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## President's Message



**Ray Schmitz**

**February 1992**

As the days start to gradually get longer and the thought of spring approaches, one's attention is drawn to attending the GCSAA Convention which is being held in New Orleans, Feb. 10-17. Each year I am continually amazed by the number and quality of educational opportunities available and by the amount of turf related equipment that is on display. My hat is off to the GCSAA staff for doing an excellent job of arranging and co-ordinating this convention year after year. This year 20,000 people are expected to attend.

The MAGCS will again provide a hospitality room in the Riverside Towers at the Headquarters Hotel on Feb. 14, 15 and 16th from 5-9 P.M. This gathering place provides an excellent opportunity to meet new friends and to renew old acquaintances. The room is sponsored by commercial members along with the MAGCS and everyone is welcome. Commercial members who help defray some of the cost will be honored with their name on a wall plaque which will be displayed in the room.

Let's all give our support to MAGCS past president Bruce Williams who is a candidate for the board of directors of the GCSAA. Bruce is currently serving on the board of directors for our national association and is seeking election for a two year term. It gives me a feeling of pride to have a MAGCS member serving on the board of directors for the GCSAA.

Good luck to our MAGCS chapter golf teams at the GCSAA Tournament in Florida. The last time our chapter won the championship was in 1989. Every year our team entries finish high in the standings and our guys are well respected in the tournament.

For MAGCS members who are unable to attend the convention in New Orleans I will try to give a brief summary of events in one of my upcoming presidents messages. For those who are planning to attend — have a safe trip.

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 600 issues per month.

# Editor's Column

by Fred Opperman



SILVER LAKE COUNTRY CLUB

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This issue of **The Bull Sheet** is being dedicated to Dr. Joseph Duich who recently retired from the staff at Penn State University. I want to thank Dudley Smith for writing the various PSU alumni and asking them to contribute to this special newsletter.

## Dr. Joseph Duich "The Legend at Penn State"

This guru of turf was born in 1928 and grew up in the small steel town of Farrell, Pennsylvania, near the Ohio border. He enlisted in the Marines right out of high school in 1946. After a 2-year hitch with the service, he entered Penn State in 1948. Somehow, while attending Penn State, he caught the eye of Burt Musser, maybe with the help of Warren Bidwell. Somehow Warren entered the picture and guided this young ex-marine by pointing out the proper path to pursue: Joe graduated with a BS degree in agronomy in 1952, continuing his studies under Burt Musser and earning this Doctorate degree in 1957.

The 2 year Penn State Turf Management School was started in 1957 with Burt Musser as the principal instructor. Joe taught some classes in 1957 and 1958 but did not take charge until 1959, when Burt Musser retired. That first graduating class in 1959 had 14 students. Since that time, over 1,100 students have come through Tyson Building and had to respond to, "You tell me, pal."

Joe and his wife, Pat, have three children: Katherine, Robert and Michael. Katherine's two children are Joe's only grandchildren.

Dr. Duich has won all of the awards in the Turf Profession, including the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award in 1976 and the USGA Green Section Award in 1981. He is known as the Father of Bentgrass. He created Pennstar Bluegrass in 1965, Pennfine in 1970, Penneagle in 1975, and Pennlink in 1987. Penncross was created by Burt Musser with the help of Joe.

In the Chicago area, the first greens seeded to Penncross were ones that Dudley Smith seeded in 1962; and Dick Trevathan seeded the first 18-hole course in Illinois with Penncross in 1963. This was the beginning of the end of stolonizing of greens.

Dec 7, 1991

Dr Joseph M. Duich  
Penn State University

Dear Joe,

Reflecting on our Musser days at school, I fondly remember smoking your Prince Albert and using your desk in the basement of Tyson to do my homework. You were out in the field for many hours judging your B-27 Merion bluegrass, while I sat and watched Judge Welch, Roy Cohn, and Sen. Joe McCarthy debate on television.

