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the Bull Sheet

Official publication of the MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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On Course With The President

This is the time of the year when many of us are beginning to focus toward Dallas, Texas for the latest edition of the GCSAA International Turfgrass Conference. This year the conference calendar promises a wide range of intellectual and participatory activities for the those choosing to attend. There are this year, as was the case in Anaheim, the issues of GCSAA by-law proposals that must be discussed, as well as finally put to rest. Also, as in past years, the MAGCS has a candidate for GCSAA office from it's ranks. As usual it bodes to be a very busy conference and, no doubt, an interesting one as well.

The list of candidates for GCSAA office has long been completed and Bruce R. Williams, CGCS, has been formally slated as a candidate for GCSAA Vice-President. The Midwest Association strongly endorses and supports him in his quest for this position. Throughout his tenure as a GCSAA Director,

Bruce R. Williams, CGCS, has been formally slated as a candidate for GCSAA Vice-President.

Bruce has been instrumental in the many moves to deliver the internal management of GCSAA to it's present, more aggressive and efficient level. There is always a need for dedicated Board members such as Bruce to see these actions through to an ever higher level of association member services. Bruce tells me there is a renewed sense of vitality within the association and the new management team is very positive. So too is our positive feeling toward Bruce's ascendancy through the board level positions of the GCSAA. The Midwest Association as a group supports Bruce for the office of GCSAA Vice-President and I encourage you as individuals to support him as well.

While there are only a few weeks remaining before the conference, there remains plenty of time to settle any GCSAA/MAGCS issues or questions you may have. The appointed GCSAA voting delegates for the MAGCS continue to be Roger A. Stewart, Jr., CGCS and Robert J. Maibusch, CGCS. These individuals have taken the time to attend voting delegate meetings in Lawrence, Kansas with the single purpose of returning the details of pertinent GCSAA issues to our chapter. Each delegate has devoted an extensive amount of their time to bring the message of GCSAA to our membership. It has not been an easy task for these individuals to digest and disseminate the information and to pull the salient facts from all the verbiage of the issues and the by-laws documents. There is also somewhat of a thankless task since not only do they, as voting delegates have to accurately present the details of the issues, they must do so in a pragmatic manner so as not to unduly influence any individual opinions. Roger and Bob are to be commended for their dedication and efforts. Our membership should show their appreciation of the delegates efforts by inquiring of them the details of issues that shall shape the future of the Golf Course Superintendent. They are the ones that know ...

(continued page 4)

(On Course with the President continued)

There is another individual that tirelessly works in the background on behalf of the MAGCS. This dedicated and persistent person is the primary reason the MAGCS voting strength is at an all-time high. Nobody knows how he is able to garner each proxy vote of so many new GCSAA members or how he even knows who they are, but somehow he does. Without his

*A congratulation of "Great Work!",
and a nod of due respect should be
afforded to Len Berg*

persistent pursuit of the vote of each and every new GCSAA member, the voting strength of the "Midwest" surely would be far less. Largely through his efforts, we as a chapter, have gained over 30 votes since the GCSAA conference last year. AT 330 votes, that makes the "Midwest" one of the strongest single chapters in the association. A congratulation of "Great Work!", and a nod of due respect should be afforded to Len Berg the next time you see him. He performs a unique, time-consuming and truly essential background role for the Midwest Association. Thanks, Len!

See you in Dallas...

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Director's Column

by Joel Purpur

Time flies when you're having fun! I can't believe that it is January 1994 already. Working as Secretary/Treasurer during the past year has been a challenging but rewarding period for me. Assuming many of the duties of the Executive Secretary during the transition taught me quite a bit about the Association and our membership. There is more to running an association of our size than most people realize.

You may have heard that the MAGCS now has a new computer system. With the new programs, we are starting a new data base from scratch utilizing the return information from the dues notices and the postcards. The new data base will make it possible to produce an up to date membership directory at a moments notice. There is only one problem, delinquent payments of dues ... again. I always thought of the MAGCS as being made up of responsible professionals, but the number of late dues makes one wonder.

As was stated on the dues notice, dues were to be paid by December 1, 1993. As of December 10, 1993 only about 300 of the 600 members have paid their dues. This makes planning very difficult for the board of directors, who are trying to voluntarily manage the association for you. Membership cards have to be made. How long do we wait to print them? How

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long do we wait before we print the membership directory or send out the meeting schedules? Many people complain about how long it takes to get an updated membership directory or membership cards. How can we provide these and other services if we only have about half of the membership who pay their dues and give us the information we request on time? Do we keep sending the **Bull Sheet** to members that don't pay? Each issue costs us over \$2,000 to produce.

