

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

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President - Bob Breen

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If it is a fact that being able to keep a secret is a definite indicator of maturity, we as an association have attained that milestone. The secret that has been so cleverly hidden and revealed to a select few is that the educational programs presented in the early spring and winter have been truly outstanding and the Education and Research Committee of Don Hoffman, John Berarducci, and Lenny Berg are to be commended for their efforts.

In January we were treated to a tour of a Nuclear Research Facility, in March a very well presented slide program with much audience participation on the ravages of winter. The April meeting was highlighted by a very comprehensive program on trees and problems involved with both insect and mechanical damage. The May meeting explained everything we wanted to know about hiring aliens and the responsibility involved; a veritable "smorgasbord" of information, but a very few seemed to have an appetite at these times.

I understand that those on the Northside consider "Silver Lake" to be just a soft wedge from the Mason Dixon Line and that those who make their living on the Southside are almost convinced that Pinecrest is built on permafrost, but the programs being offered were a caliber that would make the time spent traveling well worth it. It has to be very disheartening to both the speaker and the members of the Committee when there are less than fifty at a meeting.

In an effort to stimulate attendance, the Board unanimously decided to rather than waste funds paying for dinners guaranteed but not consumed, to offer an airline ticket for two to Hawaii in a drawing at our January meeting. The chances in the drawing will be postcards that have been returned from May through January so make plans to attend the future meetings and enjoy a trip to Hawaii.

Obviously we would like to have all of our meetings at a private club just 10 or 15 minutes from your home, but if that club does not offer it's facilities, there is no way we can have that meeting. The easiest way to have a meeting close to home is to offer your club for a future meeting. If not this year, how about next year?

Robert Breen

CHUCKLE

When the insects take over the world, it is hoped they will remember with gratitude how we took them along on all our picnics.

REMEMBER ME?

"I'm the fellow who goes into a restaurant, sits down and patiently waits while the waitresses finish their visiting before taking my order.

"I'm the fellow who goes into a department store and stands quietly while the clerks finish their little chit-chat.

"I'm the fellow who drives into a service station and never blows his horn, but lets the attendant take his time.

"You might say I'm the good guy, but do you know who else I am?

"I'm the fellow who never comes back.

"It amuses me to see business spending so much money every year to get me back ... when I was there in the first place.

"And all they needed to do was give me some service, and extend a little courtesy."



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Let's appoint a committee to look into it.

We'd be a laughing stock.

It isn't in the budget.

It'll make equipment obsolete.

We're too small for it.

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Why change—it's working OK.

We've never done that before.

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The following is the first of a two part article of the history of Chicago Golf Club, Wheaton, Ill., the oldest 18 hole golf course in the U.S. and the site of the United States Golf Association Senior Amateur Golf Tournament on September 17-22, 1979.

GREAT NAMES, TOURNAMENTS MARK CHICAGO GOLF CLUB HISTORY

Even though the last trace of snow melted almost a month ago, winter has left its reminder at Chicago Golf Club.

Many of the greens are temporarily blemished by what is called "snow mold" by many of today's green superintendents. Call it snow mold or plain, old "winter kill", Chicago Golf Club green superintendent Don Gerber isn't worried.

"They'll be all right", he said. "It'll just take a little rain, some warm nights, and some extra work. They'll be okay".

Gerber speaks with confidence when talking about the course, and why not? The course has been surviving the harsh northern Illinois winters southwest of Wheaton since 1894, two years after Chicago Golf Club was founded by Charles Blair Macdonald.

Spring is a season of great anticipation for those who play golf, and the members of the historic Chicago Golf Club (CGC) are no different than those who play the game at Downers Grove Golf Club, the original site of CGC, now owned and operated by the Downers Grove Park District.

The 1979 season, though, will be a little different. Chicago Golf Club, the site of the first 18 hole golf course built in the United States, is making something of a comeback. For the first time since the 1928 Walker Cup Matches, Chicago Golf Club will play host to a national tournament.

The United States Golf Association (USGA) Senior Championship will be played September 17-22 at Chicago Golf Club. Sixty years ago a national tournament was commonplace at Chicago Golf Club. From 1897 to 1912, eight USGA championships were contested at CGC, including three U.S. Opens.

