

The MAGCS April Meeting at Tamarack

The MAGCS monthly meeting on April 22 was held on a blustery day at Tamarack Golf Club with **Luke Cella** serving as our host. The course was in terrific shape, and a full house of hearty members enjoyed the scramble. **Paul Vermeulen** of the USGA gave a very interesting presentation titled "Raising the Bar," which looked at playability versus aesthetics issues on today's golf courses. Paul's program was highlighted by his mathematical formula for ensuring proper tee sizing, which went right over my head (not a difficult thing to do). Paul also posed this question to the MAGCS members in the audience: How many hours of full sun per day do bentgrass greens need to be successful? If you have an answer, contact Paul at 217-687-4424. Thanks to everyone at Tamarack, and to **Marsha Traves** and **Patti Thorsen** from Illinois Lawn for running the betting hole, which raised \$485 for the MAGCS Scholarship Fund. Additional thanks to our sponsors for this meeting—**Turf Professionals Equipment Company**, **Palatine Oil** and **Central Sod**—who helped make the day a success. Finally, thanks to **Rick Uthe** of J.W. Turf and **Bob Lohmann** of Lohmann Golf Designs for purchasing the Cubs tickets in the raffle. Some lucky scholarship winners will benefit from the generosity of these folks.



Education speaker Paul Vermeulen of the USGA Green Section entertained us with his talk on "Raising the Bar."

The results of the scramble event are as follows: Closest to the Pin—**Eli Witt** and **Dave Radaj**. Long Drive—**Bill Burford**. Longest Putt—**Rick Uthe**. Gross Scores—1st Place: **Al Pondel**, **Brad Johnsen**, **Randy Wahler** and **Dave Armentrout** (61); 2nd Place: **Dave Mayzel**, **Kevin DeRoo**, **Mike Bavier** and **Mark Bobb** (63); 3rd Place: **Eli Witt**, **Dave Kohley**, **Don Ferreri** and **Rick Wilson** (63). Net Scores—1st Place: **Rick Uthe**, **Ray Schei**, **Curt Franklin** and **Lee Miller** (55); 2nd Place: **Keith Peterson**, **Dave Holler**, **Dave Louttit** and **Doug Davis** (57); 3rd Place: **Bill Kennedy**, **Dan Tully**, **Tom Tully** and **Dave Groelle** (57). Congratulations to all prize winners for braving the conditions and bringing home the bacon (or shirt, or head covers, or whatever you brought home).



Tim Anderson, CGCS (Prestwick C.C.) presented Don Spier (Syngenta) with his 25-year pin.



Don Spier, Matt Giese and Jim Shone.



Mike Mumper, Dave Radaj, Paul Vermeulen and Dan Marco.



Dave Armentrout, Randy Wahler, Al Pondel and Brad Johnsen.



Tom Tully, Dave Groelle, Dan Tully and Bill Kennedy.



Justin Schroeder, John Gurke, Dave Blomquist and Derek Florian.



Kerry Blatteau, Brian Bossert, Pat McDonagh and Brad Legnaioli.



Steve Van Acker, Bob Lively, Paul Yerkes and Paul Schaefer.



Fred Behnke, Scott Witte, Mike Siefken and Gary Hearn.

(more pictures on page 32)



Kevin DeRoo, David Mayzel,
Patti Thorsen, Mark Bobb
and Mike Bavier.



Rick Wilson, Eli Witt,
Dave Kohley and Don Ferreri.



Tim Davis, Ed Fischer,
John Lebedevs and Dave Behrman.

On Course With the President (continued from page 3)

Meanwhile, the Board of Directors has been busy in recent months. The Education Committee is working on finalizing this year's schedule of speakers for monthly meetings and the 50th annual Midwest Turf Clinic. The Golf Committee is entering its busiest time, while the Editorial Committee developed and has

announced the new Fred Opperman Editorial Award. Tim Anderson, the "stats man," came up with numbers and analysis that reveal some interesting trends about our membership. The Long-Range Planning Committee had a productive meeting that resulted in a number of action items. Finally, the Arrangements Committee

is busy trying to secure sites for next year, so don't be shy—step up and offer your course.

I wish that everyone's spring is going well. I hope to see you at Phillips Park in June.



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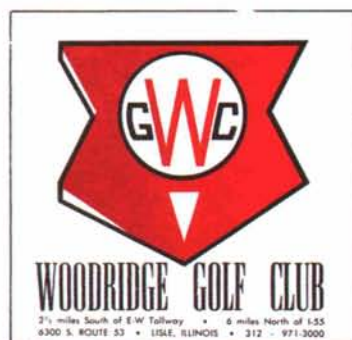


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The Story of Tony Meyer

Editor's Note: This special edition of "The Way We Were" profiles the life and times of Tony Meyer, long-time superintendent of Woodridge Golf Club who passed away in April.



