

FEBRUARY, 1963  
VOL. 16, NO. 8



# The Bull Sheet

*Official Bulletin*

*Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents*



WARREN BIDWELL  
1st. VICE PRESIDENT  
1963

NO MEETING  
IN FEBRUARY

NEXT MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1963  
MIDWEST COUNTRY CLUB



**THE BULL SHEET**, official publication of THE  
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE  
SUPERINTENDENTS.

TED WOHRLE, *Editor*,  
8700 So. Western Avenue  
Chicago 20, Illinois

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**OFFICERS**

President - John Ebel  
1st Vice-President - Warren Bidwell  
2nd Vice-President - Al Johnson  
Secretary & Treasurer - Roy Nelson

**DIRECTORS**

Charles Schultz	Adolph Bertucci
Dudley Smith	Don Gerber
Anthony Meyer	Bill Brady

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, FEBRUARY, 1963**

**Dateline: January 5, 1963**

Looking thru issues of THE BULL SHEET from 1953 to 1962 I found that our most rhetorically inclined past president was Mr. Ray Gerber. No surprise for Ray is never at a loss for words. I'm seriously thinking or recruiting him as a "ghost writer". Till then I'd better get with it.

So far the fall and winter months have been easier on snow plows and heating bills than last year. I was able to work my crew outside well into December. Our 10" moisture shortage is also a reversal of last season. It certainly would be ironic if we were to suffer as much damage this spring because of desiccation as we did last spring because of overabundant moisture. At least we have frost in the ground now and maybe a little snow cover will protect us.

One of my favorite off season pastimes (after hunting season) is taking a quiet walk afield to observe the wildlife that is about. On a recent hike tracks in the snow showed where a fox had taken a rabbit, a little farther a small screech owl floated deeper into the scrub willows. Cardinals colored the drab landscape and a cock pheasant flushed wildly from a slough. Numerous winter birds fluttered from tree to tree and a small patch of open water on a creek launched two black mallards.

I then heard sounds that made me think greens mowing time was just around the corner. Robbins chirping! Six of them were watering where the mallards had jumped. A one mile walk from my home had revealed all of this and made me feel the world was still a pretty good place. Very relaxing for the nerves too.

Your new officers and board met for the first time on December 13, 1962. All were present except one. Many things were on the agenda. Not all were settled however. It was decided to place as much energy on membership as possible and a new roster and by-laws book will be printed this year. Another look will be taken at the by-laws as there seems to be a few minor points that should be brought up to date.

I suppose many of you are now making plans for San Diego and the National Conference. I'm sorry to

say I will not be able to attend. May I wish our golf team long straight drives, magic putters, and stingy scores. To the rest of you a good trip out and a safe return home.

John Ebel, President

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**MAGCS COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 1963**

President John Ebel announced at the last Board Meeting which was held at River Forest Country Club on January 15, 1963 that he had received two resignations from Board Members. These included the resignation of Bert Rost, Superintendent of Butterfield Country Club and Charlie Schultz, Superintendent of Hinsdale Country Club. The resignations were accepted by John and two men were appointed to fill these vacancies. Anthony Meyer, Superintendent of Woodridge Country Club was appointed to replace Bert Rost and Marv. Gruening of the Midwest Country Club replaced Charlie Schultz.

The Chairmen of the Committees are as follows:

Entertainment — Tony Meyer, Woodridge Country Club

Arrangements — Al Johnson, Park Ridge Country Club

Education — Warren Bidwell, Olympia Fields Country Club, and Dudley Smith of Silver Lake Country Club

Golf — Marv. Gruening, Midwest Country Club

Membership — Bill Brady, Barrington Hills Country Club

By-Laws — Don Gerber, Chicago Club

Placement and Benevolence — Adolph Bertucci, Lake Shore Country Club

Publicity and Publication — Ted Woehrle, Beverly Country Club.

Al Johnson requests that your full support be given to him in making arrangements for our monthly meetings. Hurry before all the months are spoken for. This is definitely an honor when you give your club for such an event.

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**Local News of the Midwest Association of  
Golf Course Superintendents**

Mr. and Mrs. Tony Kozlowski are the proud parents of a baby boy, Mark Allan. Mark was born on January 4, 1963 and weighed 7 pounds. Tony is the Superintendent of Glenwoodie Golf Club.

