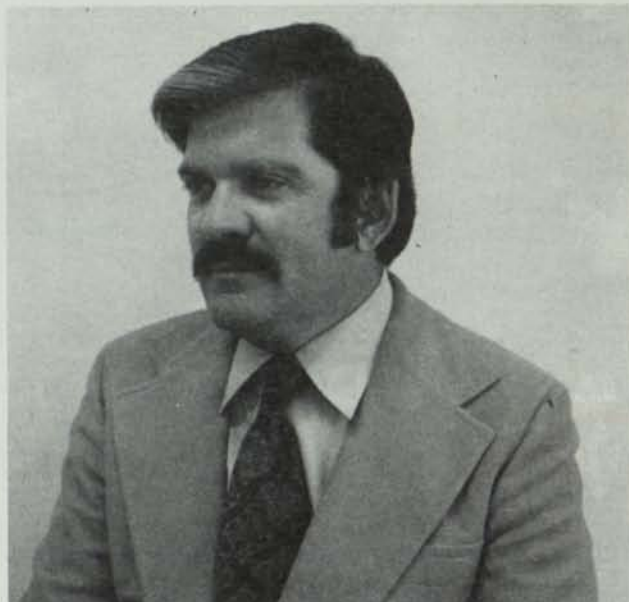


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The President's Message

Briarwood's members, staff, and I extend a cordial welcome to you for October 10. We think you will enjoy playing our golf course — one of the toughest layouts in the Midwest. Briarwood in October is always beautiful and I hope it will also be in good shape for your visit here. However, you will see some scars from summer stress (beside my white hair). Running a golf course in October isn't much of a problem in this area. It's the summer months that separate the men from the boys. But as you know, this year it was different. We were all boys in the hands of God and His supersaturated golf season. He humbled us with pythium, scald, helminthosporium, federal aid flooding, and extremely inconsistent high and low temperatures. There were other problems that I'll be hearing about later in the fall bull-sessions. But mostly, it was the frequent heavy rains throughout the summer that caused most of our turf problems. You could almost count the sunny days we had on your fingers and toes. Even my tomatoes looked bad.

I lost over one-half of one fairway to pythium blight and darned near three greens to helminthosporium. The helminthosporium fungus hit three of my greens like I've never been hit by a fungus before. This cancerous disease is the most insidious enemy I have ever encountered, and I used almost everything before we could stop it. The three greens since have been aerified, spiked, seeded, sodded, fertilized, sprayed, and prayed over. I have had many people helping me — friends, experts, and pathologists. I always call for help when I encounter serious turf problems . . . because, you see, awhile back in my life, I made the profound discovery that I don't know everything there is about grass. So, I decided that this qualifies me, like Aid to Dependent Mothers, to seek help. Well, to shorten a long story, we finally got the "clap" of the grass world stopped. However the scars are still there.

Now for some more excuses why the course might be in poor shape when you come here. We will be busy carrying out our annual fall program of sodding the fronts of two or three greens, where the fairway mowers turn in a very constricted area and the poa likes to die out. Watch the trap shots. There isn't much good sand left that isn't mixed with silt and dirt

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washed in from all the rains we've had. This winter, fresh sand will be hauled to all traps. Our fairways will be just about healed from the intensive aerifying and seeding to creeping bent that we do every September. You will also notice many trench lines that we either seeded or sodded after the tile contractor finished; the major drainage project that took all summer. Again, thanks to the wet weather, another drainage construction will have been started by the time you get here. Hopefully, all greens will be topdressed, but I doubt it.

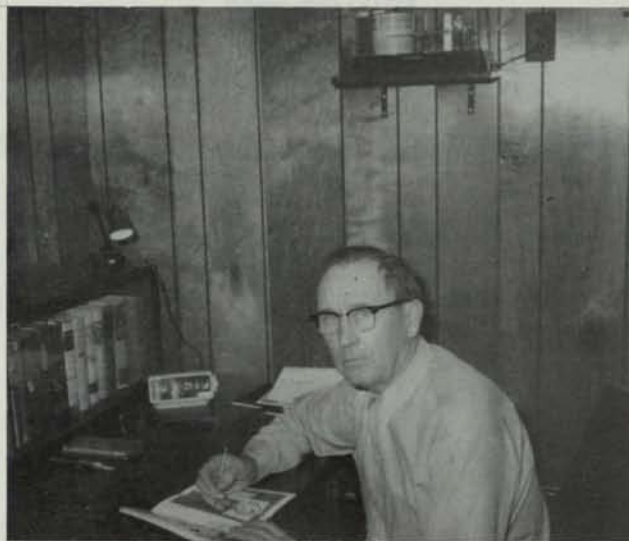
Enjoy yourself! However, I must tell you that this is not our big event. The Mexican Open on October 23 is the big deal here. Of course you're all welcome to come back and play again. There is one tiny stipulation; in order to be invited to this festive event, you have to be born South of the border.

