



Editor

MIDWEST BREEZES

The winter of 1976 and 1977 is one that will long be remembered by the golf course Superintendents. The low temperatures for the long period of time has broken all records. The turfgrass may have suffered from desiccation due to the high winds which left many areas without any cover. The depth of the frost may be responsible for some irrigation equipment problems. Water pipes not properly drained last fall could be among the most severe components damaged. If there are no broken pipes in the spring the Supers can be very proud of their water pipe draining work last fall. It may be wise to turn the water on in the spring as soon as conditions permit work of this nature to take place. Should there be some problems one would have time to repair the damaged part before the busy season starts.

We are sorry to be informed that **Roy Nelson**, Superintendent at Ravisloe C.C. is under the doctor's care. We all hope it is for only a short period of time. Roy is a past president of the GCSAA.

The Chicago District Golf Association has moved their office from Chicago to 2100 Clearwater Dr., Suite 300, Oak Brook, IL 60521. Phone: 312-920-0130.

The GCSAA 48th annual turfgrass conference and show is now past history. All attendance records were broken - 5,297. This is remarkable. The local chapter in Portland, Oregon are to be congratulated on a magnificent job they did to help make this possible. We also say thanks to the executive committee and all the GCSAA employees. Without their sincere interest it could never have happened.

The results of the election for officers and directors were: President, **Theodore W. Woehrle**; Vice President, **George W. Cleaver**. Directors, **Louis Haines**, **Hobart Burgan**, & **Mike Bavier**. Congratulations.

The M.A.G.C.S. hit the jack pot in Portland, Oregon at the G.C.S.A.A. Conference. **Bob Williams**, Supt. at Bob O' Link G.C. received the G.C.S.A.A. distinguished service award, the highest award bestowed by the G.C.S.A.A.

Mike Bavier, Supt. at Inverness C.C. was elected to the Board of Directors. Really a great achievement. You are congratulated.

The Editor and **Mrs. Gerber** celebrated their fifty-second wedding anniversary on February 18th, 1977.

This writer has attended 39 GCSAA consecutive conferences. Hotel rooms always acceptable, some a little better than others. In Portland, Oregon I had an experience that never happened in the past years. Arriving on Saturday P.M. I checked into my room and found everything OK. On Sunday A.M. there was a change. My past experience had been to try and get a room away from a hospitality room. Being a member of our local chapter for nearly 50 years, I had all the confidence in the world relating to the operation of this association. But on Sunday A.M. as I was in the hall locking my door, who should come by but our president and a couple of his lieutenants and I was informed they had rented the room next door for their hospitality room. I knew at that moment I was in trouble. There was only one thing left for me to do. So I went down to the hotel lobby and pleaded my case to the good hearted lady at the desk. She sympathized with me and handed me a key for a room on a different floor. My experience in Portland was with some nice people and you fill in the remainder of this report.

"SCRAMBLING RAMBLING"

Who toured a course in Nashville with only 32 putts? A man by the name of Charley Boswell, which maybe doesn't ring a bell or mean anything to you. But his name or where he lives is not as important as what happened to him or what he has done.

Boswell, a Captain during World War II, lost his sight while rescuing an 18 year old G.I. from a burning tank. Before he could get off the tank, a direct hit exploded and his face and eyes were hit by fragments. Charley will never see another snowflake fall, a tree turn color, a beautiful sunset, or the grass turn green. He wants no pity, but instead tried golf. We many times forget the "little things", like being able to line up a putt. Charley paces off the length of his putts and hits them toward the hole with an amazing amount of accuracy. He and his blind playing partners putt everything out. Try closing your eyes sometime and see how you do. Be thankful you can open your eyes--maybe you won't complain so much when you miss a putt next time.

Were you one of the lucky ones to be in Florida over Christmas? Just to mention a few names that were--Baviers, Fuchs, Serings, and the Wolfgang Mueller family. The weather must not have been too great--they don't look very tan!

Paul Voykin made another trip to the east coast, this time to be Master of Ceremonies at the MidAtlantic Annual Meeting, January 10th. Paul, are you selling books or running for office?

Bob Miller, better known as Mr. DuPont to his many, many friends in the Chicago area, is now affiliated with the Lake Shore Equipment and Supply Co. on the east coast.

STRENGTH OF ICE

It is reported that freezing temperatures, due to the recent cold spell, have penetrated down to 5 to 6 feet in the ground. The following strength of ice gives some idea of the damage that can accrue to pipe lines under certain conditions: The crushing strength of ice at 23 deg. F is 620 lbs. per square inch, the crushing strength of ice at 14 deg. F. is 906 lbs. per square inch, the crushing strength of ice at 12 deg. F is 1070 lbs. per square inch.

C. E. [Scotty] Stewart