

the Bull Sheet

Official publication of the MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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Bull Sheet printed by Ever-Redi Printing, 5100 East Ave., Countryside, IL 60525.

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.

On Course With the President

by Timothy Kelly,
President, MAGCS



I am writing this message in early May. By the time this is read, it will be early June, and all of us will have begun our summer season challenge for 1993. This intense challenge begins on Memorial Day and ends on Labor Day. This is the time that all of the proper planning and game plan development begins to pay off. The past spring certainly was an interesting challenge.

I am sure that many of the MAGCS members are aware of the terrible commentary Paul Harvey broadcast back on March 25th.

I am sure that many of the MAGCS members are aware of the terrible commentary Paul Harvey broadcast back on March 25th. He did this with absolutely zero documentation to back up the claims he made, that birds are no longer heard on golf courses, because our pesticides are killing them. He further mentioned that: pesticides on golf courses were polluting coastal fishing waters; there are 50 chemicals used on golf courses to kill weeds, insects, and rodents and none of these are regulated; the USGA is presently completing it's own 3 year study, but the bottom line is that course designers and maintainers will not behave unless there are new laws to require it. When I read about this broadcast and then obtained a transcript I nearly "freaked out". Once again here is an example of someone who doesn't have a lick of knowledge about the subject, but feels compelled to comment.

Unfortunately for golf course superintendents when a person like Paul Harvey speaks, so many people will hear his broadcast and will think whatever he utters, or comments upon is the truth. I have written to Paul Harvey to vociferously complain about this travesty he created with the March 25th broadcast. If any other member of the MAGCS would care to write him, you may do so at:

Paul Harvey, 333 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60601.

Finally, I hope to see you at our next meeting on June 21st at River Forest C.C., hosted by our excellent Secretary/Treasurer, Joel Purpur.



“Diary of a Superintendent Hosting a Monthly Meeting”

by Ed Braunsky

The following is an excerpt from the diary of Ed Braunsky, golf course superintendent at the Geneva Golf Club, Geneva, IL:

November 1, 1992 — I've decided to ask the board at the club to host a Midwest meeting. OH GOD SHOULD I? Everyone will come out and rip my course apart! Especially Kerry Blatteau. He's a hard nut to crack. AW HELL, I'LL GO FOR IT!



December 1, 1992 — The Board approved the meeting. Gosh diary — I am so excited!

December 1, 1992 — The Board approved the meeting. Gosh diary — I am so excited! April 26th can't get here soon enough. Wait a minute. I have only nine holes. We don't have a full-time club house staff. The locker room isn't big enough for half of Emilda Marcos' shoes. OH WELL, I WILL WORRY ABOUT ALL THAT LATER. Where's my copy of **Grub Gab**, so I can get to sleep?

January, 1993 — I'm here in Anaheim. It's Super Bowl week and no Minnesota Viking! There ought to be a law against anyone but the Vikes and who cares who else in the Bowl. Where's my Bud Grant doll when I need it. Guys out here are asking about old Geneva Golf Club. Well, I gotta go. Jim Burdett is taking me to dinner again.

April 1, 1993 — The weather is just grand. Cold and wet. Even my Chia Pet won't grow. I hope it warms up by the end of the month. All we need is another cold and damp April meeting. It's all Russ Buford's fault (the pro at Geneva). He goes to California all winter, comes back to Geneva, and immediately the weather turns to sh--! (Oops, I almost had the first swear word in the **Bull Sheet**).

April 15, 1993 — I now have webbed feet. It won't stop raining. **CALGON ... TAKE ME AWAY!**

April 23, 1993 — Albie (Albert Staudt who's been around GGC as superintendent and one thing or another for 35+ years) and I picked up the beer and pop for the meeting. I hope ten cases of beer is enough. Wait a minute! Luke Strojny can't play golf. We'll be OK! Kevin Czerkies has called me for the 100th time. God, he's such a worry wart. You would think this is his first year as director.

April 24, 1993 — Opening day at the Geneva Golf Club. (Yes, this is my opening day for you public linkers. It's been tradition for 90-some years.)

April 25, 1993 — Sunday late afternoon and we were back at work. One member remarked, “Ed, you know this is a day of rest!” I responded, “Yeah, but I am hosting the supts. meeting here tomorrow!” People just don't understand!!

