



MID-ATLANTIC

News Letter



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NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic GCSA will be held June 9 at the Elkridge Country Club on Charles Street in Baltimore. Our host is Bill Wright who has been the superintendent there for four years.

Elkridge was established in 1878 as a Hunt club and later as a country club. It is now in a residential area of Baltimore which makes vandalism one of Bill's biggest problems

Fairway watering and a covered bridge are two of Bill's big improvements on the course. This year's improvements include a Bermuda program on the fairways.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB

Take 695 (Baltimore Beltway) north and get off at exit 25 south which is Charles Street. Go 3½ miles south towards Baltimore. The club is on the right.

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY

The forms from the survey are coming in well. Results have not been started yet as we are waiting a few more weeks to make sure we have as many forms back as you will send. A few of the wages and budgets are surprising as individual figures, both high and low, but the figure we are interested in is the total of all of them averaged out. If you haven't returned yours yet, PLEASE DO! These forms are all anonymous, so don't worry about anyone finding out what you put down.

MEETING PLACES

The following is a list of meeting places as it stands at the present time. Please note dates as well as places. Notice also that the November and December places are both open. If you would like to offer your club for either of these meetings, please call Lee Dieter.

June, Elkridge C.C., Host, Bill Wright;
July, Columbia, Host George Thompson
August, Elks Club, Salisbury, Family Picnic, Host Tom Ramburg;
September, Maryland G&CC Joint Mtg with Phila. group, Host, Ron Hall;
October, Turf Valley Golf Tourney, Host George Riddle;
November and December, Open.

THE JOY OF BEING EDITOR

(From the Northern Ohio TG News March 1970)

Getting out this newsletter each month is no picnic. If we print jokes people would say we were silly; if we don't, they say we are too serious. If we clip things from other magazines, we're too lazy to write them ourselves; if we don't, we are too fond of our own staff. If we don't print contributions, we don't appreciate true genius; if we do print them, the newsletter is filled with junk. If we make a change in the other fellow's write up; we're too critical: if we don't, we're asleep. Now like as not someone will say we swiped this from some other magazine, that's right — — — WE DID!

PERSONALS

We here in Virginia welcome Wally Stedding to his new job in Vienna at Westwood Country Club. He is leaving Rolling C.C. in Baltimore to take Jack McClenahan's place as Jack goes to Green Spring Valley.

Wally has already been told he will have to learn to say "Balti--more" instead of "Balimor" and use "y'all" with discretion.

Tom Comalli from Crofton really goofed -- bad! He got married the end of April and sure messed up a good thing. Just giving you the needle, Tom. Really congratulations to you and your new bride. We'll get to meet her Ladies Night. Oh yes, Ron Hall was best man and Bill Emerson was head usher. Can you imagine that? That's a real threesome, to say the least.

On a serious note, it's really a good sight to see Ralph Strouth back in action. He was a very sick boy and for a while, the doctors didn't even know what he had. But he's in there swinging now, kind of slow for a while, but it's good you're back, Ralph.

Our recently departed George Gumm (departed from the area only) got off on the typical Gumm start in his new neighborhood in his suburban Indiannapolis home. Seems their new house has a nice fireplace in it, so they had a cozy fire in it one evening. Naturally, wanting the place to be clean, all the ashes were removed from the ash pit, put in a cardboard box and place in the garage. You guessed it -- the box caught on fire, smoke, a few flames, fire engines, a crowd, the whole bit!

Stick with Gumm! Fortunately, no damage to anyone or anything, but you can bet the neighbors will be peeking through the blinds at the Gumm's for a while.

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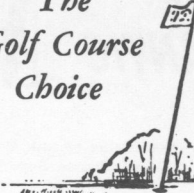


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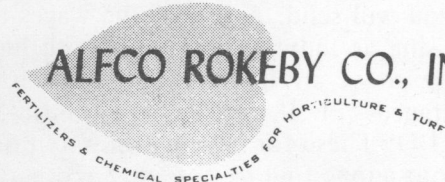
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NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY

Got a nice note from Gay Jerome the other day. She said Wayne was really enjoying his new job in Florida and especially enjoyed it when he read of all the heavy snows we got here all winter. She also said the month of April was terribly dry there. WE sure could have given Wayne some of our rain! Their address is: 6611 NW 21st Street, Margate, Fla., 33063.

LADIES HOME JOURNAL

Believe it or not, the Journal has some good articles and information in it from time to time. The following note deals with burns, a common thing on the course, and what to do for them. A Chicago pediatrician, Dr. Harvey Karvitz, says that he has started a national campaign to inform all Americans that ice or cold water compresses should be applied immediately and continuously for at least half an hour, to the sites of severe burns.

