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RAY GERBER 1899 — 1983

Raymond Gerber, acknowledged "Dean" of midwestern golf course superintendents, died July 6th at Elmhurst hospital after a brief illness.

Ray's fifty-five active years in golf course management began at the Woodhill Country Club in Wayzata, Minnesota. After nine years at Woodhill, he moved to the Pine Valley Golf Club in Clementon, New Jersey where he was sent by the Toro Corporation to oversee the use of their mowing equipment. While at Pine Valley, Ray married his wife Julia, also from Wayzata, Minnesota.

Ray returned to the midwest again to help in the construction of the Medinah Country Club in Chicago, Ill. In 1936, Ray took over the position of Golf Course Superintendent at the Glen Oak Country Club in Glen Ellyn, Ill. and held that post until 1970 when he retired to the status of Superintendent Emeritus. For the past 11 years Ray has kept active in Golf as the Editor of the Midwest Superintendents Association monthly bulletin, **The Bull Sheet**. As Editor, Ray received national recognition awards from the National Golf Foundation and from the International Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Ray served his profession well and became president of both the local Midwest Association in 1946 and the International Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in 1950. In 1975, Ray received the highly coveted Distinguished Service Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association, their highest award.

Typifying Ray's devotion to family and profession is the following quotation from his remarks upon receiving the Distinguished Service Award at the 1975 national meeting in New Orleans. "A golf course superintendent should be many things, — To his family, a loving husband and father. To his club, a willing and tireless worker. He should be a loyal man who likes his job as well as being able to get along with everybody. He must have a smile ready even when the going gets rough."

Incidentally, Ray never missed an annual Turfgrass Conference of the Golf Course Superintendents over a forty-three year period ending this past February in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ray is survived by his wife Julia, two sons, Donald, Superintendent at the Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton, Ill., and Dr. Gerald of Duke University, and five grandchildren.

Contributions may be made in Ray's memory to: Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801, c/o David J. Wehner, Ph.D.

The deepest sympathy of the members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is extended to the Gerber family due to the death of Ray. Ray Gerber has been an inspiration to our association and has made **The Bull Sheet** one of the premier newsletters of golf course superintendents in the country.



A TRUE FRIEND

One of the hardest things a person has to do is to say "Good-bye" to a friend he knows he will never see again. At least, this is the way it is for me. That friend is Ray Gerber. I had the very good fortune to count Ray as my friend and advisor. I really got to know Ray Gerber when I started to work here at Glen Oak C.C. That, in itself, is a story worth repeating.

Ray saw me at one of the Midwest meetings and bought me a drink. During the conversation, he said I ought to stop by and visit with him at Glen Oak in the next week or so. Well, I did, and at the time, he mentioned that he was thinking of retiring and wondered if I might be interested in the job. I started at Glen Oak C.C. on May 1st, 1970, and have been here ever since.

But that first summer was very interesting. I presumed that I would be taking over in a couple of weeks or so, however thru May, June, July, and into August, Ray was on the job every day. He would assign all of the jobs first thing in the morning to get the crew started and assign some afternoon jobs. It was awkward for me to step in and give any jobs to the crew. Many times the men would come in from mowing or raking traps, and they didn't know what next to do, for Ray hadn't told them. I then would assign a job, but always with the stipulation that if Ray asked them to do something else, they were to go do it.

After the first month, Ray suggested that it was senseless for both of us to come in on Sundays, so from then on I had every other Sunday off. That was great; a superintendent getting a Sunday off during the season was sensational.

Our big event around Glen Oak is our "Round-Up", which is held usually around the middle of August every year. Well, our "Round-Up" is two days, and the day after the event when Ray was leaving to go home, he turned to me and said "Catch" as he tossed me his keys. That's all ... "Catch", and with that he got into his car and drove home. He never once after that came back to give me any directions on how to run the course unless he was first asked.

Ray was made an Honorary Member of the club, thus I saw him every day for lunch at the clubhouse. He had many opportunities to ask why this or that is or wasn't being done, etc., but he **never did**. What willpower he had to have to keep quiet. To think that he spent his life here on the course, turned it over to someone else, and then sat back, watched things being done somewhat differently than in the past, without questioning that person - that is a friend.