The 1928 Walker Cup Matches are ancient history, but Chicago Golf Club is more contemporary than most courses built in the last five years. The club was the site of a USGA executive meeting in 1975 while the U.S. Open was being played at Medinah, and the golf course caught the fancy of the USGA's Frank Hannigan.

"For many of us, that was our first exposure to the course and that was when I got the idea of having the seniors there," said Hannigan, a tournament administrator. "It's really something...it's more than a golf course."

"The truth is, we went out after the club to host the tournament. It's a remarkably good golf course and is in generally immaculate condition. The senior championship doesn't put too much strain on the club, and we liked the quality of the golf course. It's very unique."

"It's a low-key event," explains Chicago Golf Club president Ed McGreevy. "It won't cause as much a problem as some larger events. We thought it would be good for us and wouldn't tie up the golf course much."

It's fitting that Chicago Golf Club makes its return to national exposure as host of the USGA Senior Championship. After all, Chicago Golf Club is one of the five founding members of the USGA, along with St. Andrews Golf Club of Yonkers-on-the-Hudson, N.Y.; Shinnecock Hills Golf Club of Southampton, N.Y.; Country Club of Brookline, Mass.; and Newport Golf Club of Newport, R.I.

If it hadn't been for Chicago Golf Club founder Macdonald, the Chicago area might not be the golf center it is. Macdonald learned to love the game as a young Chicagoan attending school in St. Andrews, Scotland, the birthplace of golf.

When he returned to Chicago, Macdonald lobbied vigorously among his friends to build a golf course. In 1892, after building a few holes in Lake Forest, he persuaded 30 of his friends to chip in \$10 each to buy some land near Downers Grove for a nine-hole course and form Chicago Golf Club.

Golf caught on fast in Chicago, and in 1894 Chicago Golf Club purchased 200 acres of farmland near Wheaton for \$28,000 to build the first 18-hole course in the country.

Macdonald designed the 18-hole course, and it was accepted as a championship course in 1897 when it played host to the U.S. Amateur and U.S. Open. Chicago Golf Club was a frequent stop on the tournament trail, hosting the U.S. Open in 1897, 1900, and 1911 and the U.S. Amateur in 1905 (when Robert Todd Lincoln, son of Abraham Lincoln, was club president), 1909, and 1912. The 1903 U.S. Women's Amateur also was held at Chicago Golf Club.

The club, with almost unlimited financial resources among its relatively few members, did everything possible to make its course the finest anywhere. Macdonald introduced creeping bent grass from Holland, brought sheep to graze on the course plus two horses to pull mowers, and then bought the first power mower to be used on a golf course.

Ten days before the 1912 U.S. Amateur, fire destroyed the clubhouse. But Chicago Golf Club members saved the tournament with a temporary facility that included a locker room.

Macdonald moved to New York sometime after the last Amateur. Golf changed because of improvements in equipment, and Macdonald's Chicago Golf Club course changed too. The founder was not happy about those changes.

"Nearly every change that has been made has been made for the worse and not for the better," said Macdonald in correspondence to a CGC member Oct. 17, 1917. "Chicago does not possess a golf course that compares with any of a dozen I could mention around the City of New York. And it's a pity because you have the material at hand to create a real golf course."

A "real golf course" was built a few years later with Macdonald's help. Seth Raynor, an engineer who didn't play golf, designed the new course with the help of Macdonald and the famed Chick Evans. Raynor, who combined with Macdonald in building several courses in the East, sat in the Chicago Golf Club clock tower for two days pondering the grounds.

Macdonald, who first introduced the out-of-bounds rule, and Evans helped set up tees and fairways. Evans, who won the 1916 U.S. Open and the U.S. Amateur in 1916 and 1920, hit hundreds of tee shots off prospective tees to help Raynor and Macdonald search for a "real golf course".

Earth was moved, bunkers were created, and a sophisticated drainage system was installed. Railroad cars containing 134 tons of manure, one for each acre of the course, rolled into Wheaton for the construction. In July of 1922, the first nine holes of the new course were opened and a year later the final nine was completed. The result was a 6,554-yard, par 70 course, a "real golf course".

There is a widely spread rumor that Macdonald designed the new course with almost all holes doglegging to the right. Macdonald was a slicer but

according to official club history, he didn't design the course with his shortcomings in mind even though most holes do bend right.)

