

WOODMONT MEETING— OCTOBER 2, 1973

Woodmont Country Club, located in Rockville, Maryland, was the site of our memorable October meeting. Bob Shields, our host superintendent has headed the 36-hole 500-acre grounds operation for almost two decades and has offered his club for innumerable Mid-Atlantic Meetings over those years. We've never been disappointed yet! One reason for this is that we always have so much to see that is different or new from our last visit. This year Bob has recently completed the reconstruction of his 17th green on the North Course. This green was relocated and the near-by pond greatly enlarged to provide the membership with a forever changing golf course. This new green was constructed in strict accordance to USGA specifications and should be very interesting to observe over the following years. Also recently reconstructed was the 7th tee on the North Course. This was the first tee Bob has built completely out of sand, which has worked out very well during this first season.

All of Woodmont's 500 acres involve some form of intensive maintenance except 50 acres which are left natural. Included in the maintenance program are:

- 7 acres in greens
- 5 acres in tees
- 140 acres in fairways
- 150 acres in rough
- 4 acres in parking
- 100 acres in woods
- 3 acres in tennis
- 3 acres in lawns
- 8 acres in ponds
- 1 acre in flowers

Other than the two 18-hole golf courses, Bob also maintains the following:

- 12 Hartue tennis courts
- 4 hard surface tennis courts
- 2 paddle tennis courts
- 1 mile long entrance road
- 5 miles chain link fence
- 30 miles buried water lines
- 2 miles buried telephone lines
- ½ mile 8" sewer line
- 7 employee dwellings



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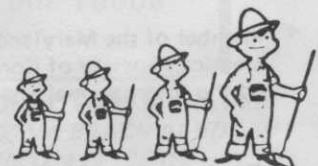


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Do you wonder if he ever gets lost out there?

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

The following people have requested membership in the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Association:

Kenneth M. Cominsky	Class B
William R. Angerer	Class H
Gus G. Constantino	Class E
Averill B. Brigman	Class A
Thomas J. Willock	Class A
William J. Rondeau	Class E
Charles E. Jordan, Jr.	Class E
Thayne A. Loendorf	Class E
John H. Lea	Class E
Charles S. Johnson	Class E
Thomas K. List	Class D
Harold E. Parr, Jr.	Class D
David Harmon	Class A
Richard Stewart	Class D

Richard Fisher requested his membership classification be changed from Class B to Class A.

These membership applications and changes are being published here in accordance with our by-laws. Unless written objection is received within 30 days after publication, these requested changes to our membership will take place.

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SINGING THE BUDGET BLUES

From New England Newsletter/Oct '73

The golf course superintendent was in direct competition with Mrs. Average American Housewife this summer as each engaged in the battle of the budget. Who won? It was a tossup.

Each, however, had to cut corners. And we all know how that is. You cut here and hear a scream there. While

the housewife served the family a diet full of meatless wonders, the superintendent was out on the course virtually appealing for some help from above to keep his budget from skyrocketing out of sight.

"It's a good thing we aren't in the Metropolitan area," a super with a labor outlay far exceeding his expectations offered. "The average cost of labor there is \$4.40 an hour. You have to pay time and a half for Saturdays and double time on Sundays. With the kind of conditions we've had this year, I could go through my labor provisions in two months."

Naturally, labor made the biggest dent in the budget because of the high humidity-excessive moisture pattern of the weather. The only way to combat this was with manpower and the labor bank was hit hard.

The seven-day week for the super is covered in another piece in the Newsletter. But that unusual circumstance was compounded by the seven-day week for crew members. One superintendent revealed that he averaged four or five men working Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer. This is why the Metropolitan New York scale would have killed the New England Association members.

The average hourly rate here is \$2.30. But this could change in the future. There is some strong talk about the Teamsters Union moving in to cover golf course workers. If this should occur, future budgets will take a walloping rise. Right now the average outlay of an 18-hole course for labor is \$75,000 per year. Toss in the increase in hourly rate and those overtime riders and it really riddles a budget.

While labor ate considerably of its share of adding to the budget blues, other factors also appeared to make shrinking violets of once healthy financial figures.

The trend was to go way over prescribed cost on fungicides. Again, this was precipitated by the weather. Whereas an ordinary summer might call for \$3,000 in fungicides, this year that figure was at least tripled and even went beyond that on some hardly-hit courses.

Repairs of equipment and even unavailability of certain parts also had their hand in the battle of the budget. A conservative estimate throws the cost of repairs up 15 percent from last year. This does not include certain items which couldn't be obtained to repair equipment, a setback which caused a switch to manpower again to provide a solution.

The whole idea of the budget being firmed in December and then being desecrated in July has to be the result of poor planning by the country club. Naturally, the super never gets as much as he wants in the line of budget money. This is a natural setting for a natural rivalry between those chosen to allow the spending and those chosen to actually do the spending. There is always a gap in each's thinking.

However, future budgets must contain contingency clauses to allow for unusual conditions such as were experienced this summer. Without such a clause, the superintendent could be placed in a position where he loses his golf course over the outlay of a few thousand dollars. The club member again most choose between having a course hanging by the thread of uncertainty (mostly the weather) and one that has the foresight to meet the demands of extreme conditions.

No one can predict a repeat of the summer of '73, but everyone can be ready for such a horrendous thought. It's all done at budget time.

—Gerry Finn