

NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER
NOVEMBER 1974



Golf Course Superintendents Association

OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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

THIS ANNIVERSARY WASN'T A WALTZ

Guy C. West remembers the occasion of the first meeting as a luncheon "somewhere in Boston."

Howard Farrant recalls that most people thought greenskeepers got their knowhow from The Farmer's Almanac.

Elmer B. Fuller believes golfers were fussy then and not about to change their ways 50 years later.

Joseph Oldfield tells that he picked his labor force by offering a man a shovel and hiring him if he picked it up by the right end.

The colorful quartet above, ranging in age from 74 to 77, were among the more than 200 who said happy 50th birthday to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England during a super-gala affair November 1 at the Lantana Restaurant in Randolph. And to emphasize their enjoyment, more than one stayed on the dance floor when the orchestra whipped into a snappy "boog-a-loo".

The Wests, Farrants, Fullers and Oldfields represented the pioneers of the organization. Each was aboard the discussion train that pulled into Boston at Cotrelle's Restaurant on the afternoon of February 25, 1924. "We thought it was about time we got together and make people realize we weren't just a pick and shovel gang", Oldfield laughs. "We didn't expect the large turnout we got. There were 41 interested and we were a group of 41 official members of the Greenkeepers Club of New England when we left."

The organization eventually was changed from the greenkeepers tag to that of the superintendent. "We never made much of it", West reveals. "You know how job titles have changed over the years. The superintendent name maybe put a little polish on things. Besides, people always seemed to say "greenskeepers" instead of greenkeepers. There's no "s" after the "n". But it really doesn't matter, anyway."

Problems in the 20's and 30's were just about the same as they are today, according to the charter members. "I remember once that I put a strip of fresh cut rough through the middle of the area between the tee and the rough", Fuller laughed. "In those days there always was a piece of rough in front of the tee to make the drive more demanding. Anyway, some of my members used to line up their drives with that strip, just in case they topped the ball. They wanted a good lie. But that's the whole of it. Golfers always expect the best of conditions and the best positions for their next shot."

Each of the veteran supers agreed that the rewards of the profession have improved with everything else. "Our salaries ranged from \$1800 to \$4000, Farrant disclosed. "But, remember. Those were hard times, most of them, what with the depression and all. I know that's a drop in the bucket compared to what some of the boys get today. But we used to do a little moonlighting on the side to make ends meet."



Remembering old times from left, Guy West, Howard Farrant, Elmer Fuller, and Joseph Oldfield.

Budgets were in tune with the times, too. "A good budget for an 18-hole course in our time was in the neighborhood of \$20,000", West recalled. "Our equipment wasn't as fancy as that of today. But we had our gang mowers and such. It wasn't exactly the dark ages!"

While all of the charter members agreed the game of golf and the accompanying march of the superintendent have improved, there is one thing they think the sport could do without. "I'm talking about the golf cart", West snapped. "I never was for it as far as being a superintendent goes and neither am I as far as playing golf goes. It takes something out of the sport and adds nothing but headaches to the job of keeping the course in grade-A shape."

The charters, the present-day superintendents, friends and others continued on into the night in the dazzling party environs. NEGCSA president Tom Curran welcomed one and all and asked for ... and received a standing ovation for anniversary co-ordinators Wayne Zoppo and Don Hearn. They put it all together and it was good show. Even the "boog-a-loo" fell into place.

Gerry Finn

Next Meeting...

ANNUAL MEETING

DEC. 2, 1974

Holiday Inn, Newton

Directors Meeting 11:00 A.M.

Regular Meeting 1:00 P.M.

Lunch On Your Own

THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE LAWRENCE S. DICKERSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND DEC. 2, 1974 PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL MEETING.

Golf Course Superintendents Association

IT NEVER ENDS, DOES IT?

Now that the golf season is over, you think that you're going to sit back, relax and while away the days until spring. You know you're kidding. It never ends, does it?

Originally, the superintendent was hired to maintain the golf course. That was his job, not that he could pack it in at the end of November and whisk his weary body off to Florida. But, for the most part, the winter months were lean ones. A superintendent could take it easy, space out his time to refurbish equipment and maybe even get to spend a holiday or two with his family.

