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Putting It All in Perspective

(continued from page 10)

bring your same self back from wherever it is you went? It's at this point that most of us would like to roll our eyes, turn the page and read something else.

Let's be realistic. None of us are perfect, but Mrs. Evans always gripes about the tee positions and wants to know what you're spraying. At some point, we would be silly to expect anything different from her. I think as a group, we are a pretty relaxed bunch. However, there are several guys who always seem to be smiling, helpful, never complaining and making the best of what Mother Nature deals us. This sort of thing doesn't interest everyone, but I wonder what makes them tick. I had to disqualify the guys who told me

they kept their sanity by kicking the dog or knocking the top off of a 12-pack every

*However, there are
several guys who
always seem to be
smiling, helpful,
never complaining
and making the best
of what Mother
Nature deals us.*

night. The following veteran superintendents had thoughts to offer:

Les Rutan from Beverly Country Club hinted the laid-

back attitude that he might project may be laziness or fatigue in disguise. He feels his strong family ties help keep things in perspective. For several years, he has coached his children's basketball and softball teams and admitted that one of his prize possessions is a softball signed by a group of 9-year-old kids he recently coached. He also mentioned that any success as a superintendent or as a parent can be attributed to his wife.

As if the activities of four children didn't keep him busy enough, Les also has been very involved with the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents and with his Parish Men's Club. While at work, Les suggested that his style of management was not one of ruling with an "iron fist." He has found that compliments

(continued on page 22)

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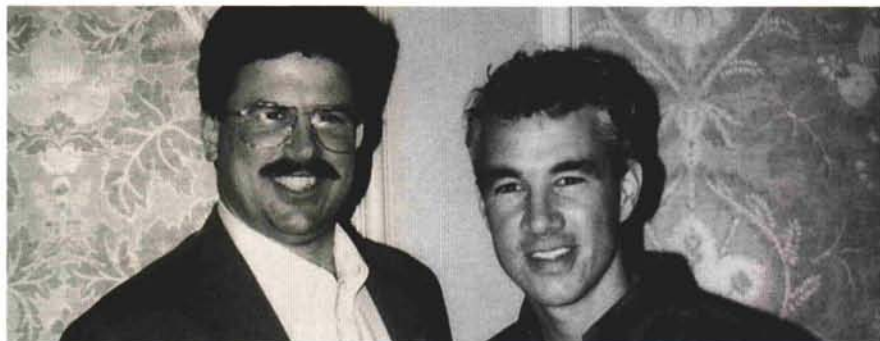
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1997 MAGCS Hospitality Suite and GCSAA Conference in Las Vegas

Photos by Ray Schmitz and Fred Opperman



MAGCS President Ed Braunsky, and Brian Bossert, chairman of the Hospitality Suite.



Art Clesen, Carolyn Goodman, Adolph Bertucci, and Ken Goodman



Dave Schlagger, Dennis Wilson, Matt Springer, Mike Matchen and Jerry Dinelli



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*Brian Bossert, CGCS
Bryn Mawr C.C.*

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(continued on page 16)

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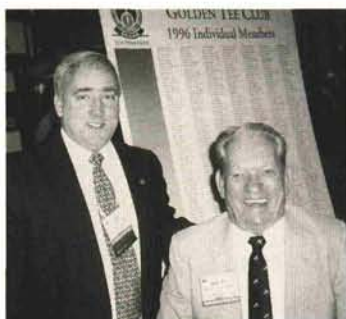
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Tony Rzadzki, Luke Strojny, Fred Behnke



*Dave Ward and
Bob Maibusch*



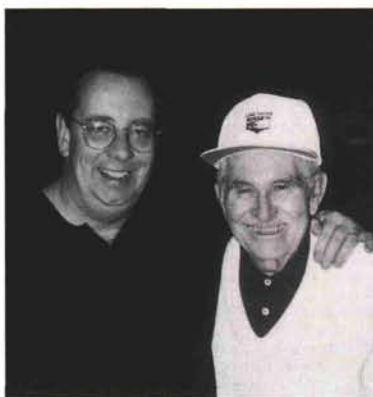
*Len Berg and
Walter Fuchs, Sr.*



Tom Voigt, Tom Fahey, Tim Kelly, Don Ferreri



*Gerry Hough, Mark Grundman
and Henry Michna*



*Bruce Burchfield
and Adolph Bertucci*



*Marcy and Jeff
Leuzinger*



Penn State Alumni Breakfast, which is held annually at the GCSAA conference, this year drew a record crowd of close to 120 alumni, present students and instructors. Ed Fischer, president, standing far left, conducting the meeting and George Hamilton, standing background on left, addressing the group.

The 1997 MAGCS Hospitality Suite...

(continued from page 14)

Collectively, the aforementioned companies donated \$15,100 towards the Hospitality Suite. I don't mean to make it sound like a contest of sorts, but yes, that certainly set a record for those of you scoring at home. This allowed us to nearly double down our menu. The MAGCS thanks you! In addition to the increased financial resources, the larger ball-room-style room was a fine roll of the dice. It did not go unnoticed, and the Board certainly appreciated all of the kind and positive comments.

I had a great deal of help lining up the arrangements and following through on the details. A big thanks to Noreen Higgins, Dan Augdahl, Fred Behnke, Ed Braunsky, Don Ferreri, John Meyer and George Minnis. They were aces in the hole. (I promise only one more gambling reference; but just think, those helpers would have been "Mouseketeers" in Orlando last year. Can you imagine Ed with a big set of those ears on? Yea, I guess I can too.)

In closing, a nice parlay would be to take a moment to thank a few of the generous supporters and remember them in the upcoming year as we plan our expenditures. ■



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I Feel Fortunate

Glen Bereiter
Alden G.C.

