



President's Message FINIS

I knew this day would come and, quite frankly, I haven't been looking forward to it. This will be the last chance I'll have to write a "President's Message." It isn't writing the column that I'll miss — there are ways to compensate, as you'll see — but rather I'm about to give up a position that has been a singular honor and a distinct privilege. Of all the offices I've held in other groups in my life, none has come close to offering the pleasures and rewards the WGCSA presidency has. I thank all of you for that.

It seems appropriate on the eve of succession to look back at what principles and attitudes guided me for the two terms I was president. Words of wisdom from two small quotes I read and memorized 20 years ago influenced me greatly. I think they are worth repeating. The first is a paragraph penned by Daniel Burnham that is entitled "Make Big Plans." It goes like this:

"Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably in themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will never die, but long after we are gone will be a living thing asserting itself with evergrowing intensity. Remember that our sons and grandsons are going to do things that would stagger us."

The literal translation may seem somewhat overwhelming, but the lesson between the lines applies anywhere. I recognized the risks one takes in aggravating people with such an approach, but the in-

tentions were sincere and I selfishly believe many of the results were positive. It is right for me to thank WGCSA directors of the past two years for support in some of the "big plans" I put before them. Specifics aside, I strongly believe that dealing with larger issues leads to a lot of sifting and winnowing on the part of the WGCSA membership and our organization will always prosper from those experiences.

This short, anonymous poem on perseverance applies throughout life's endeavors and I recalled it many times these past two years:

*"If a task is once begun
Never leave it till it's done.
Be the labor great or small,
Do it well or not at all."*

I vowed on election day in November 1983 at Hartford Country Club that I would always give the responsibilities I'd accepted something more than a lick and a promise. A lot of what must be done by a WGCSA president is hardly exciting, but must dutifully be taken care of, nevertheless. Attention to such details was, more than once, inspired by these few lines.

If asked to summarize a general overall goal as president for the past two years, it would be amplifying our **esprit de corps**. This fine French phrase, which is too often used loosely, is defined by Webster as "the common spirit pervading the members of a body or association of persons. It implies sympathy, enthusiasm, devotion and jealous regard for the honor of the body as a whole." **Espirit**, in its best function, can keep the members of a group working toward the same goal. In the end, nearly everything I endeavored to do had this in mind.

Serving with the WGCSA officers and directors of the past two years, as well as becoming better acquainted with so many of our members, gives one a good state of mind about the position of president. We have formidable numbers of people in our association who are qualified for leadership positions. This led to a view that the two terms served as president were merely "my turn." There is no need to worry of our future — we have great quality in our membership. The fact that our roster is filled with men more suited than I

to serve as president gave me a big dose of humility.

Of all that is dreaded, whatever it might be, there is always some good. The good of becoming a past president will be enjoying the fine company of all the men who preceded me in this office. This also is a rare privilege.

Public thanks are due to my wife Cheryl, who never once complained of meetings attended or business completed at night and on weekends. My assistants over the past two years — David Noltner, Mike Semler and Tom Parent — deserve thanks for their understanding and increased work load at certain times. John Kotz, Green Committee Chairman at Blackhawk Country Club for the past four years, always has applauded my involvement in professional associations and I'm grateful to him for that. Past President Jim Belfield offered the kind of advice and perspective to me that I hope to give to my successor. And Roger Bell always was willing to listen to the raft of ideas I put to him. His brutal honesty was needed and appreciated. Gene Haas, Marilyn Gaffney and Diane Haas tend to so much of our business that I dread to think of where we'd be without them. And again, to all of you, my deep gratitude for permitting me this period of what I hope has been helpful and useful service. I'd do it again in a minute.

Thanks for the memories.

Monroe S. Miller



COOKSON FEATURED AT OCTOBER WGCSA MEETING



Dr. David Cookson, author of "A Player's Perspective," considers a question from his audience of WGCSA members.

Host Golf Course Superintendent Randy Smith provided superb golf course conditions at the Nakoma Golf Club, site of the final golf meeting of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association. The meeting, held on October 15, was attended by 70 WGCSA members and guests.

