



Adolph Bertucci

6/3/18 — 2/4/98

Editor's Note: These couple of pages are in remembrance of Adolph Bertucci who passed away on February 4, 1998, when most of his friends were attending the GCSAA Conference in Anaheim, California. We felt that this would be an appropriate way to show our respect to the Bertucci family since few were able to do so at the time of his death.

*The Dud
Silver Lakes G.C.*

When I think of Bert, a fat, jovial Italian without a mustache comes to mind. He had more friends and connections across this country than any of us.

When I groped for my wallet to play golf at Tucson National, it was compliments of the man standing on the terrace—a smiling Adolph. And who can forget the parties in his smoke-filled garage and the characters that stooped through that low door: Nematodes Holmes, Roy Nelson, Boots Welleck, Roger the Dodger, Erv Rosenthal, Jack Brickhouse, etc. At the poker table sat Kinky, the Turk, Ben Coker and

Oliver, while at another table sat Big Bill Stupple, Dom Grotti and Frank Dinelli playing Hearts. The Dago-red wine flowed freely.

Now there is a delay on the tee upstairs. Krafft, Canale, Saielli and Bert are into it again. Who has the honors? God love you, Adolph. We sure did.

*Mike Bavier
Inverness G.C.*

When you had a question or wanted to know anything about the golf business, Adolph would always help you out. He had a warm and wonderful way about him. That Italian smile was a trademark of his.

I'll remember the Christmas parties when they were going on each year like everyone else that was privileged enough to be in the golf business at that time. Those Christmas parties will be remembered forever. My good fortune was to drive Roy Nelson and some of the other South Side superintendents to Lake Shore Country Club to enjoy a day of great Italian food and the camaraderie of all of Adolph's friends.

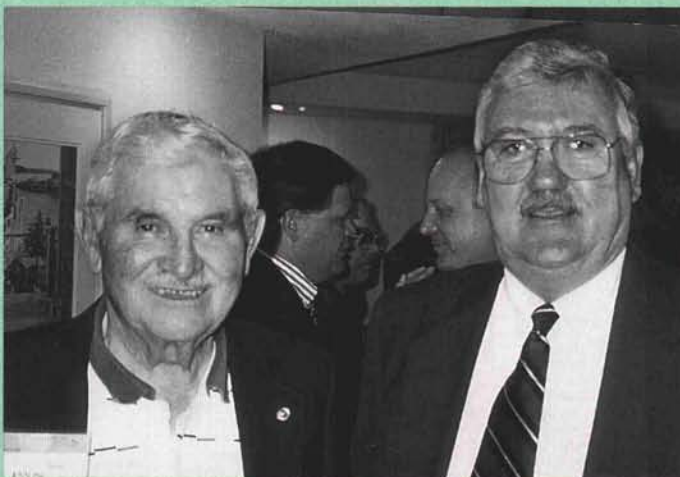
I also vividly remember the Midwest meetings Adolph would host. As a rookie at that time, it was a privilege to visit a club where the superintendent was known and respected by all

(continued on page 20)



September 1995 at a tree planting ceremony honoring Adolph. L to R: Paul and Peter Voykin, Adolph and Mary Bertucci with Bob Johnson in back.

Bill Aiston, Adolph and MAGCS President Mike Nass at the June 1988 meeting held at Lake Shore C.C. when Adolph retired that year.



Adolph with Lynn Wesson at the MAGCS hospitality room in Las Vegas, February 1997.

Adolph Bertucci
(continued from page 18)

the employees. I might add, the members knew Adolph and also showed him great respect. Those outings were the greatest. Dinner was served for a reasonable price, and we were served a meal that could be compared with one you might expect on one of the finest cruise ships. Yes, Adolph knew how to throw a party.

I'm hoping that right now there is a party going on up in heaven with Adolph leading the way. Many of us were so fortunate to meet and be associated with him. A special man like this comes along only a few times in one's life. Thanks, Adolph, for helping me to understand how to treat people and be better at the profession of greenkeeping.

Kevin Czerkies
Sportsman's G.C.

In November of 1985, I began working at Sportsman's Country Club. Within a week, I found a flyer on my desk left by Mike Schiller. Mike, at the time, was my salesman from Arthur Clesen, Inc., and the flyer was an invitation to Adolph's Christmas party. Coming from the south suburbs, the first thing that crossed my mind was who's Adolph, and why am I invited to his party? I went to this party, and I quickly realized that this guy was something special. I never missed his annual parties from then on.

