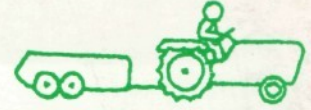




SPREADING THE BREEZE

By Rod Johnson



DOG DAYS!!!

"Dog Days" is terminology normally reserved for those nasty days in August. I wonder if February and early March might not also be Dog Days for Wisconsin Superintendents? Ground Hog Day does little to cure the winter blues that inevitably strike during the time period between the GCSAA Conference and Show and those April showers which finally bring the much dreamed of green grass.

On the positive side, it is a time to sit back and reflect on the winter which is passing and, more specifically, Arizona and the recent GCSAA Conference and Show. As expected there have been nothing but rave reviews of Phoenix. All WGCSA members should be proud of the leadership role that Wisconsin has assumed in GCSAA activities. From numerous trade show exhibitors, educational speakers, Distinguished Service Awards, keynote speakers, newsletter awards, elected members of GCSAA Board of Directors, committee participation, Scholarship Award Winners, to just plain the number of Wisconsin attendees, WGCSA presence is known.

A detailed summary of activities at the Phoenix Conference appears elsewhere in this issue; therefore, my report should be titled, "Jottings from the Diary of a Hobo's Roommate."

As most of you are aware of, and are probably getting tired of hearing about, six of WGCSA's finest were "players", and I use the word loosely, in the Pre-Conference GCSAA Golf Tournament. Please refer to last issue for "Players" names, should you be so inclined. The challenge issued in Proposition Bushwood by Joe Wollner was a bit too stiff for our happy group of Sno-Birds. Rusty golf swings and extremely difficult courses are the only excuses we can offer. (The weather was a bitch too!) Scores as reported in the Tucson Daily News were "Hobo" 83-88, "C.B." 90-80, "Rockin Rod" 85-90, "Deep Pockets" 101-80, "Gorilla" 103-96, "Sand Bags" 104-118. The most quotable quote of the event and quite possibly of all times went to the "player" who shaved 21 strokes off his opening round. In one of those moments "Deep Pockets" was overheard to say "I like to keep the ball in play!" No syrurp Steverino, I think we

all agree with that! Showing excellent sportsmanship and an ability to administer \$50 arm twists, Joe Wollner will be making a sizable donation to WGCSA's Scholarship and Research Fund despite the high numbers posted by the Cheese Heads.

The opening session of the Phoenix Conference and Show had the appearance of a Badger Pep Rally. *Dr. J.R. Love* received a GCSAA Distinguished Service Award, *Monroe Miller*, Editor of the Grass Roots received the third consecutive best overall award for WGCSA Journal, and *Michael Lee*, U.W.-Madison Turf student received a GCSAA Scholarship Award. The "kick-off" address was given by former Green Bay Packer Coach *Bart Starr*.

An outdoor cocktail party and reception followed the opening session and included live entertainment and a dance contest. The lone Wisconsin couple entered in the dance contest finished in a disappointing fourth place.

The Phoenix Trade Show floor had more than two dozen Wisconsin Companies displaying their wares. Huge is the best description for the Trade Show. It does bother me, though, that the cities GCSAA will hold future Conferences and Shows in could be limited to us by the number of exhibitors and hence Convention Center floor space. A sold out show floor could mean that our group might not be able to return to that city.

This year's Annual Meeting and Election of Officers brought interesting results. *Donald E. Hern*, Massachusetts assumed the duties of GCSAA President as expected. *John A. Segui*, Pennsylvania was elected Vice-President. *Dennis D. Lyon*, Colorado, *Stephen G. Cadenelli*, New Jersey, and *Randy Nichols*, Georgia were elected to 2-year terms on GCSAA Board of Directors.

At the post-Conference GCSAA Board of Directors meeting our own *Bill Roberts* was assigned Chairmanship of both the Public Relations Committee and the Communications and Awards Committee. Additionally Bill will assist *Gerry Faubel* with the Scholarship and Research Committee. Bill's assignment to chair the Communications and Awards Committee means that he now is the GCSAA Board of Directors contact regarding Golf Course Management Magazine. Should you have any constructive conversation in regard to

the magazine or just want to know why you haven't received your latest issue, call Bill.

Unfortunately my jottings from the Phoenix Conference must end incompletely. Annually the Conference and Show ends with a gala Banquet and most entertaining show. This year's entertainment also had a Wisconsin flair. This reporter has been denied complete freedom of journalistic expression by threatened censorship. You had to be there!

Enough said on Arizona. I hope everyone had a good return trip, including *Tom Harrison* who was booked home on the John Madden Express (Amtrak)!

Back on our home turf, it seems that the only fertility levels that are down are those on our fairways. Congratulations for offspring in the oven are due to *Pat and Sue Norton*, *Marc and Laurie Davison*, *Ric and Cheryl Lange* and the *Ed Witkowski's*. Please note that none of these couples were in attendance at last October's Dinner Dance.

This issue's swinging door has *Gordie Waddington* moving from his Assistant position at Brynwood to the Superintendent position at Chaska in Appleton. *Jack Soderberg* is the new Superintendent at Tumblebrook in Pewaukee. *Tom Parent* moves from Blackhawk C.C.'s Assistant GCS to Cherry Hills of Door County as Superintendent. *Dale Marach* is leaving the weed-picking end of the business and will be peddling Green Iron for Hanley Implement. Congratulations and the best of luck in your new endeavors.

One last parting thought to reflect upon before the busy season starts. Whispered conversation during a Phoenix educational session concurred with my opinion. Too often Club Golf Professionals refer to us, either in their casual conversations or even in formal presentations as *My Superintendent* or even *My Guy*. I resent the possessive connotation of this terminology. Slavery was abolished long before the invention of golf cars or polyester pants. Any club which would allow the Golf Professional to own a Superintendent probably views a Golf Professional in the lofty position of a dressed up caddy. It works both ways!

Adios Amigos!

from the Canis latrans