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(Tommy Witt continued)

T.W.: "One of my goals as a Golf Course Superintendent, through my service on the board of directors, is to help this profession unite as an industry. I don't know how to say this exactly, but I hope someday we are all on the same page, on the same team. We would be so much better if we stayed committed to continued learning, if we enhanced our image, and if we conducted ourselves in a professional manner. (These) would all lead to better compensation packages, better benefit programs, stronger job securities, and better images. I'd like to see our profession come together, unify, strengthen, grow, and move forward. It could be done."

I would like to own my own golf course someday. For now, I am like everyone else, I try to do the best I can and survive one day at a time."

Int.: "Name one personal hero/mentor and why?"

T.W.: "I'd say my father. Even though he died twenty years ago, he introduced me to the game of golf; he challenged me to one of my first jobs on a golf course. He woke me up at five o'clock every morning and took me to work. He instilled things in me like what family is, and what it meant when I gave my word to someone. He taught me the immeasurable value of those qualities. As I grow older, these are the things that really matter. It may sound a bit corny, but they mean everything to me because I'm trying to live that in the work place and certainly at home. My dad was my biggest supporter and my biggest fan."




- June 12 Sports Field Workshop Huntington**
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- July 25 Midwest Regional Turf Field Day West Lafayette**
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- Nov. 14-16 Turfgrass and Ornamental Seminar Lafayette**
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- Jan. 23-26 1996 Midwest Turf Expo Indianapolis**
The Midwest Turf Expo promises to be the largest turf show in the state. An outstanding tradeshow compliments excellent educational programs making it an event with special interest to every area of the turfgrass industry. A GCSAA Seminar is offered on the 23rd.

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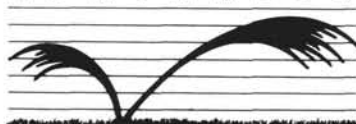
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A Tribute to the Head Greenkeeper

by Robert Trent Jones, Jr.

Those of us in the golf business know well what GCSAA means. It stands for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. These are the folks who truly make the game of golf enjoyable for all of us.

In those olden days when our great game was played almost exclusively on Scottish seaside links, these people, who are now known as Golf Course Superintendents, were then called "Head Greenkeepers". Not Greenskeepers, but Greenkeepers. You see the old Scots refer to the golf course, the entire golf course, as the green. The Head Greenkeeper was responsible for maintaining the turf, cutting the greens and tees, and generally, presenting the course for play. Actually much of the mowing in those days was done by the sheep ... the fertilizing, too!

When irrigation was first used on golf courses, a few spigots were situated on the links from which long hoses were extended. With gear powered by water pressure, the sprinklers would revolve, and these "watering machines" would actually pull themselves the length of a fairway. It was later that the "quick coupler" was introduced, but all of these sprinklers still had to be placed in position by hand, often in the dead of night.

Many of today's Golf Course Superintendents started as "the night watering man," placing and moving sprinklers in the darkness, so as not to disturb play the following day. When you have the chance, ask one of these "night owls" about the adventures of night watering and the creatures which appear after the sun goes down. Reptiles of all kinds; raccoons, opossums, coyotes, bobcats, and even mountain lions and bears in some locations, come out to play and provide entertainment for the lonely watering man. Amorous teenagers are also encountered from time to time.

This is all a nostalgic look at our past and a little of the folklore as we used to know it in the ancient game of golf. It provides the foundation on which the Golf Course Superintendent now operates. There is a grand and glorious history which substantiates the importance of our hard working people today.


We now have marvelous computerized systems with which to irrigate our courses and conserve water as never before. The superintendent now has remarkable machinery available to bring golf courses to a standard of maintenance never before achieved. Where the preservation of the environment is concerned, we now ask the Golf Course Superintendent to be the moral conscience of the game.

So let's take the occasion of the GCSAA's recent Annual Conference in San Francisco, to say "thank you" to these wonderful folks who make the game so enjoyable for all of us. Our business is to design and build golf courses, and we take pride in the work we produce. But, our work would never be noticed nor appreciated in the least without the magical efforts of the old "Head Greenkeeper". Many thanks and much appreciation for your enormous contributions to the game and the professional and efficient way you do your jobs.

