

Editor's Column

by Fred Opperman



SILVER LAKE COUNTRY CLUB

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This issue of **The Bull Sheet** is being dedicated to Dr. Joseph Duich who recently retired from the staff at Penn State University. I want to thank Dudley Smith for writing the various PSU alumni and asking them to contribute to this special newsletter.

Dr. Joseph Duich "The Legend at Penn State"

This guru of turf was born in 1928 and grew up in the small steel town of Farrell, Pennsylvania, near the Ohio border. He enlisted in the Marines right out of high school in 1946. After a 2-year hitch with the service, he entered Penn State in 1948. Somehow, while attending Penn State, he caught the eye of Burt Musser, maybe with the help of Warren Bidwell. Somehow Warren entered the picture and guided this young ex-marine by pointing out the proper path to pursue: Joe graduated with a BS degree in agronomy in 1952, continuing his studies under Burt Musser and earning this Doctorate degree in 1957.

The 2 year Penn State Turf Management School was started in 1957 with Burt Musser as the principal instructor. Joe taught some classes in 1957 and 1958 but did not take charge until 1959, when Burt Musser retired. That first graduating class in 1959 had 14 students. Since that time, over 1,100 students have come through Tyson Building and had to respond to, "You tell me, pal."

Joe and his wife, Pat, have three children: Katherine, Robert and Michael. Katherine's two children are Joe's only grandchildren.

Dr. Duich has won all of the awards in the Turf Profession, including the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award in 1976 and the USGA Green Section Award in 1981. He is known as the Father of Bentgrass. He created Pennstar Bluegrass in 1965, Pennfine in 1970, Penneagle in 1975, and Pennlink in 1987. Penncross was created by Burt Musser with the help of Joe.

In the Chicago area, the first greens seeded to Penncross were ones that Dudley Smith seeded in 1962; and Dick Trevathan seeded the first 18-hole course in Illinois with Penncross in 1963. This was the beginning of the end of stolonizing of greens.

Dec 7, 1991

Dr Joseph M. Duich
Penn State University

Dear Joe,

Reflecting on our Musser days at school, I fondly remember smoking your Prince Albert and using your desk in the basement of Tyson to do my homework. You were out in the field for many hours judging your B-27 Merion bluegrass, while I sat and watched Judge Welch, Roy Cohn, and Sen. Joe McCarthy debate on television.

Then you organized a two year prep school on campus, that produced a flock of arrogant prima donnas. What background can a person get with only 32 weeks in Happy Valley? Eight of my Silver Lake boys passed through the Nittany dorms. A few won TUCO scholarships, but far more achievements were made at the MY-0-MY and the Lions Den. All eight men are still turf employed and speak of Duich, Waddington, and Watschke with a reverence that makes me PENN STATE PROUD!

Joe, I hope our paths cross many times so that I can argue grass doesn't grow at 1/8 inch on the golf course, the way it does in the classroom.

Enjoy your retirement, and DON'T QUIT SMOKING!
We like you the way you are.

Dudley Smith, Class 1954



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December 13, 1991

Dear Dr. Duich:

Well, I suppose a greeting of "Dear Joe" would have been nicer, but as an ex-Marine, we show our respect.

About thirty years ago, thanks to my good fortune, Dr. James Watson asked you to give me a chance to enroll at Penn State. I was just a farm boy from Minnesota who was still wet behind the ears and my boots were still dirty. Boy, you did scare me, maybe impress might be a better term. No, both! We only spoke briefly during those two years, but what I learned will be with me forever.

Also, you suggested a summer placement with Warren Bidwell would be a wise move. I was one of a few students that year who said a summer placement would be fine. Thanks for the advice, no regrets spending some time at Olympia Fields Country Club.

Joe, you then called some years later and asked me to speak at your turf conference. My good friend, Dudley Smith and two other friends were off driving to Penn State for one of your super conferences. Were you surprised when I showed up wearing a tuxedo for my speech, "Good Grooming is Good Spending"? Probably not, because "anything goes" at Penn State.

During the time I have known you, you have always been helpful with a word or two of wisdom.

Thanks again for instilling in me the pride of Penn State, which is synonymous with Dr. Joe Duich. Enjoy your retirement!

Sincerely,

Mike Bavier