

A Legend and His Leading Lady:

Ray & Julia Gerber



“A golf course superintendent must be many things. To his club he should be a willing and tireless worker. He should be a loyal man who likes his job. And he must be able to get along with everybody and have a smile ready even when the going gets tough.” —Ray Gerber


Born in 1899 on a small farm in rural Minnesota, Raymond Gerber faced adversity—the loss of his father at age six, formal schooling cut short after eighth grade—and emerged with a passion for education and a sterling character that served him well as he forged an illustrious career in the greenkeeping profession.

That career spanned several noteworthy golf courses and garnered Ray a host of honors. Woodhill C.C. in Wayzata, Minnesota, Pine Valley C.C. in New Jersey and finally Medinah C.C. were on Ray’s resume when he applied for the position of golf course superintendent at Glen Oak. Ray not only won the Glen Oak job—he spent the next 35 years at the helm there, until his retirement at age 72.

Retirement is a misnomer, however. Ray became editor of *the Bull Sheet*, the original incarnation of this very magazine, and served in that post until his death in July 1983.

A three-time president of MAGCS (1943, 1944, 1959), Ray served as GCSAA’s president in 1950. In 1971, he received the Charles Bartlett Award for Public Relations; in 1975, he received the GCSAA’s

Distinguished Service Award. The boy who never attended high school went on to publish articles in the U.S., England, Australia and Canada; speak at more than 100 local, state, national, international and university programs; author a textbook chapter; and gain the admiration and respect of his peers.

Accolades notwithstanding, Ray was a mentor to many and a devoted husband and father. He married Julia Perry, pictured with him here, in 1925. Julia, it seems, is why the MAGCS can claim Ray Gerber as one of our own. Homesick for Minnesota during their time in New Jersey, Julia was a force behind the Gerbers’ return to the Midwest—but Illinois rather than Minnesota. Lucky for Ray—and lucky for us. 

Oops!

We thought we had identified everybody in the group photo that appeared in February’s edition of *The Way We Were*. We were wrong. Far right is Kenny Goodman. Our apologies to Kenny!