



MID-ATLANTIC

News Letter

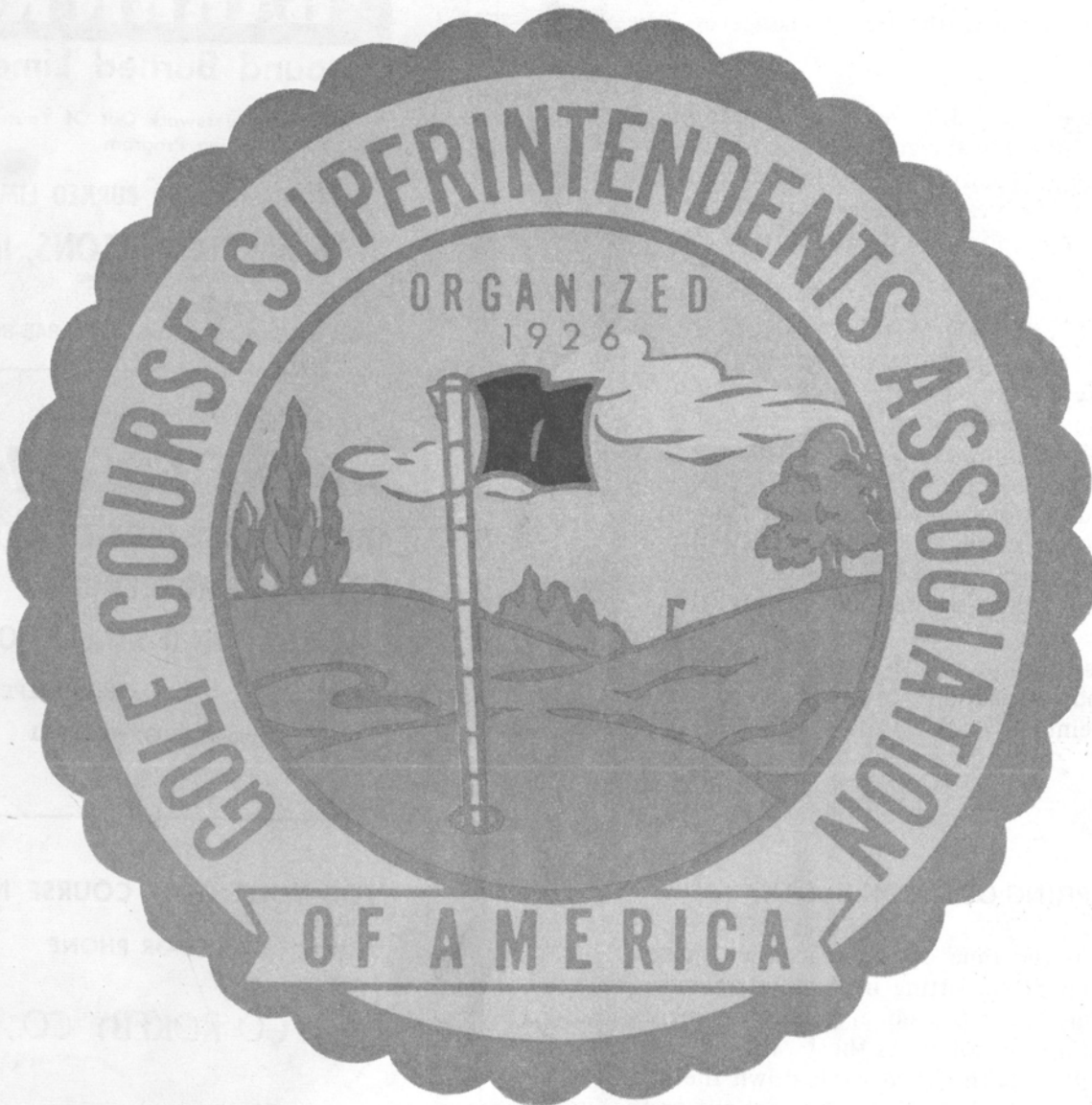


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NO. 2



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

How proud we should be to be members of the Mid-Atlantic section. Nearly half of our number attended the National Conference and more attended our own Baltimore Conference. Since we are endowed with so many progressive, forward-looking superintendents, why are only half of the golf facilities in Maryland represented in our association? This is the area in which Public Relations can help us to reach all the superintendents. I feel it is of no value to make the public aware of us, but that our association has a place in the golf industry. We should strive to acquaint others in golf with the value of our association and profession. As an example, a neighboring superintendent's association has sponsored a Supt., Pro., Club President, and or Mgr. "Golf Outing". I understand this is a great success and valuable in the free exchange of ideas, as well as being enjoyable.

