

100 Years of Service

by Peter Vandercook

Our Golf Course Superintendent has almost 100 years of service to our club. Our Golf Course Superintendent normally works 16 hour days but when necessary has worked over 24 hours in a given day. Although on the surface this sounds impossible, the members of Midlothian Country Club can make these statements.

Co-superintendent brothers, Mitz and Mel Duehr, are each about to start their 50th year of service to the Club. This does include several years of summer-only duty while they were in high school and some (Korean War) Army time, but is certainly a record that both Midlothian and the Duehr brothers can be proud of.

Actually, their father, the late Ed Duehr, started at Midlothian in 1927 as a "lead" worker under the pro/superintendent form of management that was common at that time. At some point he was made superintendent, and he served in that capacity until his retirement in 1967.

At the same time, older brother, the late Don Duehr, left Midlothian to form Don Duehr Trucking, (a firm that did earth moving, trenching, road building, etc. Don did a considerable amount of work for many south side golf courses); and Mitz and Mel (who are twins) became co-golf course superintendents.

Other Duehrs that have been associated with Midlothian over the years were Ed Duehr's brothers, William and Herman, and two present-day employees are Mitz's sons, Dan and Tim. As an aside, in addition to the Midlothian years, Mitz and Mel were raised in a house that bordered Westgate Valley Country Club.

Midlothian Country Club, the site of the 1969 and 1973 Western Opens and the 1914 U.S. Open, will celebrate its' 100th birthday in 1998. In the early years many members lived in Chicago and had summer homes on the golf course. Many of these summer houses have been winterized and are still inhabited by club members. It also was common practice in the early years for the Club to meet the trains from the city and drive the members to the Club. This was done with a horse drawn depot hack which has been stored for many years and is being restored for the Club's 100th anniversary.

Midlothian Country Club members are justifiably proud of the beauty, character and conditioning of their fine golf course. Congratulations Mitz and Mel!

As of this writing, the Duehr brothers have tentative plans to retire sometime in 1996.

Midlothian C.C. Tournament History

| Year | Tournament | Winner |
|------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1901 | Western Open | Lourie Auchterlonie |
| 1901 | Western Amateur | Phelps Hoyt |
| 1907 | Womens Western Amateur | Lillian French |
| 1907 | Womens U.S.G.A. Amateur | Margaret Curtis |
| 1911 | Womens Western Amateur | Carolyn Painter |
| 1914 | U.S. Open | Water Hagen |
| 1915 | Womens Western Amateur | Elaine Rosenthal |
| 1917 | Western Amateur | Francis Ouimet |
| 1939 | Hagen Invitational | Ralph Guldahl |
| 1948 | Victory National Open | Bobby Locke |
| 1969 | Western Open | Billy Casper |
| 1973 | Western Open | Billy Casper |

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