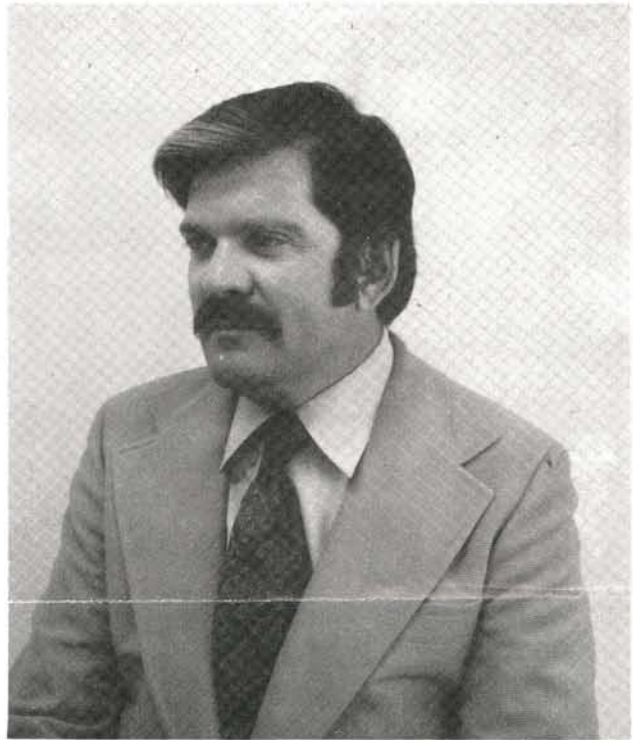


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### *The President's Message*

Two thoughts went through my mind when I handed Dr. Al Turgeon the \$500 contribution from the Midwest Association at the March meeting. One, that this was the finest hour, by financially helping our state university to help us in turf research. And two, that Dr. Al Turgeon was precisely the right person to carry through this program. Al's sincere honesty and his promise to use our contribution for "grass only" impressed all of us I think at the last meeting. Hats off to Roger LaRochelle and his research committee . . . and to all of you for this. We sure did the right thing. It's a good start.

Now I would like to say a few words about the Chicago Flower Show at McCormick Place on the lake. Attendance is dwindling, I'm sad to say. The crowds are not coming in as strongly as in past years and the exhibitors naturally are not happy. The reason is that prices have gone sky high. For the exhibitors the price per square foot is alarming and discouraging. And working with the unions and management at the Flower Show has not been rosy (excuse the pun). For this reason many of the excellent flower and garden displays that I've enjoyed before are not there anymore (though the trinket stalls are as popular as ever). For the ardent flower and garden enthusiast the situation is ridiculous. The parking underground for a few hours in the afternoon averages almost three dollars. The admission charge is \$2.50. Combine these costs with the tiring walk to the show from the parking lot, then add the cost of poor (and I mean poor) but expensive food and you have an economic wilt in enthusiasm for the Flower and Garden Show. Nevertheless, I hope our Chicago flower show doesn't fall by the wayside, as did the one in New York. The great New York Flower and Garden Show is no more because of reasons similar to those I just mentioned.

And I'd like to know exactly who is the culprit who is sending around certain preposterous letters. Read this nonsense:

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Dear Mr. Voykin:

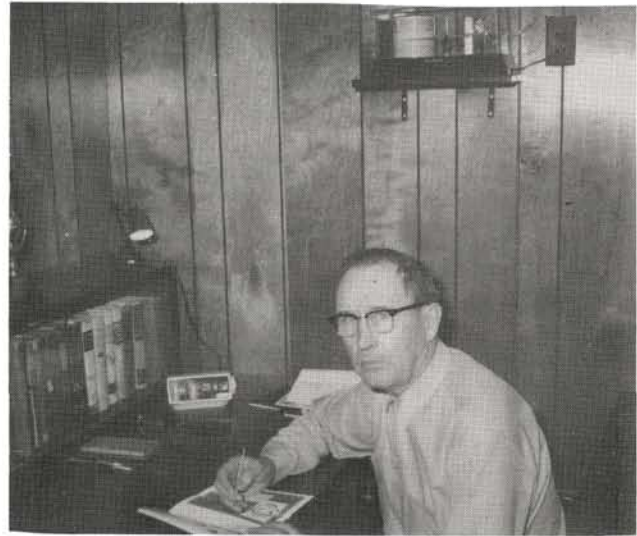
The State Park Commission wishes to announce that your golf course has been selected for a game preserve and that the first shipment of Buffalo will arrive at your course on Tuesday at 4:30 P.M.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Respectfully yours,  
George Dimnke, Executive Director.

