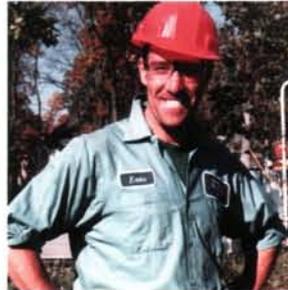


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sion. Links to other sites can be accessed from golfsuper.com for more in-depth information. Check it out.

While on the subject of Big Brother (GCSAA), your MAGCS Board of Directors has purchased seven commemorative bricks for GCSAA's 75th anniversary program. The bricks will be installed at GCSAA headquarters around the Old Tom Morris sculpture and gardens in Lawrence, Kansas, and will honor the six MAGCS members who have served as president of the national association. Bricks acknowledging **John MacGregor (1933)**, **Raymond Gerber (1950)**, **Robert Williams (1958)**, **Theodore Woehrle (1977)**, **Michael Bavier (1981)** and **Bruce Williams (1996)** will receive their place in history, along with a brick commemorating the MAGCS 75th anniversary. Next time you are in Lawrence, stop by and walk on our little part of the national association's past.

A couple of our old friends are on the move: Past editor **Fred Opperman** writes to tell us of his recent adventures, which include stops in the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and St. Petersburg, Russia; along with a trip into Yellowstone, Teton National Park and Jackson, Wyoming before heading back home to Bozeman, Montana (this, compared to his other travels, is like walking down to the corner store for a newspaper). **Jim Burdett** sent us a postcard from the Inside Passage in southeast Alaska, which he and a friend are exploring by motor home. Jim's wife Marilyn had to stay home and work, leaving him to roam the country. After a stop in Bozeman, they headed to Seattle to catch a boat up to Alaska. Hopefully, the two will have plenty of photos to share with

those of us who can only dream of such adventures.

MAGCS (and myself personally) extend our deepest sympathies to **Gene Thompson** and his family on the passing of his father, Gene Thompson, Sr., on May 29. Gene was kind enough to share some of the events leading up to and following this tragic loss, and I thought them to be appropriate for this column. Just two weeks before Gene Sr.'s death, the family received the news that he had taken a turn for the worse. Gene wrote Arnold Palmer a letter about his dad's situation, asking him if he could possibly send a note of encouragement to cheer him up. Within a week, a letter arrived from Arnie telling him to remain strong and keep the faith and optimism—something one doesn't usually expect from today's celebrity-athletes. This really demonstrates what a class-act Arnold Palmer truly is. The send-off for Mr. Thompson was one for the ages—four cars and 17 people set about to scatter his remains in various favorite locations on the island, including under a huge live oak tree in his yard, the site where he released raccoons that he'd trapped out of his yard, on the 13th hole of Sea Island Golf Course (his favorite hole), in his own fish pond, and even (sneakily) in some bushes outside his favorite restaurant. Gene will now have a golfing buddy for eternity, as he saved a small portion to keep in a container in his golf bag. Thanks for sharing such a personal experience with us, Gene, and keep in touch.

Check out the May 25 issue of *Golfweek's Superintendent News* for an insightful perspective by our own **Brad Anderson**, CGCS of Midlane Country Club. Brad certainly shows his knack for the written word, and his message

comes across loud and clear. Kudos to Brad for his stance on the benefits of the "daily-fee triumvirate" versus the corporate management scheme in golf course operations.

Although this publication serves the MAGCS membership, I would be remiss not to mention the trials and tribulations of fellow superintendents across the land, who deserve our thoughts. The winter of 2000-2001 is over (although it is 45 degrees as I write this in early June), but many of our brothers are still suffering from its wrath. The Northeast was ravaged by winter kill, which is still keeping many courses either closed or on temporary putting surfaces. This widespread devastation prompted a winter kill summit to get superintendents and club officials together to discuss what happened and what is being done to bring the courses back into playing shape. The summit, held at the Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts, is another example of our profession's proactive commitment to the dissemination of information and the sharing of knowledge for the betterment of golf everywhere. Elsewhere, one of our "neighbors" whose controversial dismissal was well-documented has happily landed on his feet. **John Netwal**, CGCS, formerly of the TPC at Deere Run in East Moline, IL, is now the director of operations of the North Scott Community Schools in Eldridge, Iowa (his hometown). There IS life beyond the golf course, and John is living proof of this.

Condolences from MAGCS to **Don Spier** of Novartis and his family on the passing of their mother on May 27. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Don.