Good-bye dear friend, I know the Lord will have the grass greener and your editorials will be easier from now on.

Fred D. Opperman, CGCS
Glen Oak Country Club

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The Gator Grows

By DAN L. HALL JR.
Imperial Golf Club



THE GATOR GROWS ABOUT THE POA ANNUA CLASSIC

The Ninth Annual Poa Annu Classic was again held at the Naples Beach Club and Hotel May 23, 1983. Superintendents from all Chapters except the Panhandle participated and enjoyed the facilities of our hosts; Henry Watkins, President, and Stan Norton, Superintendent, of the Beach Club.



The kick-off event was the board meeting of the Florida G.C.S.A., held at 2:00 P.M. Saturday, the 21st at the Beach Club was led by President Kevin Downing, Vice President Dan Delaney and Secretary-Treasurer Bob Sanderson. All Chapters were represented and the four hour meeting was all inclusive with our G.C.S.A.A. Board Member, John Hayden bringing us up on the National affairs.

Past President F.G.C.S.A. Bill Wagner opened the Sunday A.M. Seminar "STRESS in MANAGEMENT and HOW TO COPE", introducing Mr. James Arch of Orlando Florida. There were 26 members and one guest that participated in this very useful Seminar. This 1 credit C.E.U. course is recognized as a part of the G.C.S.A.A. continuing education program and credit towards G.C.S.A.A. Certification is recognized. There were attendees from all State Chapters with host

Chapter, Everglades being the leader with 12 superintendents or assistants in attendance.

From the very favorable comments of this course, especially concerning instructor Arch, the F.G.C.S.A. officers are seriously considering at the least, one and possibly two such meetings each year with Seminars at the POA & CROWFOOT GOLF CLASSICS and possibly at the F.T.G.A. if it can be arranged. F.G.C.S.A. is to be fully complimented on being the instrument of such outstanding educational benefits being made available for its members. When the next seminar is held, let's all support these events and use the efforts of our F.G.C.S.A. education committee Chairman Tom Burrows.

Poa Annu Classic Chairman Hank Maus, and E.G.C.S.A. President Mark Selby and the committee began the official opening of this years Classic by hosting a 7:00 P.M. cocktail party and social hour Sunday evening on the Beach Club's Gulfside lawn. The world famous Beach Club's Hawaiian Luau dinner followed at 8:00 with dining and dancing until midnight.

The highlights of the evening began with Chairman Maus and President Selby of the Everglades presenting plaques of appreciation to Hotel owner Henry Watkins, Jr. and Superintendent Stanley Norton for hosting the Everglades Chapter's Poa Classic the past two years. They also presented Downing with a check for \$1,000.00 from the Poa Classic to be used at the State Chapter's discretion. President Downing stated that half the gift would be assigned to turf research and half to the state chapters treasury. Last but not least, the three day all expenses Naples Beach Club weekend for two was won by Chainman Maus and the winners were newly-weds Jim and Sharon Young. (continued on page 36)

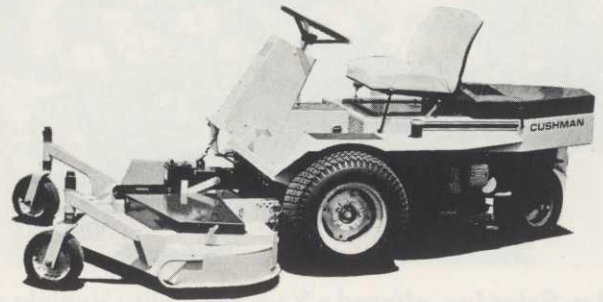


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Boylan Sales Inc. offered a Yamaha Utility Vehicle and EZ Go of Fla. and DeBRA Turf each put up an EZ Go G-7 utility vehicle as hole-in-one prizes. Unfortunately, no one was lucky enough to be a winner but Rocky Bryan came close on the 180 yard 16th with a shot of 3 ft. 6 1/2 in. For his prize of a \$50.00 gift certificate from pro Jim Duffy's shop, Rocky was still a winner.