RED MEADOW LAKE COURSE				RED MEADOW LAKE COURSE			
MEN'S PAR				WOMEN'S PAR			
hole	YARDS	par		hole	YARDS	par	
9	399	4	1	4	399	9	
3	392	4	2	4	392	3	
17	152	3	3	3	152	17	
1	507	5	4	5	477	1	
11	198	3	5	3	185	15	
7	363	4	6	4	363	7	
15	313	4	7	4	313	11	
13	315	4	8	4	315	13	
5	372	4	9	4	372	5	
2971 35			WT	35 2928			
14	279	4	10	4	279	12	
16	285	4	11	4	285	10	
8	382	4	12	4	382	8	
6	399	4	13	4	399	6	
18	278	4	14	4	278	14	
12	239	3	15	4	239	18	
2	346	5	16	5	466	2	
10	244	3	17	4	244	16	
4	412	4	18	5	412	4	
3064 35			III	38 2984			
6035 70			TOTAL	73 5912			
HANDICAP				HANDICAP			
NET SCORE				NET SCORE			
DATE				DATE			
SCORER				ATTEST			

Tuesday, September 27, 1960: "11:00 a.m. I went to play Olympia Fields C.C. today. I played the number 4 course."

Last November, I'm at the Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah C.C. listening avidly to the panel discussion between Pete Leuzinger, Dan Quast and Paul Voykin. They sit before us, waiting to field the next question . . . questions like, what are the major changes in the industry you have seen over the past 30 years? What do you see coming in the next 30 years? Who was the biggest influence in your life? How would you like to be remembered once you have left the business? We only scratch the surface of their personalities with questions like those and never really get to see what they are all about. I guess we would call these fellows the grandfathers of our business, or better yet, the pioneers. In my family life, I never really got to know my grandfathers on either side, and by the time I realized these guys were information superhighways, it was too late. Back in January, however, I did have the opportunity to speak at length with one of our professional forefathers, Tony Meyer, at his residence in Lisle, Illinois. Tony and I had only had limited conversations on various occasions, and it was through those conversations that I realized I really wanted to sit down and talk to this guy and find out what the business was like before my time. This story may feel like you are reading the manuscript from The Secret Life of Walter Mitty or it might even resemble VH-1's "Behind the Music" minus the sex, drugs and rock-and-roll. Anyway, sit back, relax and let's take a trip down memory lane.

Page One

The story begins in 1959 during Tony's bookkeeper years at the Morton Arboretum. Peter Bild had resigned as golf course superintendent of Woodridge Golf Club due to illness, which led general manager Ted Hammerschmidt on the hunt for a new greenkeeper. Ted didn't have to look far, as his answer was across the street working in a farm field (Tony had a second job). Tony's wife Marjorie was already working as a secretary for Woodridge Golf Club (she started in 1957); thus, Ted approached Tony and offered him the job. At first, Tony declined the position because he was not familiar with the chemicals used on golf course grasses. Ted's response to that was "if you can grow crops, you can grow grass." Ted offered to hire somebody to help educate Tony on the chemicals used on golf course turf.

As an aside, here is a little-known tidbit of information about Woodridge Golf Club. Prior to the purchase of Woodridge Golf Club by the Hammerschmidt family, it was known as the old Baine Country Club, a club that was unable to support itself and forced to close. Hammerschmidt's original plan was to use the golf course as a gravel pit, but then he realized how profitable a public golf facility would be. The vacant golf course was used as a pasture for a short period of time before restoration to its original layout.

Let the Tenure Begin!

Tony began his venture at Woodridge Golf Club in 1959. Maintaining this 36-hole monstrosity would test his every skill. His crew consisted of 12 full-time employees, of whom five remained over the winter-



The Meyer clan assembled to celebrate Marge Meyer's 85th birthday. Pictured are, front row (L to R): Sue, Tony, Marge and Mary Ann; back row (L to R) Dave, Bill, Jim and Bob.

time to maintain equipment and perform clubhouse maintenance and snow removal. The equipment in use included two old Toro tractors, a Ford tractor with wide tires and a John Deere tractor, all accompanied by a set of Roseman gang units to mow the fairways and rough, which were all cut to the same height. The greens were mowed with walking greens mowers, which required several bodies to complete this task on weekends before the golfers hit the golf course. Tony chuckles as he recalls, "I had nine boys sleep on my porch to mow greens on Saturdays and Sundays so they wouldn't oversleep. We didn't have triplex greens mowers in those days, they hadn't been invented yet."

