

Oak Grove Golf Club

auctioned for charity, furthering the benevolent mood of the proceedings. Everyone went home happy and full after this wonderful day. We thank Paul Sandall, everyone at Oak Grove, and our day's sponsors—Palatine Oil Company, Ryan Incorporated Central, Nadler Golf Car Sales, TPEC, Arthur Clesen, Inc. and Central Sod Farms—for their generous contributions to the success of the event.



Gary Hearn chips onto no. 6 green while one of the majestic cottonwoods looks on from the distance.



How many times do you get back-to-back issues featuring the same covered bridge?



"Sure would look good with my name on it!"



First Flight winner Rick Wilson with Tony Kalina.



Second Flight winner Dave Groelle.



Third Flight winner Brad Johnsen.



Commercial A Flight winner Tim Keating.



Sharon Riesenbeck and Tony draw the lucky raffle winner's ticket.

Dear Friends,

On February 1, 2002, I started working with J.W. Turf and in turn the members of MAGCS as well as NWIGCS and the ITF and WTA. It has been a great experience and one I'll always look back on with a smile. Everyone has been so helpful, friendly and patient. I thank all of you for this wonderful experience. I will always be grateful for the acceptance and friendship I have received. The support staff at J.W. Turf has also been outstanding and never has there been a more dedicated parts, service and administration group.

I missed my children growing up as I was busy conquering the business world, and now I have the same choice with my grandchildren. I'm doing it differently this time and resigned from J.W. Turf. My last day was Thursday, August 19.

This was a terribly hard decision but the right one for me at this time. As always, the hardest part of leaving is the friends you've left behind. Holly and the other folks at J.W. have been incredibly fair to me and I hope we're always as good of friends as we are today. I've also met some of the finest superintendents in America and hope to in some way stay in touch. I've also had the opportunity to play some great golf courses and the experience of being involved with the U.S. Open, PGA Championship and three JD Classics has been one I'll always cherish. The MAGCS is the most professional GCSAA chapter I've ever been involved with and a credit to your profession. Good luck and God bless to all of you! And remember, "Nothing Runs Like A Deere."

Sincerely,
Gale Stenquist

Director's Column (continued from page 5)

group that gets the scoop on what is going on around town. All you have to do is give the facts to our "Midwest Breezes" reporters. If you have any interest at all in being a "Midwest Breezes" reporter, or if you have some news, call Brad at 708-624-6784. Another option is to simply do the best you can on your own, and our accomplished editor can help you clean up your article. One last idea is to send in a digital photo, and just write out what is going on in the photo. How easy is that!!!

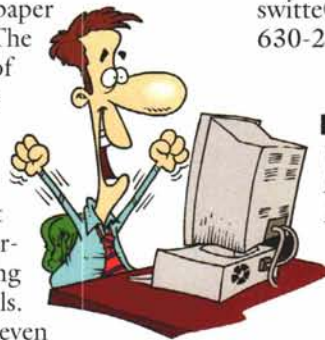
Moving on, we get to "no ideas." C'mon people! The problem is that most people think that they are not interesting. This is simply not true. What we sometimes fail to realize is that a golf course superintendent has one of the most exciting and interesting jobs around. The truth is that we have lots of interesting things to write about. We superintendents have learned to adapt and overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles on a daily basis. Now **that's** drama! The *On Course* magazine thrives on the ingenuity and creativity of the MAGCS membership. What kind of projects did you do on the course this year? Did you make any new discoveries this season? Also, just remember that life is not just grass and golf. What are you passionate about? This is what people want to hear! It could be anything. What about that big salmon you pulled in off Lake Michigan, the ski trip to Jackson Hole, or the whitewater raft-

ing trip. Anyway, you get the idea.

The final excuse I will address is "nobody asked me." Well, I'm here, and I'm asking! Winter is **WRITE** around the corner. This is the time to get thoughts on paper (and/or hard drives). The gratification, sense of accomplishment and the overall great feeling that you contributed to the MAGCS should be reason enough to get involved. More importantly, you'll be brushing up on your writing skills. On top of all that, we even give awards!