October is my favorite month. It's hard to explain exactly why, except there is something so strange and lovely about this leaf-falling month that it is hard to express. October to me is a feeling of sadness, nostalgia, and happiness. For some reason, during this month I am more aware of my age than in any other part of the year; even at my birthday. Some of the things I seek will never be found and some of my goals will have to be left behind. I like to be with old friends in October. I enjoy taking long walks at dusk with my children. October to me is a time of remembering. I think of tiny towns, old songs, and the dusty country roads with slow bends and old rail fences. I hear the train whistles in all the nights of my youth and I remember the streets and vacant lots in evening-quiet old neighborhoods. October is a memory and the loneliness of years, . . . and old Phil Harris singing, "This is all I Ask."

The Midwest Golf Course Superintendents Association October 10th meeting will be held at Briarwood Country Club, Deerfield, Illinois. Midwest president Paul Voykin will be our host. Paul asked every member not to bring a guest. A large turnout is expected, and due to locker room facilities your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. Consult your road map for directions.

The heavens let loose on Friday evening, August 25th in the west suburbs of Chicago. Seven inches of rain fell in approximately five hours and flooded highways and private homes with as much as four feet of water. Sand traps looked like anything but sand traps. Debris of all kinds. What are the results following this water? Dead grass and in some instances plenty of it. It is discouraging to the Superintendent after working hard all summer and the past years to produce turf of the finest quality and then to lose it in a short period of time. The farmer loses a good percentage of his farm crop. The golf course Superintendent loses a large percentage of his fairway turf.

The erosion in the sand traps here at Glen Oak Country Club is the worst I have ever seen. Many, many tons of sand will have to be replaced, and this appears to be all hand work. Fred Opperman, Superintendent at Glen Oak Country Club reports he pumped twenty-two million gallons of water from the golf course. A golf course Superintendent has to be someone who does not get discouraged, who loves the outdoors and is willing to work under all kinds of conditions. If he is not this type of a man, the golf course is no place for him.



Editor

Editorial

A GENERATION OF YOUNG GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

Superintendents with many years of hard work on golf courses are stepping aside and hoping to enjoy the remaining years of their life doing some of the many things they have been dreaming about before they pass on to a more quiet piece of real estate. We here in the Chicago area have noticed a great turn over to younger Superintendents in the past few years. This is to be expected. In another twenty-five or thirty years no doubt this same transition will again take place and as more new golf courses are being built it will require more trained men in the turf grass management field.

Maintaining a golf course and club grounds is a highly specialized profession. These young men have a greater opportunity to become golf course superintendents in a shorter period of time than most of us older men had. Colleges that have the facilities and personnel to give these men the basic knowledge are doing a fine job. I know there is more knowledge required to be a good golf course superintendent than what the turf grass schools are teaching.

For instance, how much of the superintendent's actual time on the yearly basis is devoted to growing and the maintenance of the grass plant in the cool season area. Golf courses today are almost one hundred per cent mechanized. To the best of my knowledge there are none that are teaching this very important subject, "care of equipment." A few years ago I asked one of the authorities at one of these training schools, Why? The answer I received "We do not have the personnel or the facilities." This certainly was a good reason and I accepted his answer.

I feel a golf course superintendent should have the fundamental knowledge of any piece of equipment used for the purpose of maintaining a golf course or the club grounds. Many clubs have a mechanic but there are times when out on the job a little operating advice could save many dollars as well as lost time.

The care of mechanical equipment cannot be taught in one or two lectures. It is my feeling our educational committees are not devoting as much time toward such an important subject as they should.

Today we are on wheels so let us get out of the old rut!