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FRONT COVER/BACK COVER

Historic Chicago Golf Club is where the Midwest's founding father, John MacGregor, plied his trade. It was also the setting for our look at the superintendent profession—then and now. For more on Chicago G.C. and the photo shoot, see *The Way We Were*, page 29.
(Photos by Bill Ficht)

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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.



MAGCS Will Keep “Making Change”

On November 7, at the culmination of the Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah, the membership of MAGCS elected new officers and two new Board members and reelected one incumbent Board member. On my part, I would like to thank the membership for having ample confidence in me to elect me to the presidency. I gladly take on the responsibility. In the past, I never thought of myself as a leader; however, through my years on the Board and as a superintendent, I feel I have developed the skills and insight to move our fine organization forward. I am ready for the challenge. Mistakes will probably be made, but we will learn from them and try not to let them happen again. Once again, I would like to thank the membership for the opportunity to serve as your president.

... the Board needs the members' input to keep the MAGCS moving progressively forward. I strongly encourage all of our members to consider hosting a meeting, serving on a committee or offering ideas to enhance our forward momentum.

As with any organization that achieves 75 years of age, our Association has witnessed many changes and will continue to grow. Even in the next few years, the MAGCS will be moving forward. One of our biggest steps will be the establishment of a physical presence at the Midwest Golf House. In the next year, we will finally have a real office—a true home base. We will be investigating use of the staff at Golf House to perform some of our time-consuming administrative functions, such as typing and mailing the job referrals, meeting notices and other communications. A facility second-to-none for education, the Golf House will host our March 2002 meeting. It will most likely become the permanent site for one of our winter meetings and possibly GCSAA seminars as well.

In other developments, George Minnis, our executive secretary, has begun work on sending MAGCS communications via e-mail for those who want to receive such items electronically. The MAGCS scholarship program continues to grow; in fact, in 2002 we will be adding a third scholarship—the John Buck Memorial Scholarship, which will be totally funded by the John Buck Foundation and offered to the entire membership. In addition, scholarship funding continues to grow. The first-ever MAGCS Scholarship Golf Outing was held in October at Geneva Golf Club. My good friend Ed Braunsky did an outstanding job with golf, food and floor-show. I hope this will become an annual event in addition to our regular meetings.

We must establish a new long-range plan; I believe the last plan was done five years ago and its objectives have mostly been realized. *On Course*, too, continues to change. The addition of full-color capability ensures a visually stimulating publication along with excellent editorial content.

(continued on page 28)

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No Bull: The History and Legacy of Your Magazine

As I ponder my final director's column (of which there have been but two), I can't help but think back, not only of my "cup of coffee" on the Board, but of our Association's growth and improvement through its 75 years of existence. Make no bones about it—we HAVE grown and we HAVE improved. Our magazine, to which it has been my ultimate pleasure to contribute, is better than ever, and will continue to be the best the industry has to offer under its next Editorial Committee chairman. I must confess at this juncture that I personally played a miniscule role in the development of this publication—the people who do the real work are those we don't see very often. People like Cathy Miles Ralston, our editor; Mark Karczewski, our graphic artist; Darwill Press, our printer; and all of our generous advertisers are the fuel that keep On Course's engine running.

In 1947, the MAGCS Board thought it was high time its members had a newsletter to keep up with the local goings-on, so they set about the task of initiating one.

This year in particular—the 75th anniversary of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents—generated numerous new challenges for our editorial staff, and I hope you agree that these challenges were met with aplomb. Our "Decades" articles highlighted the historical progress of not only our Association, but also our world. These features were written by members of the Editorial Committee—volunteers who gave of their time and effort more than should have been asked. The research involved in producing these articles was extensive, and the time expended was huge. I hope that you, our faithful readers, enjoyed and appreciated them as much as we relished creating them. I send my heartfelt thanks to this year's Editorial Committee—Chuck Anfield, Dave Braasch, Jon Jennings, Shane Kissack, Bob McCallum, Erwin McKone, Jim McNair, Larry Tomaszewski and Dr. Randy Kane—who went beyond the extra mile to make our 75th year something a little more special. Our "The Way We Were" features were another addition that we hope you enjoyed. Groping through the old photo archives to find subjects for this feature was a great deal of fun, and a great way to get acquainted with our past. Hopefully, once our Association moves to Golf House, these historical items, along with a complete library of *Bull Sheet* and *On Course*, will be available to our members for their perusal.

For your own edification, I thought you might like to know a little history regarding our magazine. In 1947, the MAGCS Board thought it was high time its members had a newsletter to keep up with the local goings-on, so they set about the task of initiating one. First and foremost, a name was needed. Bob Williams, then of Beverly Country Club, remembered the newsletter from Fort Campbell,

(continued on page 6)

Kentucky, where he was stationed during the war, and suggested the name *Bull Sheet* for the new venture. That name stuck, and an editorial staff was chosen. Editor Norm Johnson and associate editors William Stupple, Bob Williams, Ray Gerber, John Coghill, Raymond Didier and Paul Burdett began producing the two-page mimeographed newsletter, and sent out the first issue in January of 1948.


