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**THRU THE GREEN**

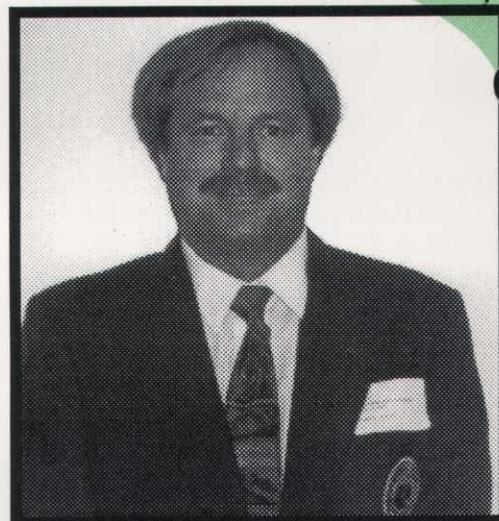
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## From The President

1997 continues to be an exciting year for our industry. Golf equipment sales are up as club manufacturers try to supply the growing number of new players that flood our courses and practice facilities. I recently paid \$10.00 for a medium bucket of balls at an upscale public course and had to wait for a place to hit them. The new course construction boom continues. All of this growth presents excellent opportunities for Golf Course Superintendents and those that supply the golf industry.

For an existing course willing to undertake renovation projects, careful planning is a must. Contractors and Golf Course Architects have been in short supply. For those of us that utilize the services of consultants we must also contact and schedule visits in a timely manner. It may take weeks to have someone available to help solve one of our problems that need immediate attention. We are fortunate that our Association has affiliate members that travel our region and based on what they see at other courses may be able to give some immediate advice — most of it good.

I have utilized the U.S.G.A. Green Sections Agronomic Visit Services for years. Like many of you, I've also picked up a few tips from the articles Pat Gross from the USGA has written



for our newsletter. Other Superintendents go beyond the USGA and enjoy fewer sleepless nights with the help of others. Superintendents are expected to know it all. With so many different and changing conditions course to course, and with what little may really be known by so many, it's okay to seek a little help from qualified consultants who also have so much to gain from our thriving business.

Shorter daylight hours are on the way,

Blake

## Office Notes

*By: Barbara Mikel*

Well this is August and naturally the only thing on your mind is Christmas holidays right? Well just a note to be sure to make your room reservations for the December Poppy Hills meeting at the Monterey Beach Hotel. New remodeled and oceanside rooms are available to the Association thru November 21, 1997 at discounted rates. See the "Calendar Section " for more details.

I must say this job gets more interesting by the year! June 26-30 I found myself in Lawrence, Kansas with a group of four golf course superintendent association managers for software and training provided by GCSAA. The visit was instructive, professional and friendly. The GCSAA staff couldn't have been more helpful and professional! I also found

Lawrence Kansas a refreshing change from other parts of Kansas--- not to say I don't like the other parts of Kansas-- I just find it difficult to navigate with no mountains for reference. We all came back with ideas we will be able to use and I suspect we were able to provide a few ideas for the GCSAA staff.

I got a call the other day from a new member wondering whether his membership card had been lost since he hadn't yet received it. I know you think there is a dark hole somewhere out there swallowing these things. I thought I might review the process. Once you are a member you probably don't need this information but if you are attesting the application of a soon to be member you might fill them in.

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