



# Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER



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## BROOKE MANOR APRIL 12 MEETING

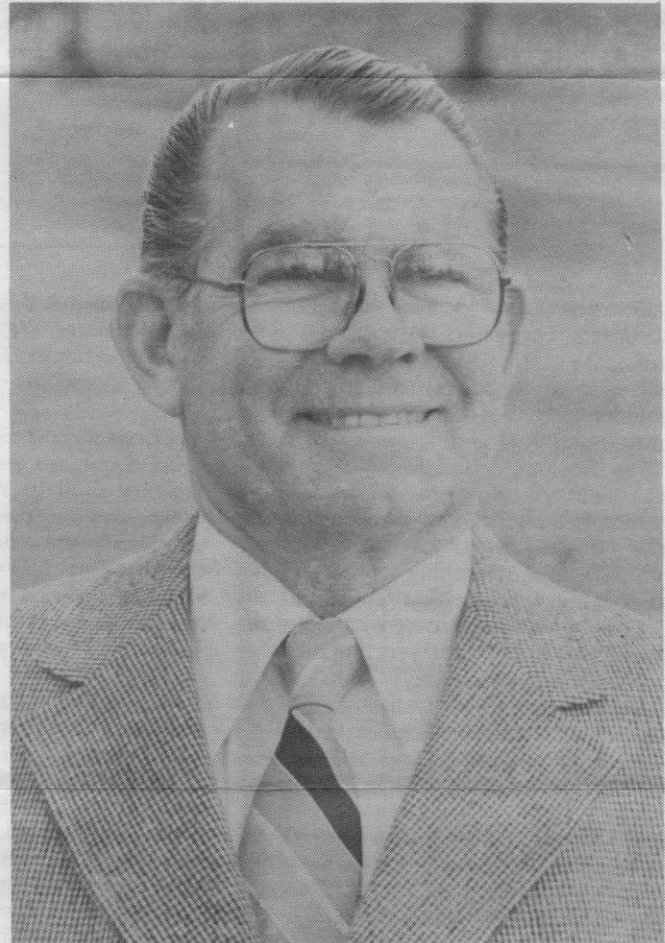
Brooke Manor, the Johns family and the entertainment business are all intertwined. The property called Brooke Manor has been in the Johns family since 1925 when it was purchased by Mr. Brooke Johns. For forty years he was involved in the entertainment business as a musician, song writer and singer. He performed in the Ziegfeld Follies with some of the great names in the business such as Eddie Cantor, Fannie Brice, Al Jolson and W.C. Fields. A close personal friend was the Prince of Wales. Brooke Johns passed away last year, three weeks short of his birthday at the age of 93.

Mr. Johns was approached about building a course by architect, Alfred Tull, builder, Frank Murray and the pro at Manor Country Club, Dewey Ricketts. The property was developed into a golf course in 1950. The family ran the course for the first five years and then leased it for twenty five years to F.O. Day and Clagget Stevens. Course operation was again taken over by the family in 1980. At that time, Mr. John Johns took over the dual role of General Manager and Superintendent of the golf course. Club operation is run as a family partnership involving the whole family.

John graduated in 1952 from the University of Maryland School of Law and served in the Coast Guard. For ten years he owned and operated Olney Contractors and is a licensed real estate broker. His experience in the field of golf dates back to 1949 when he worked under Jocko Miller as assistant caddy master at Congressional. John became a member of the Mid-Atlantic in 1984 and has deep regard for the association and its members.

The family plans to operate the current facility through the 1989 season. The course has been sold to developers who plan to continue operation of a golf facility on the site, perhaps as a nine hole regulation or an eighteen hole executive course.

The meeting presents an opportunity to visit and play the Brooke Manor course. It also offers us all an excellent chance to learn. John operates his course with three full time and five part time employees and only spends less than half as much on the maintenance of his course as the average private club does. Perhaps we can pick up a couple of cost cutting measures that will apply to our operation. He uses a pre-emergence crabgrass control on his greens, tees, and aprons only. The spray program is on a control basis and just the greens are treated. The fairways were overseeded with perennial ryegrass in 1982 and the tees are seeded every Fall. The irrigation system furnishes water to the greens only with a manual system. The cutting heights are greens 3/16", tees and aprons 1/2", and fairways are cut at 3/4". The Brooke Manor course measures 6117 yards from the white tees, has a par of 68.5 and a slope of 115. The course will be open to our members for tee times from noon to 2:00. Lunch is available at the club and may be charged to your club or paid for in cash. Cocktails will be served from 6:00 to 7:00 and dinner will be served at 7:00, the meal will be \$20.00. Please remember to call (301) 381-0030 with your reservation. Golf and dinner or dinner only.



*John Johns, our host.*

**RESERVATIONS  
(301) 381-0030**

**DIRECTIONS:** The club may be reached from the Washington Beltway (495) by taking the Georgia Avenue exit (Rt. 97) North. Go 8.3 miles to Bachelor Forest Road, make a left U turn here, then the first right turn on the service road, proceed to the club entrance.