Naturally it must be a hoax and your President wasn't fooled by it. The first day I only waited till ten o'clock. The next day I went home at 8 o'clock after finishing this message. I guess they are not coming.

Paul Voykin  
President.



## Editorial

The natural beauty of a golf course is disappearing. Why? Demands for grooming by the golfer of today is partly responsible. Some clubs seem to be in competition to see who can attain the highest degree of "grooming" to the extent that some golf courses have an artificial appearance. Turfgrass on greens, tees and fairways has become and is usually in near perfect playing condition. This of course, is good. However, the very thing that has produced excellent turfgrass is destroying the natural beauty of the trees — the hand of man. He has sawed and pruned without the knowledge or imagination of what the tree or shrub is supposed to look like. To him a tree is a tree or a shrub is a shrub.

Trees should not be trimmed in any way that will take away from their natural beauty. Therefore, the man who is doing the work should know and understand the growing habits of all the different species of trees, especially the ones that he is going to trim. Trees near the fairway could have the lower branches removed to a height that would permit a golfer to have a half a swing of his club. Trees growing more than thirty feet from the edge of the fairway should produce a penalty that is more severe. Then why trim the branches to a height that will allow a golfer to take a full swing without interference. Remove the dead wood and the extremely low hanging branches, and leave the rest to Mother Nature.

Sometime take a drive to a forest preserve or arboretum. Notice the different species and shape of trees and shrubs growing in their natural form. A person who works in an office or in the city looks forward to his visit to the golf course where an informal and natural atmosphere produces a feeling that he is in the country where he can relax and enjoy himself. This cannot take place in a park which is what many golf courses resemble today.

During the fifty-six years that I have spent on a golf course, Mother Nature has done a pretty good job on trees and shrubs when she was left alone. We could all benefit if we would accept some of her work instead of the opposite.

**If you treat an individual as he is, he will stay as he is. But if you treat him as if he were what he ought to be and could be, he will become what he ought to be and could be. — Goethe**



Jim Bertoni

The next Midwest Association meeting will be held at Knollwood Country Club, Lake Forest, Illinois. Host will be Lindo (Butch) Bernardini and James A. Bertoni on May 9th, 1972. Golf after 12 noon. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Lunch will be available. Education: labor laws and health and safety.

## B-A-D GUYS ARE GOOD NEWS

B-A-D meaning Buck-A-Day is a program to get each employee to find a way to cut cost on his job by \$1.00 a day. That may sound small but if you have 1,000 employees who work 250 days a year you could save up to \$250,000 annually.

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Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm. — Emerson.



## Local Happenings

Charlie Schultz, Superintendent at Hinsdale Country Club, has been busy during the Winter months making improvements for the year 1972. He planted sixty-five new trees of various sizes and species: thirteen pine trees, twenty-five Russian Olives, built one new tee. Put in eight hundred ft. of golf car paths. Repaired the deep well water pump and extended it an extra thirty feet.

Marvin Gruening, Superintendent at Midwest Country Club, has made some improvement at his club last fall. He built two new greens. They will be ready for play this spring. He also lifted two acres of KY. blue grass sod and, after completing the necessary work, then re-layed it. Sounds like a good size project. Marve is also educating himself to become a licensed sewage disposal Superintendent.

Peter A. Mirkes, Superintendent at Pheasant Run Country Club, reports they are going to build a new golf course west of St. Charles on Rt. 64. No vacations for Peter this year.

Ed Stewart, Superintendent at River Forest Golf Club, was also busy this past winter and late fall of 1971. Ed built one new green, five new tees, one lake and a golf car storage building 46 x 148.

Art Benson, Sr., Superintendent at St. Charles Country Club, took a few days off to visit the Master Golf Club and check on the players' swing, possibly to get a few pointers for his game this summer.

