

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-O-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



GCSAA

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MICHAEL R. BAVIER, CGCS
Past President
Inverness Golf Club
102 N. Roselle Road
Palatine, Illinois 60067

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

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Dear Joe:

I want to wish you well as you embark on your "retirement" career. When you find what this really means, please let me know! I suspect that you, like me, will scarcely notice even a slight change of pace — but that's the turfgrass industry as you so well know.

Our mutual mentor, Professor Burt Musser taught us many things, and, although he was dedicated to the industry, he never taught us that one did not ever walk away from turfgrass and all the associated activities. But that's not all bad! Too few have the opportunity to commingle their vocation and their avocation. Turfgrass gives one that opportunity.

As I am your senior, both as a Nittany Lion and chronologically, I have the privilege of reflecting upon what your career has meant to turfgrass.

When midnight of December 31, 1991 arrives, the book will close on a program dating back to 1928 — sixty plus years ago!

In 1928 when President Ralph Hetzel, at the urging of Joe Valentine and Marshall Farnham, directed a young energetic legume breeder named H. Burton Musser to initiate a turfgrass research program, I feel confident that none expected that program to provide the grasses, the leadership, guidance and training that followed. Nor, the prestige that "Penn State" connotes to the turfgrass industry worldwide.

Since 1959 you have carried that banner with honor, dignity, dedication and vigor. Thank you! I recall so well Burt calling one day in the early 50s and saying — "I think I've found a good one"! He went on to outline your association with Warren Bidwell and your desire to enter graduate school. In another few years we visited at one of the many turfgrass conferences we both attended in those days. At that time he said, "I think" (Burt always thought or believed when it came to people projections — he was dogmatic only when he **knew**) "I've found the guy to take over when I retire." By this time you and I were friends and had been acquainted for some years. Of course, I know of whom he spoke nevertheless, I said, "Burt why are you so sure"; "well", he said, "he's a good worker, understands the business, handles himself well and he's almost as stubborn as I am." With that I agreed; **and, still do!**

To your credit, and to Burt's, when the reins changed hands there was essentially no change in programs. It was an absolutely smooth transition. Penncross was followed by Penneagle, Pennlinks, and Pennfine; the two-year program continued; and, grew. Grew to the point where it has become the preferred program, especially for those desiring a career as a golf course superintendent. Your students are found worldwide. Their respect for the training; guidance and discipline you instilled is reflected in the high regard, respect, and esteem they hold for you. Of all your contributions, I and many others, believe this to be your most significant.

On a more personal note, I have enjoyed our friendship over the years. Burt was right — you have done well — and will continue to do so. I remember fondly our trip through Europe and England in 1973. It was fun, entertaining and above all educational. I still remember (shudder) when I think of our non-air conditioned Paris hotel.

Should like to wish for you and Pat continued good health, happiness and success as you begin to wind down your illustrious career. Take a little time for yourself and enjoy.

Sincerely,

James R. Watson

Dear Fred,

What do ya mean, "please, a comment or two for the **Bull Sheet?**" After what Joe Duich (especially), Don Waddington and the Technicians at the Valentine Research Center have done for all of us **and**, might I add, the game of golf and the turf-grass management industry, you couldn't hold me back! I would be delighted to assist the special issue, but at a cost. I would like to have two copies! Assuming the price is not too great, here we go. First the personal stuff.

I, like most everyone who ever graduated from Penn State University, was in awe of Dr. Joseph M. Duich. That's why we called him "god". Little did we know as we joked about it, just how true it was! Dr. Duich truly is a giant in our industry. We all have a personal story and this is one of mine.

I was a common grunt worker at the Turf Plots one summer. It was at a time in my life when I was trying to decide whether I wanted to get married, graduate, begin making an honest living or go onto graduate school. It was a turning point in my life. Interestingly, both Dr. Duich and Dr. Waddington had an affect on my decision.

A. Graduate school. Don Waddington was doing some research on fertilizers, as I recall, for the Consumer's Report magazine. They were trying to figure out which fertilizers were better for lawns than others. This truck shows up with all these bags of fertilizers, Dr. Waddington set-up the plots, as I recall, he or someone else applied the fertilizers, and then Don Waddington went on a 46-day vacation. That left the grunt technicians with having to mow the plots, collect the clippings, put them in their numbered bags, dry them (in a controlled atmosphere), weigh the bags, record the numbers and, between myself and others, type the numbers on IBM computer cards. I didn't even type. After that exercise, that was it for graduate school!

B. Making an honest living. Joe Duich was actually the fellow who opened the door for me with the USGA. I trained to be a golf course Superintendent, following in my father's footsteps. Somewhere along the line, nearing graduation, Joe encouraged me to interview for an opening as an Agronomist for the USGA. In retrospect, I wonder whether he thought I would make a better field agronomist for the USGA than a golf course Superintendent? He has never answered the question. Obviously, I chose the former ... now approaching 21 years ago.

C. My Duich story. Remember that I said I was a common grunt summer worker on the Turf Plots? Well, I was out there rouging a field when Dr. Duich came up behind me, and asked what a certain patch of grass was. It was blue-green, had boat-shaped tips and looked like Kentucky bluegrass, but wasn't. I guessed Canada bluegrass and was right! Dodged a bullet from "god."