(continued on page 34)

Penn State alumni boosters gathered at the Sheraton in downtown Chicago on May 9, and several MAGCS members were there to rub shoulders (literally!) with Joe Paterno, "soon to be the winningest coach in history," adds John Berarducci.



Pictured here are (L to R) Shane Kissack, Dudley Smith, Dominick Berarducci, Coach Paterno, J.R. Murphy and "Tse, Tse Bear."

To all members without a current handicap: the CDGA can help! Give them a call at 630-257-2005 to get the ball rolling (no pun intended). Remember, you MUST have a current handicap in order to qualify for prizes in MAGCS events.

MAGCS welcomes Rich Schau to the area. Rich is the new Lesco sales representative in the south Chicago territory. Welcome, Rich—now get out the check-book and join MAGCS!

Congratulations to **Mike Bavier, Jr.**, formerly assistant superintendent at Ivanhoe Club, on being named superintendent of Deerfield Golf Club. Mike replaces **Al Pondel, CGCS**, who moved to Rockford C.C.

Congratulations to **Eric Radkowsky** on being named the new superintendent of Mill Creek Golf Course. Eric hails from another American Golf property—the Woodlands—in Michigan, and replaces **Brett Hultquist** at the Geneva, IL course. Welcome to the Chicago area, Eric.

Point O'Woods Golf & Country Club in Benton Harbor, Michigan is accepting resumes for a second assistant superintendent. Interested parties should contact **Ron Fox, CGCS** at 616-944-1800.

Villa Olivia Country Club is looking for an assistant superintendent. Contact **Ed Joerns** at 630-289-5200 for details.

Finally, with all the violence and crises in the news lately, a little levity: A man stranded on a desert island for 10 years sees an object on the horizon. As the object gets nearer, it's apparent to the man that it is not a boat or raft. When it finally reaches shore, the object turns out to be a beautiful, shapely woman in a wetsuit. She walks from the surf to the man and asks, "How long has it been since you had a cigarette?" "Ten years!" the guy anxiously replies. She unzips a pocket on the sleeve of her wet-

suit and pulls out a pack of cigarettes from a waterproof container and gives him one, lighting it for him. He takes a long puff and says, "Man oh man is that ever good!" She then asks, "How long has it been since you had a sip of bourbon?" "Ten years!" says the man. She unzips another pocket and produces a flask and hands it to him, and the man takes a long pull from it and says, "Wow! That's absolutely terrific!" The woman then starts to slowly slide the zipper on the front of her skintight wetsuit down, looks at the man seductively and says, "How long has it been since you've played around?" The man, with tears in his eyes, replies, "Oh sweet mercy sakes alive! Don't tell me you've got golf clubs in there, too?!"

Dear MAGCS Members,

As I write this, I'm sitting amidst boxes in the den of the Ralston family's new home in northwest suburban Round Lake. I really should finish unpacking my office, but a monthly magazine's production schedule is relentless. Maybe when this issue goes to press, I'll finally settle in!

During the last week, I've gone through Ameritech limbo and I apologize for any inconvenience suffered by the readers of this magazine. In any case, effective immediately, *On Course* has a new mailing address, phone number and fax number, as follows:

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I check messages daily, but sometimes don't have the opportunity to return a call during business hours until one or two days later. If you ever need to speak to me **immediately**, please don't hesitate to call my home number, 847-740-0758, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

My e-mail remains the same: **on_course@hotmail.com**. Again, thank you for your patience during this transition period.

Regards,
Cathy Miles Ralston
Editor, *On Course*

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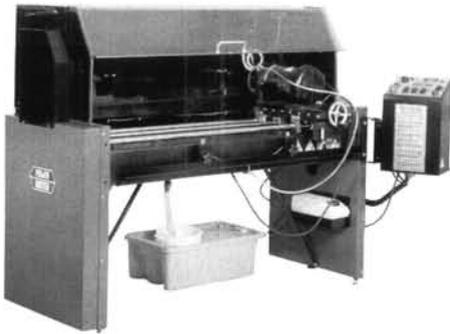
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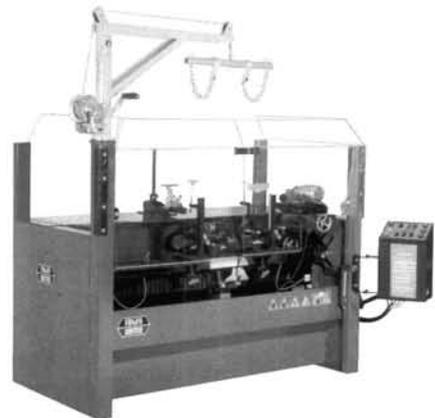
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Pat. June 18, 1900

While their prevalence and popularity is recent, soft spikes themselves are an old innovation. This advertisement for Whitcher Adjustable Rubber Golf Disks dates back to 1909 and touts the same features that appealed to golfers (and golf course superintendents!) nearly a century later: firm footing and friendly to the golf course and clubhouse.