Art Benson, Jr., Superintendent Butterfield Country Club, has also been busy this past fall and winter. He planted one hundred new trees of various sizes and species, put in 1,000 feet of new golf car paths.

Dave Meyer, Superintendent Nordic Country Club, installed 3000 feet of 12 inch sewer tile this past winter. The club is now hooked up with the village of Itasca.

John Krutilla, previous Superintendent at Kankakee Elks Country Club, has accepted a position at the Stevens Point Country Club, Stevens Point, Wisc.

Ray Schei moves from Plum Tree to become Superintendent at Fox Lake Golf Club.

Al Dorband, Superintendent at Mission Hills Golf Club, has also made a move — to Plum Tree National Golf Club near Woodstock, Illinois and will take over the responsibility of the golf course Superintendent.

The Wisconsin Symposium dates for 1972 are October 25 and 26.

The Midwest Association Superintendents will hold their Fall clinic at Medinah Country Club on November 14 & 15, 1972.

Stan Arendt, retired Superintendent from Inverness Golf Club, is in the Northwest Hospital in Arlington Heights, Illinois. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Carl Grassl, Superintendent at Park Ridge Country Club, is passing out cigars. A baby girl, seven pounds, fifteen ounces on April 4th. Congratulation to Mr. and Mrs. Grassl.

Paul Feit, who was with Tim Miles, Superintendent at Joliet Country Club, has taken over the Superintendent's duties at Lost Nation Golf Club in Dixon, Illinois.

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Mr. Mike Bavier

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents  
2108 N. Elizabeth Drive  
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004

Dear Mike:

Monday I received my 1972 honorary membership certificate for the MAGCS, and needless to say, I was happy and pleased at the thoughtfulness of your group.

Spring seems to have arrived here in the Front Range country, and the ice has cleared from the lake in front of our house so that we again get to see Longs Peak twice, and some of the world's most beautiful sunsets. But with the coming of spring and in spite of the beauty of the country and the kindness of the people out here, I think often of the fine people in MAGSC: of Albey and the increasing difficulty he and I have had in getting close enough to the grass for a good look; of the sage opinions of Frank Dinelli and Ray Gerber; of the cooperative spirit of Bob Williams. Your's is a great bunch of people.

I enjoyed President Voykin's initial message in the Bull Sheet. Paul had a good message to convey. I am always quite anxious to get the Bull Sheet because of the personal items.

Should you or any of the other fellows get out this way, be sure to stop by for a visit. Although our address in the phone book is "east of Fort Collins" actually we are in the gray house north of Timnath.

Thanks again.

Yours Sincerely,  
Jack Butler

Editor's Note: We have received many fine letters such as this and we thank all of you.

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Elgin, Ill.

Dear Mr. Editor:

First, I'd like to say that you're doing a tremendous job with the Bullsheet. Secondly, I have a complaint pertaining to the photographs printed in the sheet. After reading the April edition I counted seven photo's. I personally believe that photographs give color to the articles and boost the morale of the Midwest Association, because it proves to membership, green committees, green chairman and wives of the superintendent that their Green Superintendent and husband does go to the meetings. However, as I was saying there were seven photos printed in the last edition and my "beef" is that four of them were of our new president. Now, Mr. Gerber that's going too far. We all know that there are better looking officers on the Midwest Board and other members who are probably more photogenic and distinguished looking, (including members of his family.)

So why do we have to have four pictures of a walking, talking mustache.

Respectfully yours,  
Rodney A. Voykin

Editor's Note: Amen. No more walking, talking, mustaches unless??

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**Ray Schmidt, Jim Bertoni, Fred Opperman and Walter Fuchs.**

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents April 10th meeting was held at Woodridge Golf Club. Tony Meyer was host. This was a very interesting and educational meeting and sure started the season with attendance of one hundred and two. The credit for the wonderful steak dinner goes to Mrs. Tony Meyer.

The after dinner education program was conducted by Walter Fuchs, moderator. Speakers were Jim Bertoni, Fred Opperman and Ray Schmidt. This was followed by a question and answer period.



