

JANUARY, 1967
VOL. 20, NO. 7



The Bull Sheet

Official Bulletin

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents

National

Turf

Conference

NO MEETING

IN FEBRUARY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

FEBRUARY 5-10

SEE YOU THERE

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

DOUG JABAAY, Editor
P. O. Box 305
Naperville, Ill. 60540

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The President's Message

In the past the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents has held the esteem of all, as the strongest and most progressive group in our field. For eight years I have been privileged to golf and converse with you at monthly meetings. Accepting the gavel as your president for 1967 was a proud moment, the fulfillment of a dream. With your cooperation, and my confidence, we shall remain the leader, the No. 1 Team.

At our first board meeting, committee chairmen were selected. Tom Burrows will supervise the educational program. Gerald Dearie Jr. and Walter Fuchs will handle the monthly arrangements. Our new directors volunteered to head these committees: Harold Frederickson and Ed Braunsky, Entertainment; and Oscar Miles, Golf. I can't help but feel the enthusiasm shown by our Board of Directors is a reflection of our entire membership.

These last few snowbound days, I have been engaged in that monotonous chore, Inventory.

Item Year Purchased Serial No. Purchase Value
When was the last time you counted pipe wrenches, screwdrivers, longhandle shovels, and sprinklers? Everyone dreads the thought of burglary or fire. A few conscientious minutes today will save much frustration with an insurance adjuster tomorrow.

We had a wonderful turnout at our January meeting at O'Hare Inn. It's a shame we didn't get to play this new course under the lights. Our guest speaker, Mr. Cocalis, of Lombard, was outstanding. Mr. Cocalis said, "your job isn't grass, it's people. Each superintendent is a psychologist whose job is to relieve the business man's tension when he visits the club." Many thanks to Al Johnson for providing the fine facilities at O'Hare Inn.

There will be no monthly meeting in February, but there will be much to see in Washington, D. C. while attending the National Conference. The Midwest Association has a well qualified member, Ted Woehrle, seeking the position of National Director. It is our duty to help campaign, and bring the "redhead" home a winner. I look forward to greeting you and your wives in Washington, D. C.

Sincerely,
Dudley Smith,
President



Al Johnson, Superintendent Sheraton O'Hare Inn

JANUARY MEETING

Our Past President Al Johnson was our host at the January meeting at the Sheraton O'Hare Inn. This vast complex of buildings and meeting rooms was quite a challenge. After about five wrong turns and a guide the afternoon fellowship room was found. A few hardy souls went out in the cold snow and looked at Al's nine hole lighted course. This should offer a lot of fun this summer, looks like we will have to come here then. The Carriage Room was where Henrici's provided us with an excellent dinner. About 75 members were in attendance. The educational committee is to be commended. Mr. Cocalis was an excellent speaker with a good theme to start the New Year. Thanks again to host Al Johnson.

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MIDWEST ASSN. OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS



James Burdett of Lombard, Retiring President of the Illinois Turf Foundation, congratulates President-elect, John Coghill of Orland Park, at the 7th Annual Turf Conference held recently at the University of Illinois.

On December 1 and 2, the Illinois Turfgrass Conference was held at the University of Illinois. Of the 240 registrants, approximately 25% were from the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

This is a significant increase both in the number of registrants and the number of Chicagoland Superintendents at this conference. Your continued support is most appreciated.

At an election following the conference, three new directors were appointed: Harold Frederickson, Supt. at Edgewood Valley, Robert Johnson from Illinois Lawn, and Vernon Vertraste of Kewanee. If you have any suggestions about the Conference or Field Trials, please contact the officers or directors.

Again, in behalf of the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, thank you for your interest, support and attendance.

Sincerely,
John R. Coghill, Pres.
Illinois Turfgrass Foundation

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HONEY, YOUR SUPPER IS ON THE TABLE

By Suzy Fredrickson

Talk given at Midwest G.C.S.A. Clinic at Medinah

I made up my mind I was going to be scared or nervous today, but it's a woman's privilege to change her mind, so please bear with me.