I feel fortunate! To be able to look forward to getting out of bed each day in order to go to work and do something I thoroughly enjoy doing . . . taking care of a golf course. A superintendent I worked for in the early '80s—ATF—taught me several valuable lessons, humility being the one that comes to mind most readily. However, equally important was the lesson of taking this earth and reshaping it into something that is truly your piece of artwork that will last for many years.

Basically, that is the essence of what we do: take our little piece of earth, shape it, mold it, and care for it the best we know how to please our diverse patrons. Like most golf course superintendents, I take a great deal of pride in

being able to accomplish this task. When all entities come together as one and things begin to click, the experience is one of great satisfaction and pride. Unfortunately, our business is such that successes and rewards are short-lived because of the many other "challenges" that await our attention. But again, that is what makes each and every day special and enjoyable.

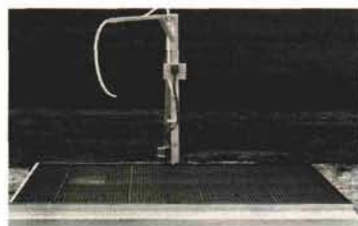
I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to join many of my colleagues for several days of education, rest and relaxation at our annual conference and show in Las Vegas. The staff at the GCSAA put together such a complete package of education and social events every year that most probably take for granted their hard work and determination on our behalf. I cannot even imagine the "behind the scenes" preparation and footwork that take place prior to and

during the GCSAA International Conference and Show in order to make it a success.

In reading the February issue of *On Course*, I can't help but feel fortunate for several reasons:

1. For this wonderful publication that brings to us so much information each month. This publication continues to improve and impress.
2. For the advertisers, who so generously offer their products and services to help US do a better job maintaining our golf courses.
3. For our Turf Advisory Staff, who spend countless hours working on trial plots and gathering and disseminating data for our benefit.

(continued on page 28)



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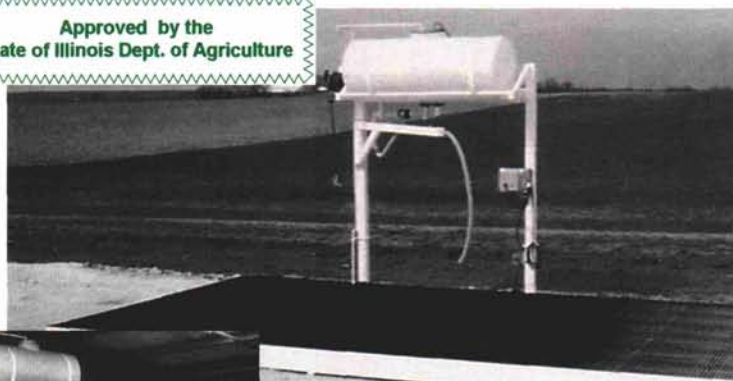
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A Real Success Story: The Sunset Ridge Plan

Carl Hoppman
Retired Superintendent

Having to search through the daily newspaper a full six or eight pages before you get past all the bad in the world gets pretty old as well as demoralizing. Better yet, read and absorb the following story that has a most pleasant ring to it. Herein is a situation story that warrants strong consideration, one that must be recognized as No.1 on the "Do List."

This is a simple involvement of one golf course green chairman, one golf professional and a golf course superintendent. The plot is short, yet big-time dynamic. Two of the three were speakers at a past CDGA Green Seminar. Their presentation on cooperation and communication between key staff golf course department heads was outstanding; but more importantly, the

audience reaction and the general atmosphere of the entire event really impressed them. On the drive home, a discussion occurred pertaining to how great the morning talks were and how could they help or return the favor. The superintendent responded with, "How about a contribution from our club to support our own Illinois Turfgrass Foundation?" For the past four years, this club billed every member \$5 on their August club statement. This charge was not mandatory, and only a slight few refused to cooperate. Take a good look at this situation; it's a rather simple, effortless, yet terribly rewarding thing to do. Dennis Wilson and the people at the Sunset Ridge Country Club have started a truly great thing, one that reaps a high rate of return.

The turf program and turfgrass research in the state of Illinois, with the addition of Bruce

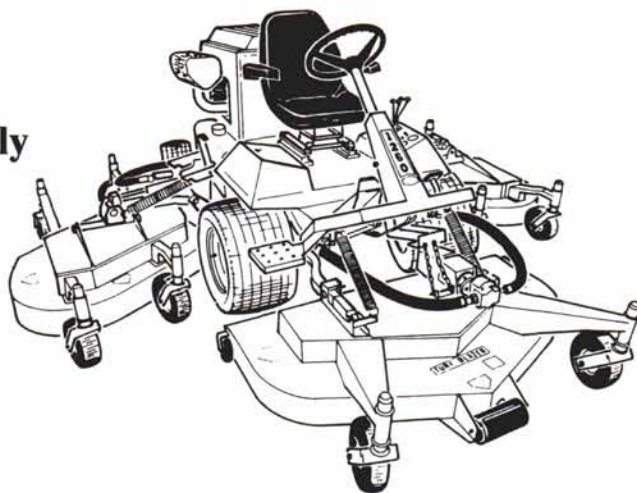
Branham, has turned the corner and is heading uphill toward bigger and better things. The ITF Board of Directors represents the most enthusiastic, knowledgeable and sincere group of people that are uniformly driven to make Illinois turfgrass the very finest. I will attest to the fact that this group will never stop as long as there is room for improvement.

We must understand fully that funding for turfgrass research in Illinois has taken a terrible slashing. Not too many years ago, dollars were available from federal as well as state grants. This has disappeared; for what reasons, it doesn't really matter. Fact is, it's gone; and if the turf industry wishes to be one of the best, we must all pull together, generate funding on our own so that our research scientists become leaders in establishing the very best.

(continued on page 28)

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