

Memories of Super-Dog

Every year lately superintendents have said that vandalism on golf courses is worse than the year before. Kids running automobiles, motorcycles and captured golf carts over greens, the stealing of flags and poles, damage to course accessories and buildings continue to grow ulcers for the men in charge of the courses.

But really the vandalism is nothing new; simply aggravated by the refinements and expense of modern courses and fittings.

About 1905 Dave McIntosh was pro-greenkeeper at the Calumet Country Club in the then southeast corner of Chicago.

Caddies who didn't realize how golf and association with gentlemen golfers developed character and beautiful manners, or perhaps other neighborhood brats, used to steal flags, poles, hose and sprinklers left around greens and do things in the tee sandboxes and cups you just wouldn't believe.

This vandalism was getting to be mighty annoying until Mr. McIntosh got himself a young collie he schooled in preserving law and order on the course. The collie was an apt, even enthusiastic pupil.

At nightfall Mr. McIntosh would open the kitchen door of his house on the border of Calumet and the collie would fare forth.

Maybe an hour later, the collie would scratch on the door and Mr. McIntosh would admit him. If it happened to be a good hunting night, Mrs. McIntosh would still be knitting and Mr. McIntosh would be smoking his pipe and reading the paper.

But always, early or late, Mr. McIntosh would pour a saucerful of spirits and place it by his chair. When Man's Best Friend is sort of tired from running around a golf course and slightly choked from seats of boys' pants and shreds of naughty boys' fannies, there's nothing better to clear a collie's throat than a wee nippie.

There was golf course vandalism threatened that didn't come off when the Capone hoodlums were flowering in evil in Chicago. Tough young men got the idea they could start themselves unions and get rich and powerful.

Several budding mobsters passed out word they were going to organize golf course greenkeepers and their crews into a union. The workers who weren't quick to join would have greens ruined with gasoline and acid and other damage would be done to the courses.

There was concern, even fright, at the prospect but that alarm didn't extend to genuine artists, usually those of Italian ancestry, who were taking care of the courses.

These pastoral executives didn't scare easy. They sent out echoes to the threats. "Anybody who makes me have to grow new grass is going to have to grow himself a new head."

Many of those course tenders were hunters, well equipped with arms and ammunition in case pheasants, quail, rabbits and other edible items planned to attack them.

So when men gainfully employed went out to water greens at night or merely to enjoy the evening air,

the nocturnal stillness was punctured by shotgun blasts or the whine of a rifle slug. There was talk about cars on roads going past courses and having little blobs of lead ping against windows and windshields but there wasn't much more conversation beginning, "We are going to send our organizers around."

The men who created and preserved those golf courses as their works of art were dedicated to their careers. They loved to get paid, even as you and I, but their art came ahead of money.

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From the forthcoming book, "Ask The Lawn Doctor" (Macmillan - Spring, 1976)

Question: My wife and I realize this question is unusual but we would like you to answer it—seriously. You see, we like to enjoy ourselves outdoors, *au naturel*. But with so many busybodies around, we find it hard to frolic in our backyard in *complete* privacy. It seems that Lake Forest at this point is not yet ready for our act of...well, courage. Is it possible to erect a suitable protective screen as well as some very soft grass that will enable us to indulge our favorite sport?—and I don't mean golf.

Answer: Shades of Masters and Johnson! And it's great for the grass! But frankly, such a usage has never been explored in turf literature. In my various pieces of writing I've discussed lawn bowling greens and putting greens, but never a rutting green. Well, why not. Hence, this last piece is for lovers only (and for sunbathers).

