

Jack Kolb's Return To Midway

By Dale Wysocki
Faribault Golf & Country Club

A unique trip was enjoyed by Jack Kolb when he was privileged to return to one of the scenes and memories of his youth. Jack has had a yearning to travel after his retirement and was fortunate enough to be chosen as one of 16 WW II veterans to return to Midway Island for the 50th anniversary of the battle of Midway.

Few people know much about Midway, except that it is the site of World War II's most important U.S. naval victory—the turning point of the war in the Pacific. Midway consists of two "small" islands at the extreme north-western tip of the Hawaiian Island chain, 1300 miles from Honolulu. How small are they? Well the largest of the two islands has an east-west runway (with dredgings to make up a quarter of the distance) that measures 7800 feet. That is the long distance of the island.

Although geologically part of the Hawaiian Island chain, it is specifically excluded from the State of Hawaii. Midway today is a national wildlife refuge managed by the U.S.

Jack's curiosity was further whetted knowing the mean elevation of the island was 11 feet above sea level. There is no natural, fresh or unbrakish water available, yet he was looking at pictures of a tight-looking turf with a background of trees large enough and thick set-enough to be



An overview of Midway.

a jungle. How could they get turf to grow in a soil made of ground-up sea shells and coral which has a salt concentration toxic to most vegetation?

The eight-day return to Midway adventure began November 5, 1992 with the landing of 16 Midway veterans, two historians, two archaeologists (one of whom ironically was Jack's son Dr. Michael Kolb, an archaeologist with the state of Hawaii), two architectural historians and a six-person film crew from the U.S. Navy.

This gang boarded a U.S. Air Force C-141 cargo plane at Hickam Field in Hawaii, and four and one half hours later were set down on this speck of coral—dead center in the middle of the north Pacific. It was felt that the pilot had gotten lost and set down on the wrong island. There were fields of turf *Ammophila arenaria*. There were jungles of a tree called ironwod (unlike our native Hop Hornbeam, *Carpinus 1*, which Minnesotans call Ironwood) and looked very much like a Pine tree. It's scientific name is *Causerinus equisitifolia*, often found in the salty sands of Florida.

After several hours of trying to get oriented it was decided to find the old "Pan American" seaplane hanger. From there only three of the WW II buildings were found. Of course one of those was the torpedo shop that Jack had spent many hours preparing warheads and torpedos to be loaded aboard the Submarine Fleet that operated out of

(Continued on page 32)



Gooney Birds rule the course.

Fish and Wildlife Service for the protection of Laysan albatross (gooney birds) and other migratory seabirds.

Jack's strong urge to return to Midway was not so much the fondness of the place—actually it was a barren wasteland of white coral sand, under hot blazing sun, with 1.6 million "gooney birds" and hundreds of thousands of other species of birds. The only indigenous plant was a low growing shrub called *Scaevola sp.* His curiosity was heightened by an article in *Golf Course Management*, April issue 1984 pages 43-45, which described the 9-hole golf course that had been built on the island. Pictures accompanying the article gave him to believe that the place had been turned into an oasis.

Jack Kolb's Trip —

(Continued from Page 31)

Midway during the War.

Eventually he did locate the golf course which was hardly recognizable because of neglect. As you may or may not know, Midwas has been decommissioned, the Stars and Stripes have been lowered and a small force of six military people now occupy the island. There was a cache of fertilizer stored in one of the underground "ammo bunkers," the bags had rotted away and the deliquescent nature of the material caused it to look like so much "mush." Steve Garske would be proud to know that all the ball washers were "Par Aide."

The flags and poles were too bleached and tattered to determine the brand. Gooney birds nested on fairways, tees and greens. The bird that raised the most havoc however was a bird called the "Bulwer's Petrel." This bird is much like a pocket gopher; they burrow underground leaving mounds of coral sand. The petrel nests in this burrow come back to the nest only at dusk and leave at dawn the next day. Thus they are seldom seen but leave their mark upon the golf course.

Jack did figure out where they got the water to irrigate—he was lucky enough to be at the right place at the right time—it was a clever innovation that he had noted while walking along the runway one day, a rainstorm came up. The runway was designed with a very slight pitch — probably one inch in 25 feet, and he noticed that the water was drawn to catch basins, then pumped to huge tanks thought to be airplane fuel. That much fuel would never be that close to a runway for fear of an errant plane.

It should be said that in its day this little 9-hole golf course had to be rather unique, it was extremely short but there was limited space and it must have taken a lot of boredom off the minds of the men who occupied the island after WW II. As you can notice in the accompanying photo, the ever-present gooney bird was probably the greatest hazard. Many a golfer shot "birdies" on this course.