So, every now and then, the Newsletter - both as a service to the super and an educational service to the club member who is not aware of such things - brings everyone up to date on the "wintering of the golf course superintendent". This is not meant as a complaint, grievance or whatever. It's simply a re-stating of little known facts.

Most superintendents have under their all encompassing wings the task of keeping the clubhouse and grounds from resembling an Alaskan outpost once the snows of winter fall. Alas, the clubhouse doesn't close as does the course when the flakes accumulate. And members must have access to it.

This means snowplowing chores are a consistent reminder to the super that his job never ends. As often as not, it does snow on Christmas and New Year's. These two holidays are the social home runs of the country club baseball team. And, if it requires, the super and his crew might have to clear the driveways and parking lots of the clubhouse in order that the social life continue without a snag.

A new assignment has popped into the post golf season agenda of the superintendent. In keeping with the increasing recreational needs of the member, most clubs have turned to an enthusiastic platform tennis program. This, as we all know, is another outdoor game. And, this as we all should know, requires a conditioning program which comes under the hand of the super.

Again, the super's contribution is based on availability. When the snows come, so must the plows. . . for both the parking lot and the courts. Man hours pile up in this category, too. It is not unusual to see a platform tennis budget go as high as five and six thousand dollars, depending on number of courts.

Even with the added responsibility of the platform tennis chores, the superintendent has the regular off-season task of getting equipment ready for the big push into spring. Now, more than ever, he is making an effort to keep new machinery at a minimum. In turn, this adds to the repair program. . . both in man hours and manpower availability.

"I suppose we'll be busier than any winter I ever have known," one super advises. "The increase in budget will follow a familiar line. It will emphasize that the hikes are absorbed in higher costs of material and labor. Thus, we're going to have to get along with certain of our equipment that would have been replaced in the past. This year we'll be repairing it, so I'm going to have to be very careful in my schedules. It's going to be very interesting."

So, the superintendent has his work cut out for him this winter and in a fashion he's never experienced before. The addition of the platform tennis court conditioning, the regular manpower output on the clearing of club roads, parking lots. . . and skating ponds and the expected emphasis on reconditioning of equipment rather than replacing it. These all add up to a heavy load.

Now you know why it doesn't end for the superintendent. . . just in case you were expecting a post card from Florida!

Gerry Finn



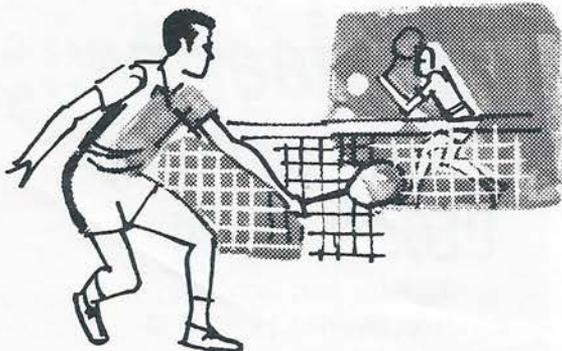
President's Message...

The next meeting of our association will be the annual meeting. This includes reports of officers and committee chairmen and also our annual election. I would appreciate it if all committee chairmen be prepared to make a brief annual report on their committee's actions this past year. This is the first indoor meeting and I hope it will be well attended.

