



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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HISTORIAN'S REPORT 1969

The following article is a brief monthly summation of the outstanding events which occurred in the MAGCSA during 1969. It was written by Bob Shields of Woodmont Country Club who is the historian of the association. It is interesting to see the list of accomplishments our group has been responsible for and that have slipped our minds just in the short period of a year. The historians report is new this year and is a fine idea. It is a project that should be carried on for the best interests of the association and the individual members.

In January, at the annual Mid-Atlantic Turfgrass Conference which was held at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Baltimore, Mr. Robert C. Milligan of Gunpowder Golf Club was installed as President of the Association. He succeeded George Cleaver of Chestnut Ridge Country Club. Also installed were the following Directors: Lee Dieter, Washington Golf Home; George Thompson, Columbia Country Club; Robert C. Miller, Suburban Country Club; Dennis McCammon, Springfield Country Club; and retiring President, George Cleaver.

Tom Ramberg was awarded a GCSAA Scholarship grant to aid him in completing the Turfgrass Management Course at the University of Maryland.

Angelo Cammarota, Bonnie View Country Club was named Superintendent of the Year by the members of this association for the way he maintains his golf course and his good relations with the club's professional staff, greens chairman and his fellow superintendents. He was recognized for his devotion to the advancement of the profession of Golf Course Superintendent.

In February the National Meeting, held at the Fountainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach, Fla., was attended by nearly half of the members of the

Mid-Atlantic. Ed Dembnicki, Indian Spring Country Club, was a speaker on the National program.

Sheldon Betterly was elected President of the Virginia Turfgrass Council with Lee Dieter as Vice President.

Dr. Elwyn Deal was appointed Assistant Director for Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Maryland after five years of research and extension work in Turfgrass Management.

Dr. Fred Grau was presented the USGA Green Section Award by the United States Golf Association for distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass.

The March meeting of the Association was held at Indian Spring Country Club where a panel of four Golf Professionals and four Superintendents discussed when and under what conditions a golf course should be closed during the winter.

In April a joint meeting between the Mid-Atlantic Association and the Central Virginia Turfgrass Association was held at Springfield Country Club with Dennis McCammon as host.

The May Meeting was held at Washington Golf and Country Club where Lee Dieter lives with Poa Annua. Speaker for the Association was Jim Moncrief of the USGA Green Section.

William Blackert, an Agronomy student at the University of Maryland, was awarded a \$500 scholarship by the Maryland State Golf Association. Making the presentation was Irving Cantor, Vice President of MSGA.

In June the members of the Association traveled to Baltimore to meet with Director Bob Miller at the Suburban Club of Baltimore. Radios and radio communication on the golf course were the subjects of the day.

The Board of Directors contributed \$100 from our Scholarship and Research Fund to an experiment on Penncross Bent grass as related to the growth habit of the grass with varying temperature and fertility levels.

Experiment to be conducted by Doug Hawes, Turf Management instructor at the University of Maryland.

A family picnic was held in July at Island View Country Club with Bob and Chris Martino as hosts and later in the month, Chairman Paul Barefoot invited all wives to the Washingtonian Country Club for the Annual Ladies Nite consisting of cocktails, dinner and theatre in the round at Shady Grove Music Fair with comedian Jack Benny.

In August the Mid-Atlantic members attended the USDA Turfgrass Field Day the the experimental turfgrass plots at Beltsville, Maryland. Felix Juska conducted.

The President named three past Presidents of the Association, George Gumm, Chairman, George Cleaver and Bob Shields, a nominating committee to select candidates for a slate of officers to be announced at the November meeting.

The September meeting was a joint meeting between the Mid-Atlantic and the Philadelphia superintendents and was held at the Cavalier Country Club in New Castle, Delaware. Al Radko, Northeastern Director USGA Green Section was guest speaker.

October saw another first for this Association. Host Bob Shields, Superintendent at Woodmont Country Club, invited the ladies to attend one of our monthly meetings, play golf and dine with us. Speaker for the evening was Congressman Roger Zion of the state of Indiana, speaking on the subject IYQR.