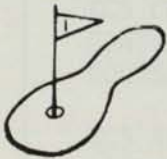
Reid Hanley
Suburban Trib, April 29, 1979

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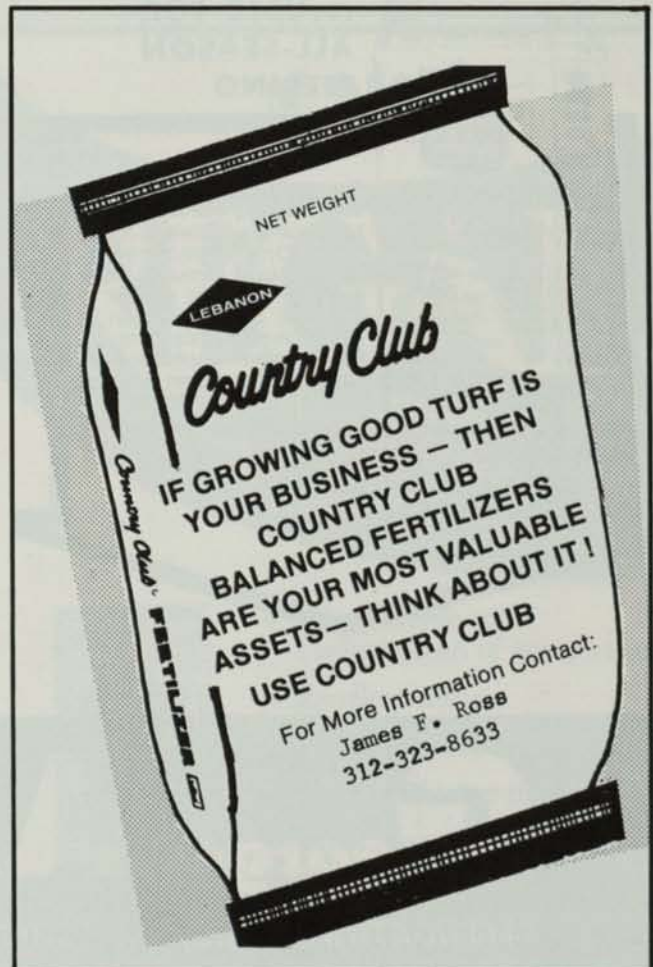
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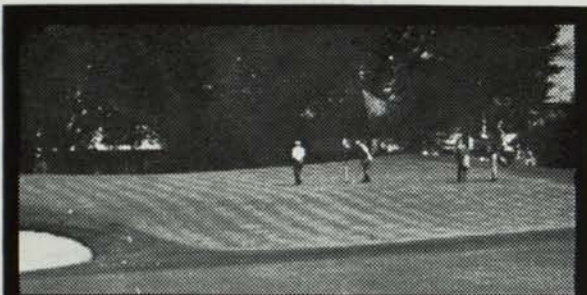
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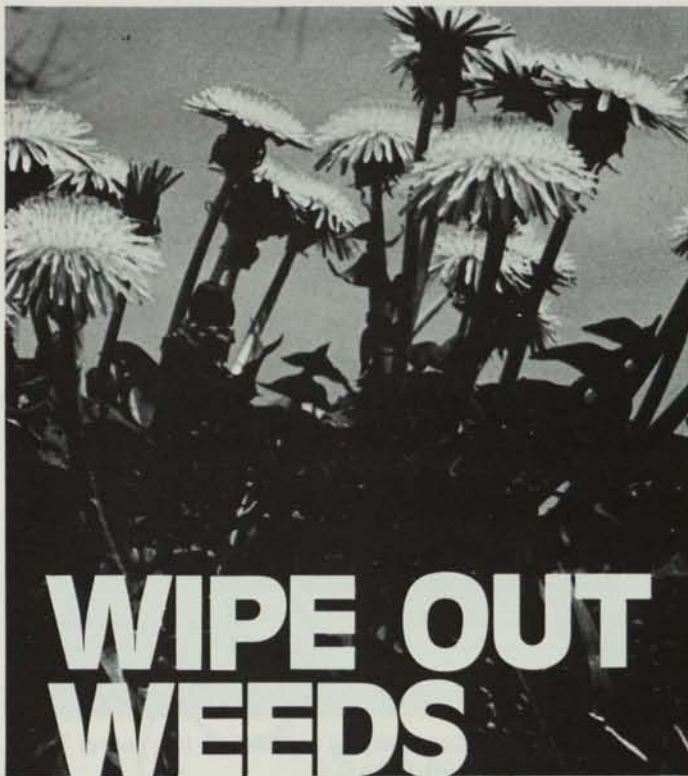
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"To err is human, to forgive divine". This quote from the English poet Alexander Pope in his *Essays on Criticism*. There is little doubt about the wisdom of those words, for we all know how easy it is to be in error, and how difficult it is to forgive others for their mistakes. And it is just as difficult to forgive ourselves when we are at fault -- or even to admit that we are wrong.

