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## I WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND

I see you at the meetings, but you never say hello,  
You're busy all the time you're there,  
with those you already know.  
I sit amongst the members and yet I'm a lonesome guy;  
The new ones are as strange as I, but  
you old members pass me by.  
But darn it, you folks asked us in,  
and talked of fellowship,  
You could just step across the room,  
but you've never made the trip.  
Why can't you nod and say hello, or stop  
and shake my hand; then go and sit  
among your friends, now that I'd understand.  
I'll be at your next meeting, perhaps  
a nice time to spend;  
Do you think you could introduce yourself?  
I want to be your FRIEND.

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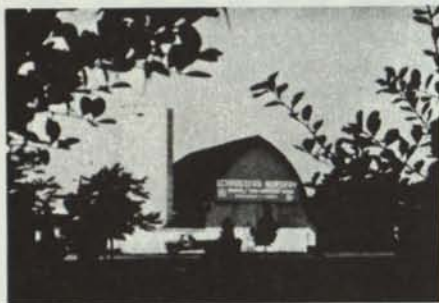
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The sympathy of the Midwest Golf Course Supts. Association is extended to the **Ray Diddier** family due to the passing away of Mr. Diddier, on April 16, 1979. Ray was a past president of the M.A.G.C.S. He also was the Supt. for many years at the famous Tam O'Shanter C.C. at Niles, IL. After his retirement, he and Mrs. Diddier moved to Florida where he resided until his passing away.

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## OVER WATERING AMERICAN GOLF COURSE

How often it is heard, from players returning from a golf sabbatical, how clubs such as Shinnecock Hills, Winged Foot, Baltusrol, and Pine Valley played so well with fast, firm greens and tightly cut fairways.

It has been my pleasure to have chatted with the men in charge of maintaining these courses, all of whom echo the same water-management theme: "Keep the golf course as dry as possible."

Through many turf organizations, associations, and university research people, findings show that grass will grow in the spring when it is ready. If man tries to push the grass in the spring this will usually result in poor golfing conditions in late July and August. During the late spring and early summer it is sound to allow a golf course, with majorities of bentgrass and bluegrass varieties, to go on the dry side. This enables the roots to go deep, thus making a plant independent. An applicable adage is that it is easy to put water on, but is almost impossible to take it away. I know in the case of the Garden City Golf Club, the course, in 1965, used 55-plus million gallons of water. Last year's water use was 12-plus million gallons.

As a Golf Superintendent and one who has had a peripatetic golf-history heart, I have observed how membership requests can sometimes detrimentally influence the nature of a golf course, and its Golf Superintendent. Many of these wants/desires are: The greens don't hold a shot—give them a good soaking; We want everything green and lush to impress guests; We have our own well and water is free and unlimited—let's use it; Our course doesn't compare to the one seen during the televised tournament; Our foursome was out this morning and we noticed an area on the seventh fairway which was "burned out;" Why isn't the course being watered more—it's dying; and, Why do they (greens crew) have to renovate during the prime time of late August and early September?

In answering these comments, I begin by noting that giving the greens "a good soaking" can sometimes lead to weed encroachment, disease, and deep, difficult-to-repair ball marks. Also when talking about the holding qualities of a green, one must consider the condition of the fairways. Simply put, you can not "pinch" the ball from a soft, lush fairway, and to pinch the ball means to give it the needed spin to hold the green.

Water may be free for some golf courses, but the cost of electricity to pump that water is not. The self proclaimed agronomist who sees, on TV, a golf course at its peak, does not view that same golf course two weeks later after the trials of big-time tournament play. Additional costs from the overuse of water come in the form of extra fertilizer, chemicals to control disease, and, naturally, mowing more often. Of course when overuser of water has finally drowned all turf out, then out comes the aerifiers, thachers, slicers, spikes and assorted other machinery to try to bring the golf course back. By adding this additional work on a greens crew which may already be overextended, much of the normal, everyday work is left to wane, thus, making a course look even worse.

The water-management program for any golf course must take stock of the different types of soil varieties which are present on the course. These vary from sandy soil, which requires heavier amounts of water; clay soil which needs little water, but which needs to be constantly kept moist; heavy, rich loam soil, which needs water but never too much at one time; and a mix of sand and rich loam that is found in many parts of this

Met area, especially on the older links, and which requires only moderate watering. On most of this area's golf courses practically all types of soil varieties can be found. This means that no set program can be made for everything getting exactly the same amount of water.

Probably the major concern that must be had at most Met-area courses is not to go into August with overly wet soil. As we all know, August days are generally hot and humid, and just bloody uncomfortable for man and, yes, grass. So as to give our courses the best chance for survival, we should gear out watering efforts for these dreaded Augusts.

Should your golf course be cutting back on the amount of water being used? Let me answer this in the following fashion.

The alarming problems of conserving water just tapped us on the shoulder last year. We saw Monterey Peninsula and Marin County of California brought to its knees for lack of water. In the Midwest, many golf courses were cut off from water use. On Long Island, a municipality whose own water supply was polluted took over a golf club's well for city use.

With the improper management and wasteful consumption by everyone, it clearly documents the severe shortage in all areas of our nation. We all must share the burdens of water conservation for if not, we only have ourselves to blame if the water runs out.

Melvin B. Lucas, Jr., CGCS  
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On March 16 the Chicago District Golf Association sponsored their annual Green Seminar at the beautiful Butterfield C.C. A total of 275 members, Supts. and golf professionals attended this one day event. The C.D.G.A. green committee under the direction and guidance of chairman **David Amory** and Pres. **Don Johnson** did an excellent job in selecting the timely subjects and the speakers. **Dr. Roscol Randell**, extension entomologist from the University of Illinois gave an excellent talk along with showing slide pictures on the Atainius Beetle. The damage being done by these beetles is more serious than most of us realize. **Bruce Sering**, Super at Glen View Club, and **Warren Bidwell**, Supt. at Olympia Fields C.C., gave us the benefit of their experience with this beetle during the past couple years. "Prepare for it, watch for it, budget for it."

The subject "Effluent Water Project at North Shore Sanitary District" was presented by **Dr. Al Turgeon** from the University of Illinois. **Robert Williams**, Supt. at Bob O'Link G.C., and **Wolfgang Mueller**, Supt. at Onwentsia Club had an excellent presentation on the work that is taking place and what is involved before the water can be used for irrigation.

The subject "What Golf Course Architects Can Do For Your Club to Make It a Better and More Interesting Course", was presented by two well known architects, **Richard Nugent** and **Dave Gill**. I am sure there are some of the older as well as some of the newer golf courses that could use some professional advice.

"Winter Damage on Your Golf Course" was covered very well by two Supers, **Mike Bavier**, C.G.C.S., Inverness C.C. and **Fred Opperman**, C.G.C.S held the attention of the audience by explaining what one can expect and some of the remedies that can be used to help overcome the problems.

The speakers did such a fantastic job that there was no reason to use the question and answer period. Certainly the 275 club members, Supts. and golf professionals who attended feel that their time was well spent and want to thank the Butterfield C.C. for allowing the C.D.G.A. seminar to be held at their fine club.



*David Amory*



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