Thank you,
Thomas G. Curran
President of the GCSA
of New England

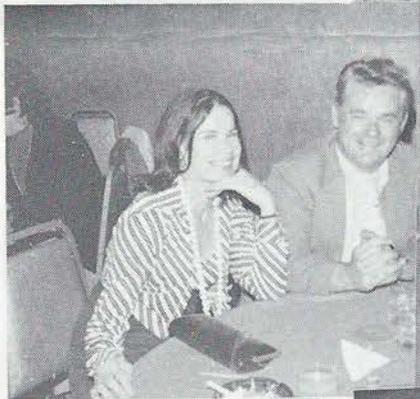
NOMINATIONS FOR 1975 OFFICERS OF NEGCSA

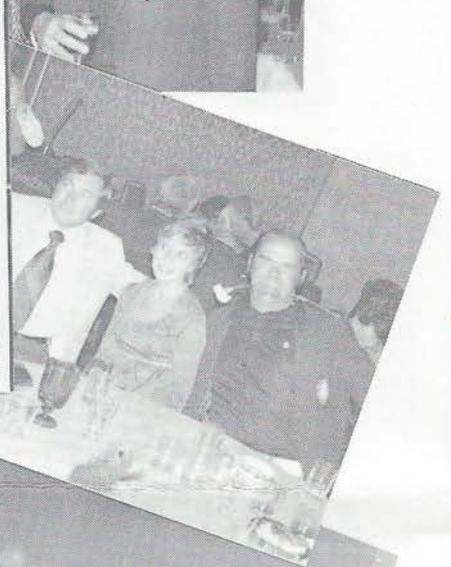
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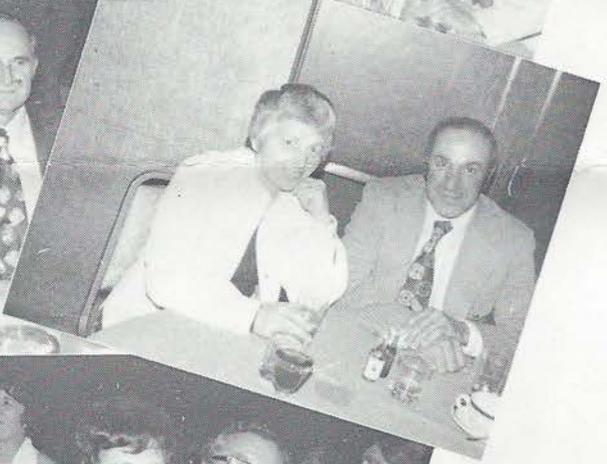
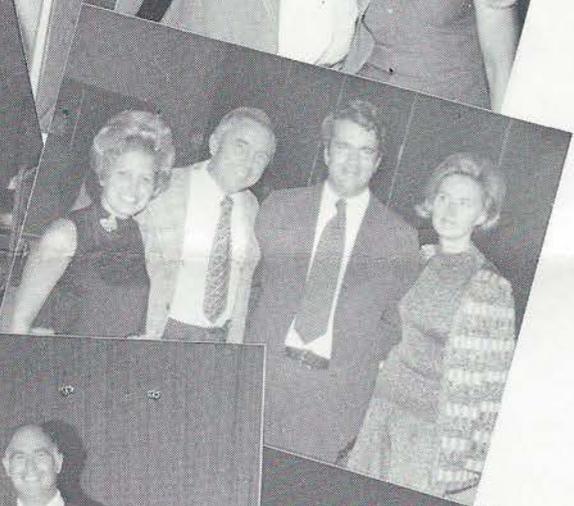
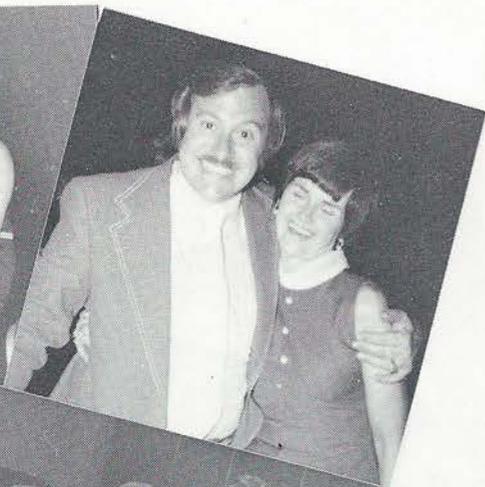
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Our 50th Year









SOUND OFF

(Some familiar names dot the Sound Off ranks today. This is that part of the Newsletter which is as unpredictable as the amount of rainfall we can expect next August. But it also is interesting. The ground rules are simple. Contributors can write on any golf subject. The only request from the mail room is that each sender complete his letter with name and home address. Those names and numbers will be withheld if noted by the writer. All contributions should go to Newsletter Mail Bag, 290 North Road, Sudbury, Mass. 01776. The