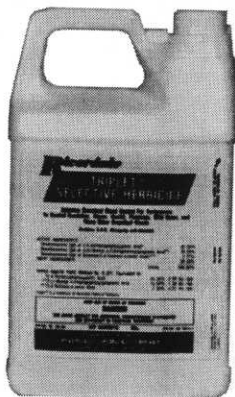
The reunion awakened long-dormant memories of a time that many veterans considered the crossroads of their lives. On video film they talked about what they did, how they felt and how it changed their lives. Jack's recorded (video) interview eventually centered on

the great changes in the ecology of the island, and how it has affected the native birds. It was his contention that the greening of the island was detrimental to the Laysan albatross (gooney bird). The thick stands of trees bar the young goonies from learning how to fly. These birds have wing spans of 6-8 feet, they learn flying much like humans in airplanes. With their awkwardness on the ground the (more mature) young birds face into the wind and practice take-offs by running into the wind. Without open "obstacle-

(Continued on Page 34)

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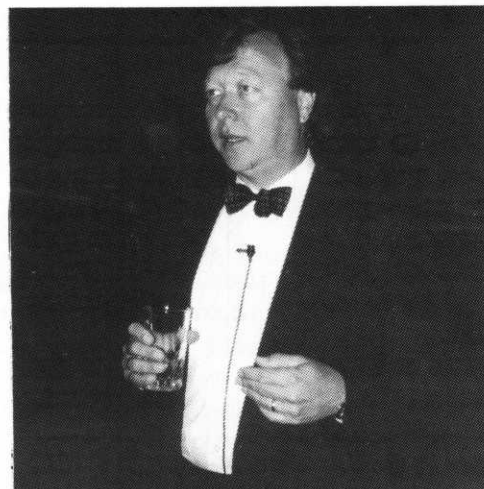
March Mini-Seminar Focuses Towards People Management

It's always been part of the Golf Course Superintendent's job, but today certain items have changed. If you don't follow the laws, not only will your club suffer from an indiscretion, but your professional reputation is at risk also. Tom Krukowski, alternated between "Sgt. Joe 'Just the Facts' Friday" and "Lt. 'Hey, how ya doin' Columbo" to deliver a very often overlooked message. People just would like to be treated like people, not anything less. With today's rash of regulations that concern environment, facility safety and employee safety, the list sometimes seems endless. The fact is that as Superintendents, we are also personnel managers, responsible for the training programs, making sure that the equipment is safety to operate, creating a non-hostile workplace and making sure that everything is fair.

On the other hand, how are we perceived? Are we viewed as hostile, difficult to approach or just plain bad mood every day of the week. Tom Coyle provided step-by-step instruction about handling complaints to working with the world's most unhappy golfer. Sometimes it's going to be impossible to handle all the complaints, but Tom offered a few suggestions that would help us keep our minds open and body language cool so that full contact golf would be averted.

For the 128 members of the MGCSA that attended, insight was given not just concerning labor laws, but how to be a more effective Manager of People Resources.

Tom Krukowski



Tom Coyle



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Budgeting —

(Continued from Page 5)

can relieve you from scheduling duties and become an integral part of on-site consultation. During our construction a waterfall was built in-house. We designed it conceptually and implemented those theories along the way to give us a striking feature to complement the new nine. The crew took pride in the project and shared credit in its success!

As with any project, feasibility studies which include budgeting and planning are essential to the fiscal success of the expansion. Architect selection, design guidelines, feature input and conceptual drawings are imperative to the success of any project, large or small.

The next area of concern is irrigation. You'll probably want to stay with your present control and head style or you may consider upgrading your system to accommodate future capital improvements. We went the latter route and upgraded our Toro VT 3 and VT 4 system to Toro Osmac. Personally, this proved to be advantageous to us because the radio control versatility made the grow-in process more efficient. We didn't have to drive onto new seed to program and operate the satellites. This is all done by hand-held radios or from the Central Computer. Your new seed bed remains undisturbed.

The excitement and daily challenges of new construction makes our chosen field more attractive to all who see our work. Keep in mind that the project will come to an end, and we are once again managers of a newly constructed golf facility. At times you will question your sanity and reason for existence. With this in mind, and addressing the heart of this article, I will present unit pricing for a variety of areas in golf course construction. I hope this article was informative, and will help you in planning a future project!

The following is the pertinent data for the 9-hole addition:

Description	Area	Budget Price
Total acreage	47 acres	
Tree clearing/grubbing	2 acres	\$2,450.00/Acre
Topsoil stripped/placed	35,000 CY	1.50/CY
Gen. Exc. includes ponds	130,000 CY	1.25/CY
Fairway Prep & Seed	16 acres	750.00/Acre
Rough Prep & Seed	30 acres	750.00/Acre
Greens Prep & Seed	1.68 acres	3,400.00/Acre
Tees Prep & Seed	1.4 acres	2,500.00/Acre
Collars	.52 acres	3,600.00/Acre
Bunkers	73,000 sq. ft.	.75/sq.ft.
Sod installed	17,000 sq. ft.	1.75/sq.ft.
8' cart paths	6,990 sq. yd.	5.00/sq.yd.
6" x 12" concrete curb	3,310 lin. ft.	4.20/ln.ft.
3' high rock wall	1,135 lin. ft.	33.00/ln.ft.
20 mil pvc liner	11,150 sq. yd.	4.50/sq.yd.