Need further evidence that everything old is new again? These advertisements for the Kempshall Flat Bramble Golf Ball, Heagle's Golf Gloves and Townsend Mowers reveal remarkable consistency in consumer demand between 1909 and 2001. The golf ball manufacturer appealed to the golfer's desire for long drives and

putting accuracy; the glove manufacturer highlighted style and durability; the mower manufacturer called the product a “wonder” and proclaimed “twice as fast as any other on earth.” (Of course, most of us take for granted that our mowers feature “instantaneous change of height of cut” and “instant control of blades without leaving seat.”)

In 100 years, how will our successors look back on today's advertisements for golf course, and golf, equipment? Most likely, they'll reflect on the common threads. Because golfers will still be looking to shave a few strokes off their score, and golf course superintendents will still be striving for ever-higher standards of excellence.



Golf Gloves

ALL STYLES



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Brenda Ferreri, Eric Fischer Earn First-Ever MAGCS Scholarships



In July, the MAGCS awarded \$1,000 scholarships to two deserving students. Brenda Ferreri, daughter of Don (Seven Bridges G.C.) and Geri, and Eric Fischer, son of Ed (Old Elm C.C.) and Jan, earned the scholarships based on academic achievement, essays on the topic “why a college degree is important to me” and financial need. Here, we publish the essays submitted by the first-ever beneficiaries of the MAGCS scholarship program.

Brenda Ferreri

College degrees are a great accomplishment to anyone who receives one. It shows their dedication to learning and their loyalty to their career of choice. Unquestionably, a college degree is an impressive document of extreme hard work. They are also proof of valuable time spent to achieve a high standard of knowledge. But to me, the most significant aspect of a college degree is its importance to a successful career.

Someday I hope to attain a distinguished reputation in the entertainment business by being the best computer animator available. As a successful animator, I will be able to have a future where I can depend only on myself for my own well-being. I will also enjoy going to work everyday because I will be doing something that I am extremely passionate about. This is what makes a college degree so valued. Without an established college degree a career such as this would not be remotely possible.

The vastness of my future is depending on the higher educa-

tion and the specialized training I am receiving currently at school. The college degree is what proves to future employers that I have successfully completed all the competencies needed for a job position. Along with completing internships and an excellent portfolio, a college degree can be the make or break of my awaiting career. Therefore, a prominent college degree is a necessity for my future and myself.

Eric Fischer

My college degree is important to me because of the knowledge and experiences that I received while getting my degree, and the many doors that a college degree will open for me in the future. The education that I received in the process of getting my degree is the most important thing to me. I was introduced to a variety of different subjects that were all taught by very intelligent and interesting professors. Each professor takes a different approach to teaching that creates a variety of different classroom environments. These different classroom environments give you an idea of what you are going to

major in and what you want to do after college.

The professors I met on my way to receiving my college degree were a few of the many influential people that I was introduced to. There are many other people that help make college such an incredible experience. These people include many friends and classmates that share the college experience with you and help you to grow up. There are many situations that you go through in getting your college degree that help to make the transition into the real world easier.

Being able to choose a profession that would be rewarding is another reason why a college degree is important to me. Having a college degree creates many opportunities for me that would not be available without it. One of the reasons that I am going back to school to receive my Master's is to have more doors opened to other opportunities in the future.



possible. This is a neat project and will be a great document to help celebrate our heritage. Gary Hearn, with an assist from Brad Anderson, is behind this, and as Gary mentioned in his column last month, the annual Midwest Turf Clinic will commemorate our anniversary too.

I won't steal Luke Strojny's thunder, but the MAGCS scholarship program is off to a good start. The MAGCS will be awarding two scholarships this summer. Winners have been determined; congratulations to them and to the Scholarship Committee for seeing this vision through. Luke and Greg Thalmann spearheaded this endeavor over the past two years and Ed Braunsky and Geneva Country Club have stepped forward to host a fundraising golf outing this fall, so keep October 1 open. Geneva will play to a limited field that day; make sure it includes you!