Dr. Duich shook his head, took a puff of his cigarette (never exhaling) and asked, "Stanley, do you drink beer?" My reply was, "Yes." Dr. Duich then said, "Let's have pizza and beer for lunch." My response, "I'd love to, but I'm not 21 years old." Dr. Duich said, "I didn't ask you how old you are, I want to know if you would like pizza and beer for lunch." We went and enjoyed!

Thus, it was a memorable summer. I chose the USGA and marriage over grad school.

(cont'd. page 7)



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Dr. Duich pointed me to a job with the USGA, and also was an early contributor to my reputation of being a connoisseur of fine food and drink.

Honestly, I could go on and on but I am sure space will not allow much more. I will save room for others.

In closing, we all owe Penn State and the people who gave us our education a tremendous debt of gratitude. Our education at Penn State and the association with the people there no doubt opened more doors for all of us than we could ever imagine. Thus, to a great extent, our education at Penn State gave us the opportunities which have allowed us to become the successful professionals in the turfgrass management industry that a high percentage of graduates have become. I am sure if we were educated elsewhere or had known less influential people, we wouldn't be where we are today ... and neither would the turfgrass industry.

It has been said (I think I said it) that the sun never sets on grasses developed at Penn State. Neither does the sun set on graduates of their Turfgrass Management Program. No one can make this same boast. It is these people, who we call our friends (and friends they are), who have set the standards and have also developed the grass upon which the game of golf is played.

If that was their goal, they have succeeded.

This special issue of the **Bull Sheet** is just that, special. Come to think of it, send me three copies!

Sincerely,
Stanley J. Zontek



December 27, 1991

Dr. J. M. Dutch, Prof. of Agronomy
Pennsylvania State University
Department of Agronomy
University Park, Pa. 16802

Dear Dr. Duich:

Congratulations on a brilliant career at Penn State and your leadership in developing 100's of turf managers for the great game of golf.

With your university retirement fast approaching I would just like to briefly say how much you have meant to me professionally and as a friend the past 30 years.

Without your teaching, advice and constructive criticism I would not have been as successful at reaching my career goals.

I am hoping that with your retirement you can travel around the world visiting your former students so they can see you on their home grounds and extend to you personally their appreciation. Get those golf clubs out of the closet Joe and come on out to the midwest for some golf this summer.

Mr. Bert A. Getz, founder of the Merit Club, has given me permission to invite you to The Merit Club's grand opening the weekend of July 4, 1992. We want you to have the pleasure of teeing it up from your dense Penncross tees, strike a crisp iron shot from the upright Pennaeagle fairways and putt on the quick and true Pennlinks greens. As you walk down the fairways, glance to the right and left and enjoy the beauty of each hole as it is framed by prairies, magnificent natural wetlands and native mature Oak and Hickory woodlands.

It would give me great pleasure introducing you to the Getz family, Mr. Ed Oldfield, President and the charter members that have been invited for the first year of play here at the Merit Club. I will be getting back to you in the next few weeks to see if you can make it to our grand opening.

Once again Dr. Joe, thank you! Here's hoping and praying that God blesses you with many healthy retirement years that you can spend with your wife, family and friends.

Sincerely yours,

Oscar L. Miles, CGCS
(Class of 1961)

TED MATTSON
P.O. Box 1252
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Saturday 14 December 1991

Joseph Duich
Agronomy Department
Pennsylvania State University
State College, Pa.

Dear Joe:

Congratulations! Glad you are finally going to catch up with the 'black sheep' of the industry. Now maybe we can go on that deer hunt together. Perhaps you would rather come to Alaska and let me put you to 'work' on my boat next fishing season or at least give you a bird's eye view of some of the country. Regardless, enjoy the fruits of your "retirement" Joe.

Best regards always,

Ted Mattson



.... "GREETINGS FROM ALASKA"

the Bull Sheet



Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents
of The Greater Chicago Metropolitan Area

Fred D. Opperman, Editor
810 Greenwood Avenue - Carpentersville, IL 60110
(708) 428-5009

Dear Dr. Duich,

Boy, it's scary to think that you are retiring. That means I'm older than I'd like to think about. I can still recall walking into your class the first time and picking a front seat. That was the last time I did that, after being asked a question that I knew absolutely nothing about and had no response for except a dumb look on my face. I never sat in the front again but tried to pick somewhere in the middle of the class and hide behind some large body.

Having never worked on a golf course before coming to PSU, that first semester, all I did was listen, never commenting or debating with you (not a lot of good it would have done anyway); and my grade that first semester showed my ignorance. What a way to start off a turf career.

Then that first summer you arranged jobs for a group of us to go and initiate Bob Williams at Bob O'Link Golf Club with all of our new knowledge. That summer of 1961 PSU was represented at Bob O'Link by the following: George Druzisky, Ted Mattson, George Leix, George Nicholas, Oscar Miles, and myself. Plus, Bob had a student from Iowa and one from Michigan State. Bob, never did that again! I think the most students at one time from then on was only two to three.

Joe, I have had a very rewarding life and career, and I must contribute it to you and your guidance. You are so well know, for all of your plant breeding and new varieties, but to me your greatest accomplishment was the breeding of all those young students you sent out into the world to learn to think for themselves. How did we learn to do that? By asking you a question and getting the reply. "You tell me, pal."

