

# NEWSLETTER



JULY 1967

## Golf Course Superintendents Association OF NEW ENGLAND



Sponsors and administrators of the Lawrence S. Dickenson Scholarship Fund — Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

**President —**

LEON V. ST. PIERRE  
51 Fenwood Road  
Longmeadow, Mass. 01106  
Phone 567-5562  
Club Affiliation  
Longmeadow Country Club

**First Vice-President —**

ANTHONY CARANCI JR.  
22 Hillview Drive  
No. Providence, R. I. 02900  
Phone 723-1688  
Club Affiliation  
Ledgemont Country Club

**Second Vice-President —**

RICHARD C. BLAKE  
211 Sewall Street  
Beverly, Mass. 01505  
Phone 869-2737  
Club Affiliation  
Mt. Pleasant Country Club

**Secretary —**

THOMAS CURRAN  
37 Parker Street  
Fitchburg, Mass. 01420  
Phone 342-9198  
Club Affiliation  
Oak Hill Country Club

**Treasurer —**

LUCIEN DUVAL  
9 Rose Lane  
Framingham Center, Mass. 01701  
Phone 872-0006  
Club Affiliation  
Chestnut Hill Country Club

**Trustee —**

PHILIP CASSIDY  
45 Grosvenor Road  
Needham, Mass. 02192  
Phone 444-4127  
Club Affiliation  
Weston Golf Club

**Trustee —**

WILLIAM ASH  
9 Palfon Street  
No. Dartmouth, Mass. 02747  
Phone 993-8767

**Trustee —**

NORMAN MUCCIARONE  
101 Alban Road  
Waban, Mass. 02168  
Phone 332-3056  
Club Affiliation  
Woodland Country Club

**Finance Committee Chairman —**

N. J. SPERANDIO  
Concord, Mass. 01742  
Phone 369-4723  
Club Affiliation  
Concord Country Club

**Educational Committee Chairman —**

ROBERT GRANT  
22 Patricia Road  
Sudbury, Mass. 01776  
Phone 443-2671  
Club Affiliation  
Brae Burn Country Club

**Golf Committee Chairman —**

EDWARD J. MURPHY  
194 Oxbow Road  
Weyland, Mass. 01778  
Phone 358-7410  
Club Affiliation  
Lexington Country Club

**Newsletter Committee Chairman —**

DEAN ROBERTSON  
24 Riverview Drive  
Newbury, Mass. 01950  
Phone 452-4540  
Club Affiliation  
Ould Newbury Golf Club

**Past President —**

JOSEPH BUTLER  
3 Ridgewood Terrace  
Beverly, Mass. 01915  
Phone 922-1263  
Club Affiliation  
United Shoe Country Club

# Golf Course Superintendents Association

## JUNE MEETING

It was about 90 degrees in the shade and Superintendent Pete Ruby had the Portland Country Club in perfect playing condition. For those of you who did not attend, this was a joint meeting with Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts Superintendents Associations. There was a good turnout from each association, however I feel that more members of Mass. should strive to attend these meetings. Most of us work seven days a week during the growing season and one day off a month certainly would be a benefit to all of us. Take a day off and see how the other fellow lives.

I can't understand why I mail out about 125 *Newsletters* to our members and then only get to see the same few at each monthly meeting. Maybe some of you have some suggestions to interest some of the other Superintendents to attend the monthly meetings.

New Applications to be voted on at the next meeting:

Joseph Rybka  
Thorny Lea Golf Course

John K. Parker  
Duxbury Yacht Club

William Brennan  
Bear Hill Golf Club

Inserted in the last *Newsletter* was a list of names and addresses of our members. I have received many calls from people telling me that I listed their addresses wrong. How was I supposed to know that you changed jobs and moved? All it takes is a four cent post card to notify me of any change in your mailing address.

It is always interesting to walk around at the monthly meetings and listen to the conversations between the Supers. "Hey Dave, how do you like that new low gravity type tractor?" or "You know, I'm afraid my old rough mowers will never last the season if we continue to get much more rain." "Say Jim, do you think that you will ever live long enough to see your course rid of Poa?" "You know Bill, I've never seen a year as bad as this for hiring help. It seems as though nobody wants to work on a golf course any more, and if we don't start paying our help a decent wage we won't be able to hire even a high school student for the summer."

## ARTICLES

Gentlemen, I am running out of articles for the *Newsletter*. If you have something to offer why not sent it to me so that all of the members can benefit. I am sure that at least a couple of you have some interesting project going on or something out of the ordinary that you might write about.

Tournament results at Portland:

Low Gross	Dave Barber	78
Low Net	Don Estes, Jr.	71
	Al Mellon	71
2nd Low Net	Ron Kirkman	73
	Ted Murphy	73

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be our annual Superintendent-Chairman Meeting, July 10, 1967. This year it will be held at the Marshfield Country Club. Mel O'Kelly is the Superintendent. Let's all try to notify our chairmen and stress the importance of attending this meeting. Remember, it won't be a success unless you are there with your chairman.

Directors' Meeting	10:00 a. m.
Regular Meeting	11:00 a. m.
Lunch	12:30 p. m.
Golf Tournament	1:30 p. m.

Directions to Marshfield: Follow route 128 south to the Marshfield exit (route 139). Head towards Marshfield and at the first set of lights go right. Club is one mile ahead on the right.

The August meeting will be on August 7, 1967 at Sam Mitchell's Easton Country Club.

## In Memory of Joseph Valentine Merion Golf Club 1907-1962

On October 7, 1966, the Trustees of The Penn. State University with due deliberation, saw fit to honor the deeds and the memory of Joseph Valentine by proclaiming that the Turfgrass Research Center at Penn State shall be known as THE JOSEPH VALENTINE TURFGRASS RESEARCH CENTER. The objective is, by honoring the memory of the late Joe Valentine, also to recognize all Golf Course Superintendents. Many will want to participate in the establishment of this Memorial and to have their names permanently inscribed as friends of Golf Course Superintendents.



