



# MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



Published by  
Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the Advancement of the  
Golf Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

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NO. 9

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Once upon a time there was a land that was blessed with perpetual October and the turf grew as if by magic. The trees took on their painted beauty and the golfers smiled all the time, even after an errant stroke.

This does not sound like a very challenging existence for a superintendent. Last month I wrote of my summer problems, now of Utopia. We see all sides in our professional, now mending our fences from nature's last onslaught, while looking ahead to the next. Some of us suffered from wilt and our attitudes reflected our despair.

Now that the golf season is underway I plan to spend more time hooking and slicing my way to that elusive birdie. If I may interject a word of wisdom to any new men or prospective superintendents; "Play golf and play it for enjoyment. It is the last of the gentlemen's sports and may not always be around (as such) for us to enjoy."

Bob Milligan

## NEXT MEETING

The October meeting of the MAGCSA will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 14 at the Woodmont Country Club in Rockville, Md. This will be a rather unique meeting since the ladies will all be welcome to attend the festivities. Our host is L.R. "Bob" Shields. Bob has been the super at Woodmont for 17 years.

## DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB

To get to Woodmont, get off the Beltway at Wisconsin Ave. and go north. The club is located on the lefthand side of East Montgomery Ave. which is Wisconsin Ave. extended from the D.C. line.

## WELCOME TO WOODMONT

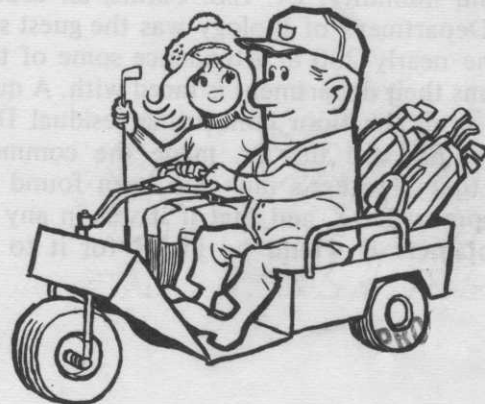
On behalf of the club members, the Board of Directors, club president Mr. Wm. Koplovitz and green

committee chairman Mr. Jon England, may I say "Welcome to Woodmont."

Golf professional Tony Marlowe and his staff will be in the Golf Shop to assist and help you in any way. Dick Secreto is the starter and caddymaster and will help conduct the golf tournament. See him before teeing off.

Club manager Maurice Morris and his staff assure you a cordial welcome to the club house, a fine meal, and a beautiful setting for our meeting.

Don't forget - ladies are invited. Bring those beautiful gals out for us to look at and let them see what you do each month when you go to your



superintendent's meetings. Explain tho, that no special entertainment is planned for them while you are playing golf. They can use the practice putting green, play cards in the grille room, and maybe Mr. Morris would take them on a tour of the club house. They can even have a Ladies' Tournament if they want to play golf or if it suits you, take them along to play or just ride the cart.

We are not set up to take care of the little ones, so please, no children. Woodmont has two eighteen hole courses and you can play either one, but the tournament will be played on the south course. Look things over as you go around and then let us know of any way we might be able to improve the course for our members. Any constructive suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

Bob Shields

## MEETING PLACES

Oct. 14 – Woodmont C.C. in Rockville, Md. Ladies will be welcome at the meeting. Host is Bob Shields.

Nov. 10 – Burning Tree C.C. Meal and business meeting will be held elsewhere. Place will be announced later. Host is Richard Anderson.

Dec. 2 – Indian Spring C.C. This will be our annual election meeting. Host is Ed Dembnicki.

## REPORT ON VPI FIELD DAYS

The VPI Field days were held in Blacksburg on Sept. 3 and 4. The weather didn't cooperate at all and most of those in attendance were "unavailable for comment" after the rain started as the program began. The rain continued throughout both days and for all practical purposes, the event was washed out. The new agronomy area by the stadium has begun to show a lot of promise for no longer than it has been there. Much work has to be done yet as the plots are still being moved to the new location.