Bert Rost recently underwent surgery and is now convalescing at home. We hope to see Bert up and around real soon, maybe even in San Diego.

It is reported to the Editor that John MacGregor spent some time in the hospital a few days ago. For those of you that wish to send John a little note, his address is, 660 Euclid Avenue, Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

Wally Pieper, Superintendent of Flossmoor Country Club had successful surgery performed late last fall and is doing fine.

Mrs. Walter Fuchs underwent surgery recently.

The Association wishes all the convalescents speedy and complete recovery.



## SOMETHING NEW IN FERTILIZERS AND THE METHOD OF APPLICATION

Kahn Bros. recently announced the production of a sludge fertilizer with the analysis of 5-5-0 that has been pelletized. This was done to present a fertilizer that can be used in the new whirlwind type fairway fertilizer spreaders. It also has a slower release of Nitrogen which may be beneficial during the hot weather.

The AGRICO people have a new method of applying fertilizer to the close cut turf families to golf courses. The new method is called "Hydraulic Feeding". It is a method of applying complete fertilizers to tees, aprons and greens, combining ease, safety and speed, *without* regard to temperature, wind or wet grass.

Feeding grass by the hydraulic method, which utilizes water pressure, eliminates the danger of burning and streaking. Players can walk over the green immediately after application without creating foot prints. An average green of 5,000 sq. ft. can be treated in 10 minutes or less.

### Procedure

The first step in this feeding procedure is to pour 20 to 25 gallons of water into a barrel having a capacity from 30 to 55 gallons. The extra room in the barrel allows vigorous agitation without splashing or spilling. Next, the fertilizer is dumped into the water creating a slurry. The amount of fertilizer to be added is based on the recommended rate of application and the size of the green.

### How It Works

Vigorous agitation of the slurry during the application is essential. This may be accomplished by means of a canoe paddle by hand, or by a recently developed power unit.

Actual application works best as a two man operation although one man can handle it alone. If the agitation must be accomplished manually, the second man is indispensable. On extremely large greens, the second man can assist in handling the hose. The man handling the nozzle starts pacing the green, swinging the hose slowly in a swath 8 to 12 feet wide. A second is made at right angles to the first, thus assuring even distribution. The principle of water seeking its own level carries the fertilizer to the soil zone. Ordinarily, no further watering is necessary unless heavier applications are made than recommended. Under such circumstances, a 10 minute watering period may be desirable.

### General

Hydraulic feeding operates most efficiently at water pressures ranging from 40 lbs. and upwards.

In practice hydraulic feeding pays for itself many times over. It saves time and labor and permits safe feeding of greens, aprons and tees spring, summer or fall.

Two common analysis' are available 12-4-8 and 7-0-0. These have 50% and 75% organic Nitrogen included respectively.

Some fertilizer manufacturers and distributors are now offering a program to the turf manager whereby they will furnish a spreader to the purchaser for distributing their product. The field is certainly getting competitive and the prices are indicative of the competition.

Another new fertilizer is on the market that has been coated for controlled release, similar to some of the cold tablets that are on the market. You will be reading more about this product in the near future.

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## VERDICT FOR LIGHTNING - LIGHTNING RODS

A jury in Morristown, Tennessee, has awarded a verdict for \$50,000.00 to a fourteen year old girl who was struck by lightning while under a rain shelter at Morristown Country Club. Phyllis Davis was struck last July, and has not regained consciousness. A doctor testified she may never regain consciousness. Her father, Clifford Davis, sued the country club for \$737,000.00 claiming negligence in their failing to have lightning rods on the shelter. The attorney for the country club based the defense on the premise that no one is responsible for an "act of God", however, the damages were assessed at \$50,000.00.

This court decision, plus the fact that many large trees cannot be replaced during our lifetime, and the dangers of shelter, half-way houses and clubs being struck by lightning, brought the entire matter into focus.

Lightning is the visible charge of electricity from cloud to cloud, from cloud to earth, and from earth to cloud. Lightning is normally resisted by the non-conducting air between the cloud and the ground, however, the pressure often becomes so strong that the charge breaks through the air barrier. The cloud charge seeks the path of least resistance to the earth and naturally tends to follow the shortest course, usually to some highpoint — a roof, a chimney, a tree, house, barn, or a club on a hill.