Then you organized a two year prep school on campus, that produced a flock of arrogant prima donnas. What background can a person get with only 32 weeks in Happy Valley? Eight of my Silver Lake boys passed through the Nittany dorms. A few won TUCO scholarships, but far more achievements were made at the MY-0-MY and the Lions Den. All eight men are still turf employed and speak of Duich, Waddington, and Watschke with a reverence that makes me PENN STATE PROUD!

Joe, I hope our paths cross many times so that I can argue grass doesn't grow at 1/8 inch on the golf course, the way it does in the classroom.

Enjoy your retirement, and DON'T QUIT SMOKING!  
We like you the way you are.

Dudley Smith, Class 1954



GCSAA

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MICHAEL R. BAVIER, CGCS  
Past President  
Inverness Golf Club  
102 N. Roselle Road  
Palatine, Illinois 60067

December 13, 1991

Dear Dr. Duich:

Well, I suppose a greeting of "Dear Joe" would have been nicer, but as an ex-Marine, we show our respect.

About thirty years ago, thanks to my good fortune, Dr. James Watson asked you to give me a chance to enroll at Penn State. I was just a farm boy from Minnesota who was still wet behind the ears and my boots were still dirty. Boy, you did scare me, maybe impress might be a better term. No, both! We only spoke briefly during those two years, but what I learned will be with me forever.

Also, you suggested a summer placement with Warren Bidwell would be a wise move. I was one of a few students that year who said a summer placement would be fine. Thanks for the advice, no regrets spending some time at Olympia Fields Country Club.

Joe, you then called some years later and asked me to speak at your turf conference. My good friend, Dudley Smith and two other friends were off driving to Penn State for one of your super conferences. Were you surprised when I showed up wearing a tuxedo for my speech, "Good Grooming is Good Spending"? Probably not, because "anything goes" at Penn State.

During the time I have known you, you have always been helpful with a word or two of wisdom.

Thanks again for instilling in me the pride of Penn State, which is synonymous with Dr. Joe Duich. Enjoy your retirement!

Sincerely,

Mike Bavier

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Dear Joe:

I want to wish you well as you embark on your "retirement" career. When you find what this really means, please let me know! I suspect that you, like me, will scarcely notice even a slight change of pace — but that's the turfgrass industry as you so well know.

Our mutual mentor, Professor Burt Musser taught us many things, and, although he was dedicated to the industry, he never taught us that one did not ever walk away from turfgrass and all the associated activities. But that's not all bad! Too few have the opportunity to commingle their vocation and their avocation. Turfgrass gives one that opportunity.

As I am your senior, both as a Nittany Lion and chronologically, I have the privilege of reflecting upon what your career has meant to turfgrass.

When midnight of December 31, 1991 arrives, the book will close on a program dating back to 1928 — sixty plus years ago!

In 1928 when President Ralph Hetzel, at the urging of Joe Valentine and Marshall Farnham, directed a young energetic legume breeder named H. Burton Musser to initiate a turfgrass research program, I feel confident that none expected that program to provide the grasses, the leadership, guidance and training that followed. Nor, the prestige that "Penn State" connotes to the turfgrass industry worldwide.

Since 1959 you have carried that banner with honor, dignity, dedication and vigor. Thank you! I recall so well Burt calling one day in the early 50s and saying — "I think I've found a good one"! He went on to outline your association with Warren Bidwell and your desire to enter graduate school. In another few years we visited at one of the many turfgrass conferences we both attended in those days. At that time he said, "I think" (Burt always thought or believed when it came to people projections — he was dogmatic only when he **knew**) "I've found the guy to take over when I retire." By this time you and I were friends and had been acquainted for some years. Of course, I know of whom he spoke nevertheless, I said, "Burt why are you so sure"; "well", he said, "he's a good worker, understands the business, handles himself well and he's almost as stubborn as I am." With that I agreed; **and, still do!**

To your credit, and to Burt's, when the reins changed hands there was essentially no change in programs. It was an absolutely smooth transition. Penncross was followed by Penneagle, Pennlinks, and Pennfine; the two-year program continued; and, grew. Grew to the point where it has become the preferred program, especially for those desiring a career as a golf course superintendent. Your students are found worldwide. Their respect for the training; guidance and discipline you instilled is reflected in the high regard, respect, and esteem they hold for you. Of all your contributions, I and many others, believe this to be your most significant.

