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Mike Bavier — President

The President's Message

General Manager — Executive Director — and what next! Corporate Superintendent?! Yes, these are just a few of the titles being used today. Some of you are already familiar with this terminology from personal experiences, past conferences, and magazine articles. Those of you that were in attendance at the Midwest Turf Clinic this fall were able to hear a talk given by a general manager — Mr. Harry Gray from Exmoor Country Club did a fine job covering the subject, both pros and cons. However, he could relate only to the situation at his own club and, as he said, it might not work at every club. The Turf Clinic committee was quite progressive in having a general manager on the program, for this has been a so-called "hands off" subject locally and nationally. Hopefully, we haven't delayed too long in discussing the general manager concept — each of us needs to obtain some insight into this occasional thought of panacea.

Probably the biggest objection most golf course superintendents have to a general manager is that many times he knows little, if anything, about golf course maintenance. Possibly only a general manager that is experienced in club house operation, has a background in the game of golf, and has some knowledge of course upkeep would be of much benefit to a country club.

Over the last few years, there has seemed to be some cooperative effort by the golf professionals, club managers, and golf course superintendents to uphold the triumvirate structure at country clubs. This seems to be falling through with many managers and some pros and "greenkeepers" trying to assume other duties. Last year's president of the P.G.A., Bill Clarke, has taken on the duties of "executive director" at his club and, as was stated in the last issue of **Golf-dom**, he feels that many new golf superintendents are strictly turf oriented. This is a little hard to believe considering the number of potential superintendents coming out of many fine universities with outstanding curriculums in both turf and business. Also, the superintendent's associations, both local and national, have many superior education programs compared to the other related professions. In my opinion, the counter to Mr. Clarke's statement might be that most of the new golf professionals are strictly clothing merchants, which we know is absurd. (By the

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ABOUT OUR COVER PICTURE

Ray and Jo Gerber will be married 50 years on February 18, 1975. In Ray's absence, the Board of Directors of the Association decided to surprise them for their anniversary by printing their picture on the cover of this month's paper.

way, a letter to Mr. Clarke regarding his **Golfdom** article was sent by your president.)

So where does all this lead us? Right back to the triumvirate structure where you have **good qualified department heads** running **each department**. Along with this, we have the **members** as the nucleus of the structure. Letting the members be a part of the club operations is as it should be, like you and I are part of our church activities and other organizations with different committees to work for the cause. This keeps the check and balance system in order. Oh yes, there are members interested and that have the time to serve on committees or the board, for it is their club and only their support will make the operation a successful one.

General Manager or Executive Director — will this be the trend in the future? Even though it is our responsibility to be prepared for this situation, let's hope we can continue to cooperate and combine ideas at our clubs while, at the same time, strive to keep our professions separate.

Last fall at **Turnberry Country Club**, we added a variety of trees to improve the beauty of our course and also making it more challenging for our members.

We planted trees such as Emerald Queen Maples, Skyline Locust, Shade Master Locust, October Glory, Pen Oak, Australian Pines and White Pines.

Most of the trees averaged 3-4" trunks. Some were balled and the others were moved with a Vermeer 44. We used a 24" auger on a three point hitch PTO operated to plant the balled trees. We used the auger to dig three or four holes the depth we needed and to remove the soil between the holes. We dug all the holes about four inches wider around the balls in order to place better soil mixed with peat around the balls. We saturated the soil around the balls to eliminate air pockets.

We used a Vermeer 44 to move the Emerald Queen Maples, Pen Oaks, Skyline Locust. The machine was mounted on a 1-Ton chassis and can move trees up to 4" trunks. We also had a Vermeer 60 that's supposed to move trees with a 9" trunk. We decided to try moving a couple of pines that size. We had the machine pick one up to see how large the roots were and how many were actually in the ball and then decided to return the pine and move the smaller trees of 7" in diameter rather than chance losing the larger ones.