This type of public relations would put us in contact with others in the golf industry which is part of our association's object. I shall try to keep our object in mind through the year. In case you have not read it lately, it can be found in the By-Laws, Article 1, Section C -- Object:

The purposes of this Association are to promote research, to interchange scientific and practical knowledge relating to the care of golf courses and turfgrass operations, including the production, maintenance and improvement of turfgrass, to encourage cooperation with other associations whose interests parallel or complement those of the Association and to promote justice and education to and for its members.

Bob Milligan

IS YOUR SPRING OUTLOOK BLEAK?

This is the time of the year when most of our golfing members are sitting in front of their television sets, watching the professional golf tournaments in all their splendor and color. As they watch Jack Nicklaus drive his ball three hundred yards down the middle of the fairway, they feel like they could get out on the first tee at their own club and really smash that ball to pieces. Just what do they see when they come out to their clubs at this time of year? They see exactly what we saw, when we came back to the Mid-Atlantic from the Miami Beach conference. Bleak, dismal, dormant

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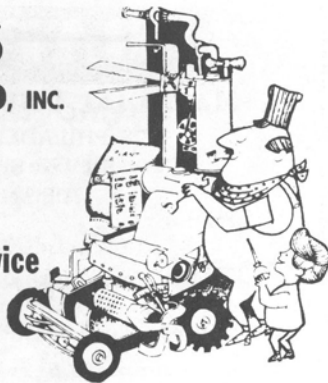
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grass and leafless trees. What a letdown after the semi-tropical climate that southern Florida has.

We can help to offset this colorless landscape around our clubs and golf courses by the use of more evergreen type shrubbery and trees and especially with more early spring blooming flowers. We hear people say, "flowers are a pain in the neck", "they take up too much time" or "I have to do the work". These are the people who don't appreciate the beauty of color and don't care about the other fellow, their member. It's surprising just how much the smallest bed of crocus, tulips, daffodils, or annuals, such as ageratums, asters, geraniums, marigolds, petunias, and perennials, such as, iris, delphiniums, and asters, can brighten up the whole surroundings and possibly even influence the outlook one member might have for that particular day. It might mean one less member climbing your back that day because of a deep foot-print in the trap at No. 17.

These are extremes to which flower planting can be done, high, middle, or low, depending of course on budget, manpower, and facilities. There are clubs in our Mid-Atlantic area that have all three. It doesn't take much to put in a bed of tulips. The bulbs are cheap enough, the work is done in the late fall or early winter when time is more available, and I'm sure everyone has a spot where a flower bed can be located that will be noticed by practically everyone.

Just to mention a few clubs and what they're doing; Alan McCurrick at Chevy Chase Club, has 17,450 cubic feet of greenhouse area where he grows about 25,000 plants per year. He supplies potted plants for the clubhouse, annuals for his grounds and plant cuttings to increase the beauty of his club. Buel Hitchcock, at the Washingtonian Country Club has about 10,000 cubic feet of permanent greenhouse area with another 18,000 cubic feet to be build this year. Buel figures he puts out 25,000 to 30,000 plants per and when his new unit is built, who knows! These are examples of extremes on the high end; in the middle we have George Thompson, at Columbia Country Club who has 800 cubic feet of greenhouse. George says, "you'd be surprised how much plant material can come from a greenhouse this size." On the low end of the extreme, we have a club like mine, Lakewood Country Club; I don't have a greenhouse but I do plant 1500 spring flowering bulbs every year and 75 to 100 dozen annuals. This costs my club some money but the landscape maintenance portion of my budget has never been challenged. Why? They must like the color even though they won't admit it.

Let's take the time to provide these people with something they can admire and be proud of. Even though our manpower is scarce, get in there yourself,

after dark of course, and plant a few. One warning though — do everything by the book, or you'll have those green thumb'd women members on your back instead of the men.

Dave

CONGRATULATIONS

Lee and Judy Redman reported a nice going away present. They took their new daughter Michelle Rene' to St. Louis with them. She was born on January 20 and weighed 7½ pounds. The three Redmans left for Bellerive C.C. on January 30. Lee will take over as superintendent as soon as he arrives there. The entire association wishes Lee the best of luck at his new club.

George and Jackie Thompson also reported in with the birth of a new baby girl, Regina Lynn. Reggie was born on the 25th of January and weighed 8½ pounds.