Another article from the same issue deals with air pollution. It states that bad air and bad health are directly related to death due to disease. Researchers in Buffalo, New York have found that in neighborhoods with the worst air, the death rate is twice as high as areas with cleaner air. Worse yet, where the air is the worst, stomach cancer is too. An epidemiologist blames this on particles of coal smoke in the air.

STOP THIEF!

Word comes to us that there has been a rash of hijackings and theft of many hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of chemicals in the midwest. The chemicals stolen are or soon will be on the "no-no" list of the federal government. You can bet they will be on the black market and if you are approached by anyone selling chemicals at a "good price", you might remember that receiving stolen goods is a felony.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE?

Dr. Houston Couch from VPI was the speaker at the last Greater Washington meeting in April. In his talk, he made two interesting remarks that really made a deep impression. The first was that the population has grown tremendously in the past 15 years. Big deal, you say! You already know it? Well, think of it the way he illustrated it. In the 50's, there was a lot of problem with surplus. Subsidies, soil banks, pay for not producing, burning grain, no storage, free give-aways, remember the pictures of wheat in the streets of Kansas and the Dakotas? It's been a while since you've seen that, hasn't it? If that doesn't make you stop and think, try this -- if all the pesticides were taken off the market, only about 40% of the population could survive. The rest would starve. Interesting figures aren't they? Let's hope our legislators have a lot of foresight and good judgement when they consider limitations and condemnations on new and old pesticides.

SUPERINTENDENT JOB INSECURITY

The following was written by Herb Graffis and appeared in the March 1970 issue of "Golfdom". Read and see if you don't agree it really hits the nail on the head.

An experienced superintendent -- a good one -- looking for a job, writes and comments on the job insecurity of superintendents. There are no figures on average time superintendents, professionals and managers hold their jobs. And there's no way of telling whether the reason for changing is moving to a better job or getting discharged. So the subject of job insecurity in golf is wide open for guesses.

The fellow who wrote me had been on a job at a first-class club for years and seemed to be doing okay on the course with the members. More salary for the needs of a growing family forced him to switch. His new job was at a course where no superintendent had stayed

long. Some who'd been on the job said that the best thing the club could do was to plow up the course and start over because of construction mistakes, beginning with the selection of the site. Then, of course, there often was offered the explanation of bad weather. But bad weather happens every few years at every course.

Considering what the superintendent is up against maybe it is amazing most superintendents stay at their courses as long as they do. However, when weather is adverse, as it was in many areas in 1969, and play, house business and pro shop business are off, the managers and pros aren't blamed and fired.

Something about the superintendent's job that isn't generally realized is that the increasing demands for almost perfect course conditions on private or pay-play courses during all playing weather puts a heavier load on the superintendent than on any department head. The handicap figures of members rarely have improved much at any club in 25 years, despite pros' greater and better educated attention to instruction, but the lack of improved play is not held against them. Club food and service standards haven't improved noticeably in 25 years. Considering the difficulty of getting first-class chefs and waiters and waitresses and changed eating habits of members, one would hardly expect that the old reputation of fine clubs as gourmet galleries could continue to be maintained.

BOZO

We all have unusual, to say the least, characters who work for us over the years. Bill Smart, who edits the Hudson GCSA Newsletter "Foreground", illustrated this point in one of his issues. He described one of his more memorable employees, and using the first person, made it a very enjoyable article.

This month we will look at Bozo, the clown of Springfield Country Club, and give this story-telling thing a try.

Wyatt, or Bozo, as he was fondly known during his stay of employment, came to us with a high recommendation from the general manager of one of the big area clubs where he had been a gate guard. This hardly seemed to qualify him as experienced golf course help, but last year we were so short of help that if their bodies were warm, they were hired.

The first trick that Bozo pulled was to chase two little boys off the golf course. This was a worthwhile gesture except he did it with his car which was equipped with snow tires, positraction, a V-8 engine and a four-speed transmission. On top of that, it had rained, really rained the night before.

After Bozo had leveled and put the hundreds of small pieces of sod back on the tire tracks across 6 fairways, I informed him that he had not been hired for security work and made a mental note to put him on permanent sand trap detail later in the summer.

Since this was early spring, we were still doing some inside work. One afternoon, Clownie was painting shovel handles. The job was well suited to his abilities, and while his attention was on something else, one of the boys took the stir stick from the bargain priced 5 gallon pail of paint Bozo had been using. When Wyatt noticed the stick was gone, he naturally assumed it had fallen into the bucket. I think it was sometime in July before the last of the red paint wore off his arm.