Clifford Behrendt, Supt. Turnberry C.C.

Mr. Ray Gerber, Editor
865 Hillside Ave., Glen Ellyn, Ill. 60137
Dear Ray:

It is indeed a pleasure to be included on the mailing list of your fine publication, and I appreciate very much your thoughtfulness in sending it to me.

The experience at Medinah was indeed a most pleasant one for Joe Vargas and me, and we were most pleased to get acquainted with your fine group down there.

Hope this finds you well and having a happy holiday season.

Best wishes,
Kenyon T. Payne, Professor

The January issue just arrived — Charlie's "wet elbow" turned out swell!

THE FUTURE FOR FERTILIZER

Dr. Robert W. Schery
Director, Lawn Institute

In order to better feed on ill-fed world suggestions have been advanced, even legislation proposed, to restrict fertilization of non-farm plantings in America. That this would be ill-advised is evident to those familiar with urban and recreational horticulture, and to those aware of the food producing system in most of the less-developed countries.

What little "extra" fertilizer might be released for food production, by denying ornamental maintenance in America, is but a drop in the bucket. Moreover, where famine is chronic, factors other than fertilizer limit the food crop. Lack of a food-marketing system rewarding a grower for the cost of fertilization is said to be the chief disincentive to greater fertilization in underdeveloped countries. Actually, worldwide, upwards of 90% of fertilizer demand is being met, and, as new production comes on stream within a few years, there should be surpluses. Where food crops are under-fertilized, it is usually because no system exists for distributing fertilizer, or properly using it, rather than its absolute unavailability. Food insufficiencies result from many causes, and technological agriculture (emphasizing fertilization) such as we are familiar with in temperate regions may be entirely inappropriate for crowded, tropical lands.

On the other hand, fertilization of non-farm plantings is not just a luxury but a necessity for urban well-being. Parks, gardens and street plantings make a more healthful environment (less suicides, less infant mortality), and a more enjoyable one (less psychotic irritations). Turf guards and builds the soil, preventing erosion and siltation. Ornamental plantings absorb noxious gases, and refresh the air with oxygen. They recycle nutrients, hold down dust, abate noise. In summer they cool surroundings several degrees, and in winter they buffer habitations, saving energy. Indeed, reasonable fertilization is not only necessary for plantings to survive in the difficult urban environment, but it saves energy and costs because it makes other maintenance (such as weeding) less necessary.

Most certainly today is not the time to be extravagant with fertilizer, although shortages and present price pretty well assure that. But to maintain our horticultural standards, and to keep our heavily-used recreational grounds in service, certainly we cannot forego use of fertilization entirely. As Business Week reports, "By applying an effective population-control policy —, South Asian countries could avoid starving 500 million children to death. With no population control, despite help from developed countries, famine conditions will be 'apocalyptic'". A monumental problem of this nature must be dealt with in meaningful ways, in the regions where the problem occurs, and not by trivial improvisations such as over-restricting fertilizer use in America.

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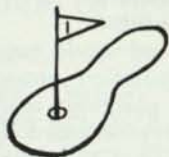
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Distinguished Award

The Midwest GCSA certainly is proud of one of its members, namely **Ray Gerber** in receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, which is the highest award that can be bestowed upon an individual.

It is our judgment that Ray has demonstrated a most exemplary example as a golf course superintendent over a lifetime, including a considerable number of achievements.

Ray Gerber was born in Wayzata, Minnesota at the turn of the century and will see his 75th birthday later this year. He got off to an early start in golf by driving a team of horses during the construction of the Woodhill C.C. in Minneapolis at the age of 16 years. Ray became fascinated with the artistry of Donald Ross and ended up working for Woodhill for the next nine years.

By 1925 Ray had become quite a specialist with various new pieces of equipment and was hired by the Toro Corporation to go to Pine Valley Golf Club in New Jersey to work with the club in the proper use and care of the newest power equipment. He stayed on at Pine Valley for the entire year in this capacity.