FROM THE EDITOR

February - the second month of the year - how can spring be far off? And with the coming of spring, are you ready for another growing season? Were you able to grasp and retain a few good ideas from the National or from one of the many local conferences? There have been several excellent meetings this year and if each of you haven't gotten at least one or two new ideas that you personally can use in your own operation, then perhaps you missed the boat entirely. In looking over most of the programs for the conferences this year, for some reason, the subject material seemed to be useful to most everyone. It is due to the fact that we superintendents are becoming more united in our problems or that we are more willing to share our ideas with our fellow supers and our program committees? The reason is not perfectly clear yet, but it seems that both of these as well as perhaps other reasons were the cause. Whatever the causal agents were, we should try even harder next year to assert what we would like to see and hear at our own conferences. We are now to the point where we are able to assert ourselves and make our ideas known better than in any other period in our professional history. Not only do we have young members, but our older members have young ideas too. The idea exchange medium between supers seems to have become much more pronounced today than it was ten or fifteen years ago. The age is past when the superintendent had "secret formulas" for good greens. The age is past when the superintendent would not

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divulge his wage to anyone, often times not even to his own wife, for some unknown reason. And the age is past when the superintendent was "just a farmer" or "the guy who cuts the grass". If you fall into any of these classifications, maybe you had better use the winter months and take better advantage of the blessings that these conferences really are. These meetings should not be used merely as an excuse to get out of town for a week and go on a cheap trip, but more as an excuse to benefit ourselves and our clubs.

COMMENTS INVITED

Those who attended the National, attention! While it is fresh in your minds, do you have any comments, pro or con, about the conference? These can cover any portion of it, from accommodations to the guided tours. If there is any part of the week in Miami you would like to mention, please send it to one of our editors and we'll review your comments. Then if we can use these to better the meeting, we will either send them on to National Headquarters or we will retain them for next year's advisory committee. Either way we want to hear from you - after all, it is your conference.

OLDE TYME LIBRARY

Lee Dieter, super at Washington Golf, recently acquired a large box of books that belonged to John Connolly. Mr. Connolly studied at Syracuse University and was there in the 'thirties. These books contain quite a storehouse of information, some still valid, but much that is VERY much out of date. A lot of the more outdated material will be covered this month as well as in the following issues. Several of these books were published between 1900 and 1910, and it makes for sometimes amusing reading. Lee would like to know if there are any other members who might have some old publications like these so we could make initial steps to start a "turf library". This would be something which would be both unique as well as educational. Keep your eyes open for turf books and grab 'em if you see any interesting ones.

ROSES TO=

Didn't Ed Dembnicki do a nice job on his presentation in Miami? The slide presentation he gave was very well done. This is one program that should be kept from year to year, only covering two or three geographic locations at a time instead of the whole country. This sharing by means of slides is a good example of how we as superintendents are working with rather than against each other.

SPEAKING OF PICTURES

Part of Dr. Grau's talk at Miami somewhat followed this same line of thought. Let's take a look at part of what he said;

"Many golf course superintendents have become excellent photographers. Significant events are recorded on film, both black and white and color. The report that is supplemented by a few well-chosen glossy black and white pictures will be sure to get the message across more effectively than the report that is nothing but black and white pages. When you write an article for the Golf Superintendent, the editor will ask you for some glossy photographs for illustrations. Color transparencies shown on a screen with a good projector represent another way to get the message across. You can bring parts of the golf course right into the committee meeting, particularly the items under consideration. As you gain proficiency in this means of communication, your stature will be enhanced and you will be more valuable to your club.

One more thing about pictures - the good photographer is one who throws away all his bad pictures. Don't put yourself in the position of having to be apologetic. Show only the good ones."

Of course, this all leads to a point - any of you who have one or two or any number of good pictures that you would like to share with us, please feel free to send them to us and if we can put them in, they will be included in one of our newsletters.

NEWS FROM THE VIRGINIA AREA CLUBS

There isn't a lot of activity in Virginia or for that matter anywhere else in our area this month. Everyone is getting cabin fever or something and they are all ready for spring. The main concern this winter is the lack of snow that we have had. And of equal concern, directly due to this lack of precipitation, is the excessive use of the greens. It will be interesting to see the combined effects of the weather and the play come spring. As Ed Dembnicki stated in the November Newsletter "Closing the course and prohibiting traffic, under unfavorable conditions, is a sound and essential management practice. Some clubs are not too considerate of this fact."

But nonetheless, things are being done at a few of the courses. Lee Dieter at Washington Golf has put in two new Astro-Turf tees. One of them is at number two and the other one is at number twelve. He build forms to hold the sandbase underneath the turf, then covered it with the rug of grass. Lee says it costs as much to

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install it as it does to buy. The frost has heaved the forms up out of the ground and in addition, the pros who have played the fake grass apparently are not too impressed with it, especially with their iron shots.