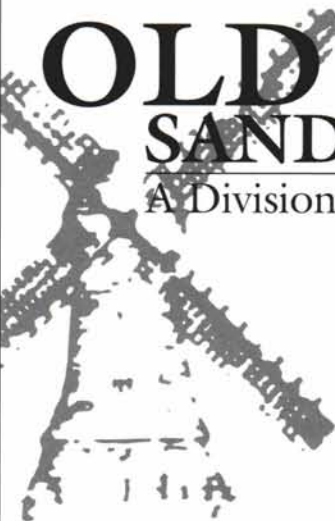
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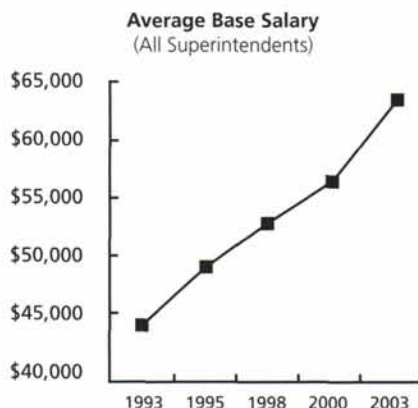
The Value of a Dollar

"... I used to walk to school uphill, both ways, in 20 feet of snow, on one foot, with no shoes, for 20 miles, and wearing the same hand-me-down shirt, with holes, in Arctic temperatures, that my father used to wear when he was a kid... and that was the day it was my turn to wear the shirt in a household of 10!"

—All Fathers

The above is a recurring speech of parents. Proving that people haven't really changed that much—right? Or have we? Are we truly better adjusted as a society today? Do we actually need more, or do we have higher expectations? In earlier years, it may have been harder to maintain a standard of living. The overall priorities in modern life may have departed a little from past years in terms of what a person's expectations and requirements were, in relation to money. Everything revolves around money today. One dollar won't get you very far in today's world unless you're using an AT&T calling plan. With every pay period, you approach your dollars and they just seem to vanish, sometimes even before you receive your check. Your cash may be going to bills, living expenses, social activities, hobbies, or whatever else you may be involved in. Without a doubt, in today's society the focus is a little more on spending money than in past years when it was on saving money.

Money may never have been in abundance for most everyday families, but the standard of living has progressively changed over the past 100 years. A \$100 bill in 2004 had the purchasing power of \$1,894.95 in 1913, \$1,340 in 1940, \$633.70 in 1960 and \$143.53 in 1990. The changing value of money has directly



influenced the golf industry pay scale as well in the past 100 years. The value of a superintendent's job has altered dramatically. Unfortunately, the GCSAA has very little information with regards to superintendent compensation before the 20th century. The following information derives from an average of salaries from five interviewed superintendents. Use the multipliers above to get an idea of what these gentlemen were making in today's dollars.

- 1911: 18-hole private facility, \$75 per month (\$900/yearly) with housing.
- 1920s: 27-hole facility, \$1,000 a year including accommodations.
- 1920s: 36-hole facility, \$1,500 a year plus housing.

- 1939: 9-hole facility, \$1,500 a year including a vehicle and provisions.
- 1940s: 18-hole private facility, \$3,600 to \$5,000 a year with housing, vehicle and benefits.
- 1946: 18-hole private facility, \$2,500 a year including housing and medical coverage.
- 1949: 18-hole facility, \$4,200 a year with no housing or accommodations.
- 1952: 18-hole private facility, \$3,200 a year with living arrangements.
- 1959: 18-hole private facility, \$8,500 a year with \$500 gas allowance and no accommodations.
- 1960: 18-hole private facility, \$3,300 with a new house.
- 1961: 18-hole private facility, \$10,000 a year with no housing.

In 2003, the superintendent's average base salary increased to \$63,065. The increase from 2000-2003 average base salary rose 10.5%, or 3.5% annually. This increase represents an 18.5% gain since 1998, or of \$9,860 in five years.



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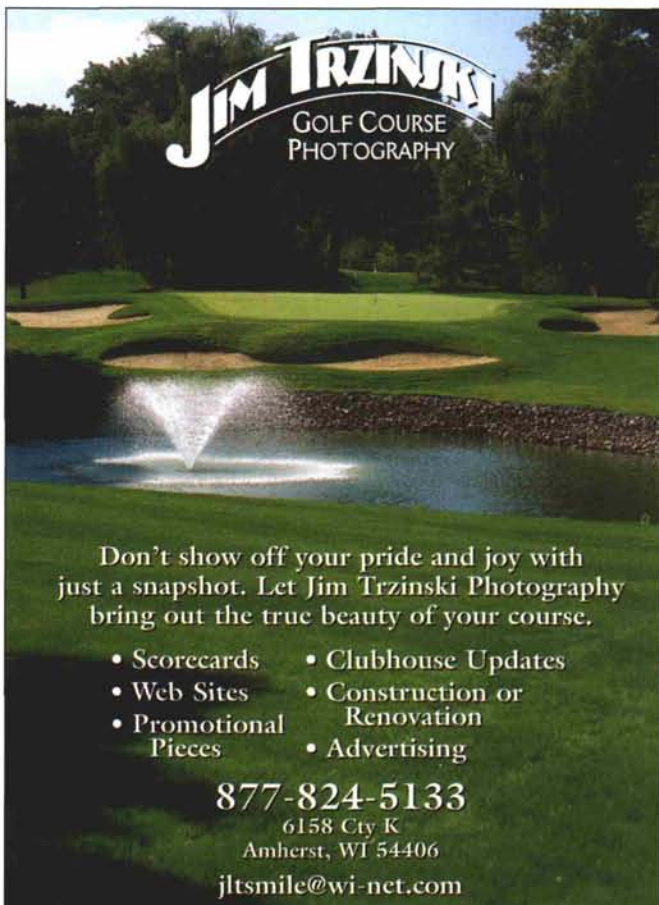
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How the Fed and Interest Rates May Affect Your Investments