Lightning is a hot, exploding bolt of terrifying power. It hurtles from the sky without warning to kill, maim, or destroy whatever may be in its path. Here are some facts about lightning:

1. 75% of all lightning strikes upwards from the ground.
2. Country clubs which have stood for years without rods can be hit any time.
3. Lightning cannot be prevented, but it can be controlled.
4. Any type of building can be protected by lightning rods and once installed, will last indefinitely.
5. Lightning, like light, travels at the speed of 186,000 miles per second. When you see the flash of lightning, the danger is over. The bolt has already struck. The flash you see in the sky is merely the burning of the air through which the invisible bolt has passed.
6. Trees are poor conductors and offer no protection against lightning. If a tree is struck near a building, it is possible for the bolt to jump to the country club. Any tree can be made safe from lightning.
7. In the United States alone, lightning strikes approximately 9,000,000 times per year. Its annual casualty record is 600 killed and thousands injured.

Outlying areas, in which country clubs are generally located, show the greatest property destruction. Many clubs in the Chicago District are completely protected by lightning rods including the Pro Shop, the shelters and the club house. Other clubs are only partially protected, and many have no lightning protection at all.

### Cost of Lightning Rod Protection

In order to give you some idea of the cost to protect a shelter, half-way house, or a club, by lightning rods, here is a summary of costs:

1. To wire a shelter house 10 feet square with a hipped roof, approximately \$55.00. A gabled roof runs \$5.00 to \$10.00 more.
2. To wire a half-way house, 20 feet by 20 feet, with hipped roof, approximately \$70.00; gabled roof, \$10.00 to \$15.00 more.
3. To wire a country club, the cost differs according to the construction and the area, however, the usual cost for the average size club runs from \$1300.00 to \$1800.00. The cost to install a lightning rod system in one large Chicago club was \$1,780.00.

### Safety Rules for Protection

Many people including golfers have no knowledge of what to do during a thunderstorm, and many clubs have posted safety rules. Others are considering outlining in their paper, or club organ, these various precautions:

1. When seeking shelter, buildings constructed of steel offer better protection than the ordinary wood-frame type.
2. Do not use a telephone, radio, or television set during a thunderstorm unless absolutely necessary.
3. If in an automobile, or golf cart, remain there, as they are better protection than walking.
4. Keep away from trees, poles, or similarly exposed objects projecting skyward.
5. Out in the open, you are safer lying flat on the ground.
6. If on a golf course, do not use, or carry, a steel-shafted club, and stay away from all types of machinery. Raising golf clubs, or umbrellas, is understood to be dangerous during electrical storms, however, metal spikes on golf shoes do little to increase the hazard, according to the National Bureau of Standards.
7. Avoid isolated trees, fences, hill-tops and open spaces. A depression in the ground, a deep valley, dense woods, a grove of trees, beneath a steep or overhanging cliff, afford better protection than the open golf course.

Many country clubs today are installing a whip-antenna on the electric carts similar to that used on passenger cars, and of a length to extend above the heads of the riders. This will reasonably protect the riders against lightning while riding or sitting in an electric cart.

## JACOBSEN

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Bob Johnson



'There are two new Maintenance Buildings being planned or constructed in our area this winter. These are at the Briarwood Country Club where Superintendent Paul Voykin is in charge and the other is at Hinsdale Country Club where Charlie Schultz is supervising the job.

Al Johnson of the Park Ridge Country Club is finishing up the installation of a new drainage system. We certainly do not envy Al in this project under the conditions that have prevailed this winter.

Joe Denneli, Superintendent of the North Shore Country Club has installed a new center fairway watering system to replace his old system. Joe recently was written up in the Golfdom Magazine. His club certainly is proud of the job that he has been doing. This is the kind of publicity that each club should give the Superintendent. Congratulations, Joe.

Beverly Country Club is erecting a new fence around its perimeter. This is being done in preparation for the Western Open which will be held during the last week of July.

OUR NEXT MONTHLY MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH. THERE IS NONE PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY.

