

Walter Cosby was Builder, Leader in Turf Experiment

Walter W. Cosby, 49, who died in Clifton Forge, Va., Hospital in March after a brief illness, had been supt. of the golf course at The Greenbrier Hotel, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., since 1947. Before this he had held similar positions at the Homestead course in Hot Springs, Va. and at Army Navy CC in Arlington, Va. While at Army Navy, Walter's turf career was interrupted by service with the Army combat engineers. He spent 16 months in the ETO and at the conclusion of the war was assigned to supervising renovation of the bomb damaged Sportplatz in Nuremberg, Germany and the building of athletic fields for GIs.



Student and Researcher

Walter studied at the N. J. College of Agriculture and did some work in agronomy at the University of Maryland. His education made him acutely aware of the value of research and experimentation. He is generally credited with being the first man to have run 2-4-D tests for weed control for the USGA green section and a decade ago he recommended using 2-4-5-T for clover control. At the time, this formulation was considered to be too powerful but in recent years, recommendations made by Purdue University, have supported Mr. Crosby's experimental use of the chemical. Walter also isolated a superior strain of bent from one of Greenbrier's greens and was developing it at the time of his death.

He did a great deal of advisory and consulting work in the construction of courses in Virginia, W. Virginia and Maryland, and at the time of his death was supervising construction of an additional 18-hole course at the Greenbrier. Mr. Cosby was a member of the GCSA and, at one time, served on its advisory committee. He also was a past pres. of the Mid-Atlantic GCSA.

He is survived by his wife, Sara, a son, James Walter, a student at Marshall College, Huntington, W. Va., and a brother, Charles E.

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