After pizza and beer and pop, the crew left and I made a tour of the course with my new assistant, Howard Shuck. (You might have noticed by now I'm trying to name-drop all of my friends). The course looked great. I locked-up the club house and decided to stop and talk to Russ. Here it was 9:30 on Sunday night and my club pro was still there preparing the scoreboard for the next day. The man is like a brother to me. We really do have a great relationship. I've heard of guys at other clubs who don't get along with their pros. People should come visit my club to see what it's really all about. (PLEASE ... Someone get me off this soap box!!)

April 26, 1993 — 3 a.m. - I can't sleep. I'm so darn excited about today's meeting. I really do want to make an impression on my friends.

April 26, 1993 — 3 a.m. - I can't sleep. I'm so darn excited about today's meeting. I really do want to make an impression on my friends. I tried to fall back asleep, but just can't. What should I do? Watch TV? I turned on Oprah, but that only drove me to get dressed and go to work. I turned on the radio in the truck and heard it was a balmy 38 degrees. Well, the show must go on.

I got to work about 5:30 a.m. to set up the tables for the meeting (Remember — no club house staff, so I set tables as part of my job. You don't have to be certified to do that and manual labor never hurt anyone). We had to wait to cut greens due to the frost, but we finally were able to complete our chores.

About 10:30 a.m. Kevin Czerkies arrived and he was all worried. I gave him a shot of brandy to calm his nerves. Guys started arriving at the club about 11:00 a.m., so I quickly showered and tried to calm Kevin. (I am just kidding about Kev. He did a great job!)

We started to pass out box lunches around 11:30 a.m. What a mistake! I think a few guys had more than one!!

We started to pass out box lunches around 11:30 a.m. What a mistake! I think a few guys had more than one!!

We finally teed off and everyone seemed to be in a great mood. We needed to give Wally Fuch a lesson on how to drive a cart.

I cracked a cold one! What a day. Thank you, God!! Out on the course I heard a lot of compliments. All the hard work has paid off.

The dinner after golf was a great event. I love my job. I love being a golf course superintendent. Good night, diary!

(Guys — Please consider hosting a meeting. It makes you prepare your course in a great manner. I felt so good after the fact. Call Kevin Czerkies to book a meeting for 1995. Last, but not least, some time ask me about the great letter I received from Pete Leuzinger congratulating me on a great day. Oops, there I go name-dropping my friends again.)



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Doctors, Lawyers, Plumbers and Such ...

by Jerry Mach

Every four to five years the National Magazine reprints an article on Public Relations. Somewhere in the first two paragraphs it brings out that we are professionals much like doctors and lawyers. Actually Dennis Wilson (Supt., Sunset Ridge C.C.) and I have been bickering (I should say I've been bickering with Dennis since we've known each other for more than thirty years) that we should try to elevate the Association from the bottom up, not just the top, and that we should have more strength in our numbers than we do. He doesn't agree!

The only common denominator we could agree on is that supers are like plumbers. Some work with strictly copper pipe, and some PVC and poly while others are mixed with cast iron and galvanized. But we're all plumbers just the same. For the sake of argument I'll agree, but in actuality my plumber owns five acres in Barrington and drives an Eldorado, so I hope he is not insulted by this reference.

One young super suggested to me that we should have a "Super of the Year" Award and I couldn't imagine how it could be done. Since the "Playing Field" isn't really level and the "Super" on an executive course could be as good as a private club "Super" if allowed the same options. So I'll offer this suggestion to the Board:

Set two hundred and fifty dollars aside annually for the M.P.I.A. No, it doesn't mean Most Plumbers in Absence. It stands for Most Progressive Idea Award which would be awarded to six supers every year. Three (3) would be Honorary Awards and three would be cash prizes of \$100, \$75, and \$50 for the best ideas submitted to the **Bull Sheet**. Members could vote by postcards sent out with the **Bull Sheet**. The ten best (or five best) ideas would be selected before the final golf outing or election meeting. Honorary awards would be "write-in" votes for two supers with over twenty years experience and the Board could pick the third. Each winner would receive a letter (suitable for framing) and have the option of having the letter sent to his club president or immediate supervisor.

With 600 members this only represents 1% annually recognized, but at least it's a start and gives everyone an equal chance. The sharing of ideas is the reason why this association was started, and being awarded for contributing is only that much better. The recognition of deserving people is long overdue.

