

From Bob Shields:

James C. Seacrist: 1916 - 1961

Jay Seacrist was killed April 12 while engaged in his job at the Hagerstown Municipal Golf Course.

Jay met an untimely death while working along pulling out trees with a large earthmoving machine to make way for a new fairway he was building. The body was found by his son, Allen, an employee on the course, who went searching when his father had not been seen for a couple of hours. When found the machine was running in neutral gear, and Jay's body was on the ground with an 8-inch tree across his chest. Death came as a result of the crushed chest.

Jay was well-liked by his fellow superintendents, the Hagerstown city officials, and the people of Hagerstown. The city golf course, of which he was Superintendent-Manager, was closed for four days in tribute. The Minnich Funeral Home said its large chapel was filled to capacity at services on Sunday. The town mayor, the park officials and some dozen superintendents were in attendance. The local florists were swamped by calls for flowers, including those from the Mid-Atlantic and the GCSAA, and they completely covered one side of the chapel wall.

Jay was born at Crown Hill, West Virginia, and had held the position at Hagerstown for eight years. He is survived by his wife, Dottie, and five children: Allen, David, Barbara, Martha, and Kathy, ranging in ages from 21 to 3 years. Allen has been appointed to take his father's place on the golf course where the family lives.

The members of the Mid-Atlantic regret this sudden passing of a highly respected superintendent and friend, and we extend our sympathies to the survivors.

Editorial:

With the coming of new superintendent's associations, turf grass associations, and other associations designed to give education and information to its members, let us not lose sight of what should be our main aim: to advance the professional standings of the Golf Course Superintendent. I will wager that, if you were to take a poll of the members of any club, better than 75% of the members could not tell you what the initials, GCSAA, stand for, while there are very few who do not know what the initials, PGA, stand for. Yet the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is doing more through grants and scholarships than any other single organization to improve the playing conditions of the golf courses throughout the country.

We like to think that we have a good association and provide a fine educational program for our members. Yet take the plight of a new club looking for a superintendent or any club that lacks a well-informed greens chairman or greens committee. What help are we offering these clubs? To find a superintendent, they ask their pro if he knows anyone, they ask members in other clubs, and, in a few instances, they come to the superintendent associations. Here is where we should try to channel all requests from clubs seeking a superintendent. Let us try to improve not just ourselves, but the profession as a whole. We should work toward the day when all clubs will realize the fact that it is just as important to have a superintendent who is a GCSAA member as it is to have a PGA pro.