

M.A.G.C.S. will again be having a hospitality tent set up for the Western Open at Butler National Golf Club. There will be many changes and improvements on the set-up compared to last year. The tent will be located on a grassy site and closer to Oscar Miles' maintenance building for easy accessibility. We will probably have the tent open just Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for the peak spectator hours of each day. We will use the tent for promotional reasons for M.A.G.C.S. and to extend information to the public pertaining to the role of the golf course superintendent. We want to schedule a few superintendents each day to answer questions and pass out literature. Anyone interested in helping out please contact Mike Nass at Cantigny Links.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the board members of M.A.G.C.S. for the fine job they have done on the committee level in regards to planning and organizing the association events. It is the continued support and activity of the membership and the board that makes the Midwest Association second to none. Keep up the good work.

**James E. Evans**

## **Michael Nass Biography**

Michael Nass has been a superintendent for ten years. Mike just left Bryn Mawr after seven years and the first of this year he started at a new course — Cantigny Links in Wheaton. This will be a 27 hole layout and will be open in 1988 for play. Mike is a certified superintendent and has served as President of the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation and the Chicagoland AGCS. At the president Mike is the 1st Vice President with the MAGCS having served as the 2nd VP and as a Director. Mike's hobbies and interests include golf, reading, and cross country skiing. He and Jean have two children, Amy age 6, and Kerry age 3.

## **Change of Life**

### **Mike Nass, Cantigny Links, Wheaton, IL**

I realize the phrase "change of life" has many different connotations depending on ones age, sex and/or state of mind. In my case I believe it's mostly a state of mind with the age factor just beginning to creep in there.

Although I've never been the type to actively seek out and create major upheavals, I also don't feel I've ever been the type to shy away from a challenge. That is why, when I was offered the opportunity to be a part of creating a new 27 hole golf course at Cantigny in Wheaton I was happy to accept.

For most of you who have never heard of Cantigny, perhaps a little background would be appropriate. Cantigny (pronounced Can-te-nee), originally called Red Oak Farm, was the summer home of Joseph Medill and later his grandson, Colonel Robert R. McCormick, both in their time, editors and publishers of the Chicago Tribune. The name Cantigny comes from the name of a small French village which was the sight of the first American Offensive in Europe during World War I. As a member of the Army's First Division, Colonel McCormick was a part of this first offensive.

On the Estate, which is about 500 acres in size, stands the Mansion of the late Colonel McCormick which is now open to the public as the Robert R. McCormick Museum, the First Division Museum and about 20 acres of formal gardens.

Aside from the construction of the golf course Cantigny has just completed the construction of a new 15,000 square foot greenhouse. All the annuals to be used in the formal gardens and on the golf course as well as many of the perennials will be started in the new greenhouse complex.

Many of the themes present in the formal gardens will be carried over to the golf course. There will be a formal garden area near the clubhouse and the starting tees as well as extensive planting areas of perennial flowers and prairie grasses.

The course, which is built on about 250 acres, will retain about 80 acres of natural Oak-Hickory woods and will have, when completed, 13 lakes and a couple of creeks. Some of the pond areas are being designed in cooperation with local county officials to aid in flood water retention. Of course the big problem with all those lakes is they tend to attract our friendly Canadian Geese. I am hoping to work out a deal with my new neighbors, Fred Opperman and Don Gerber, to take these geese off my hands at least until I have some viable turf cover. Knowing the helpful nature of these two gentlemen I'm sure they'll be more than happy to oblige.

Of course the flurry of activity here represents a major change in the type of flurry I'm accustomed to seeing in the Spring. Chasing after a Caterpillar 627B scraper is considerably different than chasing a Toro 327 Groundsmaster. Come to think of it though, I did have a Groundsmaster operator once who tried to mow over small trees and reshape mounds with the blades. He wasn't all that efficient with those undertakings however.

The sight of a scraper rolling down the side of a hill is also off the beaten path of what I'm used to seeing, but in some ways it's more pleasant than the sight of winter kill on Poa Annua or just Poa Annua in general.

Of course these changes of scenery are only temporary and by the end of the summer I'll again be faced with the challenge of bringing a golf course into play.

Besides these temporary changes of focus there is also the more long term challenge of a considerably different size and type of operation. Aside from about twice the acreage and fifty percent more holes, there is also an irrigation system consisting of a 2500 gallon per minute pumping station and over thirteen hundred heads. All of which are not overwhelming but which do present me with a new management challenge.

At the same time I have also relocated my family out to the beautiful western suburbs. We have gone from a Democratic, urban environment to a Republic, suburban environment. I mean even the Irish out here are Republican.

All these factors have contributed to my "change of life". This "change" is mainly a state of mind in my case but it has so far been a rewarding one for both myself and my family.

Oh yes, as far as an age related "change of life" I'm afraid I've begun to experience some of that too. No, I haven't had any hot flashes, but last week while trying to stretch a single into a double during a softball game I popped a hamstring and later that week while visiting my dentist I was informed I had a cracked tooth and needed a root canal. Well, I guess into every life a little rain must fall.