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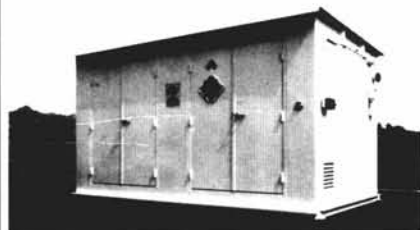
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On the Waterfront

by Jim Reed

The last article from the study on "Designing, Operating, and Maintaining Piping Systems Using PVC Fittings" by Keller-Bliesner Engineering relates to maintaining surge control equipment and precautions in winterizing systems. Issues this spring that relate to maintenance or repairs on your irrigation system may be uncovered in this month's report. Hopefully, your system start-up will go smoothly.



Maintaining Air Relief and Surge Control Equipment.

Automatic air relief and surge control equipment are only effective in limiting the magnitude of pressure surges when it is operating properly. In practice, it is not uncommon to find an irrigation system with a number of the air vents closed or inoperable. Air vents, pressure relief valves, pressure regulation valves and surge tanks should be inspected and serviced at least annually to assure that they are operating properly. The small orifices on continuous-acting air relief valves can become plugged and may need frequent periodic cleaning. As with any mechanical device, periodic maintenance is necessary to maintain reliable operation.

Precautions in Winterizing the System

Systems that are not installed below the frost line must be drained during the winter. The most effective method of draining the system is to install the pipelines on grade with drain lines at the low points. However, with many golf systems, the common method of removing the water from the lines is with high pressure — high volume air compressors. The water is literally blown from the pipes. This method is used since it is far less expensive than laying the many thousands of feet of pipe to grade and installing drains.

There are some inherent dangers in using compressed air to "blow out" pipelines. Remembering the discussion of air-induced pressure surges in pipe lines, the risk of high pressure surges is great if the water and air become mixed, or air pockets form within areas that are not totally drained. The velocities created can be very high and the surge potential is equally high.

If compressed air must be used to evacuate pipelines, considerable care should be exercised. A high volume compressor should be used, **but the output pressure should be limited to less than 50% of the system operating pressure.** If a sufficient volume of air can be developed at lower pressure, so much the better. Valves should first be opened in the low points and at distal ends of lines to drain the larger diameter pipes and remove the majority of the water. Pressure should be limited to about 25% to 30% of the normal operating pressure during this phase. Once the major lines are evacuated, the close-in valves should be closed to allow evacuation of more distant segments. It will probably take two to three passes through the system, working from upstream to downstream to completely

(continued on page 13)

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Aerial Photography

by Allan Goldstein, President
Aerial Images Photography Company

The use of color perspective aerial photography has grown considerably since those early days of yesteryear when a photographer would lug his huge bellows-type camera into a hot-air balloon, light the burners and shoot away.

The last few years have produced a dramatic improvement in the hi-tech design of the cameras, lenses, films, filters and photographic chemistry. The ultimate beneficiary has been the end product: the color photographs.

Aerial photography is a unique exciting branch of the photography profession. Our objective is to show not only your golf courses, club houses, or buildings under construction ... but HOW the subject relates to the surrounding geography.

Ground-based cameras are limited to showing bits and pieces of your golf course. When the requirement is to see large portions, or even all of the property, the airborne camera is the **ONLY** available option.

Aerial photographs serve many technical purposes from engineering and surveying to the more "down to earth" functions of examining the overall health of a golf course.

For example, aerial surveying creates vertical photographs, often in black and white to a specific scale, such as 1 inch equals 200 feet. Engineers and land developers use this resource for creating topographic models and exacting measurements.

The more common of the aerial photographs are color perspective oblique photographs of a specific area, perhaps a golf course, shopping center, or manufacturing plant. We strive to produce a series of highly detailed, color photographs from varying altitudes and directions. For golf courses, we shoot an average of 15-20 pictures from which the client will choose the ones to be enlarged.

The golf course superintendents have the awesome responsibility for maintaining the health, development and aesthetics of a large piece of land. The aerial photographs are invaluable in helping with the task.

The extent of damage of drought stress and flooding can only be seen in aerial photographs. From above, the severity can easily be determined by the different coloration of healthy and unhealthy ground cover. Using infra-red film, Dutch elm disease and the overall health of the plant life is seen in various shades of reds and blues.

Irrigation engineers require the aerial photographs in order to plan for proper irrigation and drainage.