In 1926, Ray returned to the Midwest as a foreman during the construction and early maintenance at the new Medinah C.C. in Chicago (a 54 hole operation). He continued working at Medinah through 1933 after becoming the assistant superintendent.

As the depression years came on, Ray again turned to his fancy for equipment and became a traveling equipment serviceman. In this endeavor he operated as an independent specialist and toured around from club to club with a truck workshop, repairing, grinding and servicing mowers.

Then in 1936, Ray was offered the position of Superintendent at the Glen Oak C.C. in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, which he accepted. He continued in their employ until his retirement in 1971 after 35 years of a marvelous relationship with Glen Oak. His retirement is worthy of note in view of the fact that the club arranged for a full two day affair as a retirement party for Ray, including golf, lunches, dinners, etc. At the final dinner, Ray and his wife were presented with many beautiful gifts and mementos of his faithful service to the club. Ray continues his labor of love as a consultant to his successor as superintendent, Mr. Fred Opperman.

During Ray's past 58 years in golf maintenance, he has consistently been involved with professional association activities on a number of levels. His participation was highlighted by his serving as our 14th president of GCSAA in 1950. His dedication to GCSAA is apparent in view of the fact that he has missed only one annual conference since 1936 (38 years).

In similar fashion, on the local scene, Ray has served in all capacities of the Midwest GCSA and as its president on three different occasions. Now in semi-retirement, Ray continues to serve as the editor of the well-known chapter publication, "The Bull Sheet". As a matter of fact, Ray was one of the three originators of the magazine back in 1948 which now boasts a circulation of some 500.

Ray has been instrumental in the formation of two of the regional Turfgrass Foundations. The Midwest

Foundation at Purdue University and the Illinois Foundation at the U. of I.

Rising through the various offices of GCSAA brought Ray into contact with the entire membership through personal appearances at many local chapter meetings and through numerous written articles on turf published in England, Australia, Canada and the United States. Ray has estimated that he has appeared on approximately 100 conference programs at local, international and university levels. In fact, at age 75, we will be seeing Ray making another appearance at our 1975 conference in New Orleans.

Ray's on-the-job-accomplishments of note include a series of important contributions through the field testing of new materials and techniques. In particular, Urea fertilizers, Thiram Fungicide as a deterrent to snowmold, 2,4-D as an herbicide, and Chlordane as an insecticide, all in cooperation with Dr. Fred Grau, then the director of the USGA Green Section. Also, on-the-job contributions must include his effort in helping train five young student superintendents in the art of greenkeeping. Three of the five were sons of superintendents, including his own son Donald, now the superintendent of the Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton, Illinois.

Over the years, Ray unselfishly offered his experience in turf maintenance to his community as well. His contributions in this area include many laborious hours in establishing golf facilities at the various veterans hospitals at Downey, Hines, Vaughn, Danville and Waukesha locations. In addition, Ray had given of his services to establish the Village Links Golf Club in his home town of Glen Ellyn.

Ray has also served on a number of advisory committees over the years.

Village of Glen Ellyn;
Dutch Elm Control Committee;
Local high school turfgrass teaching program;
Local Community College turfgrass program;
GCSAA Long Range Planning Committee.

The Gerber family story has been one of love, happiness, discipline, humbleness, and hard work. Ray and his wife, Julia, will celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary in February, 1975. They have two married sons, Donald, Superintendent of the Chicago Golf Club, and Dr. Gerald, Professor of English Literature at Duke University.

Ray's most recent awards of recognition for his many contributions to the turfgrass field have been his life memberships to both the Glen Oak C.C. and the Village Links G.C. In 1971 Ray was awarded the Charles Bartlett award for public relations by the Midwest GCSA.

The membership of the Midwest GCSA unanimously feels that Ray Gerber's lifetime dedication and example to his profession merits consideration for recognition by GCSAA. Ray is a living inspiration to our entire membership and especially to our younger superintendents who are interested in setting goals of achievement for their lifetime careers in the grand experience of being a successful golf course superintendent.