The next scheduled monthly meeting of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be held in March at the Midwest Country Club. The date is Tuesday the 12th. Marv Gruening is the host Superintendent

### NATIONAL NEWS

The year-end financial report of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America looks very impressive. They show a profit of \$22,514.54. This certainly is good healthy news. This figure represents about 80% of the increase in dues. It was originally estimated that the Association would be happy if they showed a profit of \$15,000.00. Certainly congratulations are in order for the entire Board of Directors and Dr. Gene Nutter and his hard working staff.

The Reporter continues to show a good profit and the content is improving with each issue. It certainly is far superior to the old Reporter. On page 123 of the recent Conference issue you will find our full page ad.

It appears that the Midwest Association has finally reached the top in National Membership. If all the totals are correct, we should have 98 votes at the National election in San Diego. We also have the largest Commercial membership in America.

### POINT OF INTEREST

Some people classify leaders into five categories:

1. The bureaucrat, who lives by the Rule Book.
2. The autocrat, who makes his own rules.
3. The diplomat or manipulator.
4. The expert, who is more concerned with his specialty than with power.
5. The quarterback or team leader.

Under which one of these do you classify yourself? Leaders are lonely people. This is a price that must be paid for being a leader.



### ADOLPH BERTUCCI

Adolph is a newly elected director of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents serving in the capacity of Chairman of the Benevolence and Placement Committees.

He began his career of Golf Course Superintendent at the age of 16 by working for his father at the Knolwood Country Club. He and his father Joe, remained there until 1944 when they moved to the Lake Shore Country Club. In 1956 his father retired and Adolph replaced him as the Superintendent.

Several years ago Adolph served as the Secretary-Treasurer of our local Association.

He is residing with his wife Mary and daughter. A son is attending Portland University where he is majoring in Advertising. Another daughter is living in California.

### SECOND ANNUAL WORLD FLOWER SHOW AT McCORMICK PLACE, MARCH 16-24, 1963

Once again the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation is going to man a booth at the Annual Flower Show and they have asked for the support of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents in this endeavor.

Last year many of our Superintendents assisted in manning the booth. This involves a minimum of six individuals each day. The booth is open from 10:00 A.M. — 10:00 P.M. Three people will be present from 10:00 A.M. — 4:00 P.M. and three more will man the booth from 4:00 P.M. until 10:00 P.M.



If you are interested in donating six hours of your time for a worthy cause please contact Ted Woehrle.

Duties involved include answering routine questions about lawn care, passing out pamphlets prepared by the Foundation and generally being helpful to inquisitive people.

At present I have 17 people committed and I need 37 more. In order to assure you of your choice in time make your selection as soon as possible.

**Officers of the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation**

President — Jim Brandt, Superintendent of Danville Country Club.

Vice President — Ted Woehrle, Beverly Country Club.

Secretary — Dr. Fred Weinard, Department of Floriculture, University of Illinois.

Treasurer — Mr. Oscar Borgmeier, Geo. A Davies Inc.

**Directors:**

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| John Jensen       | C. I. Baker      |
| Roy Mueller       | W. Wentz         |
| Ted Hammerschmidt | Dr. Mike Britton |
| Rodel Owen        |                  |

The Foundation is planning an intense membership drive later in the year. There will be an important announcement made in the very near future about changes in the staff at the University involving turf research. The main function of the Turf Foundation is to aid in research and teaching in Turf. The membership consists of all interested people in Turf.

The University is in the process of adopting a new curriculum in the field of turf to be offered to students next fall. If all the subjects are approved, the University of Illinois will soon have the finest course in Turf Management in the United States.

This will open new possibilities with the Evans Scholarship program. To date there hasn't been a University or College offering Turf Management where students having Evans Scholarships are attending. The University of Illinois has an Evans Fraternity Program. Perhaps some day we might see some of our interested caddies become Golf Course Superintendents through the assistance of the Evans Scholarship Program.



Ed Stewart

**WHAT NOW?**

At our last monthly meeting at River Forest Country Club a new FIRST in winter golf was shown to several of our members. Host Superintendent, Ed Stewart proudly displayed a new invention for golf carts. He had built runners for a cart to take the place of the wheels. This makes it usable on snow for the hardier souls that like to play golf during the winter months.



