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Silver Lake Country Club. (Photo courtesy of Silver Lake Country Club)

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The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS), founded December 24, 1926, is a professional organization whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance.

We endeavor to increase efficiency and economic performance while improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige of the members.

The MAGCS member is also an environmental steward. We strive to uphold and enhance our surroundings by promoting flora and fauna in every facet in a manner that is beneficial to the general public now and in the future.

Waxing Nostalgic . . . Oscar Miles Talks About His Role in Creating The Merit Club



Photos by CeCe Durbin

Hole #6 at The Merit Club.

This is the first in a series of articles that will highlight various aspects of the 2000 U.S. Women's Open, to be held July 17-23 at The Merit Club in Gurnee. In this article: a look at how superintendent Oscar Miles arrived at The Merit Club and his instrumental role in building that course.

For many years, Oscar Miles, CGCS, harbored a dream. "Someday, I wanted to put my knowledge and experience into practice by being involved in the early development of a golf course . . . I wanted to apply the most up-to-date principles of golf course construction and drainage to create a better-conditioned golf course."

In 1989, just after that year's Western Open, renowned golf instructor Ed Oldfield contacted Oscar—then at Butler National—and asked him if he would be interested in joining the team Ed was assembling to build a new golf course. "I said 'no thank you,'" Oscar recalls.

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There is nothing more sacred than life, and nothing more fragile than our health. How much thought have you put into keeping yourself, grounds crew and guests safe while they are present at your facility? I count my blessings each and every day that my family and I are in good health. Do you feel an obligation or responsibility for the well-being of the people who occupy your facility? You should.

The golf course ranks in the top five places most likely to occasion a heart attack. Are you prepared for this extreme situation? If you, a crew member or a guest goes down with a heart attack, here's hoping someone with the proper training reaches them in just minutes. After 10 minutes without proper attention, you have little chance of survival.

I worked for 10 years as a paid-on-call EMT/firefighter in Naperville. It was during these years that I began to appreciate safety and the tragic results of carelessness and being unprepared. Whenever I am told that I am being overly cautious or worry too much about safety, I respond with, "Great." Don't get me wrong—I am not a fanatic about preaching safety, I am just a firm believer in being prepared. And I wasn't even a Boy Scout!

A few years ago, I developed a Seven Bridges Golf Club Emergency Procedures Manual, designed specifically for our golf course. The idea behind such a document is to have a training manual for all the employees to read and understand, thereby allowing each and every employee the knowledge to implement an emergency procedure. If you currently are not operating with any kind of routine system for emergency medical services on your golf course, please consider using some of the following.

Some 250,000 lives are lost annually to cardiac arrest; many of you have experienced this at your club or facility firsthand. The golf course ranks in the top five places most likely to occasion a heart attack. Are you prepared for this extreme situation? If you, a crew member or a guest goes down with a heart attack, here's hoping someone with the proper training reaches them in just minutes. After 10 minutes without proper attention, you have little chance of survival. We have a mandatory CPR class for some of our employees every spring. This year, we have 27 people trained in life-saving procedures. We have trained these same individuals with an automated external defibrillator (AED). Early defibrillation, bystander CPR and early accurate information to your local EMS will save lives. The GCSAA, *Golf Digest* and the American Heart Association have created Links for Life. You can find out more about this by calling 800-438-0489. Not only is having an AED at your facility the right thing to do, it is also a great public relations story.

We have radio communication to all of our on-course employees (starter, rangers and beverage carts). In an emergency situation, the pro

(continued on page 15)

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I would like to thank you for your support and confidence in allowing me to serve you as a member of the Board of Directors for the MAGCS. It is a great honor and I pledge to do my best in serving you as chair of this year's Golf Committee.

The Golf Committee met in March and by unanimous vote recommended to the Board that a change was necessary in the way handicaps are handled for our golf events. The committee felt that a change will ensure that all participants will be competing on a level playing field. In the past, each competitor was asked to state his/her handicap. The problem occurred when, in some cases, participants would write in their USGA Index number. Frequently, the index number was then applied as the competitor's handicap. This created a problem when we would play a course that had a high slope rating (e.g., Bull Valley). In such a situation, the competitor would not receive the correct number of strokes allocated.

With the Board of Directors' approval, and in accordance with the standard operating procedures of the MAGCS Golf Committee, we will implement a change starting with our June meeting at Winnetka Golf Club. All competitors will be required to submit a verifiable USGA Index number in order to be eligible for and qualify for net division prizes.

With the Board of Directors' approval, and in accordance with the standard operating procedures of the MAGCS Golf Committee, we will implement a change starting with our June meeting at Winnetka Golf Club. All competitors will be required to submit a verifiable USGA Index number in order to be eligible for and qualify for net division prizes. If a member does not have a current USGA Index number, he/she will be moved to the gross division of the event. If the event does not have a gross division, that golfer will be required to play to a 0. At each event, all indexes will be converted to correspond to the slope rating of the host course.