Golf is a living game, and it would be a short life indeed without you folks!

Credit: "Rending the Green", April 1995

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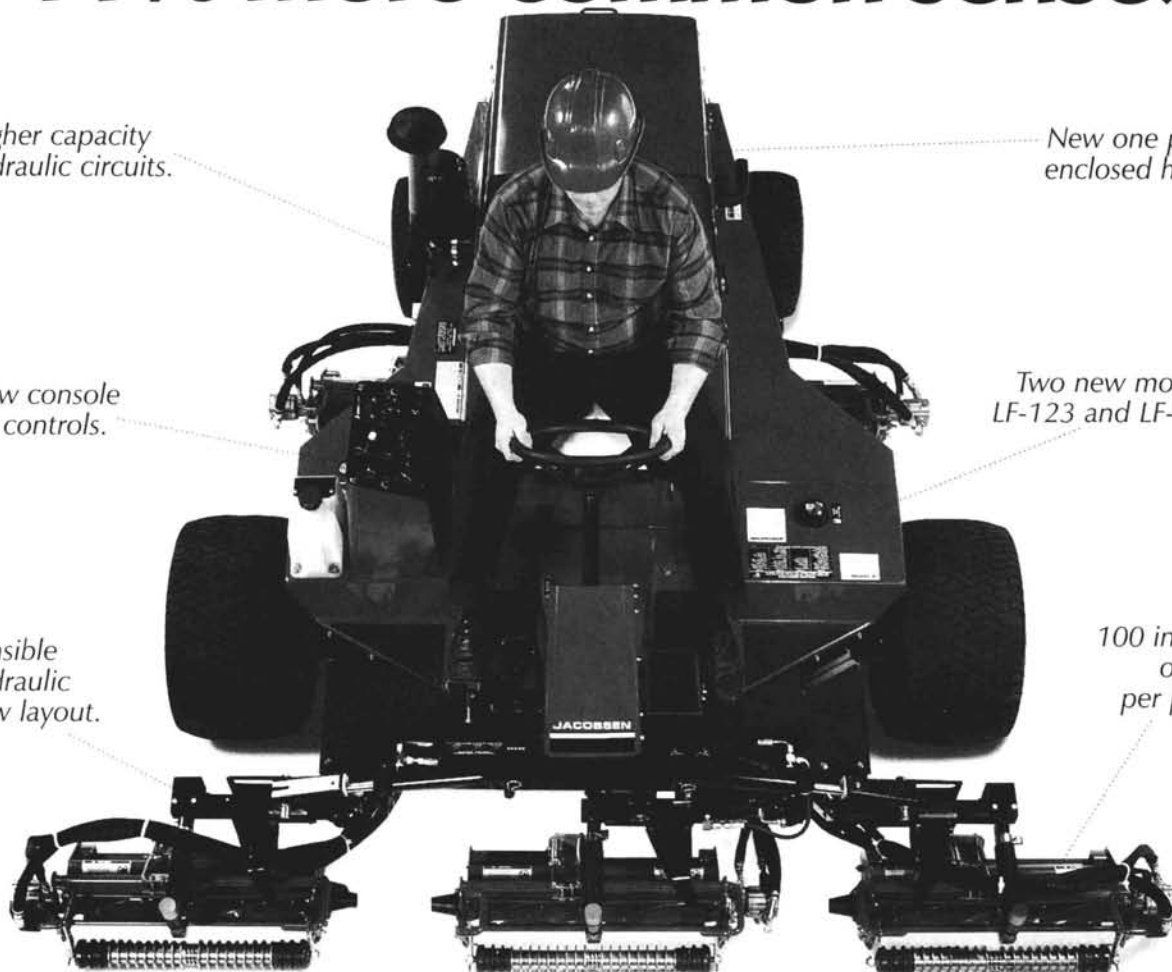
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Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar

June 19 — MAGCS meeting at River Forest G.C.