Over Chantilly way, Virgil Robinson is busy getting ready for spring. Virg says "The club is panelling the grill room and they are planning an addition to include a dining room and a new pro shop."

At Pincecrest No. 1, Ken Lohr reports the golf course is going strong. The golfers seem to really like the winter greens. The number two course is closed for the winter, except for maintenance and repairs. Wouldn't that be a nice situation to be in?

At Westwood, Jack McClenahan is in the remodeling and home improvement business. He and his crew have been redoing the kitchen in the clubhouse. Jack says he doesn't mind because it has kept his boys busy and more important, they promised him he wouldn't have to install any galvanized pipe! Westwood also plans to update their equipment inventory with quite a few replacements and a few new additions.

And at Springfield, Denny McCammon reports that he and his crew have been doing some more sand trap rebuilding and some tree work on the golf course. But if the ground doesn't stay frozen for a little longer than it has been, he says that it is going to really put the rush on them to get all the traps ready by spring.

MORE ELECTIONS

At the V.P.I. Turf Conference held the last week of January in Richmond, two of our local boys were elected to offices in the Virginia Turf Council. Sheldon Betterly was re-elected as president and Lee Dieter was elected as second vice-president. Congratulations to our Northern Virginia winners.

POSITION OPEN

Algie Pulley has been working on the course layout at Evergreen Country Club near Manassas, Virginia, and informs us that the position of golf course superintendent is now open. The course will be an 18 hole championship length layout, ranging from 6200 to 7200 yards in length. The tees average 6000 sq. ft. and are bluegrass. The greens average 7500 sq. ft. and are seeded Penncross. Greens and tees will be watered automatically and fairways will be watered manually. Salary is open to negotiation, but will be "average" for the Mid-atlantic area.

MEETING DATES AND PLACES

As you will be noticing, some of our meeting dates will be changing this year. Our monthly meetings will be held, whenever possible, on the second Tuesday of the month rather than on the first as they have been before. This was voted on and approved by the Board of Directors some time back to avoid the conflicts during the summer due to the many summer holidays. This plus the fact that the new date will not put such a rush on the news deadline so the newsletter should reach you in time for you to see where the meeting will be. The way it was before, it really put the rush on Ed to get it out on time. Hopefully this will relieve the situation to some extent. But the meeting for March will be held at Indian Spring Country Club on the first Monday, like it used to be, due to scheduling conflicts. Be sure to watch for your meeting notice cards and take special notice of the dates. A detailed list of meeting places will be published as soon as it is confirmed with all the host superintendents.

OLDE TYME CORNER

The following are a few excerpts from one of the old books that Lee Dieter had given to him by John Connolly. The book that these come from is entitled "Lawnmaking" by Leonard Barron and was first copyrighted in 1906. For the benefit of all greens chairman, club officials, and other club members who might be reading this article, please note the date and consider the common sense factor before asking your superintendent why he doesn't do things this way.

From Chapter XIII, entitled "The Peculiar Requirements of Putting Greens"

"As to soil preparation: here again the requirements are quite distinct from those indicated for an ornamental lawn. To help the fine, short growth, a poor, sandy seed bed and an abundantly drained sub-soil, preferably of gravel, is necessary. For a lawn, make the soil deep and rich; for a putting green make it shallow and dry. If the course lies on a clay or loam, import sand - sea sand if possible. Seeding should be much thicker than for lawns - say twice as thick than the quantities recommended."

"Mr. Walter J. Travis, the well known world' golf champion, writes thus: 'Do not put fertilizers of any kind on a green except, perhaps, some bone dust and then only once every three or four years. If the soil is very poor a thin top dressing of well screened loam, plentifully mixed with seed, may be applied in the spring. The chief trouble with most greens, however, is that the soil is too rich and the grass is, consequently, coarse.'"

And on the practice of watering, Mr. Travis had this to say; " - Therefore don't be afraid to soak a green. No injurious effects will come from the hot sun pouring down its rays if watering is done during the daytime. On the contrary much good is done as the water is usually cold - sometimes very cold - and the sun offsets this, which is not the case when the water is applied at night.

Really some noteworthy stuff there, eh sports fans? But stay tuned - there will be another exciting installment next month on how to do your thing from seventy years ago.

NEW POSITION

Dr. Elwyn E. Deal has been appointed assistant director for agriculture, Cooperative Extensive Service, University of Maryland. An associate professor, Dr. Deal is currently serving as a turf specialist in the Agronomy Department at the University. His new extension assignment becomes effective March 1. Deal came to the university as an assistant professor in 1964; he was promoted to associate professor in 1968. His primary duties have included both research and Extension work in turf management. He has also taught turf management classes at several off-campus locations.

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