

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

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President's Message

by Mike Nass, CGCS

To say this has been a strange and trying year would probably be an understatement. The year started out rather cold in March and April, then things started cooking in May, and by August everyone was screaming "Uncle"!. Then as fast as it started, the temperature dropped from the hundreds to the seventies, and by early October, there had been several heavy frosts. All in all, I guess I can look back on the year and breathe a sigh of relief.

As a Board this year, we have experienced some problems as do all boards; but I won't dwell on those. Brad Johnson can fill you in on that area. There were some accomplishments that I would like to take the time to mention.

First, we have returned our annual clinic back to its original format one that gives our own members an opportunity to present their thoughts and innovations to their peers in the relaxed setting of a country club. We have done this without dropping our commitment to the NCTE, which I feel is important.

We also formed a long-range planning committee that consists of members of the current Board and some past presidents of the organization. We hope this committee will be able to share its wisdom, learned from past experiences, with new boards and provide some sense of continuity to the organization.

Also, the Board continues to run in a financially efficient manner as evidenced by the fact that there hasn't been a dues increase in 5 or 6 years.

Lastly, I'd like to thank all the members of this year's Board who helped make my year as president a little bit easier. Being on the Board takes a lot of extra time, and it takes a lot of dedication to fulfill the obligation. Despite that, I have found my participation to be a rewarding experience and would like to encourage more members to take an interest in serving on the Board. I especially encourage this since I am next year's nominating committee chairman. Thank you, and good luck in the future.

The **Bull Sheet** is published once a month. All articles are required by the 10th of the month to make the next issue. Advertising is sold by the column inch, by the quarter page, half page, and by the full page. All artwork to be finished and in black and white. Circulation is over 570 issues per month.

Director's Column



by Joel Purpur
River Forest Country Club

By the time the November **Bull Sheet** hits the streets, the 1988 Medinah Turf Clinic will be history. Hopefully, everyone who attended benefited in some way. With the theme "Where We've Been, and Where We Think We're Going in Golf Course Management," we tried to look into the future of our profession. One subject not covered in the program was speculation into the future as to the demands of the memberships. Good conditions in some cases aren't good enough.

Even though technology and individual talents are better, too frequently, talented superintendents are losing jobs for seemingly petty reasons. Will we still see the day where many superintendents retire after long terms at one club? Unfortunately, in many cases, seasoned superintendents have had to make course changes to keep up with progressing pay scales.

Much has been said about the large number of new golf courses required to keep up with the growing demand and interest in golf, but has anyone heard of any speculations as to the future availability of quality superintendents to staff the new golf courses? The University of Illinois and others claim dwindling enrollments in turf programs. If this creates a shortage of educated superintendents in upcoming years, job security and salaries look optimistic. Today's golfers won't tolerate substandard conditions from non-professionals. Only time will tell. In the meantime, we have to get past the present, preferably enjoy it.

There's no doubt that the stress from the hot summer put negativity in the optimism of many. If we can learn to deal with the physical and mental stresses we encounter daily at the golf course, we may not burn out or get the "There's Got to Be a Better Way" attitude. Try to remember during those two tough months of heavy stress that they will be followed by 4 months of winter where vacations and snow removal are top priorities.

Last summer dealt us drought and record heat, but for the most part, superintendents in the Midwest kept great golf courses considering the conditions. If next summer is also hot and dry, hopefully, we will be better prepared to handle it. If Mother Nature gives us a normal, cooler summer, it will surely be appreciated.

As far as the future of our profession goes, if a shortage of superintendents does occur, perhaps all of us will be in the driver's seat.



In Memorium

We offer our condolences and deepest sympathy to the family of Frank Joseph Dinelli who passed away September 29th at the age of 85.

Frank was the patriarch of a large family including his wife Alice, four daughters, three sons, twenty-two grandchildren, and nineteen great-grandchildren.

All of Frank's three sons followed their dad into the "Greenkeeping" profession. Joseph is currently the superintendent of the North Shore Country Club in Glenview, James is a turfgrass consultant and Jerry who followed his father as Superintendent at Northmoor Country Club has turned his many talents to antique toy collecting and writing on the subject. Additionally, two grandsons, Danny and Jerry Jr. are learning the ropes so to speak with Joe at North Shore C.C. So the Dinelli name and tradition appears to be assured for many years to come.

Frank was born in Ladd, Illinois, in 1903. After his school years, he went to work in the coal mines in Centralia, Illinois. Soon thereafter, in 1921, Frank and Alice were married and moved to Highland Park, Illinois where he took the position of assistant Superintendent at the Northmoor Country Club. By 1929, Frank took over as the Superintendent, a position he held until his retirement in 1968, after 44 years of continuous employment by Northmoor.

The Northmoor Club gave Frank and Alice a notable retirement party at the club with his many friends and club members in attendance. The club showed its deep appreciation by granting Frank full club privileges as well as continuation of living in their home on the club grounds which they have for the past twenty years.