July 11 — MAGCS meeting at Steeplechase G.C.

July 24 — John Deere Golf Tournament at Orchard Valley G.C.

August 5 — MAGCS Family Picnic and ball game, Kane County Cougars.

August 21 — MAGCS meeting at Hughes Creek G.C.

September 25 — MAGCS meeting at Prairie Landing G.C.

October 12 — MAGCS meeting at Sportsman G.C.

October 14 — MAGCS Fall Dinner Dance at Aurora C.C.

November 9 — MAGCS Clinic & Annual meeting at Medinah C.C.

November 27-29 — NCTE at Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, IL

Job Description Staff Newsletter Writer

Prerequisites:

1. Some journalistic background.
2. Photographic skills and equipment.
3. Self-motivated, eager; positive attitude.

Responsibilities:

1. Directly responsible to Newsletter Editor.
2. Must provide a minimum of six (6) interviews/articles per year.
3. Provide photographs/graphics to accompany articles when appropriate.
4. Provide monthly items for the "Midwest Breezes" page.
5. Must provide and/or assist in photography of MAGCS events, speakers, and functions; and any other material pertinent to same as deemed necessary by Editor.
6. Will assist in editing, layout, solicitation of advertisers, and facilitation of efficient, timely publications of the newsletter.

The position of Staff Writer should be someone who is familiar with the golf course industry. We would like to have this person take an active part in our association. This will be a paid position, per article written. Applicants should send their resume to: Fred Opperman, Editor, **The Bull Sheet**, 810 Greenwood Avenue, Carpentersville, IL 60110.

How would you like to win a full expense paid trip to the U.S. Open at Shinnecock G.C. in July? Well, Dan Murray did just that by entering a contest put on by Loft Seed Company. There were only 200 entries, and only 20 of those had all of the right answers. Dan's name was pulled from a hat to win. He also just won a patio deck from a local lumber store. Dan, you better buy some lottery tickets!

Fernando Fernandez at Green Acres C.C. is looking for a foreman. Call 708/291-2232. (Fernando, you were looking for a foreman 5 years ago ...).

Terry & Trent Bradford welcomed baby Gregory Stephan, into their home on May 1, 1995. Congratulations to the Bradfords!

Happy 91st Birthday to Mrs. Ray Gerber on June 12, 1995. To all of her friends, she is doing fine and would love to hear from you.

Assistant Needed — Please call Dan Albaugh at Ruffled Feathers G.C., 708/257-0163.

Congratulations to Doug Eggert, the new Superintendent at the New Lenox Park District golf course.

Congratulations to our newest PhD at University of Illinois — Tom Voigt. Tom, now we really expect great things from you! Well done, we hope to see more of you in our area.

Watch for the July issue of **The Bull Sheet** for information on a name change. This month begins the 49th Volume, but it doesn't look like it will make the half century mark. What a shame. It is hard for me to figure out that after 49 years the name is not "proper". With all of the vulgar language that is heard on the TV, movies, streets, stores and offices today, the name of our newsletter is tame.

For Sale — Dozens of 8' "Fat Style" flag pins used, but good shape. 19 Redwood Divot seed & soil tee buckets. 3 standard cup cutters, 6 grass buckets for Toro 216, 6-8 bladed reels for Toro 216, and 75 plastic head, yellow fiberglass bunker rakes. Call Scott at Cantigny, 708/260-8179.

"Happy 49th Birthday to **The Bull Sheet**"

This issue is the 49th Volume of your newsletter. I thought I would go back 25 years at 5 year intervals to check the "Midwest Breezes", but there were no "Midwest Breezes" in 1970.

June 1990, Fred Opperman, Editor

What Superintendent has a bed facing his desk in his office? This man then has the nerve to ask a female applicant to come to his office for an interview and if she wanted to sit, the only place would be the bed! There is a chair in the office but it is piled high with his book, "How to Grow Grass the Easy Way", "Perfect Lawn the Easy Way."

