

The President's Message

Since everyone is talking and writing about pesticides and ecology I also would like to put in my two cents about this relevant topic, and get a few things off my chest. Ever since Rachel Carson wrote her eloquent warning about some of the evils which threaten our environment, pesticides have been under constant attack by over-zealous, self-proclaimed ecological experts and opportunists. Unfortunately these attacks by instant ecologists are threatening many of the important pesticides that we need to maintain and improve our environment. Hasty and restrictive federal and state laws banning some of these necessary pesticides, without extensive knowledge and study of the problem, can become far more detrimental to the well-being of man than beneficial to nature.

There is no doubt in my mind that some "hard" pesticides should be taken off the market — not because they are pesticides, but because they have been proved beyond a shadow of doubt by unbiased chemical experts, and scientists to be harmful to mankind and other lesser animals. In my opinion the real culprit lies in the handling of pesticide material. For the real issue that Rachel Carson was trying to bring out, I believe is: CARELESSNESS by man. Because it is a fact, I can state that golf course superintendents have always been extremely careful in their handling of pesticides. The golf course superintendent has always been aware of ecology — before Rachel Carson, before the "flower children" and Earth Day, before instant bandwagon ecologists, and before it became a fashionable fad.

(June 1972) Paul Voykin, President

Sunset Ridge is celebrating its 50th anniversary by being host to their first pro tournament. What could be a more exciting and dramatic birthday party. Bruce Champton is the defending champion of the \$150,000 Western Open which will be played on June 22-25.

Domenic Grotti is the golf course superintendent at the Sunset Ridge Country Club in Northbrook, Illinois, the site of the 1972 Western Open golf championship. Dom has been the superintendent for the past thirty-seven years and has done a magnificent job. A new six foot cyclone fence has been installed around the entire club property. I wonder if the club erected this fence to keep the unwelcome people out or to keep Dominic from leaving.

"The Bull Sheet and Ever-Redi Printing"

by Mrs. Mel Durland

In 1947 the official newspaper of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents was a very new project. The little store-front print shop where it was printed was also a very new organization, owned and operated by a young married couple who had lots of ambition, not much to work with, and visions of success in their minds.

"The Bull Sheet" began as a one-sheet mimeographed paper with a drawing of a large Bull in the upper left hand corner. Mr. Norm Johnson, its originator would come into the shop, gather pieces of copy together and plead with us to "squeeze" the typewritten copy so that he would not have to delete any of the information he wished to present. He was such a nice, jolly man, and to bribe us to cooperate, he would bring in delicious sweet rolls and lots of funny stories to tell. We missed him when he moved away from the area.

A little later in the career of both the Ever-Redi Printing Service and "The Bull Sheet", plans were underway to print the paper instead of mimeograph it. Three of the Superintendents one nice spring afternoon decided to come in and talk about it. I remember that day very well — these rugged looking outdoor men all seemed to crowd into the door at once and I was alone in the shop. I was a very naive young woman and my heart jumped into my throat. All the movies I had ever seen of gangsters and con men came into my mind — and I thought our career was ended as printers — surely these men were here for "protection" money — and we would end up with a brick in our store window. I was so relieved when they identified themselves.

The Golf Course Superintendents were among our very first customers in 1947, and they have continued with us through the years. We have had a very happy relationship with each other. Ever-Redi Printing appreciates them, and has found much pleasure in meeting different editors and other personnel who have contributed to making "The Bull Sheet" the success that it is.

(June 1972)

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