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Pump House	8,500.00
- Gabled roof	
- Sky light	
Wet Well & Slab	2,500.00
Electrical	4,000.00
Wall to wall water	\$225,000.00
- 240 - 670 heads - Fairway & Rough	
- 153 - 650 heads - Greens & Tees	
- 7 Osmac Controllers	
- 486 IBM Central Computer	
Total Project Cost	\$900,000.00

Jack Kolb's Trip —

(Continued from Page 32)

clear" areas they do not learn to fly. Thus they never reach the sea and starve to death. Hundreds of thousands of decaying gooney-bird bodies are the result.

Michael Kolb was quoted as saying "It was absolutely fascinating to listen to my dad talk to the other veterans and to see the places where he had been." Michael was told by his father not to expect to find too much or anything in the way of archaeological artifacts of a Polynesian culture (if indeed they did stop there on their way to Hawaii), since the island was racked from one end to the other by bulldozers, by slit trenches, by bombs and by bored occupants in the past who out of sheer delight might have taken the remains of a "stone (artifact) hatchet" and tried to skip it across the lagoon.

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Amendments —

(Continued from Page 28)

are Class B members, and all assistant superintendents are Class C members. Voting and other gold-card privileges are now extended to Class C.

- Creating a new Class E for educators and extension officers.

- Opening Retired membership to all classes and authorizing the board to set Retired dues at or below one-half the dues of the individual's prior classification.

- Authorizing the board to set Standing Rules regarding the level of privileges for Affiliate membership.

- Making Honorary membership permanent unless revoked by the board.

Voters delegated some specific authority to the board of directors, but also demanded increased accountability from the board and the chapter voting delegates.

For example, voters granted the board authority to set dues structures for non-superintendent membership classes. However, dues for Classes AA, A, B and C will be set by voting members casting ballots individually, by proxy or through their chapter.

Beginning next year in San Francisco, official voting records for GCSAA elections will be published in a membership publication. Dallas voters approved the publication of a chapter-by-chapter report to help chapter members hold their voting delegates accountable as their representatives.

Voters also restricted board members' powers by requiring a two-thirds majority of the board to approve the execution of any mortgage or loan that would incur debts for future boards.

The new bylaws also make some changes in the officers and directors. Most significantly, the secretary/treasurer position will become an elected office instead of a presidential appointment. Voters also amended the duties of the secretary/treasurer, making them more like an officer than an operations administrator.

In addition, all officers and directors

will be elected by plurality votes, eliminating the potential need for run-off elections. (Previously, a majority vote was required for the offices of president and vice president.)

Dallas voters also permanently assigned trusteeship of the Benevolence

Fund to the association's officers.

The amendment to the Articles of Incorporation also updated GCSAA's office address.

In addition, the voters approved a change in the title of GCSAA's principal executive employee, from executive director to chief executive officer.

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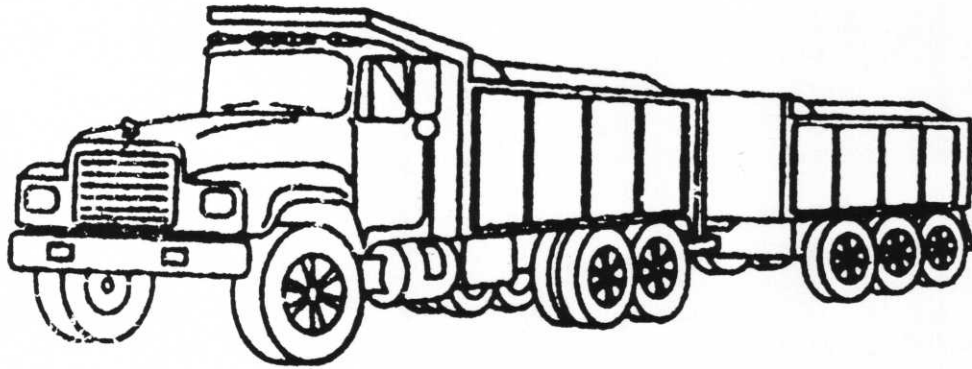
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PROUD SUPPORTER OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION THROUGH THE MGCSA

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Dale Wysocki
Faribault Golf & Country Club



During the course of the year we, as superintendents, get a multitude of information sent in our direction, be it from other magazines, info-mail or video. Before the GCSAA Annual Conference in Dallas, *Golf Course News* had a guest commentary by Carol M. Browner, administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

As I read her commentary about working together with golf course owners and managers, I felt comfortable. Then I came to the fourth paragraph. I am not going to reprint the paragraph because it's a FACTOID! Where on Earth these things come from is beyond logic. My stomach turned, the blood pressure was hitting new heights and a possible hissy fit was averted.