Some use the argument that their club has to wait until their new fiscal year to pay, but many in that situation write a personal check and get reimbursed when the time comes. Our dues are not that high and it shouldn't break anyone's bank for a month and a half. In the December **Bull Sheet** Fred Opperman printed a notice in the Midwest Breezes to check with your club or business, so you know where you stand.

Since we have such a great number of late dues, the board decided to wait until January 1, 1994 for the cut off date on renewals. After the time we will do our best with what we have to work with and get the membership directory printed, membership/name cards made, meeting schedules sent out, and so on. Oh well, enough preaching.

Financially our Association is doing very well working with a break even budget. We are able to contribute to many worthy causes to better our profession. Last year the MAGCS

(continued page 6)



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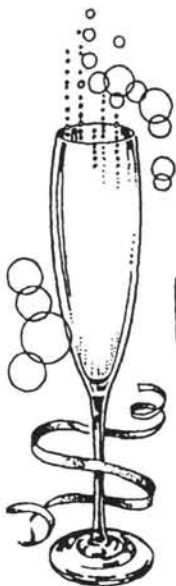


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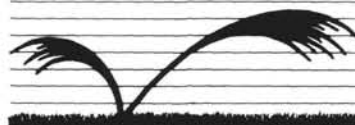
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Financially our Association is doing very well working with a break even budget.

donated research funds to the ITF, GCSAA, Robert Trent Jones Endowment Fund, Musser Foundation and others. An association of our size should be contributing funding for additional causes as well. The GCSAA Toxicology Study as well as our own CDGA for the Experimental Green study will need support; both of which we feel are important projects. The MAGCS will be faced with some important decisions. Do we eliminate donations from organizations that we have supported in the past, do we raise dues, or do we come up with fund raisers to generate the thousands of dollars needed for these worthy causes? We would be happy to hear your thoughts.

In closing, please help us help you by being timely with your dues and we would like to hear any comments or ideas to help make our great association even better.

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents Committee Assignments 1993/1994

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Finance Committee — J. Purpur, A. Fierst, D. Cross, T. Kelly
Arrangements Committee — D. Ferreri, Chairman;
D. Blomquist, D. Cross, John Gurke, D. Anderson
Golf Committee — K. Czerkies, Chairman; L. Strojny,
P. Taylor, B. Bossert, L. Wesson, R. Schmitz, S. Gotberg,
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D. Ward, L. Berg, T. Hopphan, Rob Zimmerman, R. Kane
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J. Purpur, D. Cross, D. Smith, R. Stewart, R. Schmitz, T.
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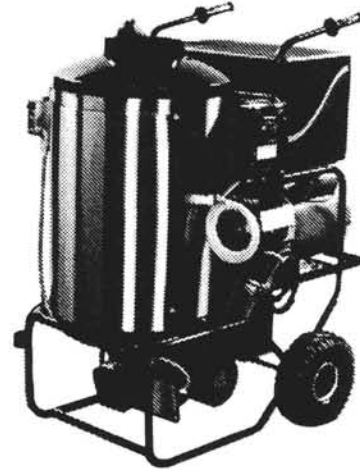
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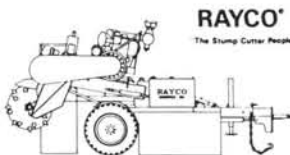
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Just Hit the Ball!

by David A. Oatis

Director, Northeastern Region, USGA Green Section

A couple of years ago I visited a golf course and was shocked to find that the club had played "preferred lies" for many years because of having poor-quality fairway turf during a portion of each summer. At the time of my visit, the fairways were nearly flawless, yet the club continued to "roll the ball" because a few thin areas of turf existed (1% or 2% of the total fairway acreage), and thus it was possible to have a less-than-perfect lie in the fairway. In essence, this membership was saying that a ball landing in a fairway should be guaranteed a perfect lie and to have less simply would not be fair.

I was so shocked by the attitude of the club that I related the story to the golfers at another course the following week. To my dismay, the story was met with blank looks and embarrassed stares from the committee members, as they admitted having played preferred lies for years as well!

The account typifies what has happened to American golfers and American golf courses. Perfection is demanded, and if it can't be attained, **we cheat!** Golf isn't supposed to be fair. Golf is supposed to be a test of nerves, physical skill, and mental acuity. It should be a challenge and a lesson in overcoming adversity, not a cakewalk, and *definitely not a guarantee!*

The major objective in golf turf management has always been to improve playing conditions, the theory being that by doing so we would increase the skill factor and reduce the luck factor. Playing conditions have been improved unbelievably over the years, but the demands of golfers have increased along with the quality of the playing conditions. A well-struck tee shot landing in the fairway should not be intentionally penalized; that would make no sense at all. By the same token, neither should the golfer be guaranteed a perfect lie.