A few years later, Adolph decided to retire. He did so by hosting a MAGCS meeting at Lake Shore. It was at this meeting that I truly saw how much he meant to that club. Adolph had more friends than one can imagine. I wish I had known Adolph sooner in life. I'll miss his cheerful face and kind words.

(continued on page 22)



Adolph's Christmas party in 1983.
L to R: Ben Kronn, Joe Canale and Pete Vandercook.



Adolph's Christmas party in 1983.
L to R: Frank Dinelli, Dominick Grotte, Ben Kronn and Charlie Rack.



Another of Adolph's Christmas parties.
L to R: Pat Mertz, Peter Vandercook, Chris Johnson and Tim Snell.

Adolph Bertucci
(continued from page 20)

Ed Braunsky
Geneva G.C.

So many people lately have been telling me how nice it is to work with golf course superintendents. We recently lost one of the nicest. Adolph Bertucci was always nice to me and to many other people in our industry. I truly miss those long drives to Lake Shore C.C. for "the Christmas Party of the Year."

Paul Voykin said it best in Anaheim when we honored Adolph at the hospitality room. He talked about helping out that super down the road who might be in a jam and need some assistance. Keep the Adolph Bertucci spirit alive by being a "nice guy" and lending a hand.



Adolph and Roger Brown

Roger "the Dodger" Brown

There never was and never will be another Adolph Bertucci. Adolph wasn't one of a kind, he was the *only* one of his kind! If you wanted to be cheered up and have a fun day, you went to see Adolph.

He was even more fun when he was mad at one of his *paisons* like Bill Saielli, especially when the tables were turned, and he'd have one up on Bill. He'd get that silly grin on his face, hunch up his shoulders, and laugh and point his finger at Bill and say, "See? See? I tol' you, Bill, I tol' you, Bill. Didn't I tell you, Bill?" Saielli would say a few of his choice words, take off his hat, rub his perpetually bald head, turn around in a circle and say, "Don't you point your finger at me, you, you!" Usually words would escape him in his frustration, and that would make Adolph all the merrier! It was better than being with Laurel and Hardy.

Adolph Bertucci, "the Godfather," will live forever in the memories and hearts of the thousands that he has touched. I will miss him until the day I die.

Jim Burdett
Burdett's, Inc.

My memories of Adolph Bertucci started with my brother Paul. In the late 1950s, Paul sold to golf courses on the North Side. One of his customers was Adolph. The common interests of bowling and poker gave them a common bond. They would frequently be at Adolph's and Mary's house. Their friendship lasted for years.

After Paul's passing in 1965, I got to call on Adolph. He was always the gentleman inquiring regularly after Paul's wife Edie and their kids. Such is the mark of a great man.

Cecil Kerr

Adolph Bertucci was my friend. He had many friends and would give the shirt off his back for a friend who needed help. Adolph introduced me to the superintendents of the North Shore. His friends remain my friends. If Adolph said you were OK, then you were accepted.

For years, I attended every annual Bertucci Christmas party. Every police chief, mayor, and party boss attended Adolph's Christmas party.

I called Adolph at the hospital from Florida just before he died. Adolph said to be sure and tell Dudley I called. I am going to miss Adolph Bertucci.

Paul Voykin
Briarwood C.C.

Adolph Bertucci: For 37 years, you've been my dearest friend. You had countless friends; I only have a few, and you were on top of my short list. Every week, I waited for your phone call. Every day, I wanted to call you and listen to your laugh and hear you tell me about your grandchildren and family.

You always asked about my family. You went to their weddings, you and Mary brought them toys when they were small, and your son Jimmy took care of them when they got into trouble as teenagers. Whenever I had a problem at work or at home (and I had my share), you were always ready to help me out—not as someone whose ego knows everything but as a gentle, wonderful, dear, dear friend who never once whispered a boast or said an unkind word about his friend, "the Turk."

Adolph, the Turk has an empty space in his heart. Until we meet again . . .

Dave and Penny Meyer
Prestbury and Hughes Creek
Golf Clubs

The passing of Adolph Bertucci ends a longtime friendship for my wife and me. His greetings and support were always there through the many years Penny and I served the MAGCS. We are

(continued on page 24)

Adolph Bertucci
(continued from page 22)

sorry that we did not hear of his passing for six weeks and sad that we could not show our respects at the time of his death.