. . . Ray Gerber was recently voted into the IPGA's Illinois Golf Hall of Fame . . . As I understand it, only one other superintendent from our ranks—Bob Williams—has been afforded this distinction.

If you have not heard, Ray Gerber was recently voted into the IPGA's Illinois Golf Hall of Fame. To clarify for anyone younger than myself, Ray was our *Bull Sheet* editor for many years and our chapter recognizes the top superintendent-written article every year with an award bearing his name. As I understand it, only one other superintendent from our ranks—Bob Williams—has been afforded this distinction. A few of us plan on attending the induction ceremony in October and I think Fred Opperman should sit still for a moment and send an article our way in Ray's honor. (Anyone you've ever pestered for an article is now smiling, Fred!)

As I've mentioned a few times, Mike Mumper and I are participating (to the extent time allows) in the GCSAA Chapter Leadership Institute program. I know Mike has a meeting planned with Employment Committee chairman Luke Strojny and a few other interested MAGCS members regarding revamping that committee's goals. If possible, we would like to provide assistance to clubs looking for a new superintendent and make the transition as smooth as possible. This should include the outgoing superintendent as much as possible when that is appropriate. In addition, I have been making attempts to improve our media relations. I thank the CDGA for including me in their recent media day outing and look forward to seeing some media folks at an event this summer.

Last, we did have a recent and unexpected change on our Board of Directors. Gregg Rosenthal resigned his position and Tim Anderson from Prestwick Country Club was appointed to fill the position. Originally, the Board leaned in the direction of not fill-

ing Gregg's vacancy, as the summer is a difficult time to ask someone to step aboard for what could be a short stay. However, our bylaws guide us in recommending a specific number of directors and in giving an unselected candidate from the previous election due consideration. Tim was the next leading vote-getter and brings several years of committee experience to this position. We appreciate Gregg's efforts in the past seven months and look forward to Tim's future contributions. God knows there is enough work to go around. Welcome, Tim!

Oh yes, and the Casey Martin thing. Let's hope letting a legitimately disabled golfer use a cart doesn't tarnish the integrity of the game. Hello!!! I believe that happened when they introduced those things years ago. Imagine what your course might look like without paths and no cart damage. I read years ago that carts cause 80% of the damage to a course. If we must have them, then Casey Martin ought to be using one.

Also, I read an article this week about soccer and how worldwide, 180 have died in the last three months while attending games. Seems as though you can't attend without trampling over each other once in while. Oh, and I noticed the NBA had huge rock-and-roll, celebrity-studded halftime shows during the championship series. This is the same league that doesn't have much of a drug policy, despite the fact that former players have estimated that 50% of the current players use marijuana. I hope these halftime shows do for the back-door lay-up what the Super Bowl shows have done for the halfback option. Nothing! It's a shame the game isn't the real story anymore. The day after the Super Bowl, the

“fans” talk more about the commercials and Britney Spears’ naked belly.

Recently, a blind man climbed Mount Everest. No, he didn’t do it on his own. However, we’re talking 29,028 feet above sea level where conditions so harsh we can’t imagine prevail and the air is so thin that simply breathing is difficult. Try telling him that he should have stayed home. Try telling a Special Olympics athlete that they should consider staying home with a good book. Playing a game, at the highest level a player can, should never be denied and let’s hope Casey Martin stares down Tiger Woods in the next Major.



Director's Column (continued from page 7)

Congratulation to both Eric and Brenda for a job well done. I hope to have both of them on hand at the July meeting for presentation of their checks.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank the Scholarship Committee: Greg Thalmann, Fred Behnke, Ed Braunsky, Mike O’Neil, Damon Soderberg and Paul Yerkes. Their hard work ensured that a complex process went smoothly. Also,

many thanks to the membership for electing me to my current position of vice president and supporting this worthwhile member service.

The MAGCS Scholarship is open to **all** who have been members in good standing for at least two years. Look for the call for applications with your 2002 dues statement.



Mulligans

In the June issue of *On Course*, a caption accompanying the president’s message incorrectly identified Brian Bossert’s wife as Bailey. Brian is in fact married to the lovely Pam; Bailey is their darling daughter. Your editor, who is already confusing the names of her two, young, opposite-gender children, deeply regrets the mistake.

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