

**THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS.**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to take the time this month to ask all of our membership to consider the possibility of writing an article for our **Bull Sheet**. I know the first thing you will say is that you are not a writer, well neither am I but by coming up with these few paragraphs each month, I now realize what Ray Gerber goes through each month putting the paper together. If you take the time to think of things that happen to you or on your course, it's not hard to come up with a few paragraphs that would be interesting or informative to our readers. We all take too many things for granted as ordinary, when in reality they would be interesting to many.

If you think back the reason for the formation of our association is to gather and share information in regard to the maintenance and care of golf and turf grass areas. Our **Bull Sheet** has been a leader in this field for many years. This is due to the efforts of our many members and through your help this will continue. It only takes a few minutes to jot down something that happens on a project that you are doing or going to do. In what I have said already, I do not want to eliminate any of our members. I am sure our associate members have some interesting experiences to relate also. Also, some of our salesmen, who are on the road all the time, run into many interesting situations.

It would be a great help to our editor if he had several articles sitting on his desk at all times to be used as needed. It's a credit to our association to have a man like Ray Gerber putting our paper together every month. I know what he must go through to place all the ads and complete the necessary extra writing to fill the paper every month. I would like to take the time to congratulate Ray on the fine job he is doing. Again, we are not looking for a literary genius, just some interesting facts you would like to share with your fellow members. We would appreciate hearing from any or all of you.

Joe Grenko

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DOM GROTTI HONORED

Biography of Dominic Grotti:

Dom grew up in Terre Haute, Indiana where he worked in the coal mines. At age 18 he decided there must be a better way of life so he moved to the Chicago area and got his first introduction to golf as a greensman at the Chevy Chase Golf Club in Wheeling. This was 51 years ago, back in 1927.

Dom's next move was to Sunset Ridge where he became the assistant Superintendent in 1933. By 1942 Dom took over the position of head Superintendent where he still continues to display his expertise and artistry as a truly great leader of his profession.

When Dom is asked when he intends to retire, he states that he hasn't given it much thought as he is perfectly content doing what he likes best, being out on the course every day. However, he is currently training his nephew as his eventual replacement.

As Dom looks back upon his career, he recalls several highlights. For instance, his total budget was \$14,600 when he started in 1942. Compare that to present days expenses of over \$200,000. He recalls the rewarding experience of Sunset Ridge hosting the Western Open Tournament in 1972. Dom is mighty proud of the fact that the club honored him by the naming of Lake Dominic which many of us encountered today as we played the twelfth hole.

In spite of his long hours required as a superintendent, he has also found time to a good family man. He and his good wife Betty have two children and they both love to talk about their six grandchildren.

Dom, on behalf of the membership of the Midwest Golf Course Superintendents Association, we present you with this plaque as a token of our appreciation for your lifelong contribution to golf. —Congratulations.

The presentation was made by **Carl Hopphan** and **Bob Williams**. Dom felt very proud. The audience reponse was terrific.

Also acknowledged **Emil Eiser** who retired May 1st as Superintendent of Shore Acres C.C. after 40 years of service.

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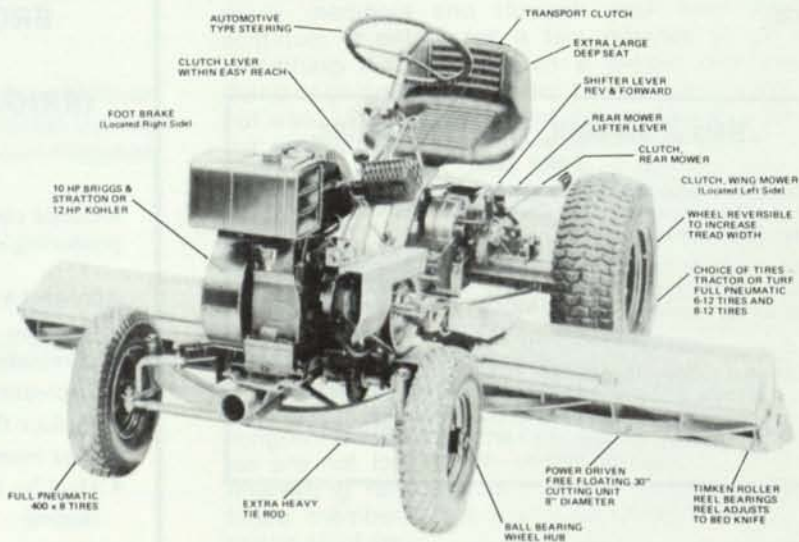
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Spring is nearing summer but it's nice to reflect on
it's beauty.