Adolph would go out of his way at a local meeting or a national show to greet Penny or me. If Penny was not with me, Adolph would always say, "Be sure to say hi to Penny." Adolph was one of the old-school superintendents who used common sense and hard work to keep the grass green at Lake Shore C.C. His parties at Christmas always brought true friends together. We will miss his friendship and smile.

Brian Bossert
Bryn Mawr C.C.

I didn't know Adolph as well as many of the veterans of this industry. However, I enjoyed his Christmas parties and was struck by Adolph's friendly nature.

Despite not being close friends, he remembered my name and always went out of his way to say hello. That says a lot about a person and means a lot to guys when they are young and just trying to get to know people.

Peter Vandercook

I have many memories of Adolph Bertucci. The one I would like to relate to you took place one sunny, late-winter day at a Chicago District Golf Association meeting at Butterfield Country Club. It was late morning, and I was standing in the hall talking to Adolph when an old Catholic priest (a Butterfield member, I believe) came down the hall to see who had invaded the club that morning. Adolph shook his hand as he introduced himself to the priest. Although they had never met before, within seconds they were talking about priests, golfers, politicians, etc., that they both knew. It was amazing. When

I related this story to Adolph's wife Mary at his wake, she said "connections." Obviously, she had witnessed similar conversations. When Adolph met anybody, he could, and would, always find a "connection," someone they both knew.

Adolph had friends every place, and on the North Shore, he knew almost everybody. If you were a North Shore resident and were of Italian descent, were a country club member (any club), were connected with golf in any manner, or were a priest, a rabbi, a judge, a lawyer, a politician, or a police or fire official, Adolph knew you. He also knew your grandfather, father, uncles, sons, daughters and neighbors. All of these friendships were part of Adolph's "connections."

Sure, he will be remembered as a master grass grower, a world-
(continued on page 26)

The Sod You Want The Way You Want It

"Executive Blend"
Bluegrass

Pennecross
Creeping
Bentgrass

Pennlinks
Creeping
Bentgrass



Standard Cut

"StrathAyr"
Washed Sod

42" Big Roll

IR "We Grow To Please" **IR**

HUBER RANCH SOD NURSERY, INC.

23002 WICKER AVE., BOX 188, SCHNEIDER, IN 46376

1-800-553-0552 • (219)552-0552

www.hubersod.com

TRANSPLANTING

TREE Specialists

"Plant a tree . . .
create a legacy"

- SPECIMEN LANDSCAPE MATERIAL
- CUSTOM DIGGING
- SHREDED BARK MULCH

GRO
HORTICULTURAL ENTERPRISES, INC.
14440 MARENGO ROAD • UNION, ILLINOIS 60180
847-669-8658 • FAX 847-669-8662
Formerly known as WILLIAMSON NURSERY & ASSOC., INC.

Adolph Bertucci
(continued from page 24)

class party host, a father and grandfather. I prefer to remember him as a people person who may well be the busiest guy in heaven making his "connections."

Luke Strojny
Popular Creek G.C.

I met Adolph Bertucci in 1986 at his annual Christmas party. Wayne Trometer and I had driven up early to help set up. Adolph asked me to take some old stale buns out and feed them to the birds. I felt very silly breaking up those buns and feeding them to some nearby crows. I think Adolph was testing me, but from that day on, we were friends.

I looked forward to our monthly golf games with Art Clesen, Wayne Trometer, Adolph and myself. Adolph and I were usually partners against

the two peddlers. Although we lost most of the time (because Wayne cheats), we always had a good time together.

Adolph knew everybody! We could be in a truck stop in Ottawa, Illinois, or a restaurant in San Francisco—he knew someone that knew someone that knew someone that knew that person; and if by chance he did not know them, he would talk to them until he was sure they would remember him and where he was from.

I am going to miss our road trips to the ITF meetings and eating popcorn out of a Lake Shore C.C. shoe bag. I am going to miss just talking to my pal. It was a privilege to have known Adolph Bertucci and have him as my friend.

Arthur Clesen
Arthur Clesen, Inc.

I'm a man of few words, and what I have to say about Adolph is short and to the point. Adolph was a man who loved his family with a passion. He had an abundance of friends and would help them in many ways, like job referrals, turf problems, personal problems. Adolph was always cheerful, had a correct attitude, was strong in his beliefs, and stood by others. Adolph was a friend of mine, a friend I will never have again.