Here's how to grow the best grass, with a prying-proof protective screen, for frolicking outdoors in Nature's (and nature's) splendor in your own backyard. My recommendation is an arborvitae hedge. These small trees should be planted close together in a double row, or what we agrostologists call a staggered planting line. It looks like this:



When nearly mature, the tall and green arborvitae will make an almost impermeably thick hedge to shield you from slinky Peeping Toms and Tomisinas. To make sure you also have a good defense against Creeping Carls, plant a multiflora rose hedge, which is lower-growing, just inside the hedge line. Believe me, now nothing will see through or get through—just don't roll near it. However, there's another word of caution I hope you'll take. Until the arborvitae grows good and high, do your frolicking at night. And then you'd better get in touch with an entomologist—to advise you on how to get rid of insects. Of course, if you're impatient, a quicker screen is a high stockade fence.

From personal experience, the best turf grass for this type of sport is creeping bent grass. It's a "springy" and soft grass that I usually don't recommend for the average homeowner. But your situation is different (and more interesting), so I think it calls for this grass's special mattress quality. In addition to

it being the Englander of grasses, creeping bent is as smooth as a Springmaid sheet (and remember: it's "a buck well spent"). Buy creeping bent grass sod from a sod nursery if you can't wait for it to grow.

If you don't have a creeping bent lawn, don't despair. An upright cool-season grass, such as Kentucky bluegrass, will do just as handsomely. But I recommend that you don't keep it low cut at bristle height (for obvious reasons). Let it grow long so it bends slightly, as when touched by a gentle wind. About 3 inches. (This is the height I've been advocating strongly throughout the book, never realizing until now that there might be another great reason for this ideal cut.) So now you have it! An *au naturel* glade, a delightful mini-meadow, or-in your case—a climax prairie (agrostologically speaking). And why not?—Grass and suchlike have been going on for...well, what do *you* think Eden was paved with?

By Paul Voykin, "no mustache supt."
Briarwood C.C.

Editors Note—one wonders if *Paul* will ever grow up.

God, Forgive Me When I Whine

Today, upon a bus, I saw a lovely girl with golden hair, I envied her...she seemed so gay...and wished I were as fair. When suddenly she rose to leave, I saw her hobble down the aisle. She had one leg, and wore a crutch. But as she passed...a smile! Oh, God, forgive me when I whine, I have two legs. The world is mine!


I stopped to buy some candy. The lad who sold it had such charm. I talked with him. He seemed so glad. If I were late 'twould do no harm. And as I left he said to me: "I thank you. You have been so kind. It's nice to talk with folks like you. You see," he said, "I'm blind." Oh, God, forgive me when I whine, I have two eyes. The world is mine!

Later, while walking down the street, I saw a child with eyes of blue. He stood and watched the others play. He did not know what to do. I stopped a moment, then I said, "Why don't you join the others, dear?" He looked ahead without a word, and then I knew he could not hear. Oh, God, forgive me when I whine. I have two ears. The world is mine!

With two feet to take me where I'd go, with eyes to see the sunset's glow, with ears to hear what I would know...Oh, God, forgive me when I whine. I'm blessed indeed. The world is mine!

Author Unknown

Reprinted from Divot News (S. Calif. GCSEA)

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Fred V. Grau
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Dear Mike,

Please express to all concerned my deep appreciation for the handsome Honorary Membership Award for 1975. Coincidentally, I was admiring my 1971 Award signed by Joe Canale and John West. You see, I treasure these symbols of friendship.

Tell Joe Grenko that I'm glad that his name is printed on your letterhead. His signature is distinctive and would be hard to copy.

Sincerely,
Fred

Colorado State University
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523

Dear Joe:

This week I received the honorary membership certificate for 1975 for the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Needless to say, I appreciate very much this kind act by your Association. I would appreciate it if you would express my appreciation to the other members of the Board of Directors of the M.A.G.C.S.

Each month I read the "Bull Sheet" and think of the many fine superintendents in the Chicago area.

Thank you.

J. D. Butler
Turf Management Specialist

University of Rhode Island
Kingston, R.I. 02881

Dear Mr. Grenko:

This will acknowledge receipt of your recent letter and of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents Honorary Membership Certificate and card for 1975. I greatly appreciate your continued recognition of my interest and activity in behalf of Golf Turf and the Superintendents who manage these turf areas. The certificate is on display in my office. If you are in this area do drop in for a visit. Also, if I can be of any assistance to your Midwest Association, please let me know.