I've been asked to tell you my experiences as the wife of a golf course superintendent—so here goes!

When we were first married I wanted to be able to converse with my husband about the things that interested him, and, of course, impress him. One of my tricks was to steam open the "Golf Course Reporter," look up the answers to "Tom Mascaró's Quiz," then seal the envelope again. Boy, was he surprised when I was able to solve the problem correctly later.

I also learned to throw around words like pythium, fescue, helmethisporium and poa annua. It helps to know the meanings, but it wasn't always necessary.

I guess all you superintendents are tired in the evening, and my husband is not an exception.

We would often sit watching television, and I would glance over at him occasionally, very contented with the fact that he was enjoying the program with me.

One evening we were watching the weather report and Harry Volkman had just predicted two weeks of 90° and over temperatures with extremely high humidity. I looked over at Harold with my most sympathetic look, getting ready to console him, only to find him smiling, the same smile he had been smiling so many times before.

It was then that I discovered his secret. He had learned to fall asleep with a smile on his face, and every once in a while he would nod his head, as if in agreement. I had thought he was a captive audience, and all the while he was probably dreaming about his love affair with Kentucky blue grass.

When we were expecting our son I heard Harold bragging about the nursery he was planning. Needless to say, I was thrilled that he was taking an active interest in our blessed event.

That just proves how naive I was, for I soon found that the nursery he was planning wasn't a baby nursery at all. It was a sod nursery.

I still say it was fortunate that the baby was born at Little Company of Mary Hospital and Harold was working next door at Evergreen Country Club, otherwise I have a sneaking suspicion he wouldn't have seen his son until he was old enough to introduce himself.

I hope I never have a baby that's born in June, July or August, because I'm sure everyone in the hospital will think I'm an unwed mother.

Harold spends so much time at the golf course that our son thinks Mommy and David live in our house and Daddy lives at the course, or "Daddy's House," as he calls it.

Yes, we've suffered through many frustrating experiences, but the worst was the "Garbage Affair."

Every Wednesday I hated to get out of bed because I knew that Harold had forgotten to put the garbage cans out at the curb for the weekly garbage pick-up. That meant I had to lug them out there or start my own garbage dump.

At first I made large signs saying, "Harold, put out the garbage." I placed them in very conspicuous

places — the mirror in the bathroom; taped to the inside front door; and completely covering the windshield of the car.

But, as we all know, superintendents seem to have so much on their minds, that my signs went unnoticed or forgotten.

I even threatened to load the full garbage cans into the car, drive out and dump them on his first green. But, after thinking things out carefully, I decided to pay an extra \$1.25 a month to the garbage man, have him come in to the back yard and pick up the cans, and save our Happy Home.

We have also had many mysteries occur, but the most mystifying of all was the missing meat thermometer. It happened during a time of crisis, a crisis at our house at the onset of some form of turf disease. This particular time I spent a good hour searching for my roast thermometer.

I finally discovered, after some crafty detective work, that it was stuck in the middle of No. 4 green.

Well, you take a sick person's temperature—why not a sick green?

I must admit I was worried about using it in a roast after that. I had visions of us coming down with helmethisporium.

The meat thermometer isn't the only thing I've sacrificed for the cause! When Harold decided to rebuild one of his green, he found that it would be helpful to make a model out of clay first. The main problem, however, was finding a base for its construction.

After much consideration he decided that a sterling silver steak platter, one of my most treasured wedding gifts, was exactly the right shape. I reluctantly consented to its use after receiving a promise that it would be returned, good as new, as soon as it served its purpose.

That was four years ago, and I'm still serving steak on a paper plate. It seems that the model turned out so well that it was a shame to dismantle it.

I also have only four salad forks left out of 10. I was told they are perfect for repairing ball marks on greens.

I think that summer is the worst time of the year for a superintendent's wife. I've often complained the standard complaints that I'm sure you've all heard more than once.