Dr. Jim Love took advantage of the Madison meeting site to introduce the 1985-1986 group of Turf Management students enrolled at the UW—Madison. The current classes total 15 students who are working on their Bachelor of Science degrees.

The speaker for the meeting was Dr. David Cookson, a leader in amateur golf in not only Wisconsin but at the national level as well. He has particularly close kinship with the WGCSA since he has, for the past two years, served as a columnist in the GRASSROOTS as author of "A Player's Perspective." In a wide ranging speech, Dr. Cookson touched on some timely topics important to Golf Course Superintendents. Among many of the points he made were:

1. The emphasis in management of a golf course must be, of course, the putting surfaces. Key points, in his opinion, were the need to mow greens **every** day, including Mondays. He feels that if greens are neglected on Monday it takes until Thursday to recapture the speed of those surfaces. He feels strongly that more attention needs to be given to placement of the cups and that this task also needs to be done each day for the frequent golfer. He complimented Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents on their progress in judicious use of water, especially

on putting greens and decried conditions in the past when they were more often too wet than too hard. A firm putting surface is a paramount goal in managing quality putting greens. Consistency was also emphasized. He spent some time qualifying fast greens but amplified the need for "fast" conditions. This judgement can be made by providing greens where the player is able to stroke the ball, not hit it.

2. Dr. Cookson spent just a few minutes on tees, and his remarks were summarized by saying that tees should be short and level, and that the tee blocks should be moved daily. He is of the mind that good players would rather hit from a tee that is bare soil than from one that is too long.

3. Cookson's comments about quality fairway conditions can be summarized by saying "keep them dry." He also feels that a height of cut around 1/2 inches should be considered, even at the expense of some turf losses. He also pleaded "Don't water the players!" on those days when syringing had to be done.

4. Fundamental to good sand bunkers was dryness — Dr. Cookson felt that Golf Course Superintendents should consider watering putting greens early in the evening hours so that sand in adjacent bunkers had a longer period of time to dry prior to play. He also suggested using modest amounts of sand and keeping bunkers on the lean side. He pointed out that the frequent player appreciates having sand traps raked on a regular basis in the late season.

5. Among opinions that offered the most conversation were Cookson's comments on aerating; quoting, "Don't aerate fairways!" He did recognize that there are instances when it is necessary — different soil conditions, varying amounts of thatch and needs for leveling. He asked that when it is necessary, be certain to give the membership of the Club adequate notice, don't aerate in the rain, and consider cutting down on the number of aerations in a season. His reasoning had less to do with the need of aerification and more to do with the disruption of play in an area when the golf season is

already too short.

6. He had only brief recommendations on golf course trees and those mainly related to trimming. Most emphasis was placed on trimming those trees that have overgrown the air space above fairways and he commonly sees fairways there 30 — 40 percent of this space is grown over.

7. The closing of a golf course is a frequently discussed topic among players and golf course managers, and Dr. Cookson expressed himself on this topic in a past issue of the GRASSROOTS. He again said that he didn't think a course should ever be closed and most certainly not to the walking golfer. His feelings are qualified, however, by early morning frost and he does recognize the damage that can result from playing on those mornings.

Dr. Cookson had several general comments that focused on the relationship between the Golf Course Superintendent and the Green Committee Chairman. Foremost was the thought that we should work to develop a partnership with the Chairman, rather than an adversary. He advised to never surprise the Chairman with decisions we've made on the golf course, suggested regular **committee** meetings and not with the Chairman alone. He begged not to bother the Club President with trivia, but do inform him of major problems, should they arrive. Most golf course problems should be solved with the Green Committee.

Other good points he made, especially during his conclusion, were the importance to admit mistakes and never make excuses; do not hesitate to experiment; and finally, always strive for excellence.

Winners of the various golf events of the day were as follows:

Closest to the pin on #4 — Roy Zehren, Closest to the pin on #13 — Pat Norton, Longest drive on #16 — Rod Johnson, Longest putt on #8 — Scott Gardener, Closest to the pin on #15 (2 strokes) — Erv Graf, Closest to the pin on #9 (2 strokes) — Kelly Johnson, Longest putt on #18 — Bob Markham, Blind bogey — Roy Zehren, Bud Kelsenberg, Rod Johnson, Mik Aponia, Roger Bell, Dean Lund, Jim Belfield, and Ray Mertens.