All contributions should be sent directly to Box 324, State College, Pennsylvania 16801, and checks should be made out to Joseph Valentine Memorial Fund.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
**FROM THE FLAPPER GENERATION**  
**TO THE GO-GO GENERATION**

If you were a greenskeeper in 1924, you remember the weekly Sunday afternoon visits to the greenskeeper's cottage, from the Greens Chairman, at the Sandy Niblick Club.

Reginald MacNeish would arrive in a Stutz Bearcat sports car, dressed in his candy striped blazer and white flannel pants. He would almost always find old Henry, the greenskeeper, in the barn feeding (part of the fairway mowing equipment) Jerry and Chumley, who provided the horsepower which was needed to pull the two-three gang Ideal fairway mowing units.

Mr. MacNeish came over this Sunday afternoon to tell old Henry that he had located an old sickle bar mowing machine, for cutting roughs and a lime sower, down country for ten dollars apiece.

Those were the days when the club house cellar had more stock than the club barn, in the form of bootleg scotch and gin.

Forty-three scratching years later, Otto Stahl, the Chairman of the Golf and Ground Committee at the Mossy Brook Country Club, arrived at the Superintendent's office on Monday morning, driving a sleek \$7,000 sports model to discuss the labor shortage, some of the existing problems on the golf course, and plans for installing an automatic watering system.

Living in the Go-Go generation has many advantages, and those who lived in the Flapper generation had their blessings, too.

Leon V. St. Pierre  
President

*The following article is the first of a series that I am going to run from time to time, taken from a Human Relations in Supervision handbook, put out by the Boston Edison Co.*

**KEEPING THE BOSS INFORMED**

The supervisor should supply his boss with complete and accurate information for the boss to use in making decisions, issuing orders, and reporting up the line in turn to his own boss. A man has to protect his boss from being caught unaware of, and uninformed about, things he holds the responsibility for. The channels of the chain of command exist not only to send orders down from the top to the bottom of an organization, but also to pipe information back up the same line — each man to his boss.

The boss needs to know, for instance, how work is progressing, what difficulties are being encountered, what improvements are needed, how orders are being carried out, if any actions of management are getting unfavorable reactions at the work level, and if there is any trouble brewing.

In order that this channel of communication upward can fulfill its purpose, everyone in the chain of command must recognize those human traits that tend to distort information. There is a natural tendency to keep the boss happy by overemphasizing the good aspects and playing down the unfavorable aspects of a situation. It is just human nature to distort information so as to escape blame — to color up reports so that the boss will think you're on the ball, to filter out anything that might make you look careless, stupid, or unfit for the job.

The amount of censoring, filtering, and coloring of information hinges upon the kind of relationship a man has with his boss. If the relationship is one of mutual helpfulness, a man can admit that he made a mistake, that things aren't going too well at the moment, that it looks like trouble ahead and something needs to be done about it. If a supervisor doesn't have to phrase his report in terms of protecting himself, he can send up the channel the kind of information that upper management needs to make its decisions and to formulate its communications in terms of the people who will receive them.

Everyone has had the experience of seeing a perfectly good project fall flat and die because the way it was presented didn't appeal to people or because it was introduced at a time when people were too deeply stirred up about something else. A management that knows what people at the bottom level want, and how they think and feel about the things that are part of their work lives, is able to explain its wishes and launch its projects in a way that takes these sentiments into account.



FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Abbott Spray and Farm Equipment Co.  
Waltham Street  
Lexington, Massachusetts

Dr. Burton R. Anderson  
Golf Course Architect  
Turf and Golf Course Consultant  
Route 5  
Augusta, Maine

The Clapper Co.  
1121 Washington Street  
West Newton, Massachusetts

Geoffrey S. Cornish  
Golf Course Architect  
Fiddler's Green  
Amherst, Massachusetts

The Charles C. Hart Seed Co.  
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Fuel Activator Chemical Corp.  
C. F. Barbour — Regional Director  
43000 Prudential Tower  
Boston, Massachusetts

Gaffny Enterprises, Inc.  
Irrigation Specialists  
North Main Street  
Middleton, Massachusetts

Grounds Equipment Co., Inc.  
383 Boylston Street  
Newton Centre, Massachusetts

Kerr McGee Chemical Corporation  
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Waterbury, Connecticut

Irrigation Consultants Inc.  
251 Harvard Street  
Brookline, Massachusetts

Tom Irwin Co.  
Bennett Hill Road  
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Karandrew Turf Farms, Inc.  
Sam Mitchell, Sales Representative  
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Johns-Manville Sales Corp.  
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Lu Soil — Soil Conditioner  
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New England Engine & Parts Co. Inc.  
The Pacer Distributor  
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Stanley S. Philipkoski  
Sales Representative  
Stauffer Chemical Co.  
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New York, New York

Sawtelle Brothers  
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Danvers, Massachusetts

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Golf Course Architect  
21 Budleigh Avenue  
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Woburn, Massachusetts

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Fertilizers and Chemical Specialties  
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Ken Minasian  
Scotts  
6 Amelia Court  
N. Providence, R. I.

The Kenneth Barrie Company  
375 Centre Street  
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

A. C. Lawn, Inc.  
P. O. Box 436  
Wakefield, Mass.



Newsletter Committee Chairman —

DEAN ROBERTSON  
24 Riverview Drive  
Newbury, Mass. 01950  
Phone 462-4540  
Club Affiliation  
Ould Newbury Golf Club