On a second occasion in 1978, ten years after his retirement, the club held another retirement party for Frank on his 75th birthday. A group of his Superintendent friends and club members attended where they presented Frank with a sizeable monetary reward in remembrance of his conscientious fulfillment of his responsibilities to the club over the years. Without doubt, no golf course Superintendent has ever been more loved, respected and rewarded than Frank has by the Northmoor members.

Frank was known as the "Dean" of Golf Course Superintendents in the Chicago area. He was a director of the International Golf Course Superintendents Association in 1951 and 1952. He served as president of the Midwest Golf Course Superintendents in its formative years. (continued on page 4)

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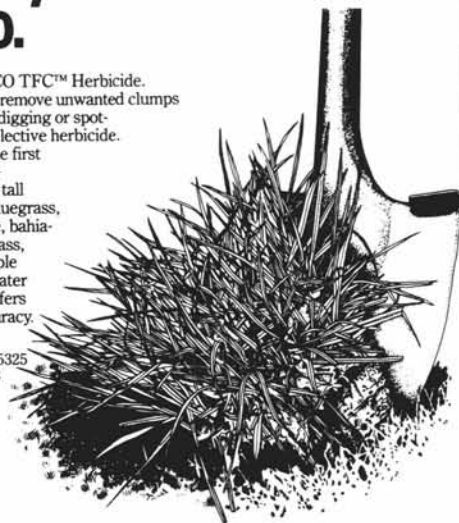
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Frank was also known as perhaps the greatest and most capable of all Superintendents of the "Green Thumb" era which prevailed prior to the University Turf Management Schools. In fact, he was instrumental in the origination of the Turf Management school at Purdue University.

Outstanding practical research developed by Frank, led to the first means of weed eradication in turf through the use of arsenicals and Iron Sulphate. He was an early advocate of the use of lime for golf course turf, generally using about a ton to the acre annually. Frank also believed in the use of dormant feeding of turf with Milorganite at 25 pounds per thousand sq. ft. which is still standard today for many Superintendents.

In remembrance of Frank, we must also pay note and tribute to his untiring devotion and interest to the younger generation of Superintendents. As most of us can recall, he was always ready and willing to be of help whenever we asked. He was a true champion for the youth of our profession and a fine example for all of us to follow.

The fairways in the garden of heaven will surely be greener now that Frank Dinelli is there to care. We will miss him.



The above photo was taken at Northmoor C.C. on July 28, 1978, the 75th Birthday Celebration sponsored by the club for Frank Dinelli. Back row left to right: Ben Kronn, Adolph Bertucci, Bill Stuppel, Frank Dinelli, Ray Gerber, Amos Lapp, Dominick Grotti, and Ed Stewart. Front row, left to right: Bill Saielli, Robert Williams, Joe Dinelli, Jim Dinelli, Jim Johns, and Tony Meyer. (Editor's comment: Since this picture, 5 grand old "greenkeepers" have gone to truly greener pastures. The "In Memorium" and picture above was written and supplied by Bob Williams).

Why Only 18 Holes?

When the first golf course was laid out in Scotland, the architect took a "wee" dram as he laid out each hole, when he laid out the 18th hole he found the bottle was empty so he gave up.

Charles E. (Scotty) Stewart

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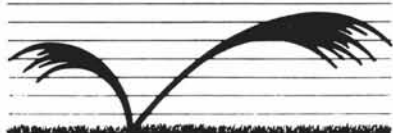
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Meeting by Ray Schmitz**



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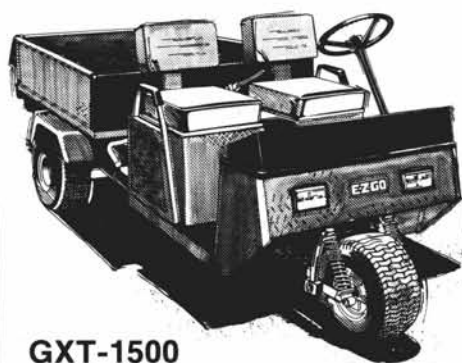
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Things I run across while looking up other things.

It might be of interest to some to know that such great men as Voltaire, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Paine, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Albert Einstein and many others were atheists and did not believe in a God. During his presidency of the University of Virginia Thomas Jefferson opposed establishing a professorship of divinity, recommending instead a professorship of ethics.