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Editorial

HIGH FANTASY, INDEED

By Monroe S. Miller

I write a column for a newsletter called "THE BADGER BROADCAST," a publication of the Wisconsin chapter of the Club Managers Association of America, and receive a copy of each newsletter. The issue before last had a lead story that doubled me over in a paroxysm of anger — they're still promoting the concept of general manager for golf and country clubs. I thought this bureaucratic notion had died a natural death from lack of interest and because it is almost completely devoid of even a thread of merit. I guess I was wrong.

The article is "authorless" (I can see why) and was reprinted from the March 1985 issue of the National Club Association publication **Perspectives**. If you would like a copy of the article, call me. You need to know the kind of thinking and promoting that goes on, sometimes even behind your back. Two groups are heavy into this bluster about a GM — the NCA and the CMAA. Both are good groups and contribute to the club industry, but they are way off the mark on this one.

It is assumed and supposed that the clubhouse manager is the one that will move into a GM position, if a club can be hooked on this ludicrous and preposterous "idea." Oh, there is token gesture made to our group. Quoting from the article: "Through the years, we have seen club general managers who have risen through the ranks of the Club Managers Association of America and of the Professional Golfers Association. Individual Golf Course Superintendents, too, have demonstrated the capability to enhance or change their role to that of a general manager." Thanks for the afterthought.

Early in the article, while trying (hopelessly) to build an argument for their point of view, their prejudice really shows. Again, quoting: "For instance, the greens committee chairman may recommend to the board that it is appropriate to spend \$50,000 on a new tractor that the golf course superintendent believes is necessary. The chairman assures the board that the budget is sufficient to cover this expense. In reality, although there are budgetary dollars to cover the expense, it may be of a lower priority than other needed improvements, and the purchase will deplete the funds for these. Or, the club's board may have made a decision two years before not to purchase the tractor, but the new committee chairman is unaware of the previous decision." I have several thoughts:

1. The NCA doesn't seem to know that it is the GREEN committee.

2. Wouldn't you love to see one of those \$50,000 tractors? For all the equipment shows I've attended, never once have I seen one. Shows the author's interest in and knowledge of golf courses — he's one who would make a lousy GM.

3. Why not use an example of \$50,000 worth of bar furniture and the House chairman instead — it's called even handedness and open mindedness.

4. It is assumed that the Golf Course Superintendent is uninformed about previous decisions, a rude assumption. Many of us report directly to the Board of Directors and are well aware of their decisions and priorities.

5. It is assumed that the Green Committee Chairman is also uninformed and that he cares not about the club but only the golf course. This seldom is the case. He wants a well ordered priority list and probably doesn't even want a \$20,000 tractor if the clubhouse roof leaks or the bar furniture is worn beyond repair. And it is certain that the Board of Directors does not need a GM to point out the obvious. Directors are among the most successful citizens in the community and have operated thousands of clubs for many years, and will continue to do so, with intelligence and a concern for what is best for the club.

The **Perspective** article explains

the specific role of a GM. Guess where they got their "excellent core definition" of the general manager's role? Yep — Club Managers Association of America. Guess where the organization chart for a club under a GM came from? (One guess).

Nowhere in the NCA article do they tell what is wrong with the clubs managed by a triumvirate system. They ask the question "Who's in charge here?", and it is easily answered with "the Board of Directors, obviously." They miss (or won't recognize) that the triumvirate concept has worked tremendously well for over a century in thousands and thousands of clubs. It has, by and large, provided balance and a well ordered integration of the principal elements of a club, regardless of the kind of club. It has provided stability and harmony that is encouraged by divisional entrepreneurship by each department head. Carried another step, it has given clubs the synergism of these three department heads (in the case of golf clubs), combining the ideas of all three. The result is a sum that adds up to prosperous and progressive clubs that cannot find the need to convert to the GM style. A GM cannot improve the situation. The triumvirate system insures that the Board of Directors hear **all** sides of an issue, not just a one-sided discussion with the GM; a good system of checks and balances exists and it ought to be left alone.

