

## Long, Long Ago

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### 15 Years Ago — Fall 1964

The Fall meetings of September through December were held at: Island View C.C. — Robert Martino; Suburban Club — James Reid; Turf Valley C.C. — George Riddle and Glen Dale C.C. — Bernie Hieling.

The President's Message for September spoke of how dry all courses were that Summer: a slight contrast from the Summer of '79.

Mr. Al Radko, Eastern Director, U.S.G.A., Greens Section, was the guest speaker at the Suburban Club. He showed film of some courses in Scotland and explained maintenance practices both here and abroad. Then President Tom Doerer wrote of this talk: "I would say, in my opinion, we in America, as golfers, are all driving Cadillacs when it comes to course conditioning." (The same feelings holds true for 1979 since those superintendents with "Cadillacs" can sure testify to their high costs; maybe "economy car" practices will be the coming rage on golf courses. — Ed.)

George Riddle spoke of a maintenance procedure which doesn't seem to be used today: "the use of limestone dust around trees in his rough. It is put down one inch deep, two feet around each tree. Hand maintenance around the trees is eliminated."

Tom Doerer's President's Message of October still holds true today: "Autumn reminds us to prepare for the Winter months ahead. Are we, as superintendents, doing this? If so, how? Autumn is also a splendid time to inventory what we have accomplished the past Spring and Summer. Did we accomplish all that we could have? Did we learn anything by our efforts, either good or otherwise? Or did we just go through our usual programs hoping for the best instead of planning for them?"

The December newsletter gave a valuable warning, still true today: "Although there have been some suggestions for the use of ammonium nitrate fertilizers as a de-icer, the Portland Cement Association again has issued a warning against its use. Although it is true that this material will melt ice and possibly fertilize the grass next to the concrete, it has the distinct disadvantage of causing deterioration of the concrete slab. It continues to work down into the slab."

### 10 Years Ago — Fall of 1969

An interesting piece on artificial turf in the September newsletter is worth a review today:

"The next interesting article is one that appeared in the syndicated Parade section, Sunday, August 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 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 than 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!"

In the December issue, Dave Fairbanks participated in an interesting event, that if it's still going today, might be of advantage to all of us:

"We had our last tournament here at Lakewood about a month and a half ago and for once it was very enjoyable. This was the employees tournament, instituted this year for the first time and the way it went over, it'll be here for many years to come. Ours was a club employee tourney, not any one department in particular. In fact, I played golf with people I never saw before, some from the depths of the boiler room. No one from the golf pro staff was eligible, but all other employees were invited to play, including the manager, superintendent, assistant manager and green crew foreman. There was a permanent trophy and prizes awarded for low gross and prizes for six net scores. The permanent trophy, which has the winner's name engraved on it, will be kept in the club trophy case. It was won by the bag room man with a scratch 83. There were two personnel from the greens crew — myself and the crew foreman. The foreman won first low net with 140-69-71. My score was good enough for third prize. Gift certificates from the pro shop were awarded as prizes, followed by a beer and crab feast later in the evening. As for the morale of the employees, is it necessary to say? Not only was the day thoroughly enjoyed, we're already planning to have numerous smaller tournaments next year followed by the big one at the end of the season. For a few days afterwards, not one employee had a gripe about anything. We're back to normal now, though."

For all of you history buffs who enjoy this column, pass on your desire for its continuation to the new editor. I know I found it very interesting to compile each month.