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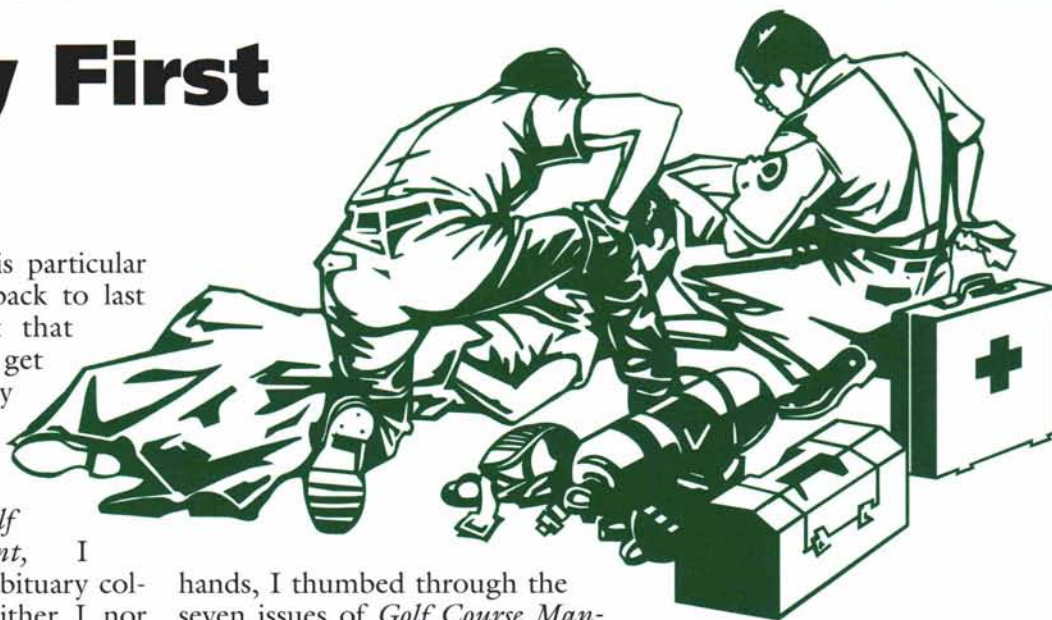


FREEDOM
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SHOWN

Safety First

Brian Bossert
Bryn Mawr C.C.

The idea for this particular column goes back to last December. At that time of year, I actually get a chance to read my monthly trade publications, and as I was thumbing through the latest issue of *Golf Course Management*, I noticed a pretty full obituary column. Fortunately, neither I nor any of my acquaintances were listed. There were, however, ten, and I was further struck by the fact that two of these gentlemen were in their forties. I wondered if this was bizarre or the norm. So, and remember it was December, since I had a couple minutes on my



hands, I thumbed through the seven issues of *Golf Course Management* from 1997 that I could locate in my soon-to-be-cleaned office and did a very unscientific study. Of the 29 obituaries listed in those seven magazines, the average age of death was 67, and 6 of the 29 had passed on prior to turning 50.

Now, I obviously don't know the facts surrounding these deaths. Let's hope the deaths were in no way related to their occupation. However, I did use the information to remind myself that

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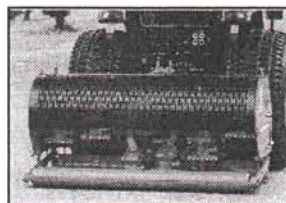
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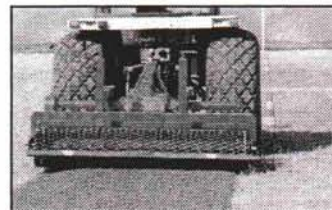
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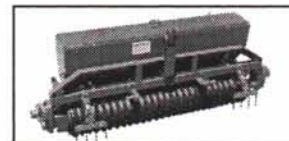
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Safety First

(continued from page 12)

this can be an unsafe occupation if we let it be. As the season warms up, we may want to make sure we've taken extra time to adequately train and warn our employees of the potential hazards of working on a golf course. In the event of an unfortunate accident, are employees aware of what to do? Have we updated our employees' emergency contact information?