There is usually no shortage of news reports when the Federal Reserve Board (Fed) meets—especially if they decide to adjust interest rates. If you're wondering why the financial world watches the actions of the Fed and its chairman so closely, it's because their decisions may have an impact on the economy, the markets and even your investments.

The Federal Reserve System, the national banking system, was established by Congress in 1913 to keep the U.S. economy steadily chugging along. The chairman of the Fed's Board of Governors, currently Alan Greenspan, has been appointed chairman by three different presidents.

Driving the Economic Machine

The Fed is charged with monitoring the supply of money in the economy. It sets economic policy by setting the interest rates that banks charge one another for loans. Any rate changes the Fed makes can result in our overall economy speeding up or slowing down and, by extension, interest rate changes may also affect the stock and bond markets.

If the Fed lowers banks' rates, the effect may be lower interest rates on credit cards, auto loans and mortgages. Generally, that will mean that consumers and businesses may spend and borrow more, helping to give the economy a boost. This can also be healthy for the stock market, since lower interest rates make it cheaper for businesses to borrow the money they need to grow and for consumers to finance mortgages and other purchases.

Interest Rates and Inflation: What Goes Up . . .

On the other hand, when the Fed raises interest rates, businesses and consumers may borrow and spend less, slowing economic growth. However, a positive aspect of higher interest rates is that you may earn more interest on your investments.

Why raise rates and slow growth? Generally because the Fed is concerned that too much spending and growth could lead to higher inflation. Conversely, too little spending and growth could lead to a recession. As watchdog of the nation's economy, the Fed meets every six weeks to review interest rates.

So the next time you hear reports about Alan Greenspan and the Fed, listen carefully. When the Fed changes interest rates, it's not just news on Capitol Hill—it could have an effect from Wall Street to Main Street.



GE 27247 (09/03)(09/05)



Name: **Brian Bossert, Bryn Mawr Country Club**
Job title: **Golf course superintendent, 13 years**
Date of birth: **May 26, 1964**
Place of birth: **Pontiac, IL**
Current residence: **Evanston**
Spouse: **Pam, 7 years**
Children: **Bailey, 4-1/2; Brock and**

Briggs, 21 months. Recently, Bailey claims she is "four and four quarters."

Pets: **Cat—City Kitty**

MAGCS member since: **1986?**

College/degree: **Danville Area Community College (Dudley Smith says, "That's not a college.")**

My favorite childhood memory is: **Getting picked up by my parents early and unexpectedly from a long summer vacation.**

My personal heroes: **I don't impress easily; man is pretty flawed really.**

My professional mentors: **Danny Quast, John Ebel, Pete Wilson, to name a few.**

Favorite musical performer: **At the moment, Patty Griffin.**

Favorite cuisine: **Italian**

Favorite "pigout" food: **Too many to name.**

Favorite sport and team: **All Chicago teams, especially White Sox and Bears.**

Favorite pro golfer: **John Daly**

My handicap index: **3.5**

My most memorable round ever: **At Carnoustie in Scotland.**

The most interesting/exotic place I've ever traveled:

Galapagos Islands

The book I've been recommending lately: **I don't read enough, but the Bible is at the top of my list.**

The last great movie I saw (rental or theater) is: **A Beautiful Mind.**

Favorite color: **Green is good.**

In my spare time, I enjoy: **Running, golf.**

Three words that describe me: **Observant, determined and saved.**

What I enjoy most about my job: **Well-planned days going as planned.**

What I dislike about my job: **The summer hours.**

I'm a Midwest member because: **The members freely share information, which allows me to do my job better.**



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