The winner of the golf tournament as Joe Baidy from Manor Club. Runner-up was Bill Emerson.

We were saddened by the announcement of the recent death of Bob Scott who was co-founder of the Mid-Atlantic in 1928.

The November meeting was held at Burning Tree Club where Dick Anderson is superintendent. Guest speaker was Dr. George Langford from the University of Maryland who showed slides on his recent visit to Russia.

The Nominating Committee presented the following names as candidates for the Association offices for the year 1970: President, Russell Kerns; Vice-President, Bert Yingling; Secretary- Treasurer, Ed Dembnicki; Directors, Bob Miller and Dave Fairbank.

During 1969, Director Lee Dieter served as Planning Director for the Association and was responsible for monthly meeting places. He also was Chairman of Finance and played an active part in the annual Mid-Atlantic Conference.

Bob Miller was Membership Chairman and during 1969, 14 members of all classifications were added to the roster.



George Thompson was Program Chairman and arranged for educational speakers at each meeting. He was Chairman of the Annual Conference.

Paul Barefoot was Ladies Chairman and Flower Committee Chairman.

Bert Yingling served as Golf Committee Chairman and played on the Association golf team at the National Turfgrass Conference at Miami Beach.

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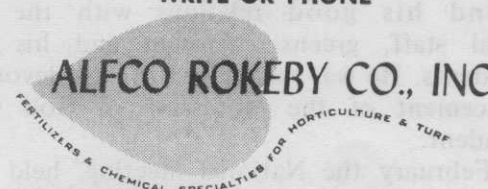
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Dennis McCammon was NEWSLETTER Editor and handled all details connected with publishing 12 NEWSLETTER publications.

The December Meeting was held at Indian Spring Country Club with Secretary-Treasurer Ed Dembnicki as host.

Russell Kerns was elected President for 1970. Elected Vice-President was Bert Yingling; Ed Dembnicki was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer; Directors elected were Bob Miller and Dave Fairbank.

Respectfully submitted,
L.R. Shields, Historian

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT

1969 Golf Course Openings. 397 new golf facilities and additions to existing facilities opened for play in 1969 - was 355 in 1968. The nation now has 9,886 golf courses of which 8,882 are regulation length layouts and 1,004 are par 3's or executive types (par 60's). Almost 32% of the new facilities opened in 1969 (114 regulation length and 12 par 3's) were additions to existing courses.

Leading States with New Courses: Leading states in new golf courses opened for play in 1969 were Florida 27; Texas 23; Ohio 22; Michigan 17; New York, North Carolina and Pennsylvania each 15; Illinois 13 and California, Georgia, Kentucky, Minnesota and Wisconsin each 12.

Types of New Facilities Opened in 1969: Of the 397 new golf courses and additions opened for play in 1969 - 47% were privately owned daily fee operations (often called semi-private); 41% were private clubs and 12% were municipal tax supported projects. About 26% of all the new golf facilities built in 1969 were part of real estate ventures (housing developments, high-rise condominiums and apartments, mobile home sites and vacation or second home projects).

Outlook for 1970: NGF records reveal there are 439 golf facilities in some stage of construction at year's end (381 regulation length courses and 58 par 3's and executive type). Leading states with courses under construction are Florida 30; Michigan 25; Illinois and Pennsylvania each 21; California and Ohio each 20; North Carolina 19; Tennessee and Texas each 18; Virginia 16; New York 15; Washington and Indiana each 14; and Georgia 12.

New Methods of Financing: The prolonged tight money situation has brought about some changes in the financing of golf projects. Many private clubs are selling long term interest bearing bonds to their members; small syndicates are being created to finance profit motive golf courses; some projects are obtaining legal authority to sell stocks on the open market. One such venture is the 18 hole, Trent Jones designed Golden Triangle Golf Course planned for the 170-acre Johns Hopkins Estate between Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, D.C. Stock offering for this one is now underway according to Carl Rasnic, former PGA Middle Atlantic Section President and now President of Golden Triange.