With all best wishes.

Eliot C. Roberts
Professor

Joseph J. Grenko
214 South Valley Drive
Lindenhurst, IL 70046

Dear Joe:

Again my brother Joe and I want to thank you and your fellow members of the Midwest for the happiness you have given us in renewing our honorary memberships in the association.

The Midwest was where Joe and I began in golf and where we started Golfdom. Our teachers and supporters were men who founded the Greenkeepers association and the Midwest association. We always have been very proud to think of how they pioneered in establishing the high standard of golf course maintenance that generally prevails throughout the country. We regard ourselves as very lucky to be made members of your team.

Our thanks and best wishes to you all.

Sincerely,
Herb Graffis

Mr. Joseph J. Grenko
Secretary-Treasurer
Midwest Association of
Golf Course Superintendents

Dear Joe:

Please convey my sincere appreciation to your membership for again conferring an Honorary Membership on me. We feel that the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is among the few truly great groups in North America. Your leadership in the improvement of golf course superintendent's status, education and recognition has been a guide to many other groups.

We in Wisconsin hope that our ties can be further strengthened by renewing the joint meetings most of us enjoyed in the past.

If I can be of any service whatever, please give me a call.

James M. Latham, Jr.
Chief Field Agronomist
Turf Service Bureau, Milorganite

Sewerage Commission of the
City of Milwaukee

Dear Mr. Grenko:

I deeply appreciate the action taken again this year by the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents in making me an Honorary Member for 1975.

At least this year I feel a little less guilty than in the last few years, in that I was able to participate in your fine Midwest Clinic in early December of last year.

I hope you can express my appreciation to the membership at large. If we can be of any help with respect to turfgrass matters, don't hesitate to ask.

Charles G. Wilson, Director
Agronomy and Marketing

Mr. Joseph J. Grenko
Secretary-Treasurer
Midwest Association of
Golf Course Superintendents

Dear Joe:

Should like to thank you and Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents for honoring me with membership in your association. It was most thoughtful of you and I am grateful for the consideration.

James R. Watson
Vice President, Toro

Dear Mr. Grenko:

I would like to thank you most sincerely for the recent notice that I am honored with a 1975 Honorary Membership Award to the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. I can assure you that this honor is sincerely appreciated.

Thank you also for the privilege of attending your meetings and functions. I can assure that I will do my utmost to attend these functions.

Thanks again for the honor. I will display my Membership Certificate and card with pride.

Larry Rouse
President III. P.G.A.

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Greater Chicago Club
Managers Association

Gentlemen:

I acknowledge, with great pleasure the honorary membership in your Association.

I must assure you that, as President of the Greater Chicago Club Managers Association, and on behalf of the Midwest Chapter, it will be a privilege for me to attend your functions.

May I extend heartfelt thanks for this award.

Sincerely,
Matthew J. Morgan, C.C.M.

Chicago District Golf Association

Dear Mr. Grenko:

Thank you very much for extending Honorary Membership for 1975 in the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

Your Association has been doing, and I am certain will continue, excellent work in this area. I am indeed delighted to be a part of it!

I hope to be able to attend your meetings whenever possible.

Dennis F. Davenport



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To the members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Your kind expression of sympathy and the sending of a beautiful wreath of flowers to the funeral services of Almira D. are gratefully acknowledged and appreciated by the family of Norman W. Stelter.

by Stanley Rachesky
Entomologist—University of Illinois

The golf course superintendent is very much aware of the horde of insects intent upon destroying the property entrusted to his care. Occasionally, we can avoid or at least reduce the ravages of the insects upon our grasses, trees, shrubs or flowers without the use of an insecticide. But, to control most insects, the insecticide is the only logical answer.

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