The evening banquet and program was held at Mountain Lake, 4800 feet in the sky high above the heat and humidity. Dr. E.S. Carins, an ecologist from VPI's Department of Biology was the guest speaker and told the nearly 200 in attendance some of the unusual problems their department is faced with. A question was raised from the floor concerning residual DDT in our surroundings and the Dr. made the comment to the effect that "Mother's milk has been found to contain 17.1 ppm of DDT, and that if it was in any other kind of containers it would be illegal for it to cross state lines.

## ODDS AND ENDS

It was quite a surprise to see Lee Redman's ol' ugly face in the August issue of the Golf Superintendent. Lee is still on our mailing list and is at Bellerive C.C. in Creve Coeur, Mo. His idea about incorporating the National's emblem in the sign was good, and who knows, maybe the National will make them available to the supers for their maintenance buildings.



Just got the latest issue of Stan Metsker's Rocky Mountain Newsletter. Know where their annual two day outing will be this fall? In Vail, Colorado, no less! Would that be a meeting or would that be a meeting? The information for clothing was "temperatures will range from 70 in the day to 30 at night so dress accordingly." We, we will get our chance to see that part of the country in 1971 when the National will be in Denver.

Dick Schmidt from VPI addressed the Greater Washington GCSA last month and talked about his trip

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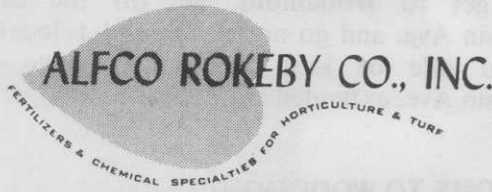
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to Europe and England with the First International Turfgrass Research Conference which was held in July. He had several excellent slides and some interesting commentary about the cultures and practices of the style, methods, and beliefs of Europeans and their grass growing. Might be a nice idea to have one of the men in attendance on the program for some of the local conferences this fall and winter.

**FROM THE EDITOR**

This month's column is a combination book review and comment column. Our subject matter is taken from two separate texts and comment will be made accordingly. Agreement or disagreement should be made accordingly.

The first article we will discuss appeared in the August issue of the Reader's Digest. The title was "How To Grow A Perfect Lawn." The title itself suggests a note of levity, since a perfect lawn is an impossibility in this area as everyone knows. The article, however, was written by a J.N. Miller, no doubt a staff writer for the Digest, but he got his information from one Stanley Bulpitt, a nursery employee in Connecticut who "for twenty years has been building and maintaining hundreds of lawns of every size and in every kind of soil from Maine to New Jersey." Notice he stops far enough north to avoid trouble from the Mid-Atlantic region. Some of his comments were good, some not so good. But in any event, it seems funny that someone with a little more insight into the problem wasn't contacted, namely someone in our line of work. Paul Voykin, the super at Briarwood C.C. in the Chicago area, just published a book on the subject! You couldn't ask for a better source of information than that. Well, maybe next time, huh? Incidentally, reprints of the article are available from the magazine, if you are interested.

The next interesting article is one that appeared in the syndicated Parade section Sunday, Aug. 17. The article was written by Lloyd Shearer and was entitled "Artificial Grass Is Greener." In the article, statistics were quoted by Mr. Shearer to the effect that player injuries dropped 80% after installation of artificial turf. Well, this seems vague, doesn't it? Eighty percent as compared to what? Whose figures were these? There is an interesting story behind all this, too. Monsanto invited field men, stadium managers, and several other key people in these positions to view this material on a three day tour in the midwest. Result, several sold people. But on what? Dr. Gene Nutter in his Turf-Grass Times discussed the fallacy of the pseudo-grass some months ago. But obviously Mr. Shearer missed that issue. A couple of rather quotable quotes from this article on how good this fake grass is. Tex Schramm, the president of the Dallas Cowboys says, "By 1975, you