But the best was yet to come. One nice afternoon the boys were out on the course cleaning out one of the many ditches we have in the playing areas. They are always a mess in the spring, full of leaves and other debris.

I was in the shop talking to a salesman when one of the trucksters came flying into the back part of the barn. Bozo came in to the shop and went in to the bathroom. Several minutes later, he came out and got a drink of water. After which he combed his hair. After which he stood quietly with his hands in his pockets, not wanting to interrupt. Very polite. I excused myself from the salesman and asked Bozo what he needed. "Something to put some water in", he replied. "Well, how big?" "Oh, pretty big." "Well do you want a glass, or a bucket, an Igloo cooler or what?" "I guess an Igloo

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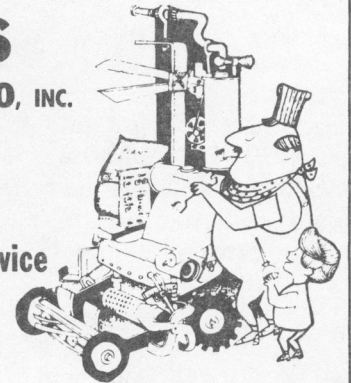
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cooler will be okay". "By the way," I asked after I had climbed up into the attic of the barn to get the cooler, "What do you need this water for?" "Well," replied Funny Face, "We were burning leaves out of a ditch and we set the plastic water line on fire that goes across number 10."

THAT was bad enough, but a little while later when the rest of the boys came in, my assistant, who had been with them, came in covered with mud and quite violent. Wyatt had gotten the water down there with no trouble which surprised us all. But when he and Gene, my assistant had started to throw the water on the fire from on top of the ditch, Wyatt let go of his side of the cooler. The water, the cooler, and Gene all landed in the ditch and the fire kept on burning.

The summer was long, and after Bozo set an accidental fire in the bathroom wastebasket and burned up the shower curtain, I figure it might be better if he were "retired."

It was a shame, too, because his heart was as big as he was and solid gold. The sad part was that his head was made of a much less valuable metal -- at least 50% lead.

JOB OPENINGS

Rolling Road in Baltimore is still looking for a superintendent. It is an 18 hole course and they should be contacted as soon as possible if you are interested.

Another job opening is with the Northampton Corporation in Upper Marlboro. Russell Roberts is designing, building and irrigating this layout. The irrigation system will be fully automatic and 9 holes will be under construction this year to open for play next summer. Plans are to have 27 holes all together at the completion of the construction. The man to contact is

Mr. Paul Serex, Project Manager
Northampton Corporation
9832 Central Avenue
Upper Marlboro, Md.
Phone 336-234^c

The following is from William Smart, Editor of the "Foreground" of the Hudson Valley GCSA.

GREENSMAN, GREENSMAN!

Greensman, Greensman, I speak to you,
Keep your mower straight and true.

Check your gas before you go
Don't mow too fast, don't mow too slow.

Note the cut of knife and reel,
Depend on sight, not on feel.

If you'd like to watch me boil,
Let me catch you low on oil.

Leave the green clean and neat,
Tread nice and gently with your feet.

Change your direction every day,
Catty-corner, short and the easy way.

Fix the ball marks, before you mow,
Don't scalp the knobs and expect it to grow.

Watch your step on the last bout,
Don't cut her in, nor cut her out.

Last but not least, look back as you go
Are you proud of your work, are you
proud of your mow'?

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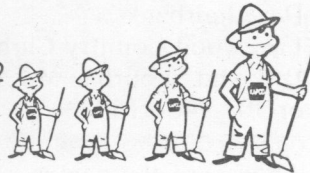
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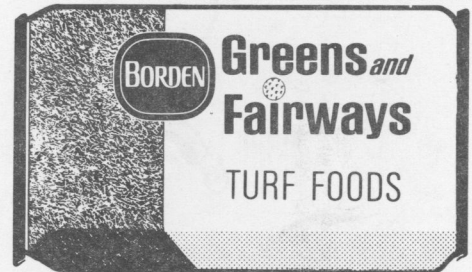
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Telephone 703-451-6619

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
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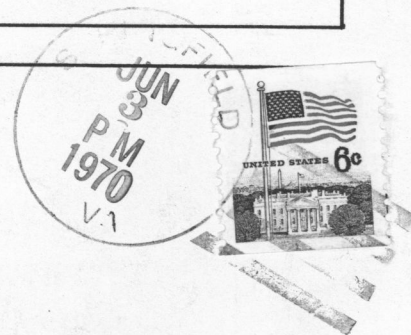
Dave Fairbank
Lakewood Country Club
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or 301-946-3159

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
SPRINGFIELD, VA. 22150



George Cleaver
Box 121 A
Lutherville, Md.