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The August issue of *Golfdom* could not have been more timely, with the cover story titled, "Skin Cancer Can Kill." Remember to use that sunscreen and wear a hat—the sun is NOT our friend when it's 90-degrees-plus and we are dragging hoses around our courses for hours on end. Does *Poa annua* die from skin cancer, and would spraying SPF-30 keep it alive?

The August 3rd issue of *Golfweek's Superintendent News* had a fine tribute to **Tod Hoppah** written by Jim Capek, the general manager of Elgin Country Club. For that kind of friendship to develop between the two is further evidence of what a great guy Tod was.

Once again, *On Course* articles have been reprinted in another association's newsletter: **Peter Vandercook's** insight from our July issue, "The Secret World of the Night Water Man," and **Henry Michna, CGCS's** article, "Morale and Leadership: Buzzwords for the 21st Century" from our June issue were both featured in *The Green Breeze*, the official publication of the Greater Cincinnati Golf Course Superintendents Association. Congratulations, Peter and Henry.

Arthur Clesen, Inc. is seeking a golf course service technician. This position involves custom-application of fertilizers and pesticides to golf courses in the Chicago metro and northwest Indiana areas. The qualified candidate will have the ability to drive a tandem-axle truck pulling a trailer and state-of-the-art truck-mounted granular spreader. An associate's degree in agronomy or turf management is preferred. For more information on the position, salary and benefits, call Arthur Clesen at 847-537-2177 and submit a resume to Arthur



L to R: Hosts Dave Braasch and Dave Meyer with sponsors Holly and Mark Gilmour made the day a huge success.

The 1st Annual John Buck Memorial Open, held on August 14 at Hughes Creek Golf Club (**Dave Braasch** and **Dave Meyer** hosts), is in the books, and proceeds from the event will benefit two scholarship funds: one, the MAGCS Scholarship Fund, thereby enabling the awarding of a third MAGCS scholarship to a son or daughter of a MAGCS member, and two, an agriculture-related foundation's fund. This event promises to get bigger each year and honors our great friend John Buck.

Clesen, Inc., Attn: Patti Lemus, 543 Diens Drive, Wheeling, IL 60090.

Assistant position wanted: Tony Bullis, a Class A superintendent from Florida and nine-year GCSAA member, is relocating to Lisle, IL, where he would like to remain in the business and learn about northern grasses. Tony can be reached at 630-637-0108 if you are interested. Any assistance he might get would be greatly appreciated.

Assistant superintendent wanted: Sunset Ridge Country Club is

seeking a qualified assistant superintendent to start in the fall of this year. Requirements include a two- or four-year degree or certification in turfgrass management/agronomy, two years' maintenance experience, computerized irrigation skills and ability to obtain Illinois State Pesticide License. For more information, contact Dennis Wilson, golf course superintendent, at 847-466-5268, or send resume to Sunset Ridge C.C., 2100 Sunset Ridge Road, Northfield, IL 60093, Attn: Dennis Wilson.



At Medinah Country Club, Hector Tijerina has been on the staff since 1957. He handles everything irrigation-related and during my time on the property, kept the course looking as if it were watered wall-to-wall during dry periods. He could rotate those roller bases around like a machine. Candelario Espinoza started at Medinah in 1964 and handles all in-house project work. On three courses, there is plenty of that to go around and he has installed numerous tees, bunkers and cart paths over the years. Hector's nephew, Reynaldo, is one of the two superintendents on No. 3 Course and is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts short course.

Then there is Pedro Gonzalez at Mission Hills Country Club. He has been at the club for 46 years and is a member favorite. He told me that he cherishes the feeling of having done a good day's

work and that the pace of the work keeps him young. He tries to instill the feeling of "enjoying what he's doing" to the other staff members and feels most of the Mexican-born employees naturally have a good attitude for the job. Superintendent John Otis calls him "a walking as-built" with excellent mechanical skills. Pedro also raises Border Collies, in case you're looking for a goose-chaser!

Of course, I've got my own men to brag about. Abad Mejia (27 years) handles all of our landscaped areas, Jorge Villegas (21 years) is still our #1 cup-changer and Javier Solorio (19 years) sets up the tee markers, water coolers and handles the divots every day. His attention to detail is exemplary; I've never been to another club with cleaner green and tee equipment. They still don't like taking a day off and give me the evil eye every time one comes their way.

The list goes on and on: Modesto Sanchez is Paul Voykin's assistant at Briarwood. "Moe" is known up and down the North Shore and has been with Paul for 38 years. Moe's father, Gilberto, has been there 40-plus years! Paul reports that these two are loyal friends first and employees second. He hopes that every superintendent would have the good fortune of having employees that are as dedicated, hard-working and loyal. Junior Arredondo (27 years) and Antonio Vargas (24 years) round out the nucleus of Paul's staff.