"I'm lonesome"

"You never take me any where"

"I think you love that stinking golf course more than me" and

"I never have anybody to talk to but the baby, the dog and the butcher"! Sound familiar?

The most ironic situation that happened was the time I was told we were going to view the Fourth of July festivities at the club. I was thrilled! A lot of people to meet and talk to, and a chance to spend an evening with my husband.

When we went there we stopped at the maintenance building and, as usual, some problem arose that needed Harold's immediate attention. Off he went—and there I sat for two hours with my little boy, two doberman pincers and seven Mexican women who had come to watch the fireworks. You guessed it! They didn't speak a word of English and the only Spanish I know is "La Cacaraca."

(Continued on next page)

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(Continued from preceding page)

Oh, I've spent some exciting summers since I married into this wonderful world of golf. I figured being married to a golf course superintendent we would have, without a doubt, the most enviable lawn in the neighborhood. Boy, was I mistaken!

When I said, "Let's fertilize the lawn," he said, "Why? You only have to cut it more often." When I said, "Let's kill the weeds," he said, "Why kill them? They're green, aren't they?" And in the fall when I said, "Let's rake the leaves," he said, "Why rake them. I'll mulch them in the spring when I mow the grass."

The most enviable lawn in the neighborhood belongs to our neighbor. He's a school teacher!

I guess everyone of you gentlemen has had some kind of trouble with your night waterman. But they have personally become my most unnerving type of people. They have ruined so many Saturday nights for me that I figured if I can't beat 'em, I guess I'd better join 'em!

Every Saturday in the summer, I have my hair done, get a baby sitter and we go to the golf course. I end up watching television with the night watchman, or bouncing around in the jeep, ruining my hair-do with the mist from the sprinklers.

Well, at least it's a night out, and if I'm lucky, we stop for a beer and a hamburger on the way home, or between sets.

Saturday night isn't the only outing we have in the summer. We frequently take a ride in the country, supposedly to see nature's beauty, but it's really amazing how many golf courses we "just manage" to pass. I guess there's no getting away from it!

I bet I can tell you the name and superintendent of every golf course in the Chicago area! I might even be able to tell you whether they have watered fairways or not.

There are many advantages in being married to a golf course superintendent. The convention, for an example, is something I look forward to all year. At my first convention I found that there weren't too many wives that I knew. I felt sorry for poor Harold, because all the other guys were free in the evening to shoot the bull, play cards, or go out and view some of the local color—a red-headed belly dancer, if I remember right.

Last year more wives were there and there was always something for everybody to do. I hope that this year will be better than ever, and it will be if more of you fellas bring your better half along.

The convention isn't the only advantage in my position. Every Christmas we are given many lovely gifts from the firms and salesmen that Harold does business with. I'll admit one year they did present a problem though. We received three ten-pound hams. We had ham and eggs, baked ham, broiled ham, ham salad, and ham sandwiches. Not that I don't like ham, I love it, but I sure wish someone would have given us a turkey! That's not a hint, by the way, I don't know what I'd do with three turkeys!

Speaking of food, I have reduced so many good pieces of meat to lumps of charcoal because I've tried to keep dinner warm in the oven. I've often asked the question, "What time will you be home, honey," only to be answered with, "I'll be home when I get there." It's awfully hard to plan a meal that won't turn to stone when you try to keep it warm in the oven until nine o'clock in the evening. Usually we

have such a late dinner because of some problem out at the golf course. More than likely it's some kind of labor problem.

Lately Harold has been talking about female labor as an answer to his problem. I'm not too sure I'll like that, unless, of course, I can help select the crew. After all, it's the big, strong girls who are six feet tall and weigh 200 pounds that are going to be able to do the most work. A pretty face may prove to be a dangerous distraction to the male laborers.

I'm sure many of you have found that a camera is one of your most useful tools. I know we must have at least 3,000 slides. When Harold started to show an interest in photography, I encouraged him, all the while figuring how many pictures we would have of our offspring. We bought two of the best 35mm cameras, flash attachment, tripod, viewer, projector, sorter, visual screen, lenses, and a storage case for housing the slides.

