

MIDWEST BREEZES

The GCSAA Educational Conference & Equipment Show in St. Louis is now history. It was a success in every way. 7,077 attended the show. 600 enjoyed the banquet, the entertainment was furnished by the Purdue Glee Club, and was outstanding. Over fifty foreigners from different countries attended the show.

Melvin B. Lucas, Jr., CGCS Supt. Piping Rock Club, Locust Valley, Long Island, NY was elected president of the GCSAA. **Michael R. Bavier**, CGCS Supt. of Inverness Golf Club, Palatine, IL was elected Vice President. The get acquainted party on Monday night was one of the best.

The Midwest Assoc. hospitality room was a very popular place during the week. The bartenders were specially chosen from the M.A.G.C.S.

The January-February issue of the United States Golf Assoc. Golf Journal had an article written by Frank D. Tatum, Jr. The following is part of his article and I will quote his words.

"Courses in this country are designed and maintained in such a way that too much (virtually all) of the game is played in the air. As golf originated (and happily is still played) on the links in Scotland, however, it is a game with an important phase taking place on the ground. Two vital elements involved in the Scottish game are missing from ours. One is the necessity to calculate a good deal of bounce and roll in playing a shot. The other is the element of chance - the chance that the bounce or roll may not come off as planned. The Scottish game simply leaves more to the imagination and playing golf this way induces a special exhilaration that is missing in a totally airborne game. I think it takes more skill to play the Scottish game: I know it takes more character. The problem, simply put, is one of too much water. This has been endemic to this country for a long time. As the game here came more and more to be played in the air, with bounce and roll relatively negligible factors, heavily watered golf courses became easily justified. As a related factor we seem to care more about how a golf course looks than about how it plays."

"The game in this country therefore has largely become a slog from one mushy lie to another, with greens that will hold virtually any sort of a shot however struck and which are so slow they can be putted with relative impunity, because the misjudged or miss-hit putt will not go very far."

Editors Note: This is a small part of the fine article that Mr. Tatum, Jr. has in the January-February 1980 U.S.G.A. Journal. Every golfer and course Supt. should read it and remember his words and try to conserve on water or we may find ourselves without it in the near future. Mr. Tatum, Jr. also mentions in his article the motor driven riding golf cart - what it has done to the game of golf and the golf course. This editor knows it has changed the game and certainly knows the close companionship in walking down the fairway rather than riding in a cart. I am sure the golf course Supt. and the golfer knows there has been some problems due to their use. Not all of this is the fault of the cart. The cart goes where the operator drives it. The operator should be educated before he or she is permitted to take the cart on the golf course. I am sure we all know that the riding golf carts are here to stay. The revenue that the golf clubs receive from their use makes up a big part of their budget. This alone is a good selling point. The riding

golf cart is responsible for many extra rounds of golf not only by the person who is unable to walk very far but also for the one who likes a late afternoon game.

Caddies at public daily fee courses are a thing of the past. One golf club in the Chicago area that has four eighteen hole courses own and operate over four hundred carts and some of them go out twice a day. A golf course needs extra construction work and planning to successfully handle this type of an operation.

On January 25th, 1980 the United States Golf Assoc. Green Section held their annual educational session at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Chicago. 250 golf course Supts., club officials, and others interested in golf attended. The green section committee did an excellent job in arranging this program. The U.S.G.A. Green Section had the premiere showing of their new film, "The Golfer and the Course". This film shows the etiquette of the game of golf and all golfers should be required to make an attempt to see it. I understand it can be rented for a small charge. I highly recommend it.



Mike Bavier

MICHAEL R. BAVIER, CGCS, ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPTS. ASSN. OF AMERICA AT NATIONAL MEETING

February 20--**Michael R. Bavier**, CGCS, golf course superintendent of the Inverness Golf Club, Palatine, IL, was elected vice president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America at its 51st annual meeting held in St. Louis.

Bavier has been a member of GCSAA for 14 years and has served as director of the Association for the past four years.



Mr. & Mrs. Pete Leuzinger