At the Indian Hill Club in Winnetka, the story is a bit different. Ramiro Ruiz has worked in the grounds department since 1976; he was the club's first Hispanic employee and is now the head mechanic. However, a family tree with several very thick branches is woven into the club's history. Julius



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Horvath retired last December after 44 years of service. He handled the tennis court maintenance chores, the curling ice and "did it all" on the golf course. His brother Bela has been the chef for 28 years and had a group of Chicagoland superintendents in awe a few years back when he put together a wild game theme feast. The story doesn't end there; the Horvath brothers married two Irish sisters, Maureen and Anne respectively. Maureen is now retired, but Anne has been on the job for over 20 years in the clubhouse. A third sister, Nellie Kerrigan, has been employed at "the Hill" for 39 years! The Kerrigan girls have a brother (of course). Francis is the assistant superintendent and started at the club in 1970. Superintendent Dave Schlagger reports that this group came to the United States as immigrants, completely empty-handed. He admires that they have built lives for themselves, become citizens, put children through school and

bought homes (retirement homes, too!). Dave reports those on staff still have a sharp edge to them, paying close attention to detail and still possessing a deep desire to serve their membership.

In this special anniversary year, we naturally recall the past presidents who have provided leadership to our organization. We are also grateful to our vendors for the many contributions they have made. Their customer support has made the job of the superintendent so much easier and their generosity to the Association is well documented. However, I also thought it was a good time to remember the day-in, day-out efforts of our staff and highlight some of the long-term dedication in our business. It takes a special person to show up at the same place every day for 20, 30 or 40 years. They've rolled with the punches: different superintendents and evolving methodology, all kinds of weather,

angry golfers and long hours.

Many superintendents throw a picnic or two for the crew every year; taking a Monday afternoon off and enjoying some great Mexican-flavored fare. Consider doing something extra-special this year. Let them know that both our national and local chapters of superintendents are celebrating significant anniversaries. As a group, we would never have come this far without the contributions of our employees, particularly the Hispanic community. Have you ever advertised their efforts? Several years ago, I saw all of the grounds employees pictured in the locker room at the Indian Hill Club. What a great way to let your golfers know the staff and emphasize the long-term commitments many of them have made. And I know my staff loves having their pictures taken! Salute this group of 75th-anniversary heroes! 