Removing the luck factor entirely also eliminates the need for the skill required to negotiate a tricky lie. I contend that luck is an integral part of golf and it adds great interest to the game. Can you imagine how boring it would be to be able to predict exactly what type of lie you would face on your second shot immediately after striking your tee shot? Do not misunderstand me; I am not advocating that we should trick up our golf courses, only that they need not, and cannot, be perfect.

Above all else, we need to play the ball as we find it, not as we think we should find it, or would like to find it.

It is time we put things into perspective. There should be no guarantees in golf. If a shot landing in a fairway comes to rest in a divot, invent a shot to get it out of the divot. If a ball plugs in a bunker, don't change the sand or raking techniques or complain to the course manager. If the greens are hard and do not hold shots as well as you would like, try landing the ball short. If the condition of the golf course doesn't suit your particular game, adjust your game.

It is not the responsibility of the golf course superintendent to tailor course conditioning to a particular golfer's desire. We do not need to trick up our courses, but neither do we need to perfect their condition. In short, play the course as you find it.

Credit — "Greenletter" Oct. 93

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1954

by Pete Vandercook

1994 marks the fortieth year in business for Illinois Lawn Equipment, Inc. Illinois Lawn Equipment, Inc. was incorporated on October 6, 1954.

In 1952, on his return from active service in the Korean War, Bob Johnson went to work for Ford Aircraft as a test-cell instructor for jet engines. He and his wife moved to Orland Park when their first child was expected, and he began working part-time with lawn mowers.

In 1954, the Worthington Mower Company was looking for a replacement for their distributor in the Chicago area. George A. Davis was the Toro Distributor in this area and had a virtual monopoly on golf course business. Worthington was willing to take a chance on a young man with ambition and signed a franchise agreement. The primary area of responsibility was a very limited area of Chicago, south of Roosevelt Road, through Kankakee County. In subsequent years, Illinois Lawn took over the North Side (from Midwest Turf), Northwestern Indiana (from Steel City Lawn & Garden) and Central Illinois (from Leon Short & Sons and Little Wheels, Ltd.) but that is a different story.

The new company took on additional lines such as Skinner Irrigation, Jari Sicklebar, Atwater-Strong blowers (which then had a 3 h.p. Clinton engine), Night Crawler aerifiers, etc. Jacobsen purchased the Worthington Mower Corporation which then allowed Illinois Lawn Equipment to sell the Jacobsen Homeowner line which kept the company going for many years until they were finally accepted by commercial accounts such as golf courses.

Although I did not personally arrive on the scene until 1963, I had spent five summers (1947-1951) working at Olympia Fields Country Club and would like to make the following observations about life on the golf course in 1954.

In 1954 Bob Williams was the superintendent at Beverly Country Club, Norm Kramer was at Silver Lake, Walter Kilmer was at Ravisloe, Art Benson, Sr. at Aurora Country Club, Emil Cassier at Sycamore Golf Club, Frank Mastrolio at Geneva Club, Albie Staudt at Fox Valley Golf Club, Amos Lapp at St. Andrews, George Dahlman was at Cog Hill, Peter Bild at Woodridge, Ed Stewart at River Forest G.C., and his brother Don at Joliet C.C. Also, Walter Fuchs was at Glen Eagles, Bob Breen, Sr. at Fresh Meadows, Bill Kraft at Southmoor (now Palos C.C.), Ed Wollenberg was at Navajo Fields, and Adolph Bertucci at Lake Shore C.C., Don Strand at Westmoreland, Ray Gerber at Glen Oak, Bill Stuppel at Exmoor, Dom Grotti at Sunset Valley, Emil Mashie at Onwentsia, Frank Dinelli at North Shore, and Howard Baerwald at La Grange.

Although I do not think any of the 1954 circa superintendents are still active superintendents, many of the well-known names in 1954 are still well-known names in 1994. Names such as Williams, Benson, Duehr, Pieper, Leith, Lapp, Woehrl, Fuchs, Breen and Dinelli are examples.

Bear in mind that in 1954

- Top dressing was done with shovels

(continued page 12)

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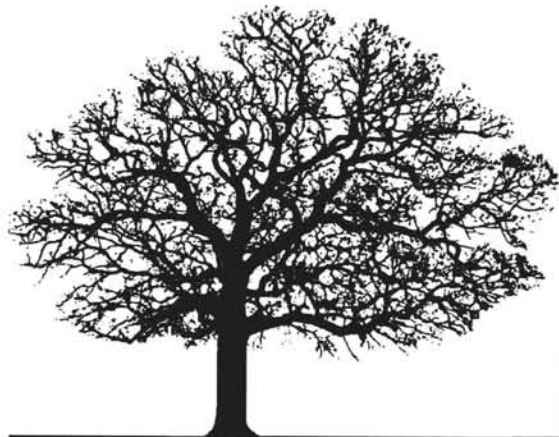


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