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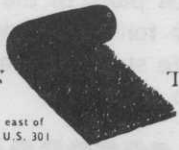
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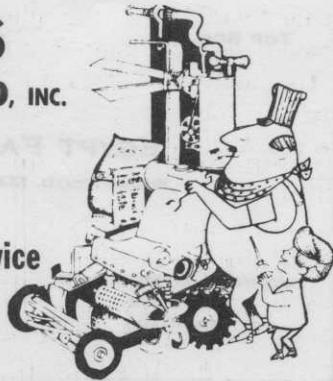
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will have an artificial lawn surrounded by artificial flowers and shrubs. No more mowing the grass. No more watering. An hour or two of maintenance per year and you will have a prettier garden that you have now." So says the president of a football team on the future of turf management. Any of you supers have any long range forecasts to make on the future of football? But now Joe Namath is another story. He made a few comments too. The New York Jet's quarterback says "Now everybody likes it better than regular grass." Everybody like who? In any event, we can rest assured that we won't be out of a job because of plastic grass. At least not within the next five years. But even if we are, there are all kinds of job opportunities that will be made available with the development of this grass. How about making plastic weeds to plant all around the yard to make it look realistic? Or how about making plastic dogs to deposit plastic piles in the plastic flower beds? Or what about — oh well, just forget about it!

### BIG PARTY

It seems Sam Kessel from C.C. of Fairfax and his wife Sue had quite a Saturday night on the 13th of last month. They went to a rather unusual cocktail party at Dulles Airport. The party wasn't too unusual - it was the guests that were a little out of the ordinary. Would you believe the entire Ryder Cup team? Seems Sam's club president and Melvin Rowe, the pro at Fairfax had something to do with the deal and as a result, the super and his wife were invited.

Besides the entire team, captained by Sam Snead, other guests were Mr. Red Snyder, the president of Burning Tree C.C. who also went with the team and Max Elbin, the president of the PGA.

All in all, it sounds like a very enjoyable evening and one that the Kessel's are not likely to forget for several golfing seasons.



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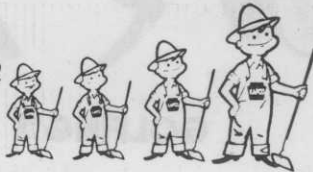
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**CARTOON CREDIT**

Ol' editor forgot to give credit for the cartoon in last month's newsletter. This was taken from the Northern Ohio Turfgrass News. Our thanks and apologies to them for the oversight.

**JOB OPENING**

Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Del. is looking for a golf course superintendent. They do not have a superintendent at the present time. They have 11 holes in play and the other seven will be under construction soon. This is a civil service job at \$3.81 per hour which equals \$9,000 per year plus benefits. Position will be reclassified upon completion of the 18 holes.

The man to call is Mr. Harrison Clayton, Civilian Personnel Officer at Dover AFB, Dover, Del., 19901. The phone number is 301-734-8211.

**HOUSTON IN '70**

Reservations should be made NOW if you have any intentions at all of going to the Texas conference in February. This upcoming National should be another outstanding success and it sounds as though the Lone Star gang has a real bash lined up for us down there. And lest you forget - next year's (1971) conference is set for the Mile High city, Denver, Colorado!

**SPECIAL PESTICIDE REPORT**

Not being sure how many of you are on David Shriver's mailing list for "The Label," the following is being reprinted here for your information. The topic of pesticide residual effects has lately come into tremendous public view. It is interesting to note that although several definite conclusions were arrived at, no clear cut recommendations for alleviating the problem were settled upon. It seems that the government has taken seemingly the same stand on persistent pesticides as it has on air and water pollution. Let's hope this isn't true!

**REPORT ON PERSISTENT PESTICIDES RELEASED**

Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin released a report on persistent pesticides and their effects on man, agriculture, and the environment. The report,

prepared at the request of USDA by a committee of the National Academy of Sciences - National Research Council, showed adequate protection of man's food and health under the present systems of control. But it recommended continued research to develop new chemicals and techniques for their use.