Safety is an important and often overlooked issue in the workplace. The following superintendents, including myself, have provided this insight: Brian Green at Sunset Valley Golf Club and his staff are part of a dedicated program that involves an immense amount of training. At least one-half day per month is set aside for safety training, and that total is one-half of a day per week in the spring. These sessions cover topics such as chainsaw safety, ladder safety and respirator use. Their park district employs a part-time safety supervisor to assist him in meeting their needs. Additionally, each employee goes through an orientation checklist of roughly 30 items that includes video and hands-on training prior to starting work each season. All full-time employees are certified to administer CPR.

Brian also credits their work with the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) in their obtaining the highest safety rating available for a park district. Brian really feels like their commitment to the stringent training relieves him of possible burden in the event there is an accident. He also informed me that the highest incidence of damage to property occurs when a vehicle is backing up. That everyday task might be worth a mention during your next chat with the staff.

While attending the annual Chicagoland shop tour a few years back, I was very impressed with the tidy surroundings at Lake Bluff Golf Club. You could tell their commitment to cleanliness went a little further than just that particular day. Do you remember all those "Wear your hard hat signs"? Jerry Mach told me he took a very serious stance on cleanliness several years back after slipping on a greasy floor. His common sense approach includes persistent reminders to the crew regarding cleanliness and hard hat usage.

I also talked to Rick Bowden at Bob O'link Golf Club. A few years back, they asked the OSHA consultation service to do a safety audit of their operation. The service (which is free of charge), in turn, gives you several specific recommendations that you agree to do, usually within a six- to eight-week period. Examples of these recommendations include things

like explosion-proof lighting in the paint room and proper tongue guards on the grinding wheels. You can contact this service at 312-814-2337. Rick also said they have annually committed roughly \$1,500 for the past couple years to improve their containment for items such as paint, paint thinner and aerosols.

Unfortunately, Rick had to put some of their safety training into action recently. A long-time seasonal employee suffered a heart attack his first day back this season. At press time, his prognosis was not good. Do you have anyone on your staff prepared to administer CPR?

Last winter, after six seasons at Bryn Mawr, I finally got around to developing a department manual. I go through it, item by item, with new employees. An Hispanic employee translates when neces-

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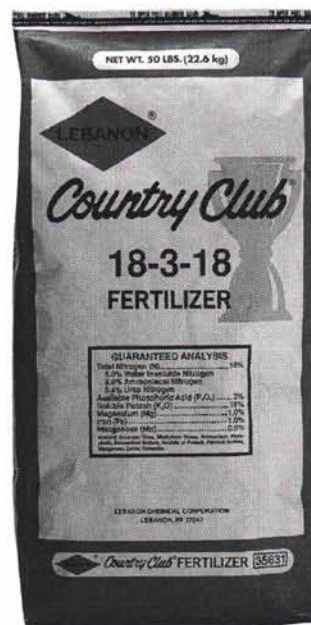
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Safety First

(continued from page 14)

sary, and each employee signs off stating they understand the manual. We go through the manual as a group with the returning seasonal employees each spring. We also used the previously mentioned OSHA service which was very helpful and much less painful than I figured it to be.

In 1997, we also started a "safety awareness" program designed to reduce work-related accidents. During my first six seasons, we had averaged four accidents a year that required medical attention. Most of these were very minor, and a trip to the clinic was mainly precautionary for a scratch on the face while mowing under a tree or a sore something resulting from an early morning tumble on wet grass. However, there was also a nasty errant golf ball across the

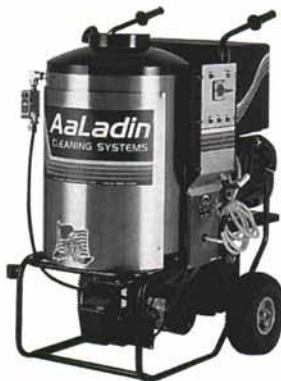
bridge of the nose incident and the unthinkable mower blade vs. finger accident in which the mower always wins. Through weekly meetings and additional training (some videos), we had hoped to reduce the number of accidents from four down to two or less. Fortunately, we had only one claim in 1997. Everyone was rewarded with an afternoon off with pay and some club logo T-shirts.

