



## LIFE IN THE "PAST" LANE



How many of the 1967 officers and directors of the WGCSA do you recognize? From left to right: Director "Ham" Hanneman, Secretary Don Hornibrook, Director Peter Miller, President Art Post, Director Buddy Holly (a.k.a. Bob Musbach), Vice President Bill Sell and Director Allan Kress.

## Hobbies

### LOVING THE GREEN OF THE "GREEN and GOLD"!

WGCSA member Randy Witt loves football. If you are looking for him on Saturday or Sunday afternoons in the autumn, better go directly to either Camp Randall or Lambeau Field. That's probably where he and Mary and son Ryan will be, cheering on their beloved Badgers or Packers.

Given the status of Wisconsin's only two big-time football teams, you'd have to love the game if you are as excited about it as Randy. This year marks 20 years since the Packers have been in the Super Bowl and 25 years since the Badgers have gone to the Rose Bowl. It isn't that Randy and all of the other football fans in Wisconsin don't like to win — we most certainly do. But it may be that we put more value — a lot more value — on loyalty, tradition, hope and a good time.

And if you're looking for Randy "after hours" from late July and on into the autumn months, forget calling his office. Go directly to the Oneida Street practice facility. That's where he will be, watching practice, evaluating new draft choices and players, and preparing his weekly "inside" report on the Packers for the GRASS ROOTS editor.

If you cannot find Randy at practice, there is only one other place he might be — on Lambeau's field itself. He has taken a lot of interest and given a lot of time (and experience) to the playing field inside the stadium on Lombardi Avenue.

I've heard it said a hundred times, from nearly all broadcasters and many sports reporters, that Lambeau has the best playing field in the NFL. Paul Hornung says it on every one of his preseason game broadcasts. John Madden loves the field; so does Max McGee. These are unqualified statements: Lambeau is superior to all others.

There are many reasons that lead players and coaches to this conclusion. The field is designed strictly for football — not for baseball, not for soccer and most certainly not for rock concerts. It's used almost exclusively by the Packers; it isn't beat up on Saturday afternoons by college teams or on Friday nights by high school teams. The field is properly crowned. There isn't a poor seat in the house; everyone is close to the action of the game. It is a colorful and

## TWENTY (PLUS ONE) YEARS AGO...

From Volume 1, No. 9, December 1966 issue of the WGCSA **Bulletin** come these comments about the very first Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium, from Editor Peter F. Miller:

### 1st ANNUAL Golf Turf Symposium

HILTON INN  
Grand Ballroom

2611 W. Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**December 14-15, 1966**

### What About Winter Turf Injury?

I am sure that if you are truthful with yourself you are not sure that your golf course is going into the winter fully protected or that it is ready for winter. Some questions are: are the greens cut too short or not short enough, or did the greens get enough water, or are the aerifier holes sufficiently closed so that dessication does not take place, did the snow mold protection you put on adequately cover the area that you wanted to cover, and what will the damage be from snowmobiles, toboggans, etc.? All of these are questions you might have or someone else might also want to ask them. Certainly no one person knows all the answers, and if he does he is in the wrong business. No one should go away from this symposium with unanswered questions. This could easily be the most opportunistic time you will ever have to learn the complete story on winter injury.

This should be an informative program. The people with the greatest amount of knowledge (practical, educational, hypothetical) are going to be on the panel. If these people cannot answer your questions, it could just be that no one can.

You notice that I keep mentioning questions. This is particularly important at any conference, but specifically at a symposium, which is a detailed analysis of one subject. It follows that that the program is one which requires your attention and your questions.

The program or symposium is an innovation. The WGCSA along with the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission



ventured forth to put this on. A great deal of work from a group of dedicated men has gone into the decisions that bring about a symposium such as this. Joe Deschler of Tripoli C.C., Gerry Faubel of the South Hills Club, Allen Kress of River Oaks C.C. and the boys at the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, Charlie Wilson, Robert Welch and Jim Latham, are only a few who worked towards this goal.

It was hoped that the date in the middle of December might have a number of purposes, not all to the advantage of the superintendent though. We hoped that this would be a relatively free time of the year for most of us and also for the speakers. The one disadvantage though would be that your wife might want to visit Milwaukee and buy Christmas presents as well. Actually, we hope she does, but spends your money wisely.