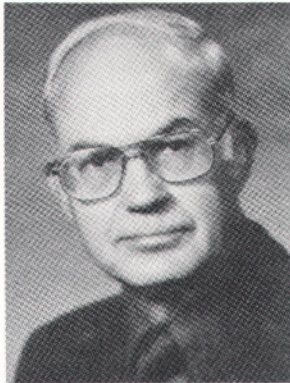
I'm not going to suggest that there aren't a few situations where a GM might work or could even be the best system. But the **Perspectives** article, unburdened by fact, reality or historical perspective (no pun intended!), implies even those clubs open for only part of the year would find a GM worthwhile. The argument that institution of a GM is a wise business move ignores the fact that if clubs were totally run like businesses, half of what is provided for the members would be eliminated.

I think there are other reasons why we should be alarmed and on guard — more personal reasons. The extra staff person represents extra salary that has to come from somewhere; he isn't going to be paid from the money he saves. Best guess is that he will also ex-

(Continued on page 7)

Wisconsin Pathology Report

Snow mold: causes, control suggestions —and some perceptions



By Dr. Gayle L. Worf
Department of Plant Pathology
Cooperative Extension Service
UW—Madison

In most years, snow mold is a very damaging disease to non-protected fine turf surfaces. Our long winters, often preceded by periods of cold, wet rains and followed by heavy snowfall that keeps the frost level scant or non-existent is ideal for the development of snow mold. Late springs, especially when they are wet, further aid and abet serious snow mold problems. So it is worth a few minutes of time to review snow mold causes and control. We'll also comment on some of our observations with snow mold control research over the past few years, as well as some general observations on snow problems in the state.

CAUSES OF SNOW MOLD

Typhula, or gray snow mold, is the most common type of snow mold we see in Wisconsin. In the northern half of the state, *Typhula ishikariensis* var *canadensis* is the predominant pathogen, while in the southern half of the state the fungus *Typhula incarnata* predominates. When sclerotia are present in the springtime, the two can be differentiated by the much smaller sized sclerotia of *T. ishikariensis*. (Sclerotia are the tiny black or brown bodies found embedded in the diseased turf or on the leaf surface.) *Typhula* is usually much harder to control in



the northern part of the state. While this may be due in part to the different fungus, we think the primary reason is the longer, more favorable environment for snow mold.

The second disease has long been called "pink snow mold" or "pink patch" because of the pinkish cast to fresh infections in some instances. (The latter is not a good name, because it is now the accepted name for a summer disease caused by the fungus *Limonomyces*.) The name of the causal organism has been changed several times. Historically, it was called *Fusarium nivale*. So it's sometimes also incorrectly called "Fusarium patch." The botanical name had been changed to *Gerlachia*, and more recently, *Microdochium*. Pink snow mold sometimes damages turf in late fall during cold, damp weather, but more commonly it occurs in late winter or early spring. It has become an increasing concern on well-managed fairways where it often appears with a late season snowfall.

Other low temperature diseases occasionally occur in Wisconsin and the upper midwest. Minnesota has reported *Sclerotinia borealis*, a fungus producing much larger sclerotia than *Typhula*, causing damage on occasion. The fungus *Acremonium boreale* has been observed in association with snow mold here and elsewhere. We even observed red thread causing winter damage during a relatively warm wet period in December, and a few unknowns occur upon occasion, but they've not become important.

SOME CONTROL SUGGESTIONS

In most instances control measures are selected to provide control for both gray and pink snow mold, though increasingly, some fairways are being treated primarily with a pink snow mold fungicide because of cost and frequency of the problem there. Several chemicals have registra-

tion for snow mold, and most of these will do some good where disease pressure is not too severe, and especially where "summer" fungicides have also been applied into September and October. Research, observations and experience indicate that combinations of two or more good fungicides have given better results when disease pressure is high, rather than one fungicide applied singly. In the northern part of the state, best success has been achieved when an inorganic mercurial (Calo-clor or Calo-gran) is combined with pentachloronitrobenzene (PCNB) (ProTurf FF II, Terraclor or Turfcide). Combining them at half the labeled rate of each product has given virtually as much protection as higher rates. Better success yet is gained when an application of chlorothalonil (Daconil 2787) or PMA-Thiram (ProTurf Board Spectrum Fungicide) is made about mid-October. This also affords some protection against last fall dollar spot or early pink snow mold.

