

Editor's Note: The following two articles lend some evidence to the fact that the debate of "what's in a name" is not a new one. The first article, which appeared in the March 1937 issue of "The Greenkeepers' Reporter" was written by Harold Stodola of Keller Park Municipal Golf Course in St. Paul, Minnesota. Mr. Stodola was president of the GCSAA from 1941 to 1945. He had a partial success in his argument over names — our national association changed its name from the National Association of Greenkeepers to the Greenkeeping Superintendents Association in 1938. The GCSAA name change did not come until 1951.

The second article was printed in the July 1937 issue of "The Greenkeepers' Reporter." It expressed the thoughts of Kent Bradley, who authored a regular feature in the magazine called "Kibitzing with Kent Bradley."

GREENKEEPER?

By Harold Stodola

The name "greenkeeper" is an old name originated, I believe, by the Scotch. Yet it is still misspelled and misunderstood by many people.

Dr. Monteith told the Minnesota Association that "greenkeeper" is made up of two words—green and keeper. He said green means the entire golf course. Therefore a greenkeeper is keeper of the entire golf course. What could be more specific?

Superintendent is a general word that means to supervise something—it may be anything from a shoe factory to goodness knows what. Isn't that too general? To superintendent you would have to add golf course or something else to define it, and still you would not call attention to fine turf like "greenkeeper" does.

Doctor is a general title. Neurologist is a nerve specialist. For nerve cases the doctor recommends the neurologist who draws the largest fee because he is a specialist. You will not draw more money for generalizing your name; in fact you will cease to be a specialist and consequently will be paid less. We have been blessed with a traditional name, full of meaning, that just breathes specialized work, and this is the age of specialists.

They say the word "greenkeeper" is not in the dictionary. Is that a reason why we should borrow a shop-worn word to take its place? We are big enough to put "greenkeeper" in the dictionary and then we will have accomplished something and retained our originality.

No matter who runs the golf course, the greenkeeper maintains the turf. He is the man to recognize. Let us push the name, not sidetrack it for something common.

If you want to separate this organization from the credit for maintaining the finest turf, just change your name to superintendent and tie yourself up with other general superintendents. To try to elevate a profession by changing the name is folly.

Perhaps some think our name is too simple and homely. It is simple and homely, and so are the words of the Gettysburg Address which will always be a masterpiece.

When did golf courses start to go ahead? When the job became too much for one man who really was a superintendent and the greenkeeper stepped in making greenkeeping his profession.

Do you want to go backwards by becoming superintendents and general men with a general title? Stick to a specialized title like "greenkeeper." Live up to the name, and you will be recognized as a turf specialist and will be well paid for it.

Kibitzing with Kent Bradley

THE DISCUSSION on "superintendent vs. greenkeeper" appears to be not as a tempest in the teapot, but rather a trend of the times. A large percentage, if not a majority of organizations, whether affiliated or not, are changing their name to "superintendents."

SURVEYING THE situation as a little toad in a big puddle, the following was found to be true in New York. The Metropolitan District has ten golf courses. One superintendent is over ten golf supervisors who have charge of the maintenance of the courses and clubhouses.

FURTHER INVESTIGATION reveals several "rich counties" (i.e. high tax rates) who have—

1. Head foreman over three courses having "greenkeepers."
2. Head greenkeeper over three greenkeepers recruited from the ranks of the WPA.
3. Chief horticulturist over two foremen-greenkeepers.
4. Assistant engineer-golf superintendent over greenkeeper.
5. On a daily time report, the golf course superintendent was formerly to sign the sheet after the title of "foreman," and there was a column for time recording listed under "greenkeeper" along with the course labor distribution cost.

THE NEW YORK Metropolitan District employees are under civil service, which applies both to officials and labor. Frequently they are unable to get the same men back each year and often have to break in a new crew with the aid of the WPA men who claim golf course experience.

WITH THE above in mind, one questions the championing of the name "greenkeeper." It is as futile as the efforts of the "Sons & Daughters of I Will Arise"—plenty of smoke, but little fire.

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IT HAS been suggested to call the National Association, "The Professional Greenkeeping Society." In a back issue of the old "National Greenkeeper," Professor L. S. Dickinson said that when a man thinks he is ripe, he begins to get rotten. Apparently only those who have an open mind to learn, keep "green" and are able to grow. Many greenkeepers do not keep green. Those who do not procrastinate progress are of higher calibre and they desire and deserve a better name. It is well known that many of the best greenkeepers are on the worst courses. They are needed there, or there just wouldn't be any golf course.

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ON A COMPLIMENTARY golf course labor distribution sheet, the name "greenkeeper" and "greenskeeper" appear with two spellings. Who is to decide on the correct spelling, let alone the proper defining of the word? In the event Messrs. Funk & Wagnall print the name, what then? Too few people read the Bible and the dictionary. The average person's vocabulary is limited to only a few hundred words—hence the popularity of newspaper tabloids.

BRAYTON MEETING A SUCCESS

By Ric Lange

On Thursday, December 6, Brayton Chemical Technical Representative Joe Wollner hosted the company's first annual turf information meeting at the Holiday Inn Southeast in Madison. The main speaker for the meeting was Dr. Robert Shearman, Professor of Agronomy at the University of Nebraska. Other guest speakers included Paul Steinbrick, Technical Representative of Rigo Chemicals Corporation; Robert Hefta, Technical Representative of Union Carbide Corporation; and Steve Bird, District Sales Manager for Brayton.

The meeting convened shortly after 9:00 A.M. following a registration hour highlighted by coffee, sweet rolls and extensive and friendly discourse among attending turfgrass managers. Dr. Shearman began his talk by addressing problems of weed control in turf. He stressed the importance of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the best method of weed control, with chemicals representing only one aspect of an entire and complete program. Prevention and control can be achieved to a great extent non-chemically by manipulating genetic, cultural, physical and biological factors. Dr. Shearman did note, however, that chemicals remain a strategic component in most weed control programs. Careful selection and use of herbicides and Plant Growth Regulators (PGR), in addition to other facets of a good IPM scheme, can effectively and economically control the majority of weeds in turf.

Weed control in general was broken down into three parts, based on the type of weed to be controlled (both annual and perennial grasses, and broadleaf weeds).

The discussion of annual grassy weeds included the plant, the environment, and the conditions that favor germination. Field test results showed DCPA (Dacthal) and Oxadiazon (Ronstar) offering better than average control, with