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the Bull Sheet

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On Course With the President

I would like to thank the membership of the MAGCS for your confidence in electing me as your President for the coming year. Alan Fierst is a tough act to follow. Al is a polished public speaker and writer as well as a quick thinker. You won't need a dictionary for my Presidents messages and I am sure that



I will trip over my tongue a time or two, but I can guarantee that I will give our association my best effort to continue to advance the cause of the "Midwest", our progressive association at the forefront of the industry. Over the past 8 years I have learned a great deal about managing our association thanks to the Presidents I have served under and the many Directors I have worked with since Mike Nass was President. Hence I have good insight on what I would like to accomplish during the course of the next year.

We know that improvement is a constant and never ending process because times change and we must change with the times, or be left behind. Even though many newly elected Presidents start their term all fired up and ready to change the world, the old saying that "if it isn't broken, don't fix it" must still be respected to a certain degree, because I believe we already have a good thing going. Our committee members have many ideas for the future to enhance your membership benefits and new ideas are always appreciated from anyone. Feedback is also important to evaluate any performance. It is easy to criticize but please remember that there are many people working long hours behind the scenes with good intentions to try and give the membership the best in education, golf, seminars, meals, mailings, magazines, merchandise, etc. Please make your criticism a constructive one or offer to personally help a committee with a problem or development.

Volunteers to serve on the various committees are always needed, so if you have the desire to become involved and help with the operations of the "Midwest", please contact anyone on the board and lend a hand. Your help is valued and appreciated. During the next few months there will be many hours spent on planning upcoming events, and with a great Board of Directors to work with, I believe we will have a great year with much to offer our advancing membership.

Joel Purpur, President, MAGCS

Directors Column 1994 Golf Events Recap

by Kevin Czerkies

I was asked to recap this years golf events for this month's directors column. We had an excellent turnout at all of our meetings. This following is a breakdown of the events and winners.

April 25 — Inverness G.C. — 112 players, 4 man mixed scramble

Low Gross (tie)

Mark Bobb	Curt Adams
Dan Anderson	Paul Wagner
Tom Morgensen	John Lebedevs
Dan Murray	Nick Hongisto

Low Net

Bruce Johnson
Brad Helms
John Kiraly

May 16 — Silver Lakes G.C. — Combined Meeting (ITF) M.A.G.C.S. Defended Challenge Cup, winning team was:

Kevin Czerkies	Dave Ward
Bob Rigney	Roger Stewart

June 20 — Aurora C.C. — 112 players, 2-man chapman

Low Gross	Low Net
Charlie Brugler	Mark Bobb
Jeff Smith	Kevin DeRoo

July 11 — Orchard Valley G.C. — 128 players, Senior Championship

Low Gross 50-59	Low Net 50-59
Ken Goodman	Wayne Trometer

Low Gross 60 and over	Low Net 60 and over
John Stephenson	Adolph Bertucci

August 15 — Tamarac G.C. — 120 players, 4 man team total

Low Gross	Low Net
Randy Wahler	Kevin Czerkies
Al Pondel	Bruce Schweiger
Bob Kronn	Steve Vanacker
Tom Robinson	Tom Pritchard

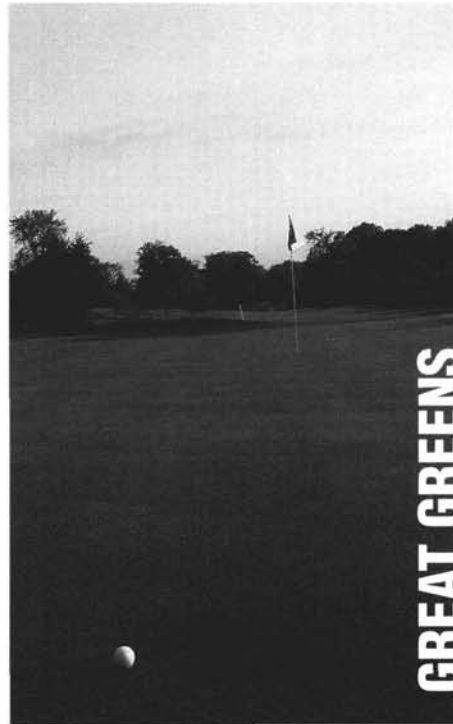
Sept. 12 — Seven Bridges — 96 players annual tournament