In southern Wisconsin, chloroneb (ProTurf Fungicide II, Terremec SP) has often performed a little better than PCNB in combination with mercuries, and some superintendents have been happy with either of these products alone.

These suggestions are only applicable to greens, tees and aprons at distances greater than 25 feet from water, since mercuries can only be used there.

PCNB has become increasingly important as an economical and reasonably effective treatment for fairways, especially for control of pink snow mold. Rates of four ounces/1000 ft² of the 75% formulation have given nearly as good control as higher rates, and in some trials, three ounces of PCNB 75W and two of Terremec SP have been slightly superior to PCNB alone against pink snow mold. Such a combination might improve activity against gray snow mold, too but it hasn't been present in recent years' trials, so we don't know that for sure.

When should treatments be made? We used to think that late applications, just before "permanent" snowfall was best, but late October treatments last year at Westmoor were better than mid-November treatments! Some less

effective chemicals failed completely with the second date. In the Wausau trial, there was not much difference. Trials in previous years have trended the same way. Our 1984-85 results were not striking, as there was relatively little disease. However, there was enough to support earlier years' observations that neither the newer registered fungicides nor several experimentals have provided as consistent snow mold control as the earlier "tried and true" compounds.

Two other comments seem in order. First, our most common snow mold failures in recent years have been on courses where transitions in superintendents have occurred, and proper treatments sort of "fall through the slats." If you're in a new location this year, my admonition would be: Don't take anything for granted on snow mold control!" Secondly, the northern part of the state suffered severely this past winter from a long siege of ice that began in December and lasted through March. In most situations the cause was obvious, but in marginal areas, the damage sometimes mimicked snow mold. Laboratory tests told us that the problem was not disease. We hope no part of the state fares badly this winter—either from fungal or physical damage!

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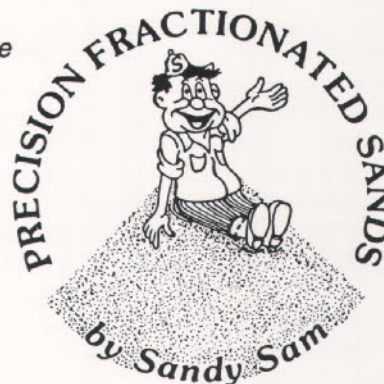
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High Fantasy continued

pect (I would) to make more than existing department heads. This will stifle your potential earnings at your club, unless you are the GM! I think this concept not only threatens our salary as Golf Course Superintendents, it also threatens our identity and stability. If the Golf Course Superintendent has a good year, the GM gets the praise. If the golf course has a bad year, color the golf course superintendent GONE.

The GM concept isolates the Superintendent from the members of the club. We need that contact to sell ourselves, our programs and our ideas to the membership, the Green Committee and the Board **directly**, not through a figurehead.

And let's face it — the GM will end up being a false title anyway. Most will never have control over

the Golf Committee or the Green Committee or the House Committee. There is great risk he will be resented, no matter how sincere. When he goes to buy one of those \$50,000 tractors, the House Chairman will declare that the bar furniture is needed much more. What problem has the GM solved here? He will be subjected to fierce lobbying and chances are that the strongest and most convincing chairman will prevail, NOT the most pressing problem.

I subscribe to the old saying "if it ain't broke, don't fix it," when it comes to this proposal. If I didn't have respect for the NCA and its officials, I would suggest they were feigning seriousness. I am convinced, however, that the CMAA harbors a gene that compels them to constantly and con-

tinually promote this idea, in hopes of creating another rung for their club manager members to step up. The ultimate solution for us, if this silly notion crops up, is to apply for the job. I think many of us would get it. But that doesn't change the fact that the idea has little or no merit.