Mike R. Bavier, President
Midwest GCSA

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Editor

Midwest Breezes

Congratulations and best of luck to Joe Grenko at his new job at the Marriott course in Lincolnshire. We all know he will do a fine job.

Frank Wedel from Rob Roy C.C. and Jerry Adank from Illinois Lawn Equipment were hospitalized during the month of January. Best wishes to both on a speedy recovery.

We are happy to report that Leonard Schnepf, Superintendent at Dominion Golf and C.C., is out of the hospital and beginning to enjoy himself. Take care of yourself, spring will soon be here.

The editor apologizes for the booboo on page 8 and 9 in the January issue of the Bull Sheet. There has been a little mix up on these pages. With your forgiveness and especially the author of the article, the editor thanks you. P.S. The printer also apologizes.

Art Benson, Sr., superintendent at St. Charles C.C., is interested in hiring an assistant. Turf school education required. Call 312-584-3403.

C. E. (Scotty) Stewart reports he has just completed the installation of an extensive drainage system for the Downers Grove Golf Club, some unique design features were utilized so that both surface and sub-surface drainage was attained. Similar systems are now being contemplated for two more golf courses.

Our January meeting which was held at the Elmhurst C.C. was well attended by 100 members and guests. We were fortunate to have with us Dr. Bill Daniel (a recent 1975 Distinguished Service Award winner from the GCSAA). Dr. Daniel spoke on using your soil tests to determine the amounts of fertilizer and ratios to use on your particular golf course. He passed out literature to help one figure out his own needs and costs. It was great to have Dr. Daniel with us once again in the Midwest Association meeting.

The M.A.G.C.S. Hospitality Room in New Orleans during the G.C.S.A.A. Conference, will be open at the Marriot Hotel on Sunday evening, February 16th at 8 P.M. until 12 P.M.

Dear Mr. Gerber:

After reading the notice in the Bull Sheet requesting superintendents to send in comments about women working on their courses, I decided to present some information from a woman's point of view.

I was hired at the beginning of last summer at Kishwaukee Country Club in DeKalb, Illinois. At that time there was already a young woman on the crew who was responsible for some general maintenance duties, with emphasis on grooming flower beds and raking sand traps with a Toro Sand Pro. I came in as a complete novice, having been on a golf course only several times in my life. After ten minutes on the job I was placed on a Jacobsen greensmower to mow a putting green. Fortunately, the green recovered after several weeks, and most of my mistakes were negligible after that first attempt. Within the first month, my flabby muscles and my confidence strengthened quite a bit with outdoor work. I was carefully instructed before operating new machinery or performing new maintenance duties, and can personally say that I felt no discrimination from my superintendent or other members of our crew. At times I realized that my lack of physical strength may have slowed some duties down, but in general the jobs on our course can be done equally well by a woman. My main responsibility at our club is mowing fairways with a Toro Parkmaster. At first many of the members were not sure there was **really** a woman up there on the tractor, but now they seem pleased that I'm still around to help keep their club in shape.

The advantages of working at Kishwaukee are numerous. I enjoy working outdoors, and during the winter months I acquire mechanical skills that few women can boast of. Having a botanical background, I am discovering the commercial aspects of this field, as well as becoming acquainted with turf maintenance and disease prevention.

Whether more women join our crew in the spring is up to my superintendent. But I give fair warning to any women who are thinking about this type of employment—unless they are prepared to work hard and put in some time on weekends, they should find an easier way to get a suntan.

Respectfully,
Denise E. Blume

(Editor's note: Denise just joined the Midwest AGCS)

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The sympathy of Midwest Golf Course Superintendents Association is extended to the family of Robert G. Johnson from Illinois Lawn Equipment Inc., due to the death of Robert's father.