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How I love the Springtime,

When the Buds pop,
like popcorn on the fire.

And I love the green grass,

That in the warm sun,
grows higher and higher.

Yes, I love the springtime,

When all of Nature thrives again,
and eases all of Winter's pain.

I find I always marvel,

At what goes on in Nature's game.

Sure I love this repeated story,

Of Nature blooming forth in glory.

How it helps my heart to sing,

What a regeneration comes with Spring.

Superintendently,

Kenneth R. Zanzig
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EDITORIAL

THE MYSTERIOUS WINTER OF '77

It is obvious that what many Superintendents thought was going to be a good spring for our greens turned out to be a disaster for many of us. Over the past several weeks I've discussed the situation of Poa winter kill with several Superintendents and after visual inspection I have come up with the following conclusions.

First of all and most noticeable is the fact that those who aerified their greens this past fall had the most damage. Especially, where the aerification holes were not closed up. Those who aerified immediately after Labor Day with smaller tines, then topdressed, fertilized and left their greens a little hairy going into the winter didn't seem to suffer as badly. The courses with no fall aerification on greens came out the best. Poa greens that were on sand topdressing programs fared the worst. Traffic areas on and off sections of a particular green also seemed hit worse. Courses with more play than others seemed to have more problems. Greens in hard to grow areas, with little air movement and heavy traffic were damaged more than others.

Upon taking over at Skokie in mid-January one of the first observations I undertook was to shovel snow off of some greens to check for an ice layer. Indeed that is exactly what I found, a very thin coat on many greens and not only in low lying areas.

Synopsis:

The summer of 77 was a bad one probably one of the worst. With all of the heat and rain in mid-summer to many of us the only re-course was to aerify greens in the fall. The poa was weak, those that utilized a sand topdressing program where fall poa germination is limited had many weakened plants going into the winter. Green areas where traffic is heaviest also had restricted roots unable to withstand the ice immediately under the surface level. Those who aerified and didn't have the holes close up as fast as anticipated suffered when the greens became saturated with rains in late fall followed by heavy wet snows which froze in the unfrosted aerification holes. Some of us who probably made the last cut on greens a little too late especially on small heavily trafficked greens also suffered. Maybe we learned a lesson from this past winter. Our business is like a card game, sometimes we have to make the "wrong move" at the right time!

John Berarducci
Skokie Country Club

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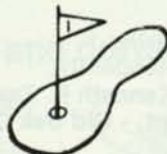
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MY FACE IS RED.

I am truly sorry if my hasty weather prediction in the Chicago Tribune for the best spring and summer ever on our golf courses (due to the heavy winter snow) caused you unnecessary worry and sorrow. The climate to date has been just the opposite to my rosy predication and I'd better get out of the weather business before somebody puts a bounty on my head. In the past years when I used the news media and my many connections to give news to our golfers of our hardships with pythium, ataenius beetle and scorching summers many of you called me and commended me on my swift action of educating golfers through the use of newspapers on how rough things can get for us during the golfing season. You are just as right now to censure me when I have done the opposite and got the golfers on your backs. But please believe me it was unintentional. You see, this year I thought just for once I would be optimistic and say that things are going to be great and wonderful for 1978, enough bad news for a change I thought. You all know how expensive golf is getting to be especially at private clubs and Washington is now trying to make it even tougher to belong to a country club. So I thought a little optimism wouldn't hurt for a change. Well it did. I handled it wrong and I am extremely sorry if I have caused you, my fellow superintendents, any grief.

Very sincerely yours,

Paul N. Voykin



Editor
MIDWEST BREEZES

Our May 8th meeting was held at Woodridge C.C. 88 members enjoyed a wonderful steak dinner and excellent service, and 33 played golf under threatening clouds. Our host Superintendent, **Tony Meyer**, took charge and made the day a most enjoyable one.

Our Monday, June 12 meeting will be held at Old Elm Club. Ft. Sheridan, Ill. **Al Bertucci**, Superintendent will be our host. No guest will be permitted so bring your 1978 membership card with you.

MAGCS annual dinner dance will be held on Saturday, November 18, 1978 at Indian Lakes C.C.

The turfgrass on golf courses in the Chicago area did not fare too well this spring, with the exception of a small percentage. I guess some people have more luck than others. As of this writing, the weather has been cold and certainly not the growing conditions that one needs to get that poa annua started. The old statement is "Bring back the Poa and all is forgiven". This sometimes takes place twice a year, spring and August in the Chicago area. Patience is required and that is something many of us do not have.