The sprayer in use was a 500-gallon FMC with a centrifugal-driven pump that saw such chemicals as Koban for pythium, Urimate and Dyrene for dollar spot, PMA and Thiram for brown patch, Banvil for weeds, and Chlordane as an insecticide. As an IPM approach to controlling pythium, Tony applied lime to the greens. Unheard of at this time, it appeared to work. The crew also used ground-up kelp to fertilize the greens . . . and we act like Panacea Plus is a new idea these days! Interesting fact: ground-up kelp was used to help keep mares in foal. For you city folk, that means that the timeframe for making a baby could be prolonged, kinda like Viagra.

The irrigation water was of poor quality and came directly from the

DuPage River. Imagine that, river water being of poor quality! The irrigation system comprised the old diesel-engine pump station with the quick coupler and rollerbase system. A night waterman manned the system in the evenings and had a unique storage system for the hoses and sprinklers. Around every green was a 3' x 2' concrete storage bin dug into the ground that contained the hose with the sprinkler. If you look in your most recent *Golf Course Management* magazines, you will see ads for this type of product on the market. Gee, old-time idea, but designed to turn a profit these days. This technique in those days saved a lot of time searching for the quick coupler and the hose that could have been left behind any number of trees.

The custom-blend topdressing consisted of two-thirds humus, one-third two-year-old mink manure (turkey excrement is the "in" thing these days), and one 50-pound bag of Turface to each half-yard of the above mixture, all mixed onsite. I would imagine that the person who screwed up that particular week was stuck with this job of hand-mixing. We all know how bad Sustane smells out of the bag. Ever been to a mink farm? Liquid fertilizer applications were accomplished by mixing a portion of a 12-4-8 water-soluble fertilizer in a five-gallon bucket. From there, it was transferred into a bottle at the end of a hose and applied to the greens.

The golf course did flood quite frequently after heavy rain. The

cleanup consisted of using more water to remove silt and other debris from the turf. Once all the debris were removed, helicopters came in to help dry out the golf course and to provide air circulation.

Outside of his work on the golf course, Tony served on the MAGCS Board of Directors in the mid-1960s and remained a member of both the MAGCS and GCSAA for 42 years. That's three dog years, if compared to Albie Staudt's run. Tony retired in 1989 after 30 years of service to Woodridge Golf Club. The course has since been bought out by an Ohio-based company, had its name and design changed, and is now in the capable hands of Don Ferreri as Seven Bridges Golf Club. Don, will you be there that long?

Family and Community

Tony and his wife Marge have six wonderful children scattered throughout the country. Mary Ann Bobosky resides in Naperville and works in the Naperville School District 203 doing administrative work. Dave Meyer also resides in Naperville and followed in his dad's footsteps. He was the superintendent at Nordic Hills and Indian Lakes for 22 years

(continued on page 36)

*Monday, June 6, 1969:
"Went with Dave
Meyer to Illinois Lawn
session at Palos C.C.
Mel Shurtliff and
Ceicel Kerr from
Chipman Chemical
Company spoke mostly
on weed and Poa
control. Some of the
talk on ice sheet, don't
let ice cover greens for
more than 25 days."*

before becoming part owner in a couple of different golf facilities in the far west suburbs. Sue Baron resides in Hayward, Wisconsin and owns and operates the Twin Bay Resort with her husband. Dr. Bill Meyer resides in Coltsneck, New Jersey and took over for Reid Funk, who retired as head of the Turf Research and Breeding Program at Rutgers University. Jim and Bob Meyer both reside in North Carolina, where they are co-owners of Nues River Veterinarian Hospital in Zebulon. All of these kids provided Tony with 16 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren, giving Ma and Pa Kettle a run for their money.

Despite his large family, Tony still found time to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Lisle and Woodridge Fire Department for 40

years and resided as president for the past 20 years. Unfortunately, Tony passed away at the age of 87 during the author's efforts to compose this article. So, the next time you talk with a grandfather, your father or somebody you look up to in our business, cherish the moments, as they will be precious. May Tony rest in peace. Amen.



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Yards	148	170	155	160	175	165	180	190	170	155	165	175	185	195	180	170	155	148	3225
Par	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	72

No. 2 MEADOW LANE COURSE

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
Yards	148	170	155	160	175	165	180	190	170	155	165	175	185	195	180	170	155	148	3225
Par	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	72

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Cliff Van Poucke, Pro.

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- We have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do, is play on the one thing we have complete control over and that is our attitude. Let us be convinced that life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it. Remember, we are in charge of our own attitudes.
- "If you get to thinking you're a person of some influence, try ordering someone else's dog around."
- If just one person a day says to me, "You've made my day," that makes MY day. 