God bless you, Joe, and the very best to you and your family at your new fork in the road of life.

Sincerely,

Fred D. Opperman
Editor
Class of 1962

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Subject: Retirement of Dr. Joseph Duich

Buffalograss! That is what I have to say about the upcoming retirement of Dr. Joseph Duich.

My story takes roots in the Heartland at the Dudley Smith farm system for aspiring golf course superintendents. The seeds of a prestigious title (one which required a memorized correct spelling prior to a diploma being awarded), monetary rewards beyond imagination, and the dream of never having to change another holecup again, naturally I looked to the east and The Pennsylvania State University.

With help I found myself heading for Happy Valley--the Nittany dorms--the home of Penncross, Penneagle, Pennfine, Pennlinks, Penn Futures,--home of God...and at his right hand Dr. Joseph Duich. Well, those were the impressions instilled into me by Chicagoland alumni.

Although selecting a seat in the front row for visual purposes, it was my inner nature to become just one of the masses. MY assimilation very successful even after my second season, it was one brief moment on a sunny February morning that I stepped out of shadows and into the light.

My apprehension to answer verbal classroom questions unless absolutely certain still intact (the previously mentioned myth having not yet been dispelled), it is with great pride and a personal sense of graduation that I relate my answer to the following question -- Name a heat and drought tolerant turfgrass plant that is being researched and developed for golf course use?

AFTER SEVERAL INCORRECT ANSWERS FROM FELLOW CLASSMATES AND WHAT SEEMED TO BE AN ETERNITY OF SILENCE (OFTEN A GOOD SIGN OF THE CLASS UNDOING) I BLURTED OUT Buchloe dactyloides--Buffalograss! Another moment of silence drew curious stares from fellow classmates and from the professor a raised eyebrow, my only confirmation the question had been correctly answered. The lectured continued...

Thank you Dr. Duich for the memories: the classroom meetings in the Tyson building, warm sunny fall afternoons on the turf plots, oxygenated mornings in the greenhouse, the courteous recognitions at the GCSAA alumni breakfasts.

Thank you for the Education.

BEST WISHES FOR SUCCESS AND GOOD HEALTH IN YOUR UPCOMING RETIREMENT!

Sincerely,

Jay Druhan
Palos Hills Golf Course
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GCSAA

WILLIAM R. ROBERTS, CGCS

Vice President

Lochmoor Club
1018 Sunningdale Drive
Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan 48236

November 20, 1991

Dr. Joseph M. Duich
c/o Mr. Fred Opperman
810 Greenwood Avenue
Carpenterville, IL 60110

Dear Joe:

Somewhere in your office there was/is a small poster of a "mule" with his front legs on one side of a fence and his hind legs on the other side of the fence. The caption on the poster is "You're damned if you do...and damned if you don't." That poster, if you recall, was presented by some of those "hotshots" from the Class of '75 including Pletsch, Daley, Reid, Williams, Hopko, Cooper, Laughridge, Alexander, Kelley, Setzler, Rothenberg, Pakkala, and myself.

I'm still not sure how to apply that particular sentiment, but I do know that the impact you have had on the golf course superintendent's profession has been and will continue to be of major significance. It seems to me that your time and teaching have proven to be even more valuable as we all get farther along and for that we are grateful. Enjoy your "retirement" although that term seems a bit incongruous when related to Joe Duich.

Best wishes and thanks for everything.

Sincerely,

Bill

William R. Roberts, CGCS



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December 11, 1991

Dear Joe,

Congratulations for such a long successful career in teaching. You certainly had more impact on my life than any other individual teacher I've experienced.

To reminisce my more memorable thoughts I remember you telling me they closed down the Tyson building in order to remove the toxic asbestos. To this day I don't understand which was more toxic, the asbestos or the secondary cigarette smoke in your classroom. I started smoking my first year at Penn State and come to think about it, all my classmates that started to smoke began in their first year at Penn State. I think you initiated more smokers than Philip Morris & R.J. Reynolds combined. I do want to thank you for all the direction and help you've given me all these years. As a teacher and friend my association with you will always be close to my heart.

Good luck and enjoy your new career in consulting. I know your the best and no one can afford you. However, when you in the area please stop by for dinner.

Yours Truly,
John Berarducci
John Berarducci



The Ozaukee Country Club

December 10, 1991

Dr. J.M. Duich
119 Tyson Building
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Dear Joe,

It is not going to be the same without you at Penn State. You are an "institution" in your own right!

I can't think of anyone from academia who knows better than you what the golfers' expectations are. You have produced many improved varieties and have given us knowledge and management skills which will help us provide top-notch playing conditions which the player now demands. You now have the time to travel all over the world and help many more.

I wish you the very best of everything in your new endeavors.

Sincerely,

Wayne Otto

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BRUCE A. BURCHFIELD, CGCS
Superintendent

DR. JOSEPH M. DUICH
DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY PARK, PENNSYLVANIA

DECEMBER 9, 1991

DEAR JOE:

CONGRATULATIONS ON AN ACCOMPLISHED AND OUTSTANDING CAREER AT PENN STATE. YOU CERTAINLY HAVE INFLUENCED MANY CAREERS AND CREATED A MAJOR IMPACT ON OUR INDUSTRY NOT ONLY WITH INTRODUCING SUPERINTENDENT HOPEFULS, BUT WITH TURFGRASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AS WELL.