With this issue the **Bull Sheet** will have a birthday, our 32nd, with the same printer "Ever-Redi" - an excellent record. There have been several editors during these many years. The **Bull Sheet** started with two mimeographed pages and now has grown to twenty printed pages. This could never have been possible without our advertisers. For this we thank them. Yours truly thanks all those that have contributed articles for publication during my six years as editor. This kind of cooperation is responsible for the **Bull Sheet's** success. Let me remind you to remember our advertisers when getting ready to make a purchase.

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SMILE

A smile costs nothing, but it gives much. It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. None is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it, and none is so poor but he can be made rich by it. A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in business and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad and it is nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give you a smile—give them one of yours, as none needs a smile as he who has no more to give. **Author Unknown**

CHECK LIST FOR

HOST SUPERINTENDENTS

If you have chosen to be a host for an IGCSA monthly meeting, here is a list of what will be expected of you regarding your meeting.

The host in general should:

- be available to guests from 1 hour prior to the first tee time until the meeting is adjourned.
- not plan to play golf so that he may coordinate activities.
- arrange and be responsible for the collection of all funds due to the club ie; golf, dinner, etc.

The host should arrange with the Golf Professional:

- meeting date
- time of golfers arrival and how many to expect
- availability of golf cars or caddys
- registration of players
- collection of fees for tournament and golf cars
- collect for and distribute dinner tickets and advise manager
- handle tournament and prizes to be awarded.

The host should arrange with the Clubhouse Manager:

- meeting date
- price of dinner including tax and tip
- availability of lunch and method of payment
- number expected for dinner and meeting
- provide seating with head table for officers (3), speaker(1), host superintendent, and his guests
- provide audio-visual equipment if necessary
- availability of showers, lockers, and shower supplies.

The host should arrange with the IGCSA:

- provide an information sheet to the newsletter editor by the 10th of the month prior to the meeting. This information should include: names, dates, location, directions, prices, menus, times, facilities available, and anything else important to your meeting.
- provide a one or more page article about your course describing any features, problems, etc. that you wish to call to the attention of your fellow Superintendents. This should also be sent to the newsletter Editor by the 10th of the month prior to your meeting.
- Stay in contact with IGCSA chairman and officers as necessary to insure a good meeting.

It is the wish of all involved to have an enjoyable and informative day while attending your meeting. Your pre-planning and cooperation will go a long way in achieving this goal.

Thank you,
IGCSA Special Committee
 Credit - Indiana Golf Course Supts. Assn.

Dear Dave:

Thank you for much for Honorary Membership for 1978 in the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

Over the years it has been my great pleasure to be associated with MAGCS and many area superintendents. I sincerely hope to attend several functions and will continue with our efforts to maintain the fine relationship between the Golf Course Superintendents and the CDGA.

Sincerely,
Donald F. Johnson, President

Dear Dave:

It is always a pleasure to be remembered by old friends and to know that fond memories linger on. The honorary membership is something which I have treasured over the years and this year's renewal has made me very proud to be affiliated with such a fine group of golf course superintendents.

There is a distinct possibility that Dora and I will vacation in Crystal Lake, Illinois this summer and if this comes about, I will make every effort to attend the Midwest Association's monthly meeting--wherever it may be.

Once again, many thanks for the honorary membership.

Sincerely,
Paul M. Alexander, Ph.D.
Staff Agronomist - Porter Brothers, Inc.

Dear Dave:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and the Board of Directors of MAGCS for my continued affiliation as an honorary member of the Midwest Association. I greatly appreciate this honor and hope that I will be able to reciprocate for this honor in the future.

Incidentally your brother and I spent a couple of days together in Tucson recently, and I thoroughly enjoyed it. It is always a great pleasure to get to visit with Bill and to keep up with his various endeavors. And, I hope that your father's health is greatly improving and that he is back out on the course giving it all that he has.

The golf courses, in general, came through in our Region in great shape. In parts of the region there were some serious snow mold problems; however desiccation, which is a real bear in this country, stayed away from our door, and activities on the golf courses have been hot and heavy for more than a month.

I am sure that we are all glad to see another season come and with the U.S. Open at Cherry Hills and several other major tournaments in the Region we are all looking forward to a busy year. Dave, please thank the various people who were responsible for my continuation as an honorary member with your group.

Yours sincerely,
Jack D. Butler, Professor
Colorado State University

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