All that remains then is for you to come to the symposium, with your wife and your green committee chairman or club official, not necessarily in that order. I cannot stress too emphatically that you bring along someone of authority from your club. Take advantage of these opportunities. They come too few and far between. These are not only learning experiences for yourself but also for the club officials. They cannot help but be impressed with you for having associated yourself with an organization capable of putting on such an informative program and with the content of the program itself. Either way you come out far ahead.

Now since you are very enthused about the symposium, we're sure we will see you, your green chairman and your wife at the turf symposium, Dec. 14-15, in Milwaukee at the Hilton Inn.

## THE "FUNNIES"

*You Know You're A  
Golf Course Superintendent ....*



When you find out why your new right hand man's nickname is Lefty!

well maintained stadium. And most important of all, it has natural grass playing surface. Football was meant to be played on turf, not carpeting. In fact, natural grass fields are a key negotiating point between the NFL Players Association and the owners. Our gridiron heroes want to play on grass.

It shouldn't really surprise anyone that, when asked for some counsel three years ago, Randy Witt immediately became an "unofficial" member of the team managing the field and practice areas for the Packers.

Two of Randy's friends are in charge of the facilities for the Green Bay Packers — Ted Eisenreich and Todd Edlebeck. Ted and Todd have a couple of other full-time employees and are assisted by a small army preceding game day. Covering the field with tarps, cleaning the stands, removing snow, mowing, painting the field, and a raft of other tasks require a large staff at various times.

One of the primary criteria coaches use when selecting players is speed. And this is directly reflected in what both Bart Starr and Forrest Gregg wanted in field conditions. They demand a surface that allows those players to use their speed and therefore Lambeau is closely cropped at 1" to 1¼". The field is mowed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On Saturdays before a home game, the field is "striped" by mowing in opposite directions on adjacent five-yard intervals. One of the recommendations Ted and his staff have appreciated from Randy was the purchase of a Ransomes Motor 180 for cutting Lambeau. The practice field is cut on a similar schedule with Jacobsen gang mowers.

Lambeau Field and the practice areas are fertilized on the average, four times a year using either a 26-3-6 or a 18-5-9 product. Randy recommended a regular program of fertility, rather than the "as needed" additions. Another very excellent suggestion from Randy that has worked well for Lambeau is spraying plant nutrients to "color" the field before home games. His recommendation included the use of 33-0-16 and ample amounts of Microgreen. The results have been obvious.

Golf courses find it necessary to establish levels of preventative applications of fungicides. Here again, the staff has followed Witt's recommendations very closely with excellent results. Bayleton and Daconil 2787 form the backbone of disease prevention and control on the playing field.

Neither the stadium nor the practice areas have underground irrigation systems, so watering them becomes a major task. The fields are watered infrequently but deeply. The equipment used includes a 6" main and smaller laterals that are moved down the field at intervals determined by the amount of water needed. Seven moves are required to water Lambeau; more are needed for the practice areas. Because of the extremely high temperatures in the stadium in the summer, careful coordination of fertilization, disease control and irrigation is necessary.

Reams have been written about the underground heating system Coach Lombardi installed in the playing field. Usually it is used only once a year, late in the season. But its presence is being felt at other times for another reason — frost heaving. There is some concern that the rise of the coils may restrict field aeration in the future. And aeration, as you might expect, is part of their management program. Topdressing is usually accomplished in the April to July period, before training camp opens.

Renovation of the worn field in the spring almost exclusively involves overseeding. Little sodding is done. And during the season, overseeding of thin and worn areas is completed weekly. A ProTurf Athletic blend is used that contains a good percentage of the perennial ryegrasses.

One of the things you might notice on a walk across the field, according to Randy, is that the turf is thick, heavy and somewhat thatchy. This is by design and management. Close cropping is an advantage for speed; a thick turf is an important factor in reducing injuries to the players and it significantly enhances the wear and tear tolerance of the field.

Hope springs eternal in the hearts of the Green Bay Packer fans. And hope is about all most of us can do. But for Randy Witt, his sharing of the education and experience in turfgrass management he has complements the hope he also carries for a winning season. He's contributing in a way that goes beyond the purchase of a ticket, tailgating and cheering in the stands. He has made the green in the "green and gold" something very special.

Super Bowl XXV — here we come!