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

- Editor Ray Gerber 865 Hillside Ave. Glen Ellyn, Ill. 60137 Phone — 469-6467
- Associate Editor Robert Williams 90 East Franklin, Apt. 208 Lake Forest, III. 60045 Office Phone — 432-0088

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President - Bob Breen PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A two day growth of beard on a lean leathery face, bib overalls patched at the knee, a tattered straw hat pulled low on a head bent forward as though leaning into a wind. The leather reins of a team are draped around his neck as he slouches atop a three gang set of mowers cutting fairways on a hot summer day. If that is the image your mind projects at the mention of the word "greenkeeper" you may find it advisable to stop here, as what I am going to add may be disagreeable to you.

It is difficult for me to rationalize why in an era when titles such as astronaut, computer programmer and others, have become household words in less than a score of years, we persist in striving to educate the golfing public the use of the title Golf Course Superintendent. Prior to the year 1938 the person in charge of grounds and greens was known as the Greenkeeper, a traditional and much more colorful title and in my opinion a title the golfer associates with the responsibilities involved.

There is no doubt, many who feel that the job is more than keeping a golf course green, but it has been my experience that the golfer judges the condition of the course, not the individual's ability to present a budget, his expertise in handling men, or his extraordinary record keeping ability. The course is where the game is played and this must not be forgotten. That is why I would like to see due consideration given to the possibility of returning to the Midwest Association of Greenkeepers.

The return to the name of Greenkeeper will have no great effect on the status, wages or the responsibilities involved. The word Greenkeeper is unique to our profession; there are no Greenkeepers of Streets, no Greenkeepers of Sewers or Sanitation. Greenkeeper is a respectable and honorable title.

We have had 40 years to establish the title of Golf Course Superintendent and I for one think we have come up short and I have discovered all too often in casual conversation that there are a surprising number of members who would prefer to be called Greenkeeper, a title still used in the British empire where the game had its origin.

There is only one way to restore the name Greenkeeper and that is to make a motion that the association change its name. This would require a by-law change and can only occur at our Annual Meeting; however, the motion can be made at any meeting with discussion occuring at the time of the motion and I feel there is a need of much discussion on this issue whether the name is changed or not.