	Low Gross	Low Net
Championship Flight	Tom Robinson	Randy Wahler
First Flight	Mark Thibault	Dan Anderson
Second Flight	Paul Schaefer	Steve Vanacker
Third Flight	Don Ferreri	Bob Padula
Senior Flight	Ken Goodman	Mike Bavier
Commercial Flight	Trent Bradford	Randy Kane

Oct. 10 — G.C. at Oak Brook Hills — 76 players, college championship/2-man scramble

1994 College Champion — Purdue (tie)
Penn State (tie)
2 Man Scramble

Low Gross	Low Net
Randy Kane	Mike Conley
Jim Roberts	Steve Jump



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The Olympia Fields I Remember

by Pete Vandercook

I worked for five summers (from 1947 to 1951) on the grounds crew at Olympia Fields Country Club. When I was hired, the superintendent was John Darrah. John had been superintendent at Beverly and had come to Olympia Fields some time during the 1946-47 winter season. I believe his replacement at Beverly was Bob Williams.

John personally owned a 1946 Chevrolet pickup truck with a tow-type sprayer. The truck had a short boom mounted in front of the front bumper and two large booms extending from each side just behind the cab. He did contract spraying of 2-4D on golf courses. Golf courses had sprayers to spray greens, but most did not have equipment to spray fairways. Dandelions had been either allowed to flourish or were harvested by hand by armies of temporary workers. John also had a jeep with a trencher on the back and did contract trenching on golf courses. When John left Olympia Fields, he bought a small farm on Route 30, grew sod on it and also worked as a factory rep for Cleary and Sodmaster. John's sod farm is now called Lincoln Mall and John's sod farm venture obviously turned out to be quite profitable.

In those days, the crew was made up of a small nucleus of permanent employees, an army of local students, and a group of retirees (mostly railroaders from Matteson and farmers from the area). The old men wore long woolen underwear on even the very hottest days which amazed me.

Alex Landry and Jimmy Dodge each mowed fairways on one course. They mowed eight hours a day and four hours on Saturday and just continued on around. Each fairway was mowed three or more times a week.

Wally Domm changed cups on #4 (the North course today) and Webe Ellis on #1 (the South course). They both walked carrying the cup cutter in one hand and a bucket with tee towels, ball washer soap, and a cup hook, etc. in the other hand. On his way home each evening, Wally would take the dirty tee towels to the clubhouse laundry and pick up the ones he had delivered the day before. (Some years later Wally married the lady that ran the clubhouse laundry).

Wally and Webe were considered course foremen and also did any spraying or fertilizing needed on their respective courses. Wally went on to be the superintendent at Calumet Country Club, Pheasant Valley and South Shore Country Clubs. Webe left the industry to become the Chief of Police in Matteson. When he started, it was a two-man department (including himself) and when he retired several years ago, it was a large suburban police force. During his years on the police force Webe from time to time mowed greens on Sunday mornings at Flossmoor Country Club for his friend, Wally Pieper, and now that he is retired, he works at Cherry Hills for Dale Pieper.

Another memorable Olympia Fields regular was Joe Tourie. An older Italian immigrant from Chicago Heights, Joe smoked Italian cigars. One cigar lasted Joe all day, and he would go through several packs of matches. Joe raked the traps on the north course in the morning and maintained the sewage filter beds in the afternoon. The beds were between the 17th and 18th fairways on the north course and were completely surrounded by hedges. Sewage from the club-

(continued page 9)