As I said before, we have approximately 3,000 slides. We have slides of greens mowers, aerifiers, sprayers, stacks of fertilizer, holes in the ground, busted branches, not to mention puddles of water, and five smiling mexicans holding a dead deer.

We do have, however, one slide of our son, and guess where he is—on the nursery I referred to earlier—his father's sod nursery.

HELP IN OUR AREA

This is the second resume of the men that are in our area that you can call on for help.

Name: Bruce Johnson

Employer: Cooperative Extension Service, University of Illinois

Address: 213 West Wesley — Suite 201
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

Phone: 312-665-0598

Title: DuPage County Assistant Farm Adviser

Debrees: B. S. Ornamental Horticulture, University of Illinois, 1964. M. S. Plant Pathology, University of Illinois, 1966.

Residence: Wheaton, Illinois

Since people are incurring more and more leisure time during these days of automation, they are spending a great deal of this extra time working in their yards and enjoying more outdoor living along with more GOLFING. This increased outdoor living can readily be seen by the extensive landscaping of new shopping centers, malls, and city beautification programs.

As these people devote more time to their yard, they begin to realize there is more to having a picturesque yard than just cutting the grass every week or two. They begin to recognize the fact that many problems can and do arise in trying to maintain trees, shrubs, lawns, and flower beds properly.

Thus, part of my time will be allocated to working with these people which include the homeowner, the nurserymen, the garden center operator, the florist, and the golf course superintendent in DuPage County with their problems concerning plant material. Since my education, training and experience has been mostly with ornamental trees, shrubs, shade trees, and plant diseases, I would be most happy to render my services in the area of horticulture and plant pathology to the golf course superintendents in DuPage County.

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THAT FAIRWAY TURF COVER

By D. W. Daniels

(Talk presented before Midwest G.C.S.A. meeting at Medinah, Illinois, December 6, 1966)

After a short time of eighteen years working with turf, I am convinced that turf managers should try to grow perennial, rejuvenating grasses. This means those that have maximum tolerance to weather, wear and management conditions.

Although some grasses may perform admirably for a short period or under one set of conditions—hot, humid weather—the fairways in the Greater Chicago area must not only produce a green turf cover much of the year, but also must withstand heavy use and wide variation in weather conditions. So, we rule out bermuda, we limit Zoysia, and have left bluegrasses, fescues and bentgrasses. We rule out ryegrass because of its fast growth rate, large amount of clippings and disease susceptibility. We find practically no fescue remaining, particularly where there is fertilizer, irrigation and close mowing. This then leave bluegrass and bentgrass.

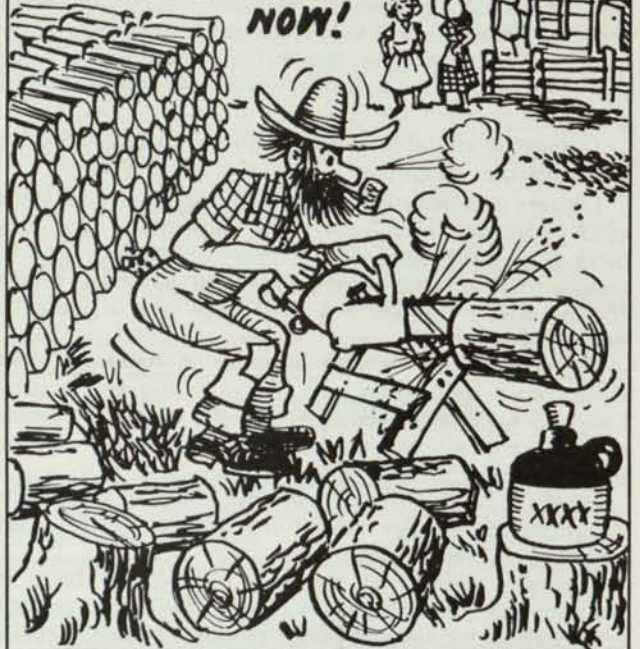
The bluegrass varieties of yesteryear were not noted for tolerance of close mowing and we still need improved bluegrass varieties, which will tolerate closer mowing, yet produce vigorous rhizomes. Meanwhile, good management, irrigation, weed control, plu fungicides to reduce disease, can permit the closer mowing of bluegrass.