**Roy Nelson**



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**Tom Gilman, Tony Meyer**





**Left to right — The men who made the turn. Fred Opperman, Bruce Sering, Ray Gerber, Henry Lange. John Jackman from Medinah who stayed put.**

Bruce Sering's recent article in the March 1972 issue of the "Bullshead" has inspired me to add a comment on the transition of one Superintendent to another where the older Superintendent stays on as a consultant or stays somewhat active at the course. Recently there have been a few dedicated men retire and their positions have been filled by younger men with only a few years experience as Superintendents under their belts. For an example in the last few years you have Bruce Sering working with Henry Lange of Glenview Club, Jim Bertoni learning the ropes at Knollwood Club with Lindo Bernardini and myself at Glen Oak Country Club trying to fill the shoes of Ray Gerber. Each of these older men spent a lifetime at their clubs giving faithful and dedicated service over the years. Now the clubs have thought enough about these men to retain them in some capacity and have them in turn train younger men to carry on. This procedure assures the club of continued excellence where the younger men are trained and schooled so to speak of the peculiarity of the club.

I will be starting my third year at Glen Oak this coming May 1st, and I would like to explain how Mr. Gerber and I went about our transition. First we had a mutual understanding of what was to take place and how we could best accomplish the transition. To begin with, Ray, would be the Superintendent for the first three months. My position would be that of an understudy. During these months Ray and I would go around the course and he would be explaining and showing me his lifetime of knowledge of the course.

Ray fully explained his "hows and whys" of fertilizing, spraying, watering, and anything else needed to operate here at Glen Oak. I might add that to date I have been trying to maintain the same programs that Ray found successful in all his years here.

I will admit at times it got to be boring when I was the understudy, for when you have been used to running a course and keeping active mentally in the making of the many decisions needed to operate a course, it is hard not to continue to do this.

During our transition I would never conflict with an order that Ray had made to the men. If a man had finished one of Ray's tasks and was needing work I would instruct him what to do but with the stipulation that Ray was still boss and if he asked the man to do something different, he should do it. This is one of the very important areas in the change over, in knowing who is the boss and who is giving the orders. Only one man can do this if the crew is to run efficiently.

Once the time came that Ray turned the course over to me, it was and has been my entire responsibility. I then gave the orders and had complete command and Ray never interfered. I feel that our transition was very smooth and without any problems that we both couldn't sit down and solve. Usually when something puzzles me or I have a question and need additional information I have no hesitancy in asking Ray what he would do or did do in a certain circumstance. I've always gotten the information or help needed when I asked. Due to his co-operation and help it has been a joy and very rewarding working here at Glen Oak and having Ray as my consultant.

In summary, for those of you who may someday go to another club and work with another Superintendent I leave these thoughts:

1. Have a mutual understanding when the change over will take place and try to set a date.
2. Agree on responsibility of course and giving orders.
3. Sit down and discuss openly any questions or problems that will come up.

Happy change overs,  
Fred Opperman, Superintendent  
Glen Oak Country Club

### **THE PERFECT LAWN THE EASY WAY BY PAUL VOYKIN**

Our fellow superintendent has written the above book which I'm sure most of us are familiar with. At the Purdue Conference I visited the book stores in search of some turf books. When I entered the store a large sign posted on the door said, "Book Sale 50¢ per pound." In looking through these books I found "The Perfect Lawn." Not owning it, I decided to buy it. I put the book on the scale and it was very light. Not quite a pound and it cost me 37¢.

I carried the book around with me the rest of that day in hopes of seeing Paul and I finally did. We had a real laugh over the cost.

After reading parts of it, I'm sure I obtained the biggest bargain at the conference.

John Jackman, Medinah C.C.

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## Imports and Immigration

C. O. Borgmeier

It was with a sense of surprise and mild shock to some members of the audience at a session at the Medinah Clinic in December, when Ben Chlevin reported that the National Association had contracted with a Hong Kong manufacturer to furnish special identifying blazers to the Association members. Did just price, quality and service dictate this action? It is one of thousands of transactions of this nature which points up the problem the United States has with an adverse trade balance and dollar devaluation. Our stores are loaded with imported merchandise. Competition simply has forced them into this wholesale buying and stocking of imports to the exclusion of domestic manufacturers. Because wages are only about half of the American scale in West European countries, especially West Germany and one third of the U. S. scale in Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong, U. S. Corporations have and are establishing branches overseas to produce goods then imported into the U. S. at one-half their domestic labor costs. This has helped to create the unemployment problem which we now have and is liable to be more or less a permanent barnacle to plague us in the future.