In another program, we awarded a gift to an employee who had no "safety strikes" against him in a given month. Examples of "safety strikes" would include driving a cart with your foot hanging out, failure to wear a hard hat or safety glasses when required or unsafe operation of equipment. At the beginning of the month, everyone would be eligible for the drawing. If you were issued a "safety strike" you were

not eligible for the drawing at the end of the month in which one person would be awarded a gift. Gifts ranged from shirts to Cub tickets, most of them freebies that I came across throughout the summer. "Safety strikes" were tallied on the bulletin board, and, consequently, good-natured ribbing resulted from a "strike." This program added enthusiasm to our commitment to safety and cost next to nothing to get started. And, most importantly, it was very effective. Hopefully, before the season gets into high gear, you can use the preceding information to help you evaluate your operation and make the often simple changes needed for it to become safer for your employees. ■

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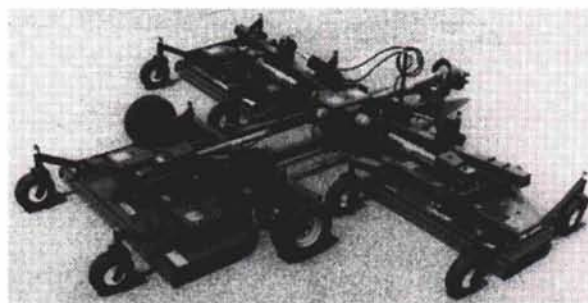
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Adolph Bertucci

6/3/18 — 2/4/98

Editor's Note: These couple of pages are in remembrance of Adolph Bertucci who passed away on February 4, 1998, when most of his friends were attending the GCSAA Conference in Anaheim, California. We felt that this would be an appropriate way to show our respect to the Bertucci family since few were able to do so at the time of his death.

The Dud Silver Lakes G.C.

When I think of Bert, a fat, jovial Italian without a mustache comes to mind. He had more friends and connections across this country than any of us.

When I groped for my wallet to play golf at Tucson National, it was compliments of the man standing on the terrace—a smiling Adolph. And who can forget the parties in his smoke-filled garage and the characters that stooped through that low door: Nematodes Holmes, Roy Nelson, Boots Welleck, Roger the Dodger, Erv Rosenthal, Jack Brickhouse, etc. At the poker table sat Kinky, the Turk, Ben Coker and

Oliver, while at another table sat Big Bill Stupple, Dom Grotti and Frank Dinelli playing Hearts. The Dago-red wine flowed freely.

Now there is a delay on the tee upstairs. Krafft, Canale, Saielli and Bert are into it again. Who has the honors? God love you, Adolph. We sure did.

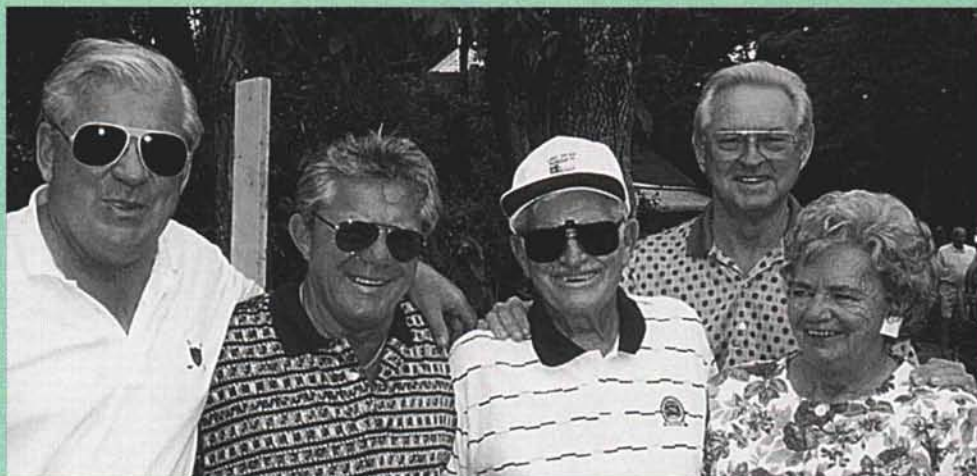
Mike Bavier Inverness G.C.