By 1950, *the Bull Sheet* had grown sufficiently in size and circulation to warrant its being printed professionally. Ever-Redi Printing, Inc. of LaGrange was chosen, and remained the official printer of *Bull Sheet* until December of 1995. When membership decreed that a name change was necessary to enhance the professional image of the magazine in mid-1995, a survey was sent out to all MAGCS members asking for suggestions for the new moniker. More than 200 entries poured in, and the Editorial Committee chose five finalists: *Windy City Turf*, *Midwest Breezes*, *On The Green*, *Modern Links* and *On Course*. The winner was chosen, and the man behind the name was again Bob Williams!

With this new name came an updated look, including color photography interspersed throughout the magazine. This also necessitated a new printer with more modern capabilities, so Darwill Press became our new printer after 45 years with Ever-Redi. In June of 1999, Cathy Miles Ralston came on board as the magazine's twelfth editor upon Fred Opperman's retirement after 16 years at the helm. Before Fred, Ray Gerber had been editor from 1972 to July of 1983, when he passed away. Shortly after Ray's death, the Ray Gerber Editorial Award was conceived to honor the best article written by a superintendent and printed first in *Bull Sheet/On Course*. This year marks the 15th presentation of the award

(no awards were given in 1989, 1991, 1994 and 1996 because of an insufficient number of eligible articles). Before Ray, nine other men had held the post of editor—Norm Johnson, Don Strand, Bill Stupple, Bert Rost, Ted Woehrl, Doug Jabaay, Tom Burrows, Dick Trevarthan and Roger LaRochele. All of these people and events played a significant role in shaping the magazine you are reading right now (if I have managed not to bore you into a deep slumber).

As I step down from my position on your Board of Directors, I feel more confident than ever that the MAGCS is in very capable hands. My decision to leave the Board is strictly due to the "Thanksgiving Phenomenon"—everything looks so good that you overfill your plate, only to discover that you can't possibly finish everything you've piled on. I very much enjoy working on this magazine, and will continue to do so in the capacity of contributing editor and as a member of the Editorial Committee (if the new guy will have me) for as long as I am wanted. With these duties in mind, and upon observing the commitment of time and energy that Don Ferreri and Brian Bossert have exerted in their respective presidencies, I now realize that my plate is full enough, and I'm a skinny guy anyhow.

So, as I "walk out the door," I offer these final thoughts on our magazine. We, in my humble opinion, have a very fine publication. Compared to others in the industry, *On Course* simply outshines the competition. Each year, we enter *On Course* in the GCSAA chapter newsletter contest, and each year we come up short for one reason or another. Usually, we hear grumblings about "Bull Sheet" being an unprofessional name for our "news-around-town" section. We hear that some of the language our writers use is less than appropriate (my own writings have been singled out more than once). My own opinion is that you, our writers, should feel free to express yourselves in any manner you wish. If colorful words the likes of "crap" and "damn" are chosen to make a point or to bring some humor into an article, I say use them! Write your articles, and be creative doing it. Make them fun to read. Stir up the water a bit. And if "shut your pie hole" is what you want to say to get your point across, go ahead and say it. If this freedom of expression offends the judges of a contest, then perhaps the contest is not worth winning.

There goes this year's chance at an award... 

A Midwest Memory . . .



The first-ever Pro-Greenskeepers Golf Tournament, held in September 1948, was a "cementing of relationships," according to MAGCS elder statesman Bob Williams. Pictured here are (L to R) Charles Penna, then golf pro at Beverly C.C.; Bob Williams, then Beverly's superintendent; Norm Johnson, then superintendent at LaGrange C.C.; and Jim Foulis, then pro at LaGrange.

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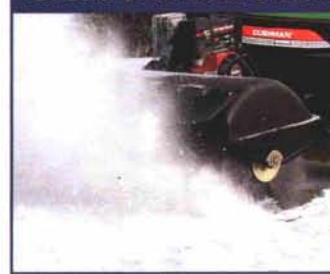
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There Is Life After the Golf Course

Retirement... isn't that the stage your grandparents are in, or maybe even your parents? It is seldom anything that people think about when they are in their twenties or even their thirties. The dictionary defines retirement as "withdrawal from one's position or occupation or from active working life." That just about sums it up.



Fred with trout caught at Hyalite Lake.

Having been retired now for a little less than three years, there are some details that I would like to discuss with you. Most superintendents are so into their jobs that not much thought is given to their retirement years. They are too busy putting out the golf course "fires," raising a family and filling every waking hour thinking of the golf course. If retirement sounds good, then you had better start planning for it ASAP! Starting in your twenties is not too early, but it is never too late to start even if you are way past that age.