A closer look at Ed's invention

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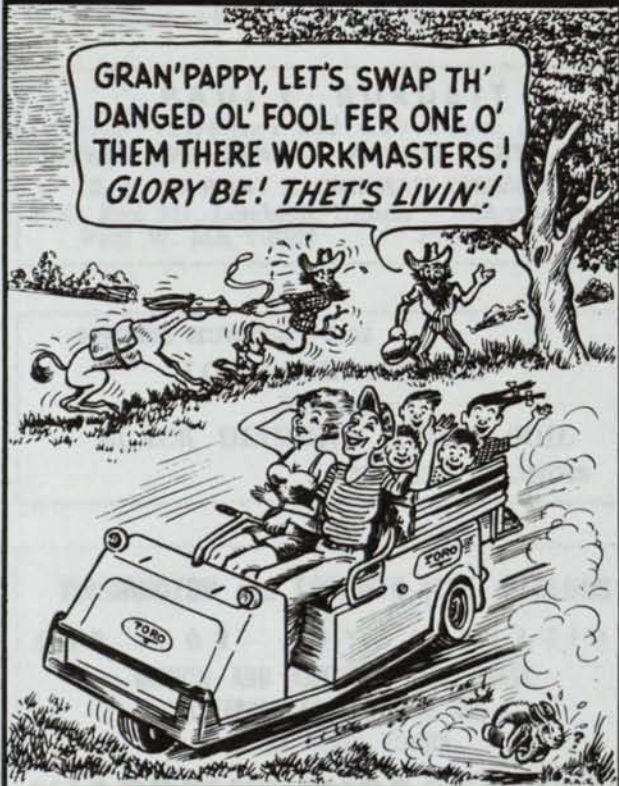
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**Discontinuing Play During Lightning**

Attention is called to Rule 46-4-C; 37-5 and 37-6 in the "Rules of Golf". U.S.G.A. especially suggests that players be informed that they have the right to stop play if they think lightning threatens them, even though the committee may not have specifically authorized it by signal. The U.S.G.A. uses the following signals and recommends that all local committees do similarly;

DISCONTINUE PLAY: 3 consecutive notes of siren repeated.

RESUME PLAY: 1 prolonged note of siren repeated.

Besides country clubs, many businesses, farms, etc. have placed lightning rods in trees on their property. The Underwriters Laboratory in Chicago advised that the Lexington Horse Farm in Kentucky installed lightning rods in the trees to protect the horses and cattle since they seek shelter under the trees during a storm, and the lightning was killing many of them. Many horse farms and cattle raisers rod their trees due to severe losses they experienced with lightning killing the stock.

The Underwriters Laboratory also pointed out that when "Ike" was President, all shelter houses at the golf course in Augusta, Georgia, had to be "rodded" before he was permitted to play on the course.

The above was prepared by: Ralph W. O'Farrell,  
President of The Kane Service

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## MORE ABOUT LIGHTNING

In a recent issue of TRUE magazine, January 1963, there was an article on Lightning written by the staff. The following is a summary of the article.

"There is a lot more to a lightning bolt than electricity. The 25,000 amperes in an average bolt account for only one-fourth of its energy. The other 75% is delivered in the form of heat, with temperatures running clear up to 50,000 degrees F. As the bolt hits a tree, it is channeled through the moist inner bark, which is, because of its high water content, the most conductive part of the tree. The instantaneous superheating of this moisture actually creates a tremendous steam explosion that can rip a tree apart with such violence that chunks of wood can be hurled hundreds of feet."

"A study by the National Shade Tree Conference reveals that the oak, which has a particularly high water content, is lightning's favorite target among trees. It is 62 times more likely to be struck than a beech, on whose smoothed-barked surface rain forms a continu-

ous moisture shield. When smooth-barked trees are struck by lightning, they are less likely to suffer severe damage, for the heat is dissipated directly into the air from that outer moist coating."

The article continues: "While the steam explosion does most of the damage to a tree, it's just plain sizzling electricity that injures the man or beast who takes refuge under it. You don't even have to be near the tree to get killed. Sometimes the electricity running down the tree electrifies the wet ground around it. In 1959, seven cows in a Long Island field were killed by a bolt of lightning which struck a tree. It ran through the ground for 300 feet to reach some of the living targets."

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