



THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

Bob Williams *Retired*

- The greatest reward and pride for all of us retired superintendents is being able to witness and feel a part of the success of the young men we have interned as students in the learning process of our profession. University professors in our field undoubtedly feel enriched even more so. Ph.Ds like Musser, Duich, Dickinson, Payne, Engle, Beard and all the rest have told us this time and again.

- Old-time superintendents tell us that in the “Depression years” of the 1930s, top-salaried superintendents were being paid about \$3,600 per year with few if any perks. Today, by comparison, salary surveys tell us that \$65,000 per annum is about the national average with many in the \$100,000-plus range and a few beyond the \$200,000-plus range. Many factors come quickly to mind for the salary transition: the rising national

economy, inflation, budget comparisons, executive management, research, education, new products, communication and the surge of new courses built in the post-World War years, as well as the interest in golf and number of golf enthusiasts since the advent of television in the late 1950s. Our combined compliments must acknowledge all of those in the golf industry who made it happen. Together, we have accomplished so much for recreation in this first 100 years of pure pleasure from golf. These personal observations come to mind as the result of my past 87 years spent mostly in golf, the greatest game. It has been thrilling, to say the least.

- A little bird told me this: “Don’t expect any luck from a rabbit’s foot, it sure didn’t work for the rabbit.”



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dudley Smith *Retired*

Mike Bavier Receives 2001 Charles Bartlett Award

In 1967, the MAGCS established the Charles Bartlett Award. It was named in honor of the *Chicago Tribune* sports columnist who once told a gathering of local superintendents, “You guys are letting the golf pros steal your thunder. Take off your overalls, get out of the barn, frequent the grill room and be seen and heard.” The award honors Midwest superintendents who have shown merit in the field of journalism, public speaking and/or public relations. Thirteen members have been selected for this prestigious award in the past 34 years, with the three most recent being Peter Leuzinger in 1994, Tim Kelly in 1996 and Fred Opperman in 1999.

This year, the Bartlett Award was bestowed upon Mike Bavier, CGCS, of Inverness Golf Club. Mike and his Canadian cohort Gordon Witteveen have traveled the world conducting their day-long seminar, “The Magic of Greenkeeping.” In 1998, Ann Arbor Press published their text *Practical Golf Course Maintenance*, an easy-to-read manual on the secrets to success, and a must for any incoming green chairman. This month, Mike will conduct his seminar in Quebec and speak to the Canadian GCSA Conference on the “Art of Survival.” Congratulations to Mike on winning this award—you are truly an inspiration for our Association.



INNOVATIONS

Paul Sandall *Park Ridge C.C.*

Gentlemen, Mark Your Valve Covers!

Has this ever happened to you? You are out doing your morning duties on the course when all of a sudden, there’s a voice on your radio telling you that there is an irrigation leak. So you set off to turn off the valves but you’re not sure which ones turn off that section. In the process, you end up turning off two or three extra valves just to shut down one section. This happened quite often during our renovation project of fall 2001. After numerous episodes of the above happening, I thought of a way to mark the valve covers and save a lot of time and work.

This idea might just help you. We had a tree survey done last year and there were a lot of tags left over. I decided to use these tags to mark the valve covers in a way that would tell us the section of the course to which it belonged. I stamped each tag with what part of what hole it belonged to. For example: no. 1 fairway was marked “1F,” no. 1 green “1G” and no. 1 tee “1T,” and so on. Using a 3/8” drill bit, I drilled holes in the lid, then with a 3/8” rivet I connected them to the lid. This system definitely cut down on my scramble time to shut water down. I hope this helps any of you that are searching for a good valve-cover marking system.