When you had a question or wanted to know anything about the golf business, Adolph would always help you out. He had a warm and wonderful way about him. That Italian smile was a trademark of his.

I'll remember the Christmas parties when they were going on each year like everyone else that was privileged enough to be in the golf business at that time. Those Christmas parties will be remembered forever. My good fortune was to drive Roy Nelson and some of the other South Side superintendents to Lake Shore Country Club to enjoy a day of great Italian food and the camaraderie of all of Adolph's friends.

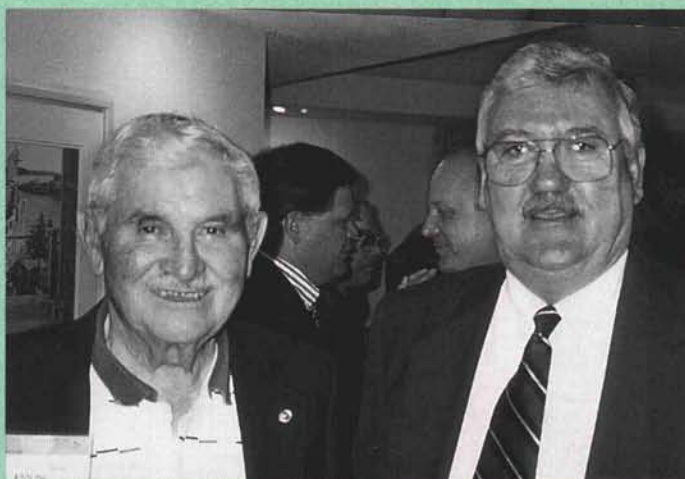
I also vividly remember the Midwest meetings Adolph would host. As a rookie at that time, it was a privilege to visit a club where the superintendent was known and respected by all

(continued on page 20)



September 1995 at a tree planting ceremony honoring Adolph. L to R: Paul and Peter Voykin, Adolph and Mary Bertucci with Bob Johnson in back.

Bill Aiston, Adolph and MAGCS President Mike Nass at the June 1988 meeting held at Lake Shore C.C. when Adolph retired that year.



Adolph with Lynn Wesson at the MAGCS hospitality room in Las Vegas, February 1997.

Adolph Bertucci
(continued from page 18)

the employees. I might add, the members knew Adolph and also showed him great respect. Those outings were the greatest. Dinner was served for a reasonable price, and we were served a meal that could be compared with one you might expect on one of the finest cruise ships. Yes, Adolph knew how to throw a party.

I'm hoping that right now there is a party going on up in heaven with Adolph leading the way. Many of us were so fortunate to meet and be associated with him. A special man like this comes along only a few times in one's life. Thanks, Adolph, for helping me to understand how to treat people and be better at the profession of greenkeeping.

Kevin Czerkies
Sportsman's G.C.

In November of 1985, I began working at Sportsman's Country Club. Within a week, I found a flyer on my desk left by Mike Schiller. Mike, at the time, was my salesman from Arthur Clesen, Inc., and the flyer was an invitation to Adolph's Christmas party. Coming from the south suburbs, the first thing that crossed my mind was who's Adolph, and why am I invited to his party? I went to this party, and I quickly realized that this guy was something special. I never missed his annual parties from then on.

A few years later, Adolph decided to retire. He did so by hosting a MAGCS meeting at Lake Shore. It was at this meeting that I truly saw how much he meant to that club. Adolph had more friends than one can imagine. I wish I had known Adolph sooner in life. I'll miss his cheerful face and kind words.

(continued on page 22)



*Adolph's Christmas party in 1983.
L to R: Ben Kronn, Joe Canale and Pete Vandercook.*



*Adolph's Christmas party in 1983.
L to R: Frank Dinelli, Dominick Grotte, Ben Kronn and Charlie Rack.*



*Another of Adolph's Christmas parties.
L to R: Pat Mertz, Peter Vandercook, Chris Johnson and Tim Snell.*