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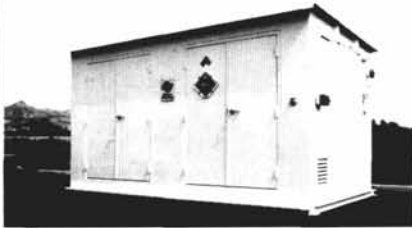
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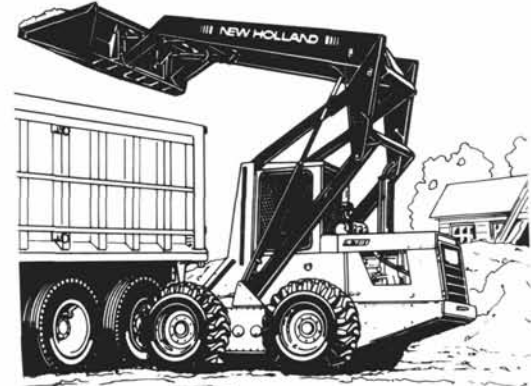


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(Olympia Field continued)

house and the cottages drained through the beds. There were two large, two-section beds which were alternately used. Joe would spade the bed not in use and rake both beds. It was impossible to slip through the hedge, look into the filter bed area and not find Joe working.

Joe told a great story. One night, some years previous, Joe was night watering and breaking in a new night waterer who was on his second day on the job. Night waterers walked, and that is what they were doing on the north course when the fog rolled in. They got lost and separated (not necessarily in that order). Finally, Joe walked into the fence that ran along the railroad tracks (the only fence on the golf course at the time). He followed the fence to the equipment building, shut off the pumps to turn off the sprinklers and went home. The new employee was never heard from again. He didn't even come in to pick up his check.

Olympia Fields was very proud of the flowers around the club house. They had two full-time gardeners who spent their winters in the greenhouse and the rest of the year in the flower beds. Seeds were actually tapped from flowers, carefully cataloged and then replanted the next season or started in the greenhouse and transplanted later. The head gardener was Joe White, an old man from Homewood. His assistant, and eventual replacement, was Eldon Rea from Matteson. With the exception of a period of time when he was in the Army during World War II, Eldon spent his entire life living in Matteson and working at Olympia Fields.

Eldon did not drive. He did not want to drive. He walked to work across the golf course each day, trapped wild animals and sold the pelts, and had the golf ball concession for the pro, Chuck Tannis. The creek ran swiftly and creek balls would travel and collect in pockets. Even in high, muddy water Eldon knew where to look for balls and find them. (Interloping ball hawks would walk barefooted in the creek and find the few balls they accidentally stepped on.) On one of his trips across the course Eldon found a wounded, young eagle. He brought the bird into the greenhouse and nursed it back to health, finally releasing it when it was healthy.

Hank Bruns was the mechanic. The equipment was very much simpler in those days, but Hank never met a lawnmower he couldn't start. He never changed a spark plug if the carburetor needed to be tweaked. He never tweaked a carburetor if a new spark plug was needed. He had a natural ability, and it was almost as though he had a personal relationship with each mower. He was a whiz at adjusting reels. He would not adjust gang mowers cold. He would leave the shop every morning about thirty minutes after the gangs had started to mow, stop each tractor and spend no more than five minutes fine-tuning each seven-gang. Putting green mowers were washed as soon as they got back to the shop and adjusted immediately. The ever present flat file was always used to dress up the leading edge of the bedknife. No one else was ever allowed to adjust reels, and the mowers cut great. Hank was indeed an expert.

Hank's brother, Archie Bruns, who had been the superintendent before John Darrah and who had handled clubhouse maintenance while John was there, returned as superintendent when John left.

Archie was a sly old fox. I stayed on in the fall of 1951 because I was going into the Army in January of 1952. There were only two of us that were young enough to mow greens, Chuck Bowen and I; and Olympia had 36 greens, one very large putting green (which counted as two greens) and two other practice greens. This in our book was a total of 40 greens! Archie offered Chuck and I this great deal. We could pick our own putting green mower, he would take us out in the morning, pick us up for lunch, and take us back out. We could mow greens in any order we wanted and go home when we were finished, and he would pay us eight hours pay.

Chuck and I were young, eager and pretty fast. We moved and mowed as fast as we could and were happy to beat Archie and Olympia Fields out of 30 or 45 minutes pay. In retrospect (and I didn't figure this out until much later), if we had walked and worked at a normal pace, we could have beat Archie and Olympia Fields out of a couple of hours of overtime. That Archie was a pretty cool guy.