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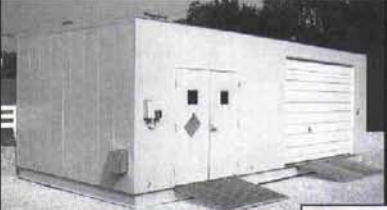
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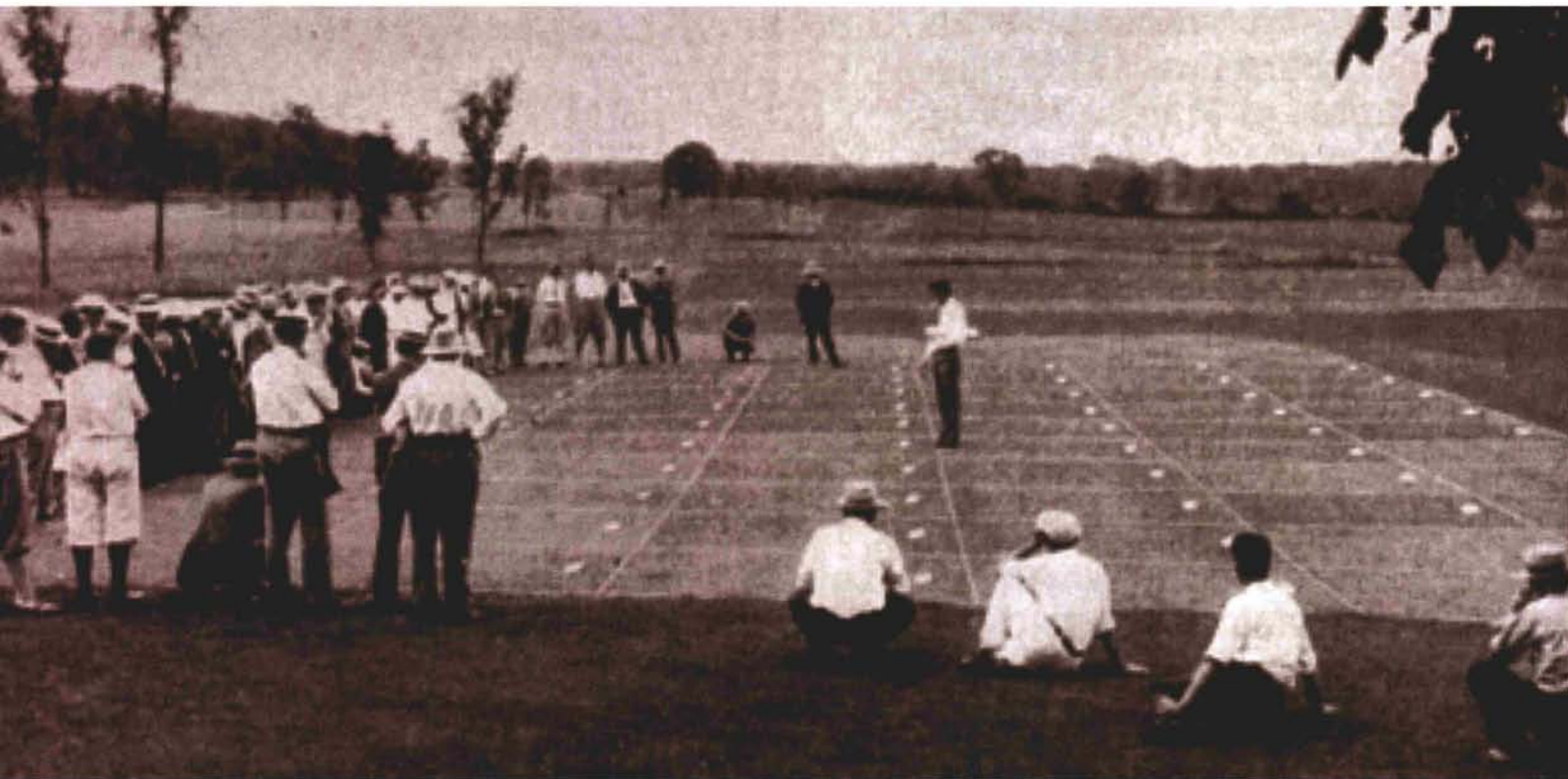


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# Plotting Our Progress




*If you think experimental turfgrass plots are a more or less recent development on the research scene (e.g., the Cantigny plots overseen by Dr. Randy Kane of the CDGA), think again. Superintendents have been using such plots, albeit informally, for time immemorial, and formal, rigorous use of turfgrass plots in the Chicago area dates back to the early days of the 20th century.*

This photograph depicts turfgrass plots on the A.D. Lasker estate in Lake Forest, circa the 1920s. Lasker, an advertising magnate, had a private golf course built on his property due south of the present site of Conway Farms. Known as the Golf Course at Mill Road Farm, the tract (until it was closed in 1942) was regarded as

Chicagoland's most difficult, surpassing even Medinah No. 3 and Olympia Fields' North Course. MAGCS past president Cyril Tregillus, hired as greenkeeper at Mill Road Farm in 1928, ran the experimental laboratory in conjunction with the USGA Green Section. One of Tregillus' first projects was regrassing the greens,

as the course's creators had used a strain of bentgrass not suited to our climate.

The lab ceased operations in 1940, but its impact was long-lasting. Research there fueled the ascension of grass greens nationwide, and the rest, as they say, is history. 



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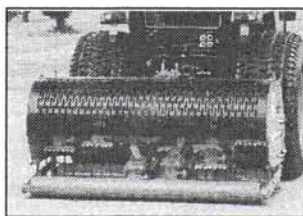
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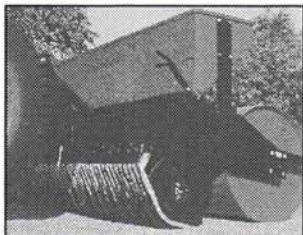
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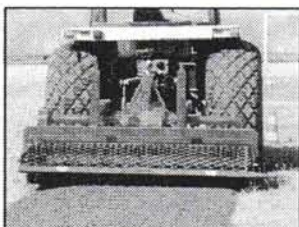
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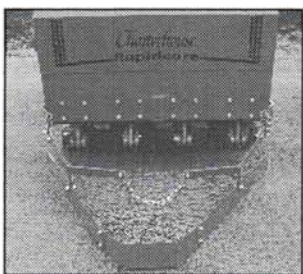
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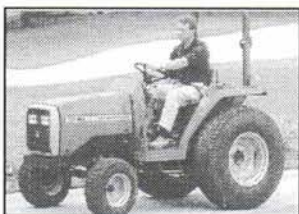
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