What about bents? Over the years much seed has been planted and usually it germinates. Since bent establishes, from seed to mature plant—with crown and nodes, quite slowly, much of the bentgrass planted never reaches maturity. Then, diseases, such as dollarspot and snow mold, may completely wipe out established stand. Bentgrass has close mowing tolerance, but more disease problems, more irrigation demand.

Some, then—smilingly will say—*Poa annua* is not so bad, it reseeds itself. If it fails, it does come back. It will tolerate close mowing; it does knit after damage. However, in my view after working with turf for eighteen year, I see nothing contributing to long term success in fine turf management by using *Poa annua* as a permanent crop. With this in mind my suggestion continues to be that *Poa annua* be controlled, that the desired grasses be favored. It is a difficult task, it is a big challenge.

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Harold Fredrickson and Oscar Miles

MEET YOUR DIRECTORS

Your two newest Directors of the Midwest are pictured above. A short resume of each follows.

Oscar Miles, a native of Quincy, Illinois, has spent most of his twenty-eight years in close association with the soil. He is a graduate of the Turf Management Winter Course at Pennsylvania State University. He was the proud recipient of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Scholarship Award in 1961.

Oscar is a member of B.P.O. Elks and spends time at his hobbies of golf, turf consulting, reading, fishing, and table tennis. All of his free time is not devoted to hobbies; his wife, two daughters and one son keep him active, too.

One of the things Oscar enjoys is the opportunity to speak about his chosen field of Turf Grass Management and related subjects. He has shown this at our Midwest Association Clinic.

Before taking over the helm at Olympia Fields Country Club in 1965, he was the superintendent at Quincy Country Club. As a Director, his duties will start as chairman of the all important Golf committee.

In 1963, Harold Fredrickson started working on golf courses, at the age of thirteen. His first job was on the grounds crew at the 111th street Golf Center, under owner-superintendent William Cisna. Mr. Cisna was a dominant factor and inspiring influence in Harold's choice of careers.

Harold stayed at the 111th Street Golf Center until 1955, and from there he went to work at Ridge Country Club as a member of the grounds crew of 1956-57, under Superintendent Floyd Sander.

In April of 1957, at the age of eighteen, he took over as golf course superintendent at Evergreen Country Club. From Evergreen he went to work at Silver Lake Golf Club under Norm Kramer. With Norm's encouragement, Harold enrolled in the University of Massachusetts Turf Management Course.

(Continued on next page)

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Tinley Park, Ill.

Upon graduation from the University of Massachusetts, he went to work at Bob O'Link Golf Club, as a trainee superintendent, under Bob Williams.

Harold also spent two years learning about equipment at the Power House, Inc., a turf equipment repair company. Even though he was offered the position of Service Manager, the seed was planted, fertilized, and flourishing and his first love, the golf course, won over.

Harold went back to Evergreen Country Club as superintendent, and was there until 1963, when he took over at Edgewood Valley Country Club, where he is presently employed.

He was honorably discharged from the Army Reserves with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

In December 1966, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Illinois Turf Grass Foundation, and at the annual election of the Midwest Golf Course Superintendents Association, he was elected to the Board of Directors for a two year term.

He has attended courses offered by the University of Illinois, Purdue University, Morton Arboretum, Dale Carnegie, and Clinton Engine School.

Harold lives in Palos Heights with his wife, Suzy, a son David, age four, and the family Doberman Pincher, Roxy.



Charley Bartlet, Paul Voykin and Adolph Bertucci discuss the Midwest Fall Clinic.

MEET

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