Ray H. Gerber, Editor
865 Hillside Ave., Glen Ellyn, Ill.

Just a line to let you know of some of the things that we did at Kishwaukee Country Club this past year. First we fenced about half of the course with 6 ft. chain link. Then a new look to the entrance to our club including flowers, shrubs, split rail fence. Then four new tennis courts were built, next a new automatic irrigation system on the tees, greens and fairways.

I was here at Kishwaukee in 1967 to March, 1970, was at another course from 1970 to January 1, 1973. So this is my second time here, which has been very rewarding the last two summers.

In 1973 we built 26 new sand traps besides setting 400 new trees, also three new tees. Now, for women in my crew; this year I had three who did an outstanding job. They are more careful with equipment than men, also the flower beds and sand traps were groomed much better. One, in particular, has operated every piece of equipment we have from Greensmower to trenchers, her main job was mowing fairways with a nine gang parkmaster. She is now one of my main crew with a year round job.

Thank you for the fine articles in your column in the Bull Sheet.

Sincerely yours,
Keith Montgomery
Supt. Kishwaukee Country Club
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THE BEGINNING OF GOLF IN CHICAGO

The following has been submitted by C. E. (Scotty) Stewart and is an excerpt from History of Golf by Joseph A. Davis.

In the late eighties Robert W. Chandler, a Liverpool Englishman, and one or two friends essayed to play golf in Washington Park but were quickly ordered off by a policeman. The real start of golf in the Chicago area came in 1893, the year of the World's Fair in Chicago. Sir Henry Truman Wood, British Commissioner to the Fair, was a golfer and anxious to play. He knew James B. Forgan, a Chicago banker, J. C. Sterling of the Illinois Steel Co., a Scotchman by birth, J. Marshall Weir, A Belfast Irishman, Herbert J. Tweedy formerly of Liverpool and Charles Blair McDonald who learned to play golf when in school in Scotland.

A. Hadow Smith, a Lanarkshire golfer, who had located in Chicago in 1890, heard these men proposed forming a golf club and laid out a nine hole course on 60 acres of land he owned at Belmont near the C.B. & Q. R.R. A hired man with a shovel, rake and wheel-barrow were his chief assistants and as no regulation cups were obtainable, tin cans were used. He invited these men mentioned to play over his course and a little later the Chicago Golf Club was organized in Mr. Smith's home on the course, the officers being J. C. Sterling, president; J. Marshall Weir, secretary; and James Forgan, treasurer. Charles B. McDonald was the club captain and among the early members were Judge Murray F. Tuley, James Deering, Joseph Leiter and J. A. Ryerson.

Finances for the first year to operate the course were raised by Mr. Charles McDonald who solicited \$10.00 apiece from 30 members. Prior to World War I, when the club house burned down and a tent was used for a while, the Chicago Golf Club moved to its present site in Wheaton and the original course was purchased by a private individual who operated it under the name of the Belmont C.C. until it was sold in 1968 to the Downers Grove Park District for \$750,000.00 and renamed Downers Grove Golf Club.

Editor's Note: The following information on early golf in the Chicago area was furnished by **Donald Gerber**, superintendent at Chicago Golf Club.

(In 1967 the late Charles Bartlett, who was the Golf Editor of the Chicago Tribune, was commissioned to write a history of the Chicago Golf Club. His account of the early days of Golf in Chicago follow:)

At sometime before 1892 Mr. Charles Blair Macdonald, starved for the game he had learned to love as a teenager at Old St. Andrews in Scotland, prevailed on Mr. H. C. Chatfield-Taylor to permit him to lay out a tiny seven-hole golf course on the Lake Forest Lawn of Senator John Farwell, Chatfield-Taylor's father-in-law. Most of those holes were less than 100 yards; none exceeded 250 yards. But it was, after its fashion, a golf course.