Tournament Day - 7:30 A.M. the host Everglades presented a continental breakfast while events chairman Randy Vaughn's committee of ladies registered and presented the days packets to the 140 contestants. Chairman Maus had prizes galore, especially for anyone lucky enough to have an ace. The main hole in one prize was a Chevrolet being offered by Bill Branch Chevrolet of Ft. Myers and the Everglades prize to any acer of a spot in the \$100,000 National Hole-In-One Contest in Houston Texas, expenses paid except to and from travel.

(continued on page 37)



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(continued from page 36)

Ken Anderson won a like certificate for a 320 yard poke into the gulf wind on #9. Winners of low gross and low net respectively by chapters were;

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| North Florida | - John Hayden | - John Perham |
| Everglades | - Dick Bessire | - Jack Faulk |
| West Coast | - Dennis Kustes | - Dan Morgan |
| South Florida | - Joe Panteleo | - Robert Gerhart |
| Treasure Coast | - Tex Ardoyno | - Kevin Downing |
| Palm Beach | - Fred Klauk | - Mike Terrill |
| Central Florida | - Jim Ellison | - Whit Derrick |
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(continued on page 38)

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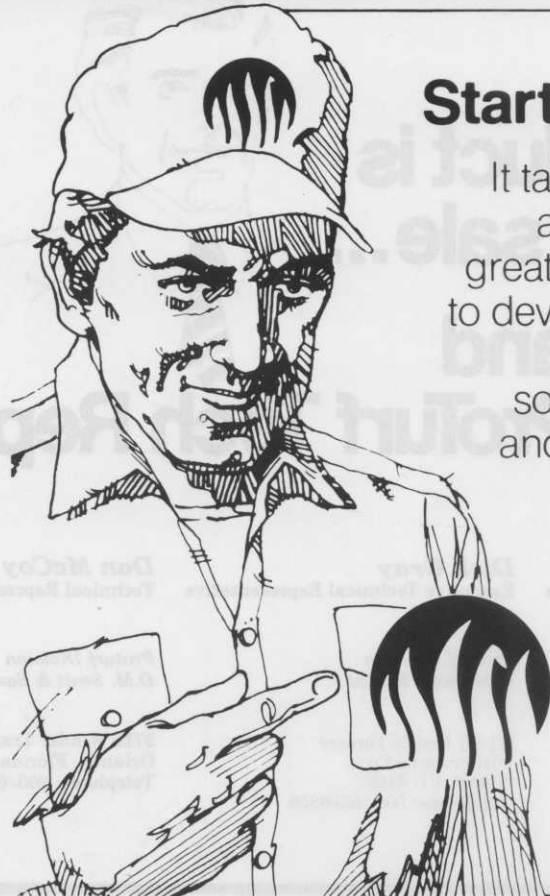
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Overall low gross ended in a tie with Fred Klauk and Joe Ondo both recording fine 71's on the excellently conditioned course. Joe eliminated Fred on the first play off hole one-up in head to head competition. Joe represented the Central Florida Chapter and is Superintendent at Winter Pine C.C. in Winter Park, Florida. As part of his prize in addition to his \$100.00 gift certificate, Joe was also the winner of the Mariner's Corp. all expense three days for two at the South Seas Plantation on Captiva Island. Our congratulations to Joe and Fred for a fine round of golf and we are very sorry there could only be one winner. Joe also qualified on the F.G.C.S.A. team at this years event at Litchfield Park's Wigwam course in Arizona at the G.C.S.A.A. tourney in 1984. Other berths are available for the winners of the Crowfoot and the F.T.G.A. events and for the golfer having the lowest score at all three state tourneys; so sharpen up your game fellows if you want a spot on the feared F.G.C.S.A. golf team.



(continued on page 39)



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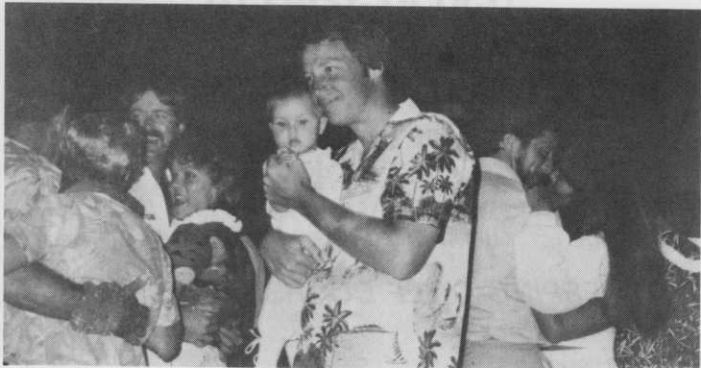
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Everglades Chapter was fortunate to take the other two top prizes when David Fry of Arcadia's Sunny Breeze Palms won overall low net and the Chapter team brought the overall team trophy back to its rightful home by defeating 1983 team champion South Florida 281-283. Great job men!!



