

Linking Our Past to Our Future

To the Proud Members of the MAGCS:

From April through November of this year, each issue of *On Course* highlighted a specific decade in our Association's history. Rather than trump the outstanding work of the Editorial Committee members who authored those installments by condensing and rehashing that content in this special commemorative issue, we instead offer our readers a sampling of material from other sources. In these pages, you'll find the perspective of our national organization, GCSAA, which is also marking its diamond anniversary this year, and the reflections of our past president Mike Bavier on the Association's future. You'll find a reprint of the fine article penned by *Sun-Times* golf writer Len Ziehm that appeared in a recent issue of *Chicago District Golfer*. Interspersed with these articles, we feature a photo gallery of notable Midwest personalities.

One further thought: a careful examination of the "Decades" series reveals that the history of the golf industry, and the green-keeping profession, is inextricably linked to world history. For example, the advent of television and specifically, televised golf, resulted in surging demand for access to the game, a plethora of new golf courses and many more opportu-




Can you identify these four superintendents? Hint: one of them is the editor's father, and one was a former salesman at George A. Davis. See answer below.

nities for superintendents. Increasing environmental consciousness translated to heightened awareness of golf's impact on the environment and enhanced responsibility with respect to the application of chemicals and cultivation of natural areas. During times of prosperity, golf likewise enjoyed a boom; with economic downturns, golf's growth stagnated.

Drawing the connection between our industry and the larger context of American and world history demands that the members of the Midwest embark on the next 75 years with a renewed determination . . . a determination to excel not only in a chosen profession, but also in the role of world citizens. The horrific events of September 11 drove home the point that we are

all connected. Our Association's bright future—and the promising future of your profession—are tied to the future of the country we love and the planet we call home. The sense of community and camaraderie afforded by this Association is perhaps more important now than ever. Extending that sense of kinship to forge stronger connections with family, church, country and world is the new mandate.

The warmest congratulations to the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents on this auspicious occasion, both 75th birthday and diamond jubilee. May the preceding 75 years of friendship, education and support give rise to many more. And, as our Association grows and moves forward, may it stay always "on course." 

Answer: (L to R) Len Schnepf, Phil Versin, Tim Miles and Dave Meyer in 1971.