And evangelist Macdonald continued to preach the gospel of golf. Visiting apostles from Briton, led by England's World's Fair Commissioner Sir Henry Wood arrived in 1892, and gave Charlie the impetus he needed to convince his friends that baseball and tennis and the infant sport of football needed a fourth.

In the spring of 1892 Macdonald sold thirty of his downtown chums in the Chicago Club on putting up \$10 each to lay out a nine hole course at Belmont,

near Downers Grove, Illinois, on a stock farm of A. Haddon Smith. Fate smiled on this progress, for Mr. Smith hailed from Musselburgh, Scotland, where golf was first played in 1774. Thus was born the Chicago Golf Club.

Macdonald completed his architectural and building chores in the spring of 1892. He was one of the first three golfers to (almost) play this nine-hole course. A thunderstorm drove Charlie, Harry Wilmerding and Edward S. Warthington into a big barn which they had improved as a clubhouse.

The incorporation of the Chicago Golf Club was mentioned in the Chicago Tribune of July 19, 1893, along with that of the Chicago Suspender Co.; the Student's Fund Society, to assist University of Chicago students; and the Original Ninth Infantry Battalion, for military and social purpose. The news account was rather brief:

"Chicago Golf Club, without capital stock, for pleasure; incorporators, J. Carolus Sterling, C. B. Macdonald, Urban H. Broughton, and H. C. Chatfield-Taylor."

The Tribune's skimpy notice on the club's official incorporation called for a celebration dinner at the Chicago Club, certainly the most proper place for it. Foremost of the quests were the four original incorporators—plus Arthur Ryerson and Robert Todd Lincoln. Mr. Ryerson later was to accompany Charlie Macdonald to the historic Manhattan meeting of December 22, 1894, wherein Chicago Golf Club became one of the five founding members of the United States Golf Associations. (The other clubs were the St. Andrews Golf Club of Yonkers-on-the-Hudson, N. Y.; the Shinnecock Hills Golf Club of Southampton, N.Y.; The Country Club of Brookline, Mass.; and the Newport Golf Club of Newport, R.I.) Mr. Lincoln, the President's son, was to serve as Chicago Golf Club's ninth president for the years 1905 and 1906.

By now Macdonald had so inoculated his Chicago disciples with the golf virus that they felt they needed a new and larger course, and a proper clubhouse for its home. Forthwith, the original incorporators plus fellow-signers James B. Forgan, J. G. Watson, W. R. Farquhar and George A. Scott asked Macdonald to find a location that would accommodate the first 18-hole golf course in this country.

Macdonald asked for it; Macdonald got it. "It" was a 200 acre farm at Wheaton belonging to John Patrick, which the golf hungry men of Belmont secured for the sum of \$28,000. The club members bought the subscription bonds for \$200 each (certainly a lofty figure for golf in those times), with annual club dues of \$50.

Ed. Note: This is how it all started in Chicago.

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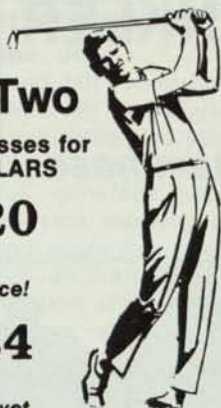
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IRRIGATION DIVISION



Not-so-quick couplers

No more time-consuming, inconsistent, water wasting manual operation. With the new 670, a quick-coupler system can be converted to automatic easily and economically with minimum turf disruption.

You get more for less

The 670 offers a NEW PLANETARY GEAR DRIVE, bigger nozzle and full-circle coverage. And the 670's throw range is ideal for double row systems and conversion of short spacing Q.C. valve single row systems. Better coverage . . . fewer heads . . . lower cost.

The "just-right" head

A new in-between size head, TORO's 670 fits your needs when you're after an intermediate throw, ranging from 164' to 204'.

All the TORO extras

SILENT operation. High pop-up, positive pop-down. Valve-in-head, to prevent line drainage, wet spots or turf damage. And above-the-ground servicing for easy maintenance.

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