AS I THINK BACK TWENTY-THREE YEARS TO OUR FIRST DAY IN YOUR SMOKE FILLED CLASSROOM AND WONDERING IF I WAS AT PENN STATE OR FORT LEONARD WOOD, MANY JOE DUICH QUOTES CONCERNING TEST RESULTS TO JOB PLACEMENT IN CHICAGO COME TO MIND. THREE STICK OUT MOST VIVIDLY. "I'LL TAKE ANYTHING I CAN GET FROM YOU, BURCHFIELD!", "OSCAR MILES IS A SMALL MAN WHO CARRIES A BIG STICK", AND "HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF DUDLEY SMITH?" SERIOUSLY, SENDING BEAR AND MYSELF TO OLYMPIA FIELDS COUNTRY CLUB TO WORK FOR OSCAR IN 1969 WAS THE BEGINNING OF MY CAREER AND I THANK YOU FOR THAT JUMP START.

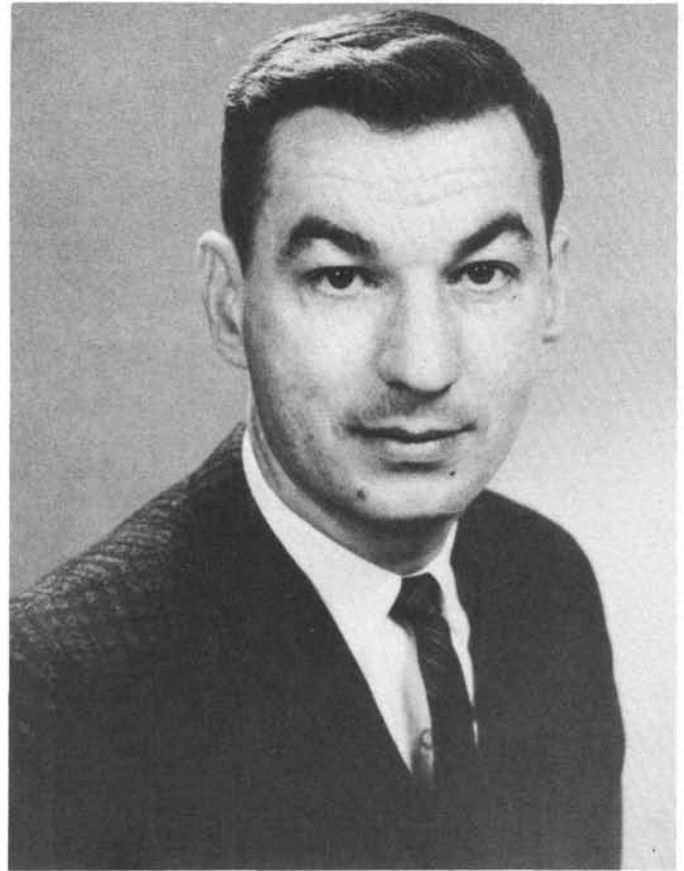
SINCE THOSE EARLY DAYS, YOU CONTINUED TO INFLUENCE OUR GOLF COURSES AND CAREERS. I ESPECIALLY ENJOYED THE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WHEN BOB WILLIAMS THREW A LITTLE DINNER PARTY FOR YOU AND A FEW OF YOUR PREVIOUS STUDENTS AND FRIENDS IN 1982 DURING THE "C-15 DECLINE" CRISIS. EVEN THOUGH PENN EAGLE TURNED OUT TO BE A BETTER FAIRWAY GRASS THAN GREEN SURFACE, THAT ENTIRE EPISODE WAS AN EXTREMELY LEARNING EXPERIENCE.

YOUR MOST RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENT TO HELP MANY OF US HAS BEEN THE INTRODUCTION OF PENN LINK. AT OUR NEWLY CONSTRUCTED IVANHOE CLUB COURSE, THE MEMBERS LOVE THE NEW SMOOTH AND CONSISTENT PENN LINK PUTTING SURFACES. AFTER COMPLETION OF OUR INAUGURAL SEASON, I'M PLEASED TO REPORT BOTH OUR MEMBERSHIP AND I ARE EXTREMELY IMPRESSED WITH THE PLAYABILITY.

TOM BURROWS WAS UP FROM FLORIDA A FEW WEEKS AGO AND ASKED IF YOU HAD SEEN OUR NEW CREATION. MAYBE NOW THAT YOU'RE RETIRING YOU WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO GET AROUND A LITTLE MORE AND SEE WHAT YOU'VE STARTED. PLEASE ACCEPT THIS AS A FORMAL INVITATION TO COME OUT TO IVANHOE CLUB AND PLAY A TRULY PENN STATE INFLUENCED GOLF COURSE.