(continued page 18)

(Midwest Breezes continued)

Congratulations to Henry Michna on succeeding Pat Mertz as Superintendent at Winnetka G.C. Henry was Roger Stewart's assistant at Stonebridge.

Fernando Fernandez, Green Acres C.C. is looking for a foreman. Call 708/291-2232.

Dave Blomquist, superintendent at Naperville C.C. had a full page article and picture of himself in "The Naperville Sun", on Friday, March 30, 1990. His best quote in the article and one that drew a bit of static was, "You have to deal with people who have no idea how to take care of their own front yard but think they know what's right for your course because they play on it three times a week." What a great statement, David.

June 1985, Fred Opperman, Editor

Wow, what a turnout we had at Silver Lake for our joint association May meeting. We had 135 golfers and 167 for dinner that evening. Dudley outdid himself that day. He even provided showers for all the golfers in the morning - but he forgot to give us the soap. On some of Silver Lakes greens you could have almost a 100 yard putt if you were on the opposite side of the green than the flag. I for one was impressed with Silver Lake with all of the work that has taken place there. There is one course that puts back into it the revenue that it makes. Other than Dudley's shower in the morning without the soap, it was a perfect day.

We had Superintendents from the Northwest Association, Central Illinois, and Michiana all there. It was a fun day enjoyed by all. Cushman/Ryan was the sponsor of the day and they through the Illinois Lawn Equipment Agency donated to the University of Illinois a riding aerifier and a frontline rotary mower.

Next year look to have this joint association meeting take place at Eagle Ridge in Galena. Eagle Ridge has been rated as one of the top 10 best resorts in the country.

Fun for all and better turf too. Attend the June 24, 1985 ITF Golf Day at Glen Oak Country Club. Entry fee is \$60. This donation goes to ITF and will be used for turf research in our state. It also guarantees your entry into the 18 hole golf tournament. A huge pig roast will be served following the tournament. Plenty of golf prizes will be given away. Lunch will be available on the golf course. Bring extra money for raffle tickets and win a set of golf clubs.

Call ahead for tee times as the field will have to be limited on this beautiful golf course. The number is 669-3637 or 3638. Foursomes are preferred. You may play after 10 a.m. and will either tee off on the first or tenth tee.

Don't forget. A great day has been planned for you on June 24, 1985. Support your turf foundation at Glen Oak Country Club. It's the perfect location at the right time of the year.

Peter Leuzinger, CGCS
Golf Day Chairman
(continued page 21)

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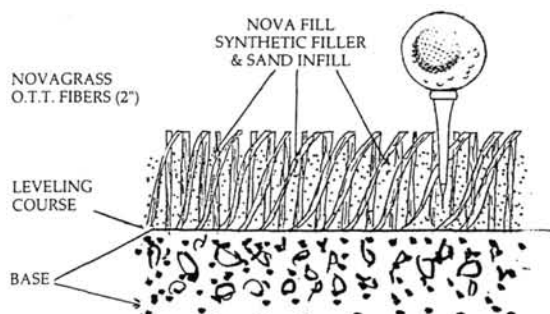


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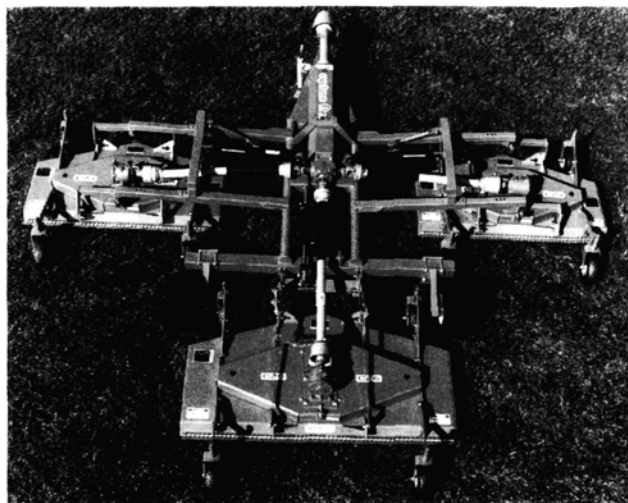
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