The Dom Grotti Award . . . (continued from page 5)

The Domenic-Dennis relationship was unique to them, yet familiar to many of us who can relate it to our own mentoring experiences. It is to honor these important relationships that the Dom Grotti Award was developed. Superintendents and assistants can get away from their courses for some competition and camaraderie with their peers.

Although the competition is no longer held in conjunction with the ITF, it lives on as a highly anticipated annual event. Going forward, this event will be held during June MAGCS meetings, at a time when both assistants and superintendents can get away for a competitive round. Also, the traveling trophy has ceased to travel, taking up permanent resi-

dence at the Midwest Golf House in Lemont. The winners' names will be added to the display trophy each year, and each winner will receive a plaque to take home. 

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Name: **Jim Shone**, Syngenta
 Date of birth: **August 18, 1957**
 Place of birth: **Hammond, IN**
 Current residence: **St. Charles**
 Spouse: **JoAnne (15 years)**
 Children: **Joe, 12; Bob, 10; Andrew, 6**
 Pet: **Squints (guinea pig)**
 MAGCS member since: **1996**
 College/degree: **Indiana University, B.S. in marketing**
 My favorite childhood memory is: **Golfing at Cog Hill with my dad.**
 My personal hero: **Any person who has fought for the U.S.**
 My mentors: **My parents and Jim Gillette**
 Favorite actor: **Sean Connery**
 Favorite musical performer: **Eric Clapton**
 Favorite restaurant: **Manny's Steakhouse (Minneapolis)**
 Favorite "pigout" food: **Dill pickles/BBQ anything**
 Favorite professional/college sports team: **Da Bears/St. Louis Cardinals/Indiana soccer**
 Favorite pro athlete: **Bob Gibson**
 Favorite pro golfer: **Fuzzy Zoeller**
 My favorite place to play golf: **St. Andrews**
 My handicap index: **10.6**
 My best/most memorable round ever: **St. Andrews—kept the game simple.**
 The most interesting/exotic place I've ever traveled: **Virgin Islands**
 The book I've been recommending lately: ***Flags of Our Fathers***
 The last great movie I saw: ***Pearl Harbor***
 Favorite TV show: ***Everybody Loves Raymond***
 Favorite color: **Green**
 In my spare time, I enjoy: **Watching my boys play soccer.**
 Three words that describe me: **Pragmatic, open-minded, dad**
 What I enjoy most about my job: **The outdoor environment**
 What I dislike about my job: **If you can't say something positive . . .**
 I'm a Midwest member because: **It's a great group to support and play golf with.**
 Quotable: **Most any person has the potential to add value to the people with whom and the surroundings in which they interact. We have a choice when someone new engages our daily life—will we look for the good in that person or build a wall to prevent our involvement? As a relative newcomer to the MAGCS family, I am fortunate and grateful that the members most always look for the positive, and appreciate the value a new player has to offer.**



Name: **Daniel Murray**, Settler's Hill G.C.
 Job title: **Superintendent**
 Date of birth: **June 1, 1957**
 Place of birth: **Batavia, IL**
 Current residence: **DeKalb, IL**
 Spouse: **Jill (25 years)**
 Children: **Shaun, 22; Kelley, 19; Kyle, 16**
 Pet: **Mowki (dog)**
 MAGCS member since: **1977**
 College/degree: **McHenry County College, associate's degree in ornamental horticulture**
 My favorite childhood memory is: **Pheasant-hunting with my dad and grandfather.**
 My personal hero: **My wife**
 My professional mentor: **Fred Opperman**
 Favorite actor: **Jennifer Connelly**
 Favorite restaurant: **Yen Ching**
 Favorite "pigout" food: **Guinness**
 Favorite professional/college sports team: **Chicago Fire**
 Favorite pro athlete: **Zach Thorton**
 My handicap index: **36**
 My best/most memorable round ever: **Kilarney C.C., where I played with good friends.**
 The most interesting/exotic place I've ever traveled: **Ireland**
 The book I've been recommending lately: **Anything by James Patterson**
 The last great movie I saw: ***The Replacements***
 Favorite TV show: **Soccer on Fox Sports World**
 Favorite color: **Green**
 In my spare time, I enjoy: **Snowmobiling, hunting, playing soccer**
 Three words that describe me: **Enthusiastic, lucky, blessed**
 What I enjoy most about my job: **Being outside and working with nature.**
 What I dislike about my job: **Nothing.**
 I'm a Midwest member because: **Of the people I get to interact with.**
 Notable: **Dan and his assistant, Russ Wescott, recently guided Settler's Hill Golf Course to certification in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, making this 18-hole Kane County Forest Preserve facility the first built on a landfill site to ever earn this prestigious designation.**



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