Charles E. (Scotty) Stewart

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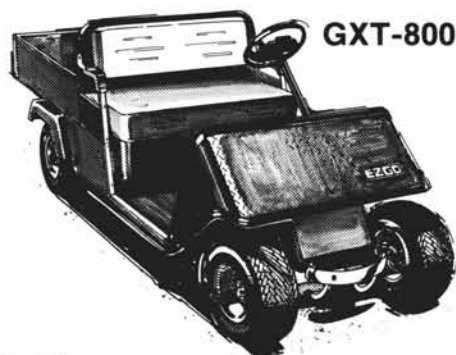
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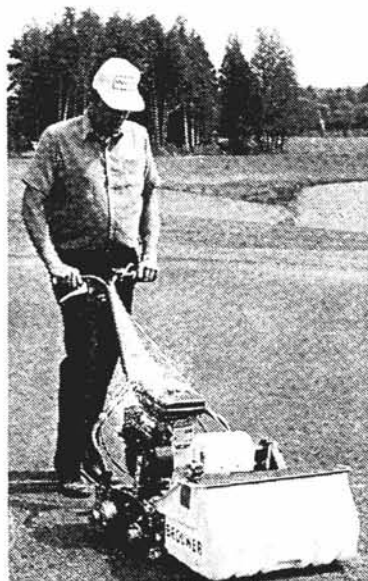
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The 1988 season is one of great challenge throughout the Great Lakes Region, mostly dealing with water (or lack of it) and water management (or lack of it). Early on, an unfortunate few courses relearned the vicious nature of crystalline water associated with ice sheet damage or freeze/thaw problems which caused winterkill of **Poa annua**. Not too long after the damage became evident, the pattern for the season was set — this was NOT to be a wet season. Few folks missed the opportunity in May to let the courses dry down to suppress the vigor of **Poa annua**. There was no warm, spring rain to get things started, though, and stolon growth on greens was slow to develop.

Irrigation became an all-encompassing chore at all but a handful of courses and water was applied with reckless abandon during the two or three months of southwestern weather we enjoyed. High evapotranspiration kept the pumps going and the sale of hose and rollerbase sprinklers reached an all-time high. Where an adequate supply of water was at hand and where there were enough hands to supplement irrigation systems, things couldn't have been better. Fungicide inventories gathered dust and trade-ins were being discussed ... until the last week of July or the first in August.

What hit the fan then was normal Midwestern weather — humidity and continuing heat. All of a sudden the applied water didn't go away. It hung around in the soil or thatch to act like a heat exchange out of commission. It kept absorbing daytime heat to keep things cozy at night. The outward re-radiation of heat at night was reduced and our temporary desert climate was replaced by a sauna. The fungicide folks were solvent again. **Poa annua** began to make its summer trip south, which is really unfair after all the water that had been poured on to keep it alive for two months. Reality returned.

About then, I wondered why we spend so much time, money and effort on the control of **Poa annua**, but when it goes away without any help why do we spend so much time, money and effort to replace P.a. at the inopportune time that it departs? Or is it a demand by golfers that green is the only acceptable color, no matter what? Hopefully, Green Committee people recognized that all things in nature are beyond the total control of people and despite our most up-to-date practices, some plants just sicken and die. And rather than becoming paranoid about losses, they will remain content with the turf that was saved. The spread of bentgrass in fairways did keep on keeping on — with less competition, so there was a bright side to the P.a. losses.

(continued on page 10)

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The true unfortunates this year are those whose water supply ran out, was cut off or perhaps worse yet, those whose water supply went bad. The contamination will have a prolonged effect on the soil. This did happen to courses in Canton, Illinois with sudden salt buildup and in Big Sky, Montana where the sewage effluent used for irrigation became a cause of turf deterioration. Both of these cases are reminders to have water analyses done every couple of years to track the condition of irrigation water. Had it not been for Brad Anderson's annual check at Canton, it is likely that the sudden rise in salinity would have gone undetected until the turf and trees were dead or severely damaged.

Water woes invoke the inevitable comments about poor drainage. Continued observations prove that greens built under **exact** Green Section specifications continue to perform admirably. Laboratory determinations continue to show that many peats are unfit for use with sands acceptable for putting green use because they have too much silt and/or clay in them. Like water, topdressing mixes should be checked periodically.

Incidentally, the USGA session at the North Central Turf Expo at Pheasant Run will feature all of the facets of Master Planning plus a description of the total renovation of the North Course at Detroit Golf Club this fall, by Superintendent Clem Wolfrom. Superintendents who are interested in course improvement should encourage their Committee Chairmen to attend this morning session on Tuesday, December 6.

Localized Dry Spots (L.D.S.) were prevalent again this year in sandy mixtures — even on one new Wisconsin green — in April — before it had ever been mowed. L.D.S. were also prevalent on a set of Wisconsin greens that had never seen sand or much topdressing of any sort, with a two inch thatch under the playing surface.

This brings us to Rock Irons. There is a nice little course near the headwaters of the Missouri River, where the largest selling item in the golf shop are Rock Irons. The fairways are so stony that no one wants to break their new clubs — so they buy used 4, 5 and 6 irons for use in the worst areas. If they break 'em they just throw away the pieces and get another. That course, by the way, has a very active caddy program based on the Western Golf Association setup that is doing exceptionally well. How many 9-hole courses have 12 fully-qualified Class A caddies available?

One final note on quality at the end of a very stressful summer. The Chairman of the USGA Senior Amateur Championship Committee told the contestants at the contestants dinner September 19, that the Milwaukee Country Club was only the second course in his 28 (or 38) years of attending championships, which required **no** white paint. The only directive that the USGA's Tom Meeks gave to Superintendent Danny Quast was "Don't Change Anything!"

And that was "The Summer of '88." Some good, more bad. As we improve our understanding of water management under the environmental and cultural stresses to which golf turf is subjected, we will be better able to cope with similar problems in the future.

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