I enjoyed my Olympia experience. I think it helped me develop a good work ethic, and I learned a lot about people. The nucleus of regular workers were unique in many ways but, all in all, were probably representative of a lot of golf course crews of the era.



Green Section Reorganizes Great Lakes Region

There comes a time in the life of every organization when changes are necessary to improve service and increase operational efficiency. After 10 years of service to golf facilities in a 9-state region, the time came for realignment of personnel and service areas. The new setup is called the North Central Region.

First of all, Illinois and Iowa will become part of the Mid-Continent Region, receiving the personal attention of agronomist Paul Vermeulen, who will set up an office in Illinois convenient to subscribers in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas. The Regional Director is Jim Moore, located in Waco, Texas, who will do Turf Advisory Service work in the more southern part of the Region.

Bob Brame will direct the North Central Region from an office near Cincinnati. His area of Turf Advisory Service responsibility will be Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. Bob Vavrek will continue TAS work from the Wisconsin office, visiting subscribers from Michigan westward to Montana.

The Lathams and the Great Lakes name are retiring to a smaller entity on Lake Whitney, Texas where they intend to keep digging up golf courses. With clubs, not soil probes, Bowie knives or cup cutters.

Historical preservation group meets

The history of American golf is rich and storied, but the role of the superintendent and the evolution of course management remains the game's greatest untold tale.

In order to effectively tell that story and to preserve its own 68-year history, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) convened a meeting of a special Historical Preservation Resource Group. The group's mission is to identify elements of the association's and profession's history that need to be preserved and highlighted.

Each individual in the group carries with him some very special qualifications. Between them, these living legends of the industry represent nearly five centuries of GCSAA membership:

- Joseph M. Duich, Ph.D. (18 years GCSAA member)
- Melvin B. Lucas Jr., CGCS (32 years)
- Palmer Maples Jr., CGCS (35 years)
- John Mascaro (7 years)
- Thomas C. Mascaro (47 years)
- Sherwood A. Moore, CGCS (56 years)
- Arthur A. Snyder, CGCS (66 years)
- John J. Spodnik (36 years)
- Eberhard Steiniger, CGCS (63 years)
- Charles H. Tadge, CGCS (35 years)
- James R. Watson, Ph.D. (36 years)
- Robert M. Williams (53 years)

Williams, Moore, Spodnik, Maples, Tadge and Lucas are all past presidents of the association. Duich (1976), Thomas Mascaro (1976), Williams (1977), Snyder (1978), Moore (1982), Watson (1983), Steiniger (1988) and Spodnik (1994) are recipients of GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award. Moore and Watson are winners of GCSAA's Old Tom Morris Award.

Maples, Snyder, Steiniger and Watson were unable to attend the meeting.

GCSAA President Joseph G. Baidy, CGCS, a 25-year member of the association, is chairman of the Historical Preservation Resource Group.

Clay Loyd, retired GCSAA director of communications and publications, also is a member of the resource group. Loyd has been retained by GCSAA to write a book on the association's history.

On Oct. 15, the group toured the National Collegiate Association of America Visitors Center in Overland Park, Kan., to review how that organization has preserved and displayed the history of collegiate athletics.

The following day, the group met at GCSAA headquarters to continue their discussion about where and how to preserve and display GCSAA's rich history. They also started generating ideas about where to begin research and data collection.

The resource group will provide specific direction and will serve as an ongoing resource for a parallel GCSAA staff task force.

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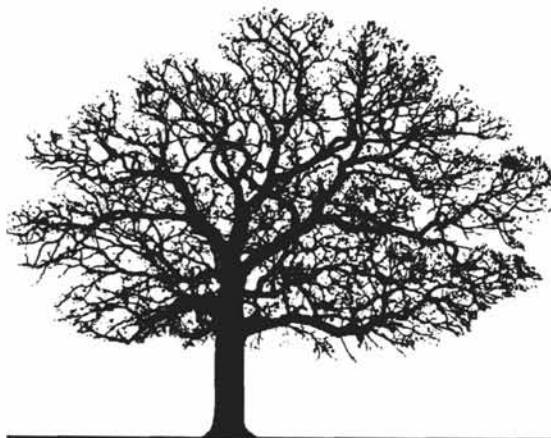


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