

Herb Graffis's Recent Letter to Editor

Dear Fred,

"As tough as it is to pen letters, since my sight is so bad I can't aim correctly at typewriter keys anymore, damn if I don't feel a push again to cheer you and your collaborators on the **Bull Sheet**. The issues are read to me, and I continue to be impressed by the close-up practical usefulness of the paper.

I used to think I was a pretty fair editor in the days when golfdom and the Midwest were growing up together and helping to make the USGA green section a tremendously valuable factor in American environment and sports, but damn seldom could I get any more useful articles than those of the **Bull Sheet** such as that on wear and the equipment maintenance program. This is the sort of business information and foresight reading that gets golf club officials and owners into the act.

Now a usual annual cost of 18-hole maintenance is more than \$300,000. That's more than the revenue of the pro shop usually.

Fred, the collaboration of the Golf Course Superintendents Association, the green section of the USGA, and the agricultural schools has been unique in American sports, economics, and environment, and you know I have had experience in business journalism, as well as in sports and other general reporting in peace and war and can testify that of all in the business of sports the managers of golf courses have been the most useful in the national pursuit of happiness and beauty. The green section declaration "Golf Keeps America Beautiful" is a statement of public service no other sport can make — and that reminder must be emphasized and repeated by the USGA and the GCSA for the general good.

Golf's professionals have been having their social and marketing difficulties generally due to the mercenary playing specialist's victory in the civil war that is dividing golf publicity into a playing game in the traditional and happy and healthy manner and into a "stadium" game in which a golf course is to be a combination of a bowling alley and an open-ended bullring in which spectators can watch horseshoe pitching, crap shooting, or girls' softball.

Hell, Joe and I and other concerned with Golf course construction and management can remember these sectional demonstrations of equipment and suppliers and the costs and other problems of manufacturers and salesmen. As a guy who has been around a bit in 91 years, I am immensely impressed by the progress and helpfulness over a vast area of land and people of the USGA green section (sector?) and the GCSAA.

But then, I think of being up there and finishing a round late at Knollwood and before going into the locker room and pay off and drink my Coke for fresh air poisoning, I would see Butch, or whoever else happened to be in charge of our course, look to the wide sweep of the fairway sprinklers in the sun setting over the great divide between Lake Michigan and its Atlantic outlet and the Des Plaines and Mississippi and think of the golf course by enjoying the blessing of knowing that this beauty, this magnificent, this heaven I have created, what some son of a gun in the clubhouse has scored better than I today, in making men, women, and children happy and healthy.

Fred, you see how you and your teammates have been kind to me."

Herb Graffis



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A "Thank You" from "Doc"

Dear Fred,

Had I known retirement would bring so many pleasant experiences I might have considered it earlier.

Your April issue of the **Bull Sheet**, dedicated to me and our Purdue University Turf Management program is a true serendipity — an unexpected pleasure.

Thanks to the editor and assistants for the planning and organization required of such a project. What a joy to have the thoughtful expressions of these fifty friends remembering the pleasant events of our 35 years of sharing.

The sports turf profession in general has attracted people that exhibit a cooperative, progressive attitude. You in the profession have made my work pleasant and challenging by sharing ideas and allowing me to learn from you.

The Midwest Turf Program has benefitted greatly from your support. Dr. Ray Freeborg, along with a new staff person, look forward to your continued cooperation.

Official retirement began May 1985 for me but I look forward to contact with many of you as I continue to work for the improvement of sports turf.

My sincere thanks to the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents and especially the staff of the **Bull Sheet**.

Bill Daniel "DOC"