On a more personal note, I have enjoyed our friendship over the years. Burt was right — you have done well — and will continue to do so. I remember fondly our trip through Europe and England in 1973. It was fun, entertaining and above all educational. I still remember (shudder) when I think of our non-air conditioned Paris hotel.

Should like to wish for you and Pat continued good health, happiness and success as you begin to wind down your illustrious career. Take a little time for yourself and enjoy.

Sincerely,

**James R. Watson**



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Dear Fred,

What do ya mean, "please, a comment or two for the **Bull Sheet?**" After what Joe Duich (especially), Don Waddington and the Technicians at the Valentine Research Center have done for all of us **and**, might I add, the game of golf and the turf-grass management industry, you couldn't hold me back! I would be delighted to assist the special issue, but at a cost. I would like to have two copies! Assuming the price is not too great, here we go. First the personal stuff.

I, like most everyone who ever graduated from Penn State University, was in awe of Dr. Joseph M. Duich. That's why we called him "god". Little did we know as we joked about it, just how true it was! Dr. Duich truly is a giant in our industry. We all have a personal story and this is one of mine.

I was a common grunt worker at the Turf Plots one summer. It was at a time in my life when I was trying to decide whether I wanted to get married, graduate, begin making an honest living or go onto graduate school. It was a turning point in my life. Interestingly, both Dr. Duich and Dr. Waddington had an affect on my decision.

A. Graduate school. Don Waddington was doing some research on fertilizers, as I recall, for the Consumer's Report magazine. They were trying to figure out which fertilizers were better for lawns than others. This truck shows up with all these bags of fertilizers, Dr. Waddington set-up the plots, as I recall, he or someone else applied the fertilizers, and then Don Waddington went on a 46-day vacation. That left the grunt technicians with having to mow the plots, collect the clippings, put them in their numbered bags, dry them (in a controlled atmosphere), weigh the bags, record the numbers and, between myself and others, type the numbers on IBM computer cards. I didn't even type. After that exercise, that was it for graduate school!

B. Making an honest living. Joe Duich was actually the fellow who opened the door for me with the USGA. I trained to be a golf course Superintendent, following in my father's footsteps. Somewhere along the line, nearing graduation, Joe encouraged me to interview for an opening as an Agronomist for the USGA. In retrospect, I wonder whether he thought I would make a better field agronomist for the USGA than a golf course Superintendent? He has never answered the question. Obviously, I chose the former ... now approaching 21 years ago.

C. My Duich story. Remember that I said I was a common grunt summer worker on the Turf Plots? Well, I was out there rouging a field when Dr. Duich came up behind me, and asked what a certain patch of grass was. It was blue-green, had boat-shaped tips and looked like Kentucky bluegrass, but wasn't. I guessed Canada bluegrass and was right! Dodged a bullet from "god."

Dr. Duich shook his head, took a puff of his cigarette (never exhaling) and asked, "Stanley, do you drink beer?" My reply was, "Yes." Dr. Duich then said, "Let's have pizza and beer for lunch." My response, "I'd love to, but I'm not 21 years old." Dr. Duich said, "I didn't ask you how old you are, I want to know if you would like pizza and beer for lunch." We went and enjoyed!

Thus, it was a memorable summer. I chose the USGA and marriage over grad school.

(cont'd. page 7)



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Dr. Duich pointed me to a job with the USGA, and also was an early contributor to my reputation of being a connoisseur of fine food and drink.

Honestly, I could go on and on but I am sure space will not allow much more. I will save room for others.