Take the case of automobile imports. With approximately 1,500,000 foreign cars imported into the United States annually, this represents over two billion dollars in wages and salaries which has been earned and paid to foreign labor, as well as taxes and cost items, by the American consumer. That sum would give jobs to a lot of unemployed. Multiply this tenfold by textiles, shoes, appliances, TV's and radios, cameras, electrical and industrial products too numerous to identify, and you have a problem which won't go away by itself.

Why are foreign nations still so anxious to export to the U. S. for dollars which are becoming less valuable all the time? Eventually they will buy American commodities for their dollar, fueling our inflation still more.

Thus by buying imports either in your professional capacity or your personal or family needs, you can contribute perhaps only in a small way, but we all owe our support to maintaining the American standard way of living and jobs for U. S. people.

Along with the flood of foreign goods entering the U. S. there is a flood of immigrants, many illegally, who add to our unemployment problems and to a certain extent to our adverse trade balance because they either send their earnings back to the country of their origin, or take it with them when they are expelled. The immigration bureau of our government can only partially police the thousands of miles of borders and expell illegally entered immigrants, who often work for sub-standard wages and who live under marginal living conditions. The golf course superintendents are contributing to and abetting this condition. For a number of years, when there was a labor shortage, there was an excuse for hiring immigrants for golf courses, landscape, truck farming, cemetery and unskilled factory labor. With the present unemployment problem the turf industry should favor domestic labor. The excuse that landscape maintenance operators generally gave, for not using more negro operators, was that their customers frowned upon or objected to them. The same excuse is used by golf course superintendents, that the golf players object. That attitude and excuse is invalid.

In Florida where most golfers are northerners in the winter time, they see only negro workmen on the golf courses.

For years it has been generally known that our Mexican and other latin Americans, as well as many orientals, send their wages home, or take their savings with them when they leave our country periodically, or at some time permanently. Our Justice Department recently had a case where an illegal Chinese immigrant had sent back sixty thousand dollars and took out forty thousand more when he was expelled. Not every immigrant is that frugal, but such an extreme example points up the problem.

It may involve some sacrifice to be patriotic in our buying and hiring but the time has come to look at problems from other than a dollar and cent point of view.

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That was the bottom. From then on things picked up. In 1935 George got \$8 for working nine hours a day, six full days a week in a saw mill. Within a year or two minimum wage regulations came through that put his pay up to \$13 for a 40-hour week. "Gosh, how the boss howled." And things have improved steadily ever since. — United Business Service.

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**FROM EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION**

After reviewing the Fall Clinic questionnaires returned, it was the committee's opinion that an explanation of the Midwest Turf Clinic should be given to the general membership. The Turf Clinics were set up with definite goals and objectives in mind from their conception.

It was felt that the superintendent should be the one to do most of the participating in the presentation of various topics. A goal of 75% superintendents and 25% professional was set. This goal has been achieved at many of the Turf Clinics. Granted, the speakers may not be the most professional, but how does one learn if it is not by doing.

It was further felt that topics should be given out early in the year so that experimentation, testing and professional preparation could be carried out. This has not been accomplished to the extent it probably should be. We will strive to obtain this objective in the upcoming Turf Clinic.

The committee agrees after sitting through the past winter's conference that it is refreshing to look forward to the Midwest Turf Clinic, which is probably one of the most practical of any they attend on their conference tour.

We appreciate the return of the few questionnaires we received and Thanks.

Your Education Committee

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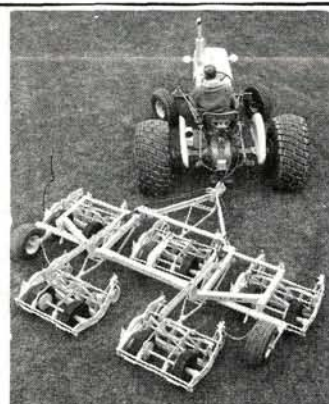
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