Vertical (top down) photographs of portions of the golf course are required by the architects and engineers to plan and design the landscape and buildings. Wide angle oblique shots are used for marketing and advertising and for exhibits in trade shows.

And of course many owners, superintendents and patrons just like to have a picture of their favorite holes on the wall for all to enjoy.

Other than the skill of the photographer, the camera equipment is most important. 35mm cameras produce a negative too small for aerial photography — details come out too small and the color quality is poor. The larger cameras, such as our Pentax 6x7 has a negative 60mm by 70mm and is over 3 times larger than the 35mm negative. Also the lens and overall camera mechanism are of far superior quality.

(continued bottom of page 11)

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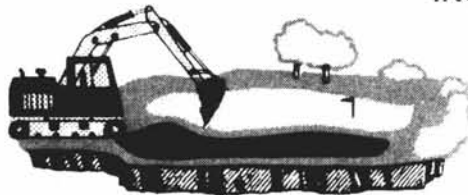
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Super 'N' Site Profile

by John Gurke

Now that we've all rid ourselves of all shanks, skulls, chunks, chops, worm-burners and no-brainers, Joel Purpur and the River Forest Country Club have agreed to host our June 21 MAGCS meeting.


River Forest Country Club is a beautiful old course (though I've never been invited to play it, so I rely on word-of-mouth). The original clubhouse went up in 1929, was remodeled in 1953, and was **really** remodeled in 1991, when a \$4 million renovation doubled its size. In 1989, tennis courts, a pool, and pond (the pond's good for you) transformed River Forest Golf Club to a family-oriented Country Club.

Joel started at River Forest in 1987, taking the reins from Ed Stewart, the superintendent for the previous 35 years. Ed continued on as consultant for the next 3 years, before retiring. Since becoming superintendent, Joel has undertaken many projects, including the in-house landscaping of the new clubhouse (green sides always up); construction of two ponds and a creek with rock walls and waterfalls on #'s 17 and 18, a short iron practice facility complete with three target greens, two bunkers, and a tee designed by Greg Martin; numerous bunkers, planting beds, and cart paths; and fairway renovation of all but the par three holes.



The Purpurs — Kailey 4½ years old, Joel & Debbie and Hayden 1½ years old.

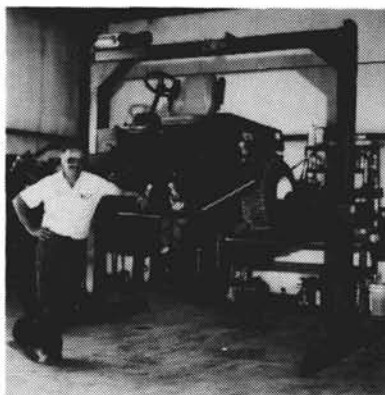
Joel attended Penn State University on a Penncross Growers Association scholarship, where he graduated in 1980 with highest distinction and the Turfgrass Wintercourse Achievement Award. He then was hired as assistant to Fred Opperman at Glen Oak Country Club where he worked for five years before going to Bartlett Hills Golf Club as superintendent for four years. He is married to a **VERY** understanding wife (Debbie), has two children (Kailey, 4, and Hayden, 13 months), a dog, a bird, and a pool table. Like many of us, Joel likes winter sports — hockey, skiing, and continuation of the Purpur family tree. Joel is currently Secretary-Treasurer of the MAGCS, and looks forward to hosting the June outing as much as we are looking forward to playing his fine course. See you on the 21st.



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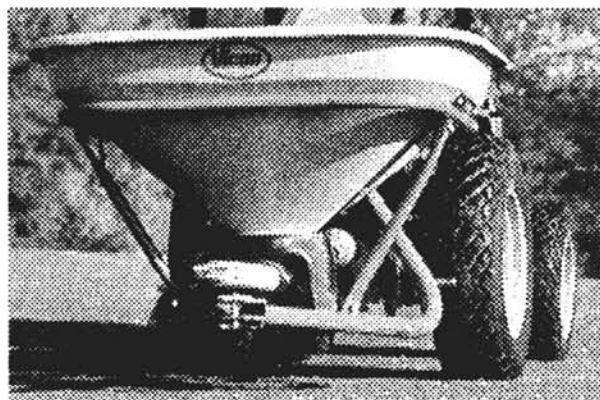
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