In closing, we all owe Penn State and the people who gave us our education a tremendous debt of gratitude. Our education at Penn State and the association with the people there no doubt opened more doors for all of us than we could ever imagine. Thus, to a great extent, our education at Penn State gave us the opportunities which have allowed us to become the successful professionals in the turfgrass management industry that a high percentage of graduates have become. I am sure if we were educated elsewhere or had known less influential people, we wouldn't be where we are today ... and neither would the turfgrass industry.

It has been said (I think I said it) that the sun never sets on grasses developed at Penn State. Neither does the sun set on graduates of their Turfgrass Management Program. No one can make this same boast. It is these people, who we call our friends (and friends they are), who have set the standards and have also developed the grass upon which the game of golf is played.

If that was their goal, they have succeeded.

This special issue of the **Bull Sheet** is just that, special. Come to think of it, send me three copies!

Sincerely,  
**Stanley J. Zontek**



December 27, 1991

Dr. J. M. Dutch, Prof. of Agronomy  
Pennsylvania State University  
Department of Agronomy  
University Park, Pa. 16802

Dear Dr. Duich:

Congratulations on a brilliant career at Penn State and your leadership in developing 100's of turf managers for the great game of golf.

With your university retirement fast approaching I would just like to briefly say how much you have meant to me professionally and as a friend the past 30 years.

Without your teaching, advice and constructive criticism I would not have been as successful at reaching my career goals.

I am hoping that with your retirement you can travel around the world visiting your former students so they can see you on their home grounds and extend to you personally their appreciation. Get those golf clubs out of the closet Joe and come on out to the midwest for some golf this summer.

Mr. Bert A. Getz, founder of the Merit Club, has given me permission to invite you to The Merit Club's grand opening the weekend of July 4, 1992. We want you to have the pleasure of teeing it up from your dense Penncross tees, strike a crisp iron shot from the upright Pennaeagle fairways and putt on the quick and true Pennlinks greens. As you walk down the fairways, glance to the right and left and enjoy the beauty of each hole as it is framed by prairies, magnificent natural wetlands and native mature Oak and Hickory woodlands.

It would give me great pleasure introducing you to the Getz family, Mr. Ed Oldfield, President and the charter members that have been invited for the first year of play here at the Merit Club. I will be getting back to you in the next few weeks to see if you can make it to our grand opening.

Once again Dr. Joe, thank you! Here's hoping and praying that God blesses you with many healthy retirement years that you can spend with your wife, family and friends.

Sincerely yours,

Oscar L. Miles, CGCS  
(Class of 1961)



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TED MATTSON  
P.O. Box 1252  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Saturday 14 December 1991

Joseph Duich  
Agronomy Department  
Pennsylvania State University  
State College, Pa.

Dear Joe:

Congratulations! Glad you are finally going to catch up with the 'black sheep' of the industry. Now maybe we can go on that deer hunt together. Perhaps you would rather come to Alaska and let me put you to 'work' on my boat next fishing season or at least give you a bird's eye view of some of the country. Regardless, enjoy the fruits of your "retirement" Joe.

Best regards always,

*Ted Mattson*



.... "GREETINGS FROM ALASKA" ....

# the Bull Sheet



Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents  
of The Greater Chicago Metropolitan Area

Fred D. Opperman, Editor  
810 Greenwood Avenue - Carpentersville, IL 60110  
(708) 428-5009

Dear Dr. Duich,

Boy, it's scary to think that you are retiring. That means I'm older than I'd like to think about. I can still recall walking into your class the first time and picking a front seat. That was the last time I did that, after being asked a question that I knew absolutely nothing about and had no response for except a dumb look on my face. I never sat in the front again but tried to pick somewhere in the middle of the class and hide behind some large body.

Having never worked on a golf course before coming to PSU, that first semester, all I did was listen, never commenting or debating with you (not a lot of good it would have done anyway); and my grade that first semester showed my ignorance. What a way to start off a turf career.

Then that first summer you arranged jobs for a group of us to go and initiate Bob Williams at Bob O'Link Golf Club with all of our new knowledge. That summer of 1961 PSU was represented at Bob O'Link by the following: George Druzisky, Ted Mattson, George Leix, George Nicholas, Oscar Miles, and myself. Plus, Bob had a student from Iowa and one from Michigan State. Bob, never did that again! I think the most students at one time from then on was only two to three.