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Dear. Dr. Duich:

Thirteen years ago I had the privilege of attending the Penn State turf program under your direction. Being a young man at the time, your image was larger than life and of course stories of your reputation as a tough, demanding, and dedicated individual preceded our first meeting in class. The stories all turned out to be true and anyone who attended Penn State knows that we were indeed fortunate that an individual whose single purpose in life appeared to be to solve the problems of the turf-grass world, found time between research projects and breeding programs to share his insight and knowledge as a teacher. A teacher who demanded and got respect because he set no limits on himself or others. You passed on massive amounts of information to us in the hope as you put it, "that someday a few of you guys will put the pieces of the puzzle together." I also remember you fielding our many questions. The first time I got up enough nerve to ask something your reply was "You tell me pal. I know the answer." With a little prompting, I figured it out on my own. Your tough style and tougher demands prepared us for a demanding career. Something I doubt few of us realized at the time.

From those early days of awe, I have developed a great respect for you as an individual. After I graduated from Penn State your career continued to impact myself and the golf course community. Talks and articles on putting green and fairway management, new bentgrasses setting new standards in the industry, and breakfast once a year at the national.

Your retirement from Penn State represents the end of an era at the university, but hopefully, only a new beginning for yourself. Best wishes in whatever you endeavor to do and thanks for all you have given us and the industry.

Sincerely,

David Behrman, Class of '78

Somerset Country Club

1416 Dodd Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55118

January 8, 1992

Dr. Joe Duich
Penn State University
Tyson Building
State College, PA 16801

Dear Joe:

Congratulations on your "semi-retirement". You alluded to the fact that you were planning on cutting back at last years GCSAA Conference. I for one was hoping your continued involvement would be more with the students rather than the turf plots.

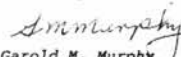
Your stern look, which was more of a challenge for us to think before putting foot in mouth, and your ability to make us answer our own questions is a teaching talent hard to find and one that will be sorely missed. I know that the success of your students is largely due to your ability to draw the best from them and the confidence you instilled in them.

I will never forget how you challenged me to stand up for a higher grade at the end of the first year. I was so intimidated that I don't know how I was even able to speak. But at the end of the conversation your smile and a better grade taught me more than a year of lectures.

I hope now you will be able to do more of the fun things in life.

BEST WISHES, GOOD LUCK AND GOD BLESS.