Chain of Golf-Resort Complexes: A stock offering of 4 million shares was recently announced by American Family Recreation Centers Inc. of Annapolis, proceeds of which will be used to build year round resorts including golf courses, motels, travel-trailer parks, swimming pools and other facilities - to be located between Kentucky and Florida adjacent to Interstate Route 75 and from Virginia to Florida adjacent to Interstate Route 95. The first two resort sites planned (each at a cost of about \$8 million) are just south of Atlanta, Georgia, and the greater Orlando, Florida area. President of AFRC, Inc. is William J. Haig. Among the 18 Advisory Board members are PGA touring golf professionals Dan Sikes, Bob Murphy and Lee Elder and Mark Cox, President of Victor Golf Co.

The Golf Boom Continues: Despite the tight money situation and high interest rates, developers continue to build new golf courses. Regardless of the type project - be it a housing development, high-rise condominiums or apartments, mobile home sites, ski resorts, hunt clubs and equestrian operations or a summer theater venture - somewhere in the master plans will be golfing facilities. The United States, with more than 11 million golfers and almost 10,000 golf courses, leads the world in the continuing and apparently limitless expansion of the game of golf.

Harry Eckhoff
East Coast Facility Consultant

NEXT MEETING

The March meeting of the MAGCSA will be held on March 10, 1970 at Woodholme Country Club in Baltimore. Our host superintendent will be Russel Kerns who has been at the club for four years.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB:

Take the Baltimore beltway (Route 695) to exit 20. Turn off 695 and go north on Reisterstown Road and take the first left. The club is about one half mile down Woodholme Avenue. Cocktails will be at 6 P.M. and dinner will be at 7 P.M.

V.P.I. TURF CONFERENCE

The 10th annual V.P.I. turf conference was held in Fredericksburg, Virginia, on the 27th and 28th of January. There were 253 in attendance, an increase of 20% over last year and a new record for this meeting. Dr. Fred Grau was the speaker at the banquet on Tuesday night and he summarized the past forty years that he has been in turf work. The talk was excellent and it brought out quite vividly the fact that although many developments have been made in turf, there are many doors that still remain unopened that can help our profession.

BIG JACK

Do we have a champion on our side in Jack Nicklaus, with his newly acquired side interest of golf course designing? He has teamed up with another golf course architect, Pete Dye, to design courses with a sort of a reverse twist. Nicklaus contends that he's "tired of courses built by non-golfers for non-golfers." His "courses won't be built just so pro's will like them; they will be set up so anybody's game can be suited by moving the tees around." His pet peeve, according to Hubert Mizell, AP sports writer, is large greens with as many as 10,000 square feet. Mizell wrote a series of articles on Ohio Jack and Dye in the Miami Herald and told of their new ideas in designing. The greens the two are now designing are in the neighborhood of 5,000 square feet. They contend that the larger greens are taking away from the game, in the respect that having to drop a 90 foot putt is a near impossibility. What they want to bring into the game of golf is the deft art of chipping. They've put their ideas to work in one course that has been nationally advertised and is an apparent success. The Heritage Classic, held over Thanksgiving weekend in Hilton Head, South Carolina, was played on one of their ventures. What will be the end result of their future in designing? The larger greens certainly affected our profession through higher maintenance costs and need for more manpower. The real reason for larger greens in the first place was to allow for more cupping space to cut down on damage from compaction, wasn't it? Or was it just an idea from some architect for a super green? In any event, it has caught on - enter Nicklaus and Dye.

Dave Fairbank

* * * *





EDITORIAL

Well, midwinter is here and so are its problems. As the picture with this month's editorial shows, our job really is a 12 month a year job. With pictures like this published in the local papers, how can we be expected to maintain our golf courses to survive the winter?

The biggest headache in the summer comes from disease or moisture, right? It is clear beyond doubt in anyone's mind then that the biggest headache or ache in other parts of one's anatomy in the winter is the mid-season thaw.