Joe, I have had a very rewarding life and career, and I must contribute it to you and your guidance. You are so well know, for all of your plant breeding and new varieties, but to me your greatest accomplishment was the breeding of all those young students you sent out into the world to learn to think for themselves. How did we learn to do that? By asking you a question and getting the reply, "You tell me, pal."

God bless you, Joe, and the very best to you and your family at your new fork in the road of life.

Sincerely,

Fred D. Opperman  
Editor  
Class of 1962

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Subject: Retirement of Dr. Joseph Duich

Buffalograss! That is what I have to say about the upcoming retirement of Dr. Joseph Duich.

My story takes roots in the Heartland at the Dudley Smith farm system for aspiring golf course superintendents. The seeds of a prestigious title (one which required a memorized correct spelling prior to a diploma being awarded), monetary rewards beyond imagination, and the dream of never having to change another holecup again, naturally I looked to the east and The Pennsylvania State University.

With help I found myself heading for Happy Valley--the Nittany dorms--the home of Penncross, Penneagle, Pennfine, Pennlinks, Penn Futures,--home of God...and at his right hand Dr. Joseph Duich. Well, those were the impressions instilled into me by Chicagoland alumni.

Although selecting a seat in the front row for visual purposes, it was my inner nature to become just one of the masses. MY assimilation very successful even after my second season, it was one brief moment on a sunny February morning that I stepped out of shadows and into the light.

My apprehension to answer verbal classroom questions unless absolutely certain still intact (the previously mentioned myth having not yet been dispelled), it is with great pride and a personal sense of graduation that I relate my answer to the following question -- Name a heat and drought tolerant turfgrass plant that is being researched and developed for golf course use?

AFTER SEVERAL INCORRECT ANSWERS FROM FELLOW CLASSMATES AND WHAT SEEMED TO BE AN ETERNITY OF SILENCE (OFTEN A GOOD SIGN OF THE CLASS UNDOING) I BLURTED OUT Buchloe dactyloides--Buffalograss! Another moment of silence drew curious stares from fellow classmates and from the professor a raised eyebrow, my only confirmation the question had been correctly answered. The lectured continued...

Thank you Dr. Duich for the memories: the classroom meetings in the Tyson building, warm sunny fall afternoons on the turf plots, oxygenated mornings in the greenhouse, the courteous recognitions at the GCSAA alumni breakfasts.

Thank you for the Education.

BEST WISHES FOR SUCCESS AND GOOD HEALTH IN YOUR UPCOMING RETIREMENT!

Sincerely,

Jay Druhan  
Palos Hills Golf Course  
Class of 1983

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**GCSAA**

WILLIAM R. ROBERTS, CGCS  
Vice President

Lochmoor Club  
1018 Sunningdale Drive  
Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan 48236

November 20, 1991

Dr. Joseph M. Duich  
c/o Mr. Fred Opperman  
810 Greenwood Avenue  
Carpenterville, IL 60110

Dear Joe:

Somewhere in your office there was/is a small poster of a "mule" with his front legs on one side of a fence and his hind legs on the other side of the fence. The caption on the poster is "You're damned if you do...and damned if you don't." That poster, if you recall, was presented by some of those "hotshots" from the Class of '75 including Pletsch, Daley, Reid, Williams, Hopko, Cooper, Laughridge, Alexander, Kelley, Setzler, Rothenberg, Pakkala, and myself.

I'm still not sure how to apply that particular sentiment, but I do know that the impact you have had on the golf course superintendent's profession has been and will continue to be of major significance. It seems to me that your time and teaching have proven to be even more valuable as we all get farther along and for that we are grateful. Enjoy your "retirement" although that term seems a bit incongruous when related to Joe Duich.

Best wishes and thanks for everything.

Sincerely,

*Bill*  
William R. Roberts, CGCS