A variety of ways to save for retirement exist. Contribute to an IRA (be sure to check out the Roth IRA), and put the maximum into it every year for both you and your wife. Your club needs to provide a retirement plan for you; if it doesn't, keep asking. Also, see if you yourself can contribute into it; and again, put as much into it as possible. If you receive a raise—you got it!—put that in. Club managers' associations have a plan to which you might be eligible to contribute. Annuities with your club are also possible. A great avenue for earning retirement money is a 401(k), again, contributing the maximum amount. If money is taken from your paycheck, you will not miss it; besides, you will not be paying taxes on your contribution until you begin withdrawing funds.

Then, you can consider just plain saving a certain amount each month from your paycheck and investing that money into stocks, mutual funds, etc. Look at stocks for which dividends will be reinvested, known as "DRIPS." Direct deposit into a mutual fund is an excellent way to build financial security.

Once you have accumulated around \$30,000, you might want to consult a financial advisor to assist with your future investments. Seek out a financial advisor who is independent and charges for his services. He will be well worth the investment if you find a good one. Stay away from financial advisors who sell products on which they receive commissions. Also stay away from whole-life insurance, for it really doesn't pay over the years. Instead, have a term-life policy.



Fred and Judy Opperman on a Snow Shoe Club trek at Battle Ridge Trail in Bridger Mountains.

The October 2001 *Reader's Digest* (see page 70) has an excellent article on retirement. Its accompanying questionnaire gives you an indication of how well you are or are not doing on your retirement future. The article quotes a Merrill Lynch study that states the Baby Boomers (that's you) are saving a scant third of what they will need at retirement.

Another important item is updating (or simply creating) your

will and/or trust or living trust. Include signed Power of Attorney and Durable Health Care Provider documents. If you move out of state, these documents may need to be reviewed and changed to meet the current inheritance laws of the new state.

Along with this, create a personal financial diary to give to your children, trustee or next of kin. This diary should itemize all pertinent information needed by

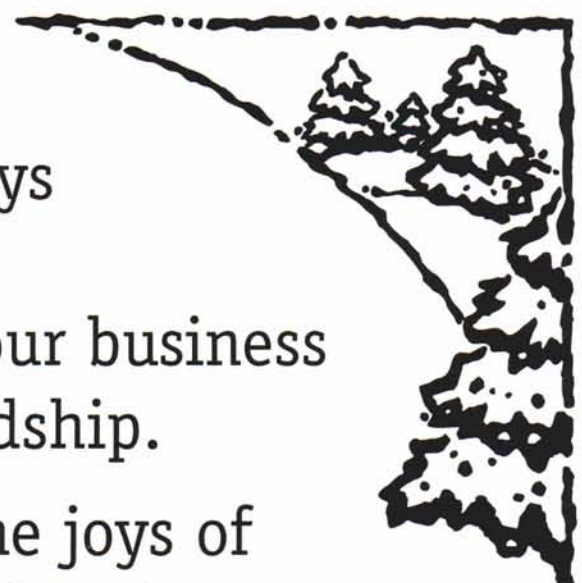
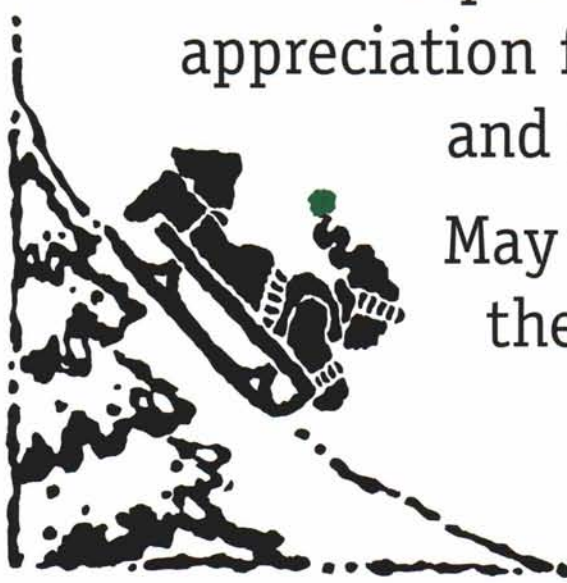
those who will be handling the arrangements after your death, such as the location of all important papers; your attorney's name, address, phone number; your banks, pensions, property, investments; friends to contact; funeral arrangements; etc. Documenting this information now will save your loved ones many frustrating, trying hours later. For a copy of a personal/financial diary, write to: Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc., P.O. Box 3199, Camdenton, Missouri, 65020. Their phone number is 573-346-4911.

Superintendents are so intense about their jobs; during the season, it is seven days a week, or, to quote a frequently used expression lately, "24/7." When your retirement day arrives, it may not be a shock right away, for you may spend some time vacationing at first, for instance. However, that other day will come when you

(continued on page 28)

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