In his release, Secretary Hardin said, "The NAS - NRC Committee's appraisal of the situation relating to persistent pesticides appears to be reasonable and balanced. Its conclusions and recommendations imply some changes in Department programs that will require additional time for full evaluation."

The following are the conclusions and recommendations of this committee on pesticides:

### CONCLUSIONS

1. Persistent pesticides are contributing to the health, food supply, and comfort of mankind, but, in the absence of adequate information on their behavior in nature, prudence dictates that such long-lived chemicals should not be needlessly released into the biosphere.

2. Although persistent pesticides have been replaced in some uses and are replaceable in others, they are at present essential in certain situations.

3. No decrease in the use of pesticides is expected in the foreseeable future. On a world basis, increased use is probable.

4. Although the use of DDT has decreased substantially, there was no important change in the use of other organochlorine insecticides in the United States during the 10-year period ending June 30, 1967.

5. Available evidence does not indicate that present levels of pesticide residues in man's food and environment produce an adverse effect on his health.

6. Registration requirements for persistent pesticides appear to provide adequate safeguards for human health, but continuing attention must be given to accommodating new knowledge and insuring against subtle long-term effects.

7. Residues of certain persistent pesticides in the environment have an adverse effect on some species of wild animals and threaten the existence of others.



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8. The availability and low cost of effective persistent pesticides have slowed the development and adoption of alternative methods of control.

9. Work on non-chemical methods as alternatives to persistent pesticides has been emphasized in recent years, and continued support for this work is needed.

10. Inadequate attention and support are being given to developing pesticidal chemicals and to improving techniques for using them.

11. Persistent pesticides are of special concern when their residues possess — in addition to persistence — toxicity, mobility in the environment, and a tendency for storage in the biota.

12. A few organochlorine insecticides and their metabolites have become widely distributed in the biosphere, appearing in the biota at points far from their places of application.

13. The biosphere has a large capacity for storage of persistent pesticides in the soil, water, air, and biota, but little is known concerning amounts of persistent pesticides and of their degradation products that are stored in the biosphere.

14. Knowledge is incomplete concerning the fate and degradation of persistent pesticides in the environment, their behavior in the environment, the toxicity of the degradation products, and the interaction of these products with other chemicals.

15. Present methods of regulating the marketing and use of persistent pesticides appear to accomplish the objectives of providing the user with a properly labeled product and holding the amounts of residue in man and his food at a low level. However, they do not appear to insure the prevention of environmental contamination.

16. Public demand for attractiveness in fruit and vegetables, and statutory limits on the presence of insect parts in processed foods, have invited excessive use of pesticides.

17. The National Pesticide Monitoring Program provides adequate information about residues in man and his food, but it does not provide adequate information about the environment generally, because it can detect changes in residues only in selected parts of the biosphere.

18. Contamination of the biosphere resulting from the use of persistent pesticides is an international problem. Changes in techniques for using these pesticides and the substitution of alternatives here and abroad are questions of immediate concern to all mankind.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends —

1. That further and more effective steps be taken to reduce the needless or inadvertent release of persistent pesticides into the environment.

2. That, in the public interest, action be increased at international, national, and local levels to minimize environmental contamination where the use of persistent pesticides remains advisable.

3. That studies of the possible long-term effects of low levels of persistent pesticides on man and other mammals be intensified.

4. That efforts to assess the behavior of persistent pesticides and their ecological implications in the environment be expanded and intensified.

5. That public funds for research on chemical methods of pest control be increased without sacrifice of effort on nonchemical methods.

6. That the present system of regulation, inspection, and monitoring to protect man and his food supply from pesticide contamination be continued.

7. That the objectives and procedures of the National Pesticide Monitoring Program be reviewed and that the feasibility of obtaining data on quantities of persistent pesticides in the biosphere be studied.

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