The committee wants to make sure all competitors are playing on equal terms. If you do not have the ability to establish a USGA Index at your home course, you may obtain one through the MAGCS. Paul Yerkes will be our contact to the CDGA in setting up this program and coordinating the reporting of all scores. So if you are interested in establishing a USGA Index, please contact Paul or me. Remember, you must post five scores in order to establish an index.

I am very excited over the quality of courses that we are playing at our monthly events this year. Since so many of our members are moving into the senior division (50 and over) this year, we have a "new" trophy for the winner of the senior gross division. It is the Old Elm Elmer Bertucci Trophy. It is said that Elmer was the first superintendent at Old Elm, and in the early '80s, the manager at Old Elm bestowed the trophy to the MAGCS in Elmer's honor. The trophy was supposed to be a traveling trophy for the winner of the annual senior event, but it

(continued on page 36)

Dudley Smith -N- Silver Lake Country Club



Dudley Smith and Dave Kohley.

This year's combined ITF golf day will not require double shotguns or any commuting between courses, thanks to 45-hole Silver Lake Country Club and our gracious hosts Dudley Smith and Dave Kohley.

Dudley Smith, past president of the Midwest Turf Foundation and secretary of the Musser International Turf Foundation, has obviously made many contributions to our industry. The one contribution that stands out the most is the list of employees whose lives and careers he has helped to shape.

The current facility has been around since 1940 under the ownership of the Coghill family. The North Course, originally built in 1927, was a private club known as Euclid Hills Country Club. Across the street on the Johnson farm, the original Silver Lake Golf Club (now the South Course) was built in 1929 as a daily-fee course. 1962 saw the construction of an additional nine-hole executive course known as Rolling Hills.

Dudley Smith, past president of the MAGCS and an ITF Distinguished Award winner, has been the superintendent at Silver Lake for the past 41 years. Since he graduated from Penn State University, Silver Lake has been his only job. If things go Dudley's way, in five years he'll leave Silver Lake to become head coach in Happy Valley when Joe's contract runs out. Unfortunately, not everything always goes Dudley's way. First of all, he inherited greens that received a healthy dose of lead arsenic to control their poa. I guess it works if your greens aren't 100% poa. Second, Dudley had to live through the C15 bentgrass decline of 1981. Last, Dudley wasn't fond of the idea of having tee-to-green cart paths, but since they've been installed, he now admits to liking them.

Dudley Smith, past president of the Midwest Turf Foundation and secretary of the Musser International Turf Foundation, has obviously made many contributions to our industry. The one contribution that stands out the most is the list of employees whose lives and careers he has helped to shape. The names on Dudley's list are Bill Hargrave (U. Mass), Donald Theesfield (Penn State), Ed Fischer (Penn State), Sean Daley (Penn State), Ken Zanzig, Dave Behrman (Penn State), Dave Louttit (Penn State), Brian Comiskey (Danville), Tom Hildreth (Danville), Jay

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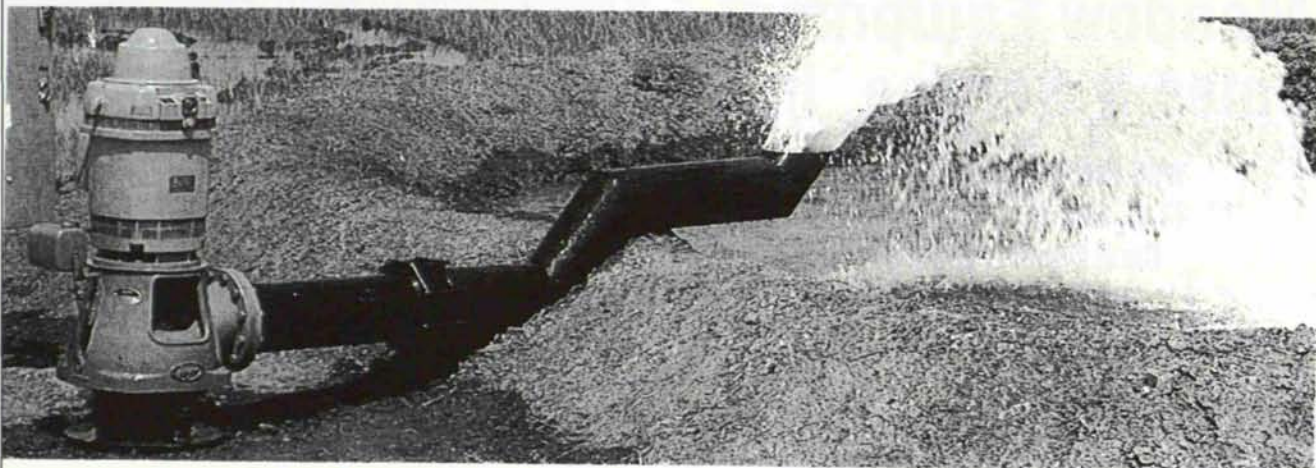
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