

Business briefs

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independent committee have approved the sale of the company to an investor group comprised of Goldman Sachs' GS Capital Partners, Goldman Sachs' Whitehall Street Real Estate Fund 2001 and Starwood Capital Group's SOF VI U.S. Holdings LLC. In conjunction with the transaction, they will also purchase the outstanding equity interests of American Golf Corp. The combined transaction is valued at \$1.1 billion and includes full repayment of all existing National Golf and American Golf indebtedness. The transaction is expected to close in early 2003.

The companies will continue to own, lease or manage over 250 municipal, daily fee, resort and private golf courses and clubs.

David Price, founder of both American Golf and National Golf.

Robert Dedman, founder of ClubCorp, dead at 76

Robert H. Dedman, founder of ClubCorp and once called "the Henry Ford of the management business," died Aug. 20 at 76 after an undisclosed long illness.

Dedman was chairman of the board of directors of ClubCorp at the time of his death. He began ClubCorp in 1957 with the purchase of 400 acres in Dallas and subsequent development of Brookhaven CC.

ClubCorp eventually grew to hold \$1.6 billion in assets and internationally owns or operates more than 200 golf courses, country clubs, private business and sports clubs, and resorts. ClubCorp properties include Pinehurst Resort and CC in Pinehurst, N.C.; Firestone CC in Akron, Ohio; and Mission Hills CC in Rancho Mirage, Calif. Dedman purchased Pinehurst in 1984 after the Donald Ross-designed course had slipped into disrepair. Dedman restored the club to its now revered state.

Dedman's son, Robert Dedman Jr., has served as CEO of ClubCorp since 1998, and his daughter, Patricia Dedman Dietz, serves as a director for the company.

"I believe I speak for our extended family of ClubCorp members, guests, business
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Try to Lend a Helping Hand

SUPERINTENDENTS WHO VOLUNTEER HELP TO SHAPE THE INDUSTRY

By Frank Dobie

Volunteerism in the world of superintendents is not simply a nice thing to do; it's absolutely essential. Superintendents who volunteer help to shape the direction and integrity of the industry.

Where would we all be if it had not been for our predecessors, the people like Col. John Morley, John MacGregor, Chet Mendenhall and Fred Burkhardt, who took it upon themselves to create the National Greenkeepers Association? They banded together to pool their knowledge and resources. This all-volunteer group's dedication and love of the business gave us the legacy that we enjoy today.

However, their work was done years ago, and it would not have survived without the thousands of greenkeepers and superintendents who followed their lead for the past 75 years. Organizations stagnate unless they reinvent themselves over and over again with an eye toward the changing needs of the members.

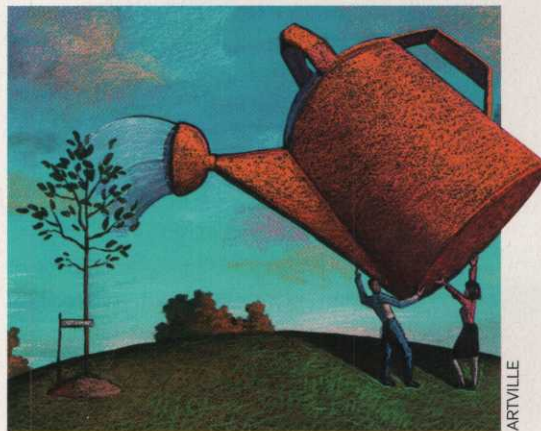
Opportunities to volunteer abound — from local GCSA chapters to state and national turfgrass organizations. All these groups operate on volunteer power. If members don't participate, important parts of the industry will die and be left to commercial ventures alone. And commercial ventures all have special interests.

Many superintendents also volunteer outside the industry by using their special talents and know-how. Whether in school systems or community parks, they not only strengthen the communities they live in but also build reputations within the communities. This participation, for the good of the communities, reaps many rewards beyond the obvious.

It's up to each of us to decide exactly how to contribute. People should volunteer in the area where their greatest interests lie — where they will enjoy their efforts without them being burdens or sacrifices. The satisfaction should come from what you do as well as the result.

Most people who volunteer do so not for credit or their own ego, but because they see that it's wanted and needed. Making a contribution is a natural part of being human. I've always been very proud, during my 41 years as a superintendent, to be associated with people who freely share their wisdom and time for the good of the whole.

Frank Dobie is superintendent and general manager of Sharon GC in Sharon Center, Ohio.



It's up to each superintendent to decide exactly how to contribute to the cause of keeping the interests of superintendents alive.