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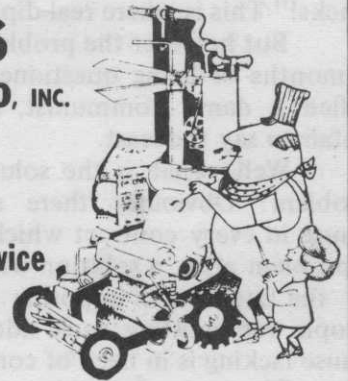
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That is the time of the year when the greens are too wet to play by the superintendent's standards but are in fine shape as far as the grill room agronomists are concerned. In fact, a certain percentage of them pull some pretty shady deals, to say the least. They fight, bite, kick and scream if, after two feet of snow melts, that the entire golf course is not open including regular greens and all. Times like this certainly try the superintendent. We are overprotective and a stubborn power-mad punk if we keep the course closed and we are a lazy unconcerned bum if we open it. What do we do? How can you argue with the highly educated member who tells his buddies: "So what if we play regular greens? In two weeks you'll never even see the tracks!" This is where real diplomacy should come in.

But however the problem is handled, we face 2 or 3 months of being questioned, cussed, mistrusted, and called a damn communist, all of which seem rather unfair to say the least.

Well, what is the solution to the course closed problem? Obviously there should be an arbitration clause in every contract which simply states that should a problem arise, a solution will be reached by mediation by the super, the opposing faction, and two neutral people representing each side. Any contract with this clause lacking is in need of correction.

There are alternatives to this particular problem. The first one is to try and maintain a solid relationship with the greens chairman and other club officials and cooperate with each other for the mutual benefit of both course condition and the golfers.

The second is to keep all the greens closed through the entire winter. This could cause a lot of dissention, but it is a definite solution.

The third is the most drastic, but it seems to be what a lot of club members want. That is to leave the entire operation plan open for play all winter. Needless to say, this is a rather ridiculous idea, but it is a possibility to keep peace in the family, so to speak, even if it would only be in the winter.

The best solution though is to maintain good member relations through education whenever possible and to get the backing of all the club officials. Remember, without them behind you 100%, you're as good as had!

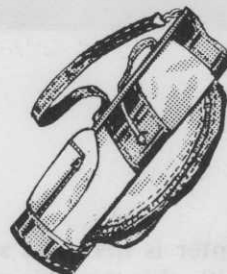
There are 4 requirements for success in being a superintendent:

1. You must have a strong back.
2. You must have a weak mind.
3. You must have a thick skin.
4. You must have a good sense of humor.

D.L.M.

BIG SPEAKER FOR BIG HITTERS

Tom Doerer from Ft. Belvoir Golf Club missed the first day of the conference in Houston. He had a good excuse though. He was in Baltimore speaking before the Eastern PGA group on the role of the superintendent in the golf course operation. Tom was asked to address this annual school for the big hitters and having seen a copy of his talk, there is no doubt that it was a big success. It would be interesting to know what questions Tom had asked of him.



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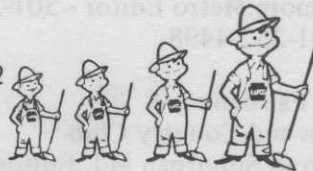
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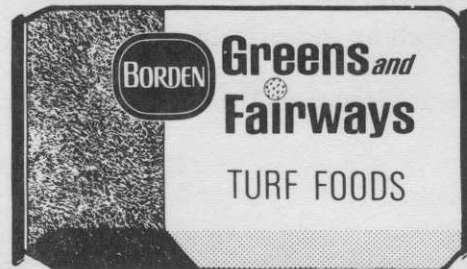
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Telephone 703-451-6619

Denny McCammon
Springfield Golf and Country Club
Editor-Director --- 703-451-6619

Sam Kessel
Country Club of Fairfax
Virginia Editor --- 703-273-7094

Dick Silvar
Baltimore Country Club
Baltimore Metro Editor - 301-252-0110
or 301-252-4498

Dave Fairbank
Lakewood Country Club
D.C. and Suburban Md. Editor - 301-762-0570
or 301-946-3159

Above are the names, addresses and phone numbers of the area editors. For contributions or information, contact the person covering your area.

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8301 KEENE MILL ROAD
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