Reopening my mind and going farther in the commentary was possible, and onward I proceeded. She spoke of IPM and that IPM is a sound principle. Setting allowable thresholds for disease and weed infestation is always good, and so is continuing education that is offered by the GCSAA, MGCSA and by our MGCSA Associate members who take the time to put on "clinics" that further our awareness of proper fertilization techniques, or how to identify turf disease.

Actually I find that golf courses are always improving the environment around them. The habitat that is already there allows robins to set up housekeeping, the Canada geese that bring in another six goslings each year is great to see, the New York Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary program gets the club membership involved with mapping out areas of habitat.

Somewhere, someone came up with an idea that all Golf Course Superintendents go out and apply plant protectants to our golf courses to keep them lush, green and forever neat and tidy. These people forget what a golf course *DOES DO* for the environment. Oxygen is supplied by turf, trees, shrubs, flowers. Air conditioning, which is most uncomfortable? A bituminous parking lot or under a linden tree surrounded by 2" rough? I guess no matter what the actual truth is, there will always be an "environmentalist" out there to distort the truth. Maybe before they put themselves in my shoes, they should walk in my shoes.

* * * *

The MGCSA had a booth at the Great Minnesota Golf Show (see Tom Johnson's associated article) February 18-21. The booth was staffed by MGCSA members who volunteered their time to promote the image of the Golf Course Superintendent. Public Relations Chair Tom Johnson had this to offer about the booth; "The booth is a great

way to promote our organization and the Golf Course Superintendent's image."

* * * *

The Lesco Store on Wheels will be operated by Bob Simondet. Welcome Bob!

* * * *

With the GCSAA Annual Conference over for this year, there now is a little time for reflection. The Editorial Committee noticed that there were 25 companies that have their headquarters here in Minnesota or western Wisconsin. For us in this region that rates an additional "bonus." When we have comments about a product or service, the headquarters are right here in our backyards.

* * * *

Congratulations are in order for Dr. James R. Watson of the Toro Company. He will receive the 1994 Donald Ross Award from the American Society of Golf Course Architects on April 18 at the Olympic Club in San Francisco. On being recognized by the ASGCA, Dr. Watson replied, "A professional achievement of the highest degree."

* * * *

Pat Walton, Golf Course Superintendent of Rolling Green Country Club in Hamel, has passed all the requirements set forth by the GCSAA to become Pat Walton, CGCS. Outstanding!

* * * *

George Carroll, General Manager of Town and Country Club in St. Paul, was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Club Managers Association of America. George spoke to the MGCSA during last year's Annual Conference.

* * * *

Shane Andrews has been named Golf Course Superintendent at Bristol Ridge Golf Club, Somerset, Wisconsin.

* * * *

James Kassera has been selected as Golf Course Superintendent at Willinger's Golf Club, Northfield.

* * * *

Well, Spring is right around the corner. The Masters is going to be played soon and motorcycles have been out and about since mid-March. What's going to happen this year? We have put everything in place, the mowers are sharp, personnel hired are getting ready for right-to-know training, emergency preparedness programs are in place and proper allotments for family. It's also time to get the golf clubs out of seasonal retirement. The MGCSA is going places this year, and they're places we look forward to going to. So when you survey the monthly meeting list, don't hesitate to sign up early and join the best group of Golf Course Superintendents there is. You will enjoy the outing.

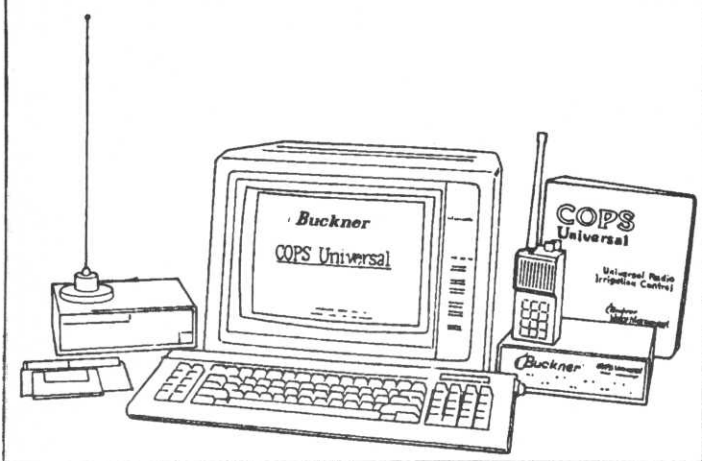
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