Bob Johnson
Illinois Lawn Equipment

A few thoughts about our dear friend Adolph Bertucci, or "Bert" as those of us who were privileged to be close friends over the years called him. He was everyone's friend, always with a good word, with a wide scope of

(continued on page 32)

Creative Solutions For Turfgrass Management

Soil Problems?	Solve Them!
Thatch (pH) (LDS)	By-Pass Them: Astron • Per "4" Max Knife • Renaissance Perk Up • NOW
Infiltration (Sodium)	
Percolation	Correct Them: Maxiplex • Pervade CalpHlex • Phfex-Mag Phfex-Man Thatch Buster
Leeching (Layering)	
Nutrient Availability	

Program Solutions For Top Turf Performance

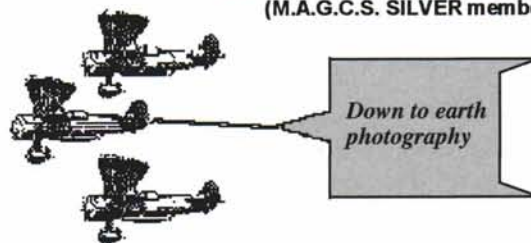
FLORATINE
PRODUCTS GROUP

Distributed by:
Bud Edman
E - 3 Turf Products
630-985-3974

That's our picture on the front cover....
We would like to do the same for you!

Aerial Images Photography Co.

(M.A.G.C.S. SILVER member)



Over 10 years experience specializing in

- o Full color oblique and infra-red AERIAL photography
- o Outdoor GROUND photography
- o GROUP photography
- o Historic aerial photos dating back to the 1930's

Aerial Images is committed to providing the best in quality photography and customer service. All flight crews are FAA-certified with over 3000 hours. All aircraft regularly inspected for safety and reliability. Come fly with us!

Call today for your FREE no-obligation quote:

(708)980-7685

An Evaluation of Native Midwestern . . .
(continued from page 30)

will be collected and used to develop an encyclopedic listing of native plants for Chicagoland.

Invasion of exotic weed species appears to be the greatest threat to success with this project. Broadleaf weeds, including chicory, Canada thistle, and wild carrot, and grassy weeds such as various foxtails, quackgrass, and reed canarygrass have appeared in unmowed areas at these courses and others in the Chicago area. Evaluating control methods of these and other weeds will be one aspect of this study over the next two years.

In conclusion, this research will be of value to the Chicago-area golf industry. As more and more golf course areas are going unmowed, this study will provide information about native plants and their roles on Midwestern golf courses. Moreover, this study can potentially identify methods that reduce chemical and labor inputs and conserve golf course financial resources. Finally, this evaluation might provide an opportunity to create public good will and wildlife habitat through the use of native plants in unmowed areas. All of these things can be accomplished without sacrificing golf quality.

In this, the first year of this three-year evaluation, native grasses, sedges, and forbs have been selected and planted and rudimentary data collected. Over the next two years, more information will be compiled which can assist us in developing a useful group of plants and management schemes. Watch this space in early 1999 for the next update of this work. ■

Adolph Bertucci
(continued from page 26)

people he knew from judges, his peers in the turf industry county-wide, to golfers great and a few not so great, and even a few bartenders.

My memories of our epic wintertime lunches I still value. His golf course was the love of his life and the turfgrass in top playing condition was his passion.

Over the forty plus years I knew Adolph, his Christmas parties were an institution attended by this great cross section of people whom he cared for. I was fortunate to be at the very first ones where only his grounds crew and three or four of his fellow superintendents attended.

Everyone who knew "Bert" has a lot of Adolph stories, and he will be missed but remembered long into the future as a great

human being.

Fred Opperman
Editor, On Course

What is my fondest recollection of Adolph? His greeting every time he saw me was "Hey, 'Roomy,' what's happening?" The "Roomy" bit came from the time Adolph and I shared a room in San Francisco in 1995 during the GCSAA convention. During that trip, we walked around Fisherman's Wharf sightseeing. We came upon a black street entertainer who had display board pictures of himself with all of the famous people of Hollywood, politics and the sporting world. This entertainer could sing in several languages, and when he started singing in Italian, Adolph just joined in and sang along. Adolph had a crowd gathering that day to listen and then toss money into the violin case. I'll miss Adolph and his many stories, plus that greeting, "Hey, Roomy!" ■

Custom Applications Now Available for Lime and Gypsum

- **Oversize turf tires for safety**
- **Computer controlled dispersion system**
- **Extremely accurate applications.**



Trained and licensed applicator provided

FOR INFORMATION CALL:

Arthur Clesen, Inc



543 Diens Drive • Wheeling, IL 60090 • (847) 537-2177 • FAX (847) 537-2210