We need not fear making a mistake. We can learn from our mistakes and the experience can give us new strength and help us grow. Mistakes are inevitable, but we must be sure that we are able and willing to recognize our wrong when they occur. Admitting our mistakes is usually the most difficult part of the mending process. It is also the most honorable. Yet so often we find ways to excuse our behavior.

A few weeks ago while cleaning out a desk drawer I came across a clipping I had torn out of a newspaper many years ago. It was written by an anonymous author who makes a humorous comparison which illustrates how we rationalize our own weakness, and often even fail to recognize them.

When the other fellow takes a long time to do something, he's slow;
But when I take a long time to do something, I'm thorough;

When the other fellow doesn't do it, he's too lazy;
But when I don't do it, I'm too busy.
When someone else goes ahead and does something without being told, he's overstepping his bounds;
But when I do it, that's initiative.

For one to state his side of a question strongly, is being bullheaded;
But for me to do so is being firm.

When the other fellow overlooks a few rules of etiquette, he's rude;
But when I skip a few rules, that's originality.

When the other guy makes a mistake, he sure had it coming to him;
But for me to make a mistake, WOW, what bad luck.
Funny, isn't it--that it is so hard to correct our faults? Maybe it's just because we don't even recognize them--except in others.

To paraphrase Alexander Pope: To err is human--to admit our error is a mark of honesty.



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The Chicago District Golf Association and the Midwest Golf Course Superintendents Association has worked out a plan for the Superintendents of Chicago District Golf Association member clubs to obtain a handicap at no charge.

The Midwest Association will act as the home club with our own club member. When a round of golf is played, record the score properly on the guest sheet at that club. When those sheets are sent in your handicap will be figured and sent to me, as representative, on the regular print out sheet. You can get your up to date correct handicap one of two ways...One by calling me personally at the club, or second, the sheets will be brought to all Midwest meetings.

If you are not a Superintendent at a Chicago District Member Club, but wish to participate, please call me for the procedures to get your handicap. If there are any questions, please call me at Butler National.

Ed Fischer, CGCS, Golf Chairman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ray,

I wish to reply to Pete Leuzinger's letter stating he felt saddened that the Midwest Association was not a very hospitable group of men. His comment was that a new member of our GREAT Midwest Association was badly ignored at his first meeting. "No one greeted this new face and made him welcome". Well, all I can say is tough luck! When my shy brothers and I came to this wonderful country from the prairies of Saskatchewan nobody talked to us at the first Midwest meeting and I am happy to say nobody still does. That's the way it should be.

Paul N. Voykin



Ray Schei, Supt. Ruth Lake C.C., our June 4 host.

Golf Day at Ruth Lake Country Club was held in honor of our fellow superintendents who are now retired (AA Classification). In spite of a poor turn out of only 47 golfers and approximately 69 for dinner, the weather and beautiful golf course made for a pleasant June 4th. Seven AA played golf and Joe Canale showed all his peers how to hit the long ball on #2 hole by winning the longest drive contest. Bill Krafft won the closest to the pin contest on #18, a tough hole into the wind. Dom. Grotti and Charlie Shiley both won a prize for low gross scores, 91 and 94 respectively. Other AAs to participate on the golf course were Charles Rack, Frank Dinelli, and Charles Schultz. Other golf news includes Doug Spaulding's terrific score of 69, Low Gross for the day. Not a bad round for a Hoosier where the wind never blows! Tom Rader won a prize for long drive on #2. You don't have to be over six foot to hit the ball a long way. Rodney Voykin hit closest to the pin on #18. Other prizes were awarded to Len Berg and Gary Dorsch for blind bogey, and Calloway winners were Joe Williamson and Bill Walsh.

Golf Committee