

Dear Ray,

As I have told you before, I really enjoy the **Bull Sheet** very much. Not only is it well written and well organized, but there is something worthwhile in each issue.

In the 1981 March issue, the article regarding the "Thomas Tips" brought back many fond memories of a very nervous, young man giving his first speech at an International Turfgrass Conference.

You might be interested that in those days we were given ten minutes to present the ten best ideas we had. In nine minutes a warning light came on the rostrum, and in ten minutes a buzzer went off, indicating that the speaker was through. It presented a nervous situation, but I must say none of the speakers ran overtime!

Anyway, please keep sending the **Bull Sheet** as I do especially enjoy the articles by the various superintendents. The bulletin is a real credit to you and the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Keep up the fine work!

**Roger J. Thomas, Vice President
International Sales Operation
Jacobsen Textron Inc., Racine, WI**

Dear Dave,

My Honorary Membership card and certificate came today. It illustrates the thoughtfulness of your officers and executive committee. I am most grateful for your continued attention and courtesies.

A list of contributors to the Musser Foundation is enclosed. Many names are identified as M.A.G.C.S. members. Also, your association is prominent in that category. Again, thank you for the support you've given our objectives.

Fred V. Grau, President

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NATIONAL GOLF FOUNDATION

- A majority of Americans regularly participate in some form of recreation - passive activities are still the most popular, but the trend is toward more active recreation.
- Participation in outdoor recreation is higher among males than females but the gap is narrowing; the family exerts the strongest influence on recreation participation.
- Recreation provides relief from daily stress, increased employee productivity, greater family solidarity, physical and mental fitness, and economic gains.

Due to the current high land and course development costs, the NGF suggests that prior to embarking on any new golf venture, developers assure themselves through in-depth feasibility studies that the planned golf project has possibilities for success.

Cost of developing a new 18-hole facility, including land and clubhouse, could be anywhere from \$3 to \$5 million or more. Annual course maintenance costs have tripled in many areas in the past two decades. Such costs may range from \$95,000 to \$215,000 or more annually for an 18-hole regulation course. Recent NGF studies show maintenance cost ranging from \$6,500 to \$13,000 + per hole.

It is no secret that there are golf courses in a for-sale status in some sections of the nation. While this may be due to decreasing and shifting populations in certain regions, some may have been doomed for failure prior to opening. Much time and money can be saved by determining the project's feasibility in advance. NGF's continuing national survey results can be of great assistance to potential developers.