

Obituaries

ARTHUR SNYDER
1898-1997

TUCSON, Ariz. — Arthur Armstrong Snyder, who along with his three sons was a AA Life Member of the GCSAA, died here on March 12, from complications from pneumonia. He was 98.

Born Sept. 13, 1898, Mr. Snyder was a certified golf course superintendent and raised three superintendents: Arthur Jack, who is also a golf course designer, James H. and Carl H. All three survive him. His wife Margaretta died in 1989.

Starting as a caddie at Oakmont in 1907 when he was 9, Mr. Snyder was in the golf business for nearly 70 years, retiring in 1974 as superintendent at Paradise Valley (Ariz.) CC. Following service in World War I, he went to work on the grounds crew at Westmoreland Club in the Pittsburgh area. He became greenkeeper at nearby Alcoma Country Club in 1927. During World War II he was superintendent at both Alcoma and The Longue Vue Club.

In the early 1950s he moved to Arizona, working as superintendent as well as performing some redesign work. He built White Mountain Country Club at Pine Top in eastern Arizona in 1953. Later, with son Arthur Jack, he co-designed the second nine holes at White Mountain.

An excellent golfer, Mr. Snyder played nine holes twice a week until he reached the age of 96. When asked what he wanted for his 95th birthday, he answered: "I could use a new golf bag."

TOM MASCARO
1916-1997

Tom Mascaro, whose inventions included the aerifier, verticutter and first battery-powered mower, died May 6 at the age of 81.

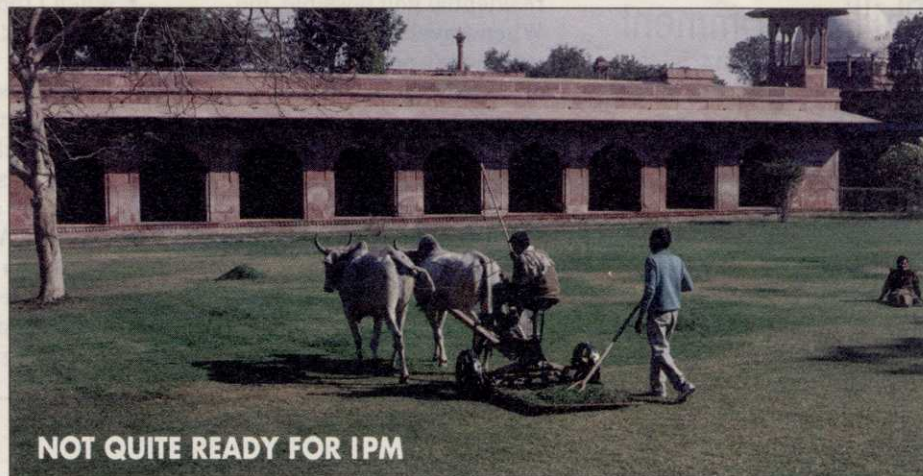
Active in the golf course industry for the past 65 years, Mr. Mascaro was awarded the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award, and was a current GCSAA member, historical preservation committee member and Foundation donor. He also had received the U.S. Golf Association Green Section Award, along with hundreds of other turf-related awards. The Mascaro-Steiniger Turfgrass Museum at Penn State University was named in his honor.

He was a former president of West Point Products, West Point, Pa., and former president of Turf-Tec Int'l, Oakland Park, Fla.

Mr. Mascaro is survived by his wife Dorothy; sons John and Bobby; daughters Tammy Shackelford, Linda Owens and Stella Churchill; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Mascaro's family has requested that donations be made to the Historical Preservation Fund in lieu of flowers.

Letters



NOT QUITE READY FOR IPM

To the Editor:

My father, Gordon Witteveen, has asked me to send you this photo. I hope you find it interesting. Perhaps your readers will, too... I guess I'll always be a greenkeeper's daughter.

In Zimbabwe I marveled at city workers cutting grass with dull scythes on the boulevards near Victoria Falls (Dad was less impressed when he contracted tic bite fever attempting the same feat on my Swaziland "lawn").

In Bangkok I asked a friend to translate signs written in Thai script in the enclaves of the Grand Palace entreating visitor not to disturb the grass.

In Vienna, at another famous palace, a uniformed grass guard patrols the grounds on bicycle, lest an errant tourist can't resist

a short barefoot stroll on the cool, green, manicured lawns. I watched him catch an infractor once, whistle shrilling, bell tinkling, one arm flailing as he peddled furiously up and down the gravel pathways.

But the above photo was taken in India, just outside the Taj Mahal, inside an enclave that keeps out the postcard hawkers, beggars, holy cows, fruit sellers, and all that is chaotic and fascinating about the subcontinent. On the other side of the red sandstone wall is the Taj itself, the white marble shrine built for love by a heartbroken emperor in 1631 (completed in 1653).

Ann Witteveen
Woodbridge, Ont., Canada

Ed. — The author's father is superintendent at Board of Trade Golf Club in Toronto.

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