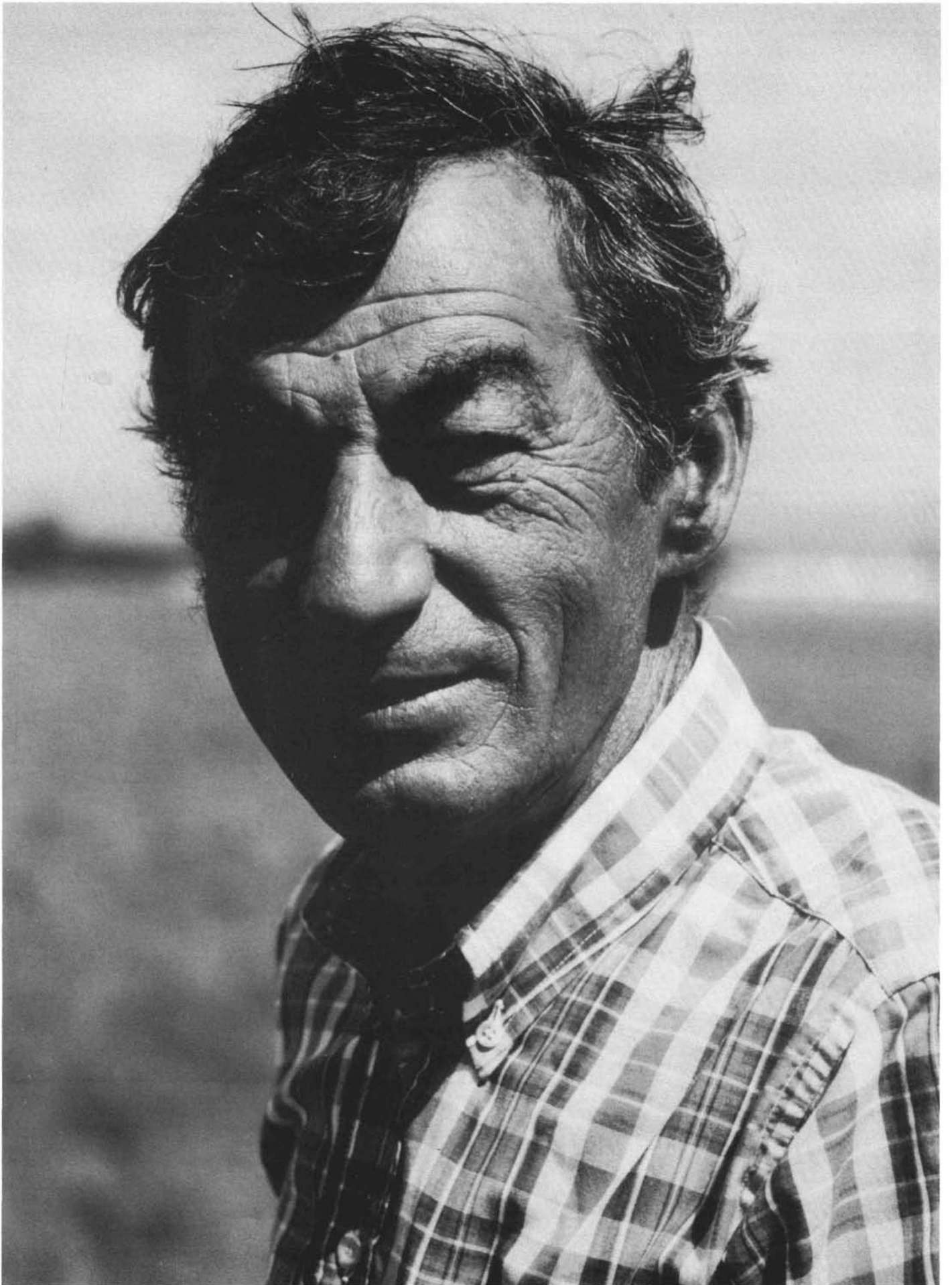
Sincerely,


Garold M. Murphy
General Manager

P.S. Where did all that smoke go?



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December 9, 1991

Dear Joe:

Where has the time gone? It seems like only yesterday that I was sitting in Tyson, listening to your words of wisdom, and wondering what you were talking about.

All of us Penn Staters appreciated your encouragement, whether it was in your office or over the telephone. Sometimes we didn't like what we heard, but we all knew that the advice was for the best.

I would like to once again thank you for your help and encouragement during a very difficult time in 1980 at Butler National. It meant so much to me to have you there helping and advising in the regrassing of those greens.

Though you are retiring from Penn State, you will always be Penn State to me. Enjoy and good hunting.

Sincerely,

Ed Fischer



CRESS CREEK
COUNTRY CLUB

December 27, 1991

Dr. Joseph M. Duich
Pennsylvania State University
Department of Turfgrass Science
116 Agriculture, Science & Industry Building
University Park, PA 16802

Dear Joe,

"EXCELLENCE, EXCELLENCE, EXCELLENCE!" You are among the best of individuals officially retiring to greener pastures this year. Joe Duich, Joe Paterno, Don Waddington and Chuck Knoll, all from the great state of Pennsylvania, turning over their reins to their trainees.

As a student from Penn State and your Agronomy classes, I have reaped the benefit of your success. Every student, like myself, regularly listens to the praises from people and professionals in the turf industry complementing Dr. Joe Duich and the success of creeping bentgrass.

Thank you for the credibility you have brought to the seed growing industry and the "Blue Certified" seed tags. Your hard work of careful plant breeding and seed production is evident in the continuing selection of having the Penn Pals Bentgrass on many fine golf courses. I am proud to have been a student in your classes. Thank you for all of your contributions to the Turfgrass Industry and personal support. Wishing you and your family many years of health and prosperity.

Leonard Berg

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Re: Joe Duich

Please find below a quote pertaining to Joe Duich. I was informed by Don Maske that you were looking for such information.

Also below is a list of "Joeisms" that you may want to use. "Joe Duich has been a most respected friend for over 25 years, and I directly attribute any success that I may have had or will have in the golf course business to his influence. There is absolutely no other person that has had a greater impact on the game of golf than Joe Duich."

"Joe-isms"

Master of Cliches

1. Ducks in a row
2. Whole ball of wax
3. Hey pal
4. Dollars to donuts
5. The die is cast
6. Just as pure and simple as that
7. I'll tell you point blank
8. Rome wasn't built in a day
9. Fly in the ointment
10. All your eggs in one basket
11. You tell me!
12. This is the way the system works
13. Shoots the hell out of your theory

Bob Heron, Class of 1964

University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign
December 10, 1991

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College of Agriculture
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217 244-3469 fax

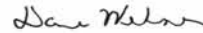
Dr. Joseph Duich
Department of Agronomy
Penn State University
University Park, PA 16802

Dear Joe:

Congratulations on your retirement from the Agronomy Department at Penn State University. You certainly have had a major impact on the turfgrass industry; your students will serve as a reminder of your influence on golf course management in the United States. The industry has also benefitted by the cultivars that you have developed through your turfgrass breeding program. I am sure that they will continue to be the standards to which other cultivars will be compared. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of turfgrass science.

I know that you will keep busy even though you will be "officially retired." I wish you success in all of your future endeavors and travels.

Sincerely,



David J. Wehner, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

DJW/mac

Dear Dr. Duich:

Congratulations on your retirement and the new doors it will open for you. Your advances and contributions to the turf industry will long be remembered. An accomplishment very few will ever achieve.

I am proud to be a product of your teaching, along with hundreds of other graduates, many of which are managing some of the best conditioned golf courses worldwide. Today's high standards are a direct reflection of your dedication and hard work.

Thank you for all of your help and encouragement, and only the Best of Luck in the future!

Sincerely,

Joel V. Purpur, Class of '80

P.S. I'll never forget when you taught us "How to have fun with Snake Oil Salesmen"!

Dr. Duich:

Although we never formed a personal relationship, the things you taught me on a professional level will always pay dividends. You taught me much more than just agronomics. Your observations of human nature and the convictions you taught us to have in ourselves as professionals in a unique career have, and will continue to prove invaluable.

I wish you all the best in whatever plans you make for the future. It truly is the end of an era!