The problem of the general manager concept is that it is high fantasy. Most clubs have seen that and left things well enough alone. "Greater than the tread of mighty armies," wrote Victor Hugo, "is an idea whose time has come." Well, the GM idea is one whose time **hasn't** come and probably won't. It's a bad idea that won't be instituted, no matter how often it is brought to the table. It doesn't need to be revised or refined or resurrected; it needs to be buried.

FOURTH ANNUAL WISCONSIN TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION GOLF OUTING HELD AT MAPLE BLUFF

WTA President Tom Harrison hosted the Association's fourth annual golf outing at his home golf course — Maple Bluff in Madison. Nearly sixty turfgrass professionals were in attendance. It was unfortunate that the weather wasn't more cooperative — the players were greeted by cold temperatures and winds. The best thing that could be said about the weather is that at least it wasn't raining. Tom had his golf course in tournament condition for the event and had to listen to endless compliments throughout the day! Offsetting the weather was the warm and friendly atmosphere in the clubhouse. The clubhouse has been remodeled in the past year and offered truly elegant dining, by candlelight no less. Master of ceremonies Rod Johnson drew numbers throughout the evening for the prize table and every single participant went home with a very nice memento of the day. It was truly humbling to see the outstanding support given to the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association by those individuals and companies donating prizes for the day — please make note of them in the accompanying pictures.

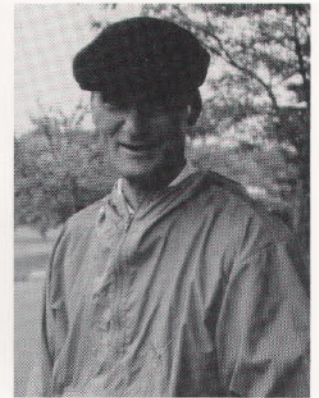
In addition to providing some needed respite from a long season, the 1985 version of the WTA Golf Outing generated a substantial sum of money that will be committed to turfgrass research at our land grant college in Madison. It is nice when so many can do so much and have an enjoyable time doing it. There are already conversations about the 1986 event and how it can be made even better.



Dan Quast,



Rod Johnson,



Skip Willms,



and Pat Norton competed for the "Hat of the Day" Award. Johnson won, but Quast was a close second!



Roger Bell won the "Mighty Duke Jock of the Day" Award!



Elegant was the word best describing the banquet.

**Wisconsin Turfgrass Association
4th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING**

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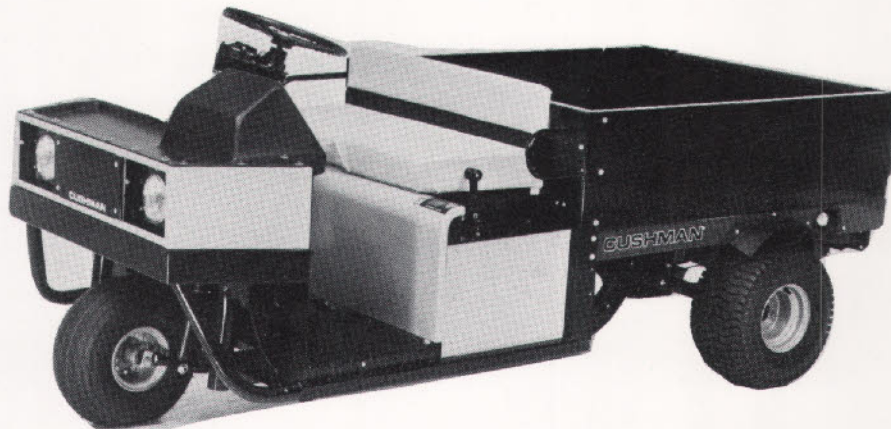
Jerry Schultz and Bill Zanders were guests of WTA Director Terry Kurth. Schultz, a Green Committee member at Blackhawk Country Club, gave Harrison good grades!



It's already a long semester — after carefully surveying the prize table, Dr. Kussow selected a bottle of booze!

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