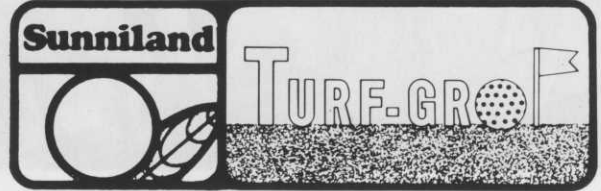
While the men were out testing the golf course, the ladies of the Everglades sponsored a luncheon and fashion show. Chairwoman Dodie Hall lined up one of Naples leading salon's of fashion, Frock and Frills, to display attire for the relaxed casual South Florida style of living as modeled by our Everglades ladies. It is our hope to make this a regular part of the Poa Annuu Classic and our thanks to the ladies who supported this initial event.



(continued on page 40)

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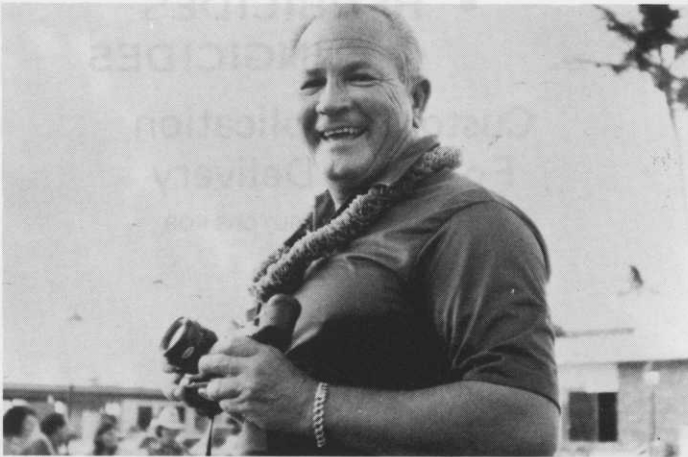
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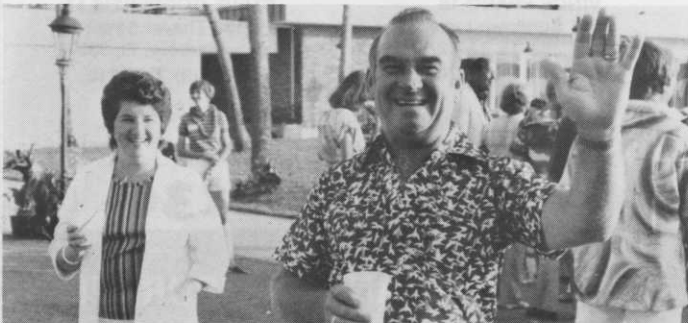
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We would be remiss if we didn't again thank Chairman Maus and his committee as well as the staff of Naples Beach Club for this year's successful event. The committee members were;



Chairman, Everglades V.P. Hank Maus
Assistant Chairman and Host, Everglades Pres. Mark Selby and committee:
Registration and Scoreboard; Randy Vaughn chrnm.; Clint Smallridge, Bob Snaderson, Muriel Moote, Barb Stewart, Nancy and Wendy Maus, Marlene Spainhour, and Dodie Hall.
Golf Course and Sponsor Board; Stanley Norton, Chrnm.; Jim Doty and Dan Hall.
Fashion Show; Dodie Hall, chrwmn.; Nancy Maus, Muriel Moote, Hazel McKenzie, Pam Norton, Barb Stewart, Marlene Spainhour, and Marion Sloan.
Entertainment; Hank and Nancy Maus.



And people too numerous to mention, the entire staff of the Naples Beach Club & Hotel for a wonderful POA ANNUA CLASSIC. ■

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