Respectfully,

David Wollenberg, Class of 1981

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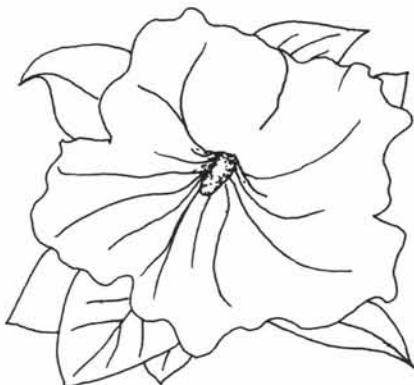
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My Friend Joe Duich

A long time ago at some now forgotten turf conference, I met a kindred spirit named Dr. Joe Duich. We had several things in common. I thought he was shy, interesting, brilliant, weird, and off the beaten path. He reminded me a bit of Jack Kerouac. I am sure Joe thought I was just weird and had a brick missing somewhere (that's why we got along so well).

I liked drinking beer with Dr. Joe because we didn't drink like yuppies, nourishing a clear beer for hours. No we talked fast and we guzzled our bottles of dark beer fast. It must be our ethnic backgrounds because we enjoyed every drop of it. What impressed me most about Joe was that no matter how much beer we consumed, he always was sober (like another beloved turf legend, O. J. Noer). Must be something in their genes. However, what I remember best about Dr. Joe was that he never picked up the tab ... not even once. This is not unusual because not picking up a tab is a common trait among professional athletes and college professors. This group is in that hallowed category known simply as "American guests". Look at Michael Jordan, he never pays for anything.

I probably got stuck for hundreds of dollars over the years drinking with my pal Joe Duich. Truthfully, I never gave it a thought because Dr. Joe, the Jack Kerouac of agronomy, made the hours go fast, made me feel good (he is a good listener), and most of all, he made good common sense about the art of green keeping.

For all that, and also the fact that once Dr. Joe let me mow the # green at the masters in Augusta just before the tournament (it had to be mowed three more times to straighten out my dipsy doodle linecuts), he will remain in my heart and mind as a good friend.

Good luck, Joe, and bring some cash the next time we meet.

Very sincerely,

Paul N. Voykin, your old pal

Dear Dr. Duich,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your recent retirement.

For many years you have been recognized as one of the leaders in the turfgrass industry. Both in research and in the classroom, you have excelled. I was certainly one of the lucky ones to be a recipient of your dedication to this field. The classroom experience was extraordinary. Your subtle combination of compassion and intimidation was exactly what we all needed. Future students at PSU will not recognize what they have missed.

I must thank you also for being so readily available over the years since my graduation. It has been very comforting to no that I could call with a problem, and you were always willing to help, even if you didn't call until 11:00 at night.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not mention the two most important lessons of all. The spelling tests were obviously very invaluable to me and learning to hold smoke in my lungs for extended periods of time has certainly enhanced my whole career. Words can't thank you enough for these all important traits.

Seriously — Good luck and enjoy every day of your retirement. You have earned it.

Sincerely,

Tom Rodems, Class of 1974

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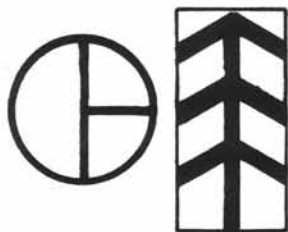


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Reflections

by Warren Bidwell

Upon completion of Joe's second year with me as a summer employee, he expressed a desire to return to Seaview, New Jersey, to become my assistant. As much as I would have welcomed him as my assistant, I knew he was destined to become more much, so I had to refuse and I explained why. Had I agreed, I would have benefitted but the field of turf and plant breeding and many future young turf students would have missed the opportunity to better serve the turf industries of their choice.

I have also benefitted from Joe remaining at Penn State because when I attended the Penn State conferences he often asked me to give slide talks to his students. I have had the opportunity to hire many of his students as my summer employees and many have remained to become my assistant before moving on to their own clubs. Also, because of Joe, I became involved with both Joe and Tee-2-Green, the growers of Penn Cross and other Penn State Bent grasses for the market place. By this time, Joe had become one of the successful turf grass breeders of the world. Imagine how proud I am because I didn't keep Joe to myself, but shared him with others.

Now — I wish all the best wishes to Joe and his family as he starts his new occupation "Retirement". Something new for him — time to do what he would like to do rather than trying to catch up with time to do the things that needed to be done for others. May he use it well for there is much to see and do in this country of ours.

Editor's note: Over 25 Penn State students have worked as Mr. Bidwell's assistants and are currently employed as golf course superintendents.)

DONALD J. MASKE
541 Heritage Lane
Lockport, Illinois 60441
(815) 838-8164

January 4, 1992

Dr. Joseph Duich
116 Agricultural Science and Industry Building
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Dear Dr. Duich:

Totally frustrating is the best way to describe my early recollection of you and your teaching method. How could a professor require me to think during a lecture by continually asking questions, rather than providing information through facts and figures? And then you threw a one-question, essay-type, final exam. Little did I know then how you were preparing me for life later on.

In travelling across the country, your impact on the turf industry is very apparent. One need only look at the number of Penn State graduates managing quality programs at some of golf's most prestigious clubs, or at those involved in other directly related business segments, in addition to the total number of courses using your Penn variety grasses. Yes, there are many who will benefit from your contributions, directly or indirectly, for years to come.

Congratulations on your well-earned retirement. May the years ahead be filled with good health and much happiness.

Sincerely yours,

Don Maske

Don Maske
Class of 1965



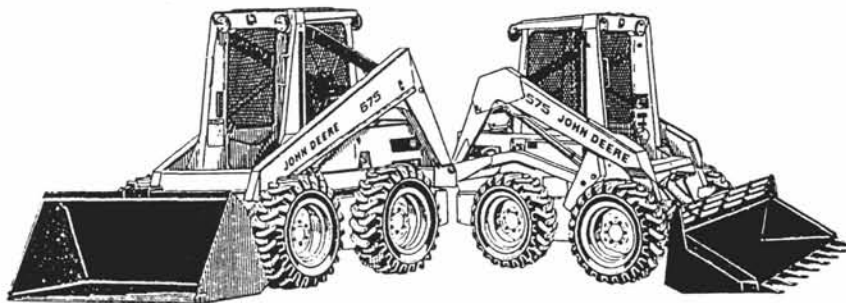
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Dear Fred,

As per usual, you are right on target in taking the time and making the effort to recognize the retirement and accomplishments of Dr. Joe Duich of Penn State University.

My appreciation for all of Dr. Joe's achievements goes back to the late 1950's when he was assisting Professor Burt Musser with their turfgrass program. I was providing golf course internship experience to turf students from Purdue University. Joe & Burt was anxious to find on-the-job experience for the Penn State boys new two year program, and asked me to cooperate with them. Now remember, back in those days most established supers frowned upon the idea of these young "whippersnappers" coming from the universities and ending up taking their jobs away from them. It was extremely difficult finding golf course experience locations for turf students.

As I recall, I hired a few "student supers" in 1959 from Purdue, U. of Mass. and Penn State. All worked well and by 1960 Dr. Joe called and asked me to take on a couple more which finally ended up with seven Penn State boys plus other schools. That year the entire Penn State class numbered 21 so we had 33% of the class at Bob O'Link G.C. — Fortunately, more followed in subsequent years.

All of Joe's students were exceptional young men, well educated, disciplined and are presently prominent in the golf industry. Incidentally, the editor of the **Bull Sheet** is included.

Dr. Joe's contributions as a turfgrass plant breeder has made the superintendents' job much easier than many of us recall back in the "old days". From Merion Bluegrass, to the perennial ryes and the new bents, the list is long.

We in Chicago well remember how he put Butler National Club back on the map after the highly publicized Toronto Bent decline hit the midwest and the Western Open golf tourney. However, we must also recall that Oscar Miles, a "Penn Stater" deserves part of the credit too as Supt.

Yes, all of us in the turfgrass and golf industry owe unending gratitude to Dr. Duich's lifelong dedication in helping us reach the highly efficient goal for golf and golfers around the world that we are experiencing today.

Thanks, Joe, from all of us!

Sincerely,

Bob Williams

"Ground Hog Time"

That Ground Hog's back with talk of Spring,
And the Magic a new season will bring.
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Dear Dr. Duich:

First off I would like to thank you for all of the information you gave me at Penn State, you know, the grass stuff. I would also like to thank you for retiring. I hope that you won't take this the wrong way but now that you're retired are you still going to make those ridiculous presentations at the annual Penn State Breakfast. You know, the doom and gloom report from Happy Valley.

I always thought you were kind of wacko, until the time I saw you at the turf plots at 6:00 A.M. on a Saturday. I was coming back to campus from one of Dave and Mike's excellent adventures. Being that we had to park our cars on the other side of the world I caught a glimpse of you sitting on the split rail fence at the Valentine Research Center sucking on a Cool. What the hell were you doing! After returning to the beautiful confines of Nittney we had a discussion on the topic, we resolved that you were talking to God giving Him some tips on Turf.

But seriously, Joe, none of us ever liked you. We were always afraid of being damned to hell if we crossed you in any way. Now that you can no longer congre-up the turf gods from high upon AG Hill to destroy our golf courses, we can speak freely about our true feelings.

Oh, by the way, is it really true that you have invented a new tobacco product. I am told that you've been moonlighting for the American Tobacco Company and crossed a tobacco plant with a white crystalline organic compound. The results are a Menthol Smokeless Tobacco. No, wait just a minute, I saw that product in 1977, in turf class.

Best of luck in your retirement!

Warmest personal regards,

Michael Vogt, Class of 1978

Dear Joe,

Congratulations on your retirement. However, I really wish to congratulate you for your dedication and outstanding contribution to the turf industry.

Best wishes and good health for your retirement years, which I hope will be another adventure in life.

Sincerely,

Jack Maurer

Dear Dr. Duich:

So "Pal", after all these years you have decided to take it easy. We both know that you will never take it easy, and certainly never retire.

I remember best a talk one day on facultative apomixis about two weeks into my first semester. You were talking about sexual and asexual reproduction of grass plants, while most of us were still thinking about the girlfriends or wives we had left behind and would not be seeing for two months. We certainly did not need to hear about sexual or asexual reproduction!

Over the years I have written to ask for advice, looking for a job opening, or bemoaning my current situation, and could always count on a response. Thanks for all your help over the years, and continued success in your retirement. My closing line has got to be your all time favorite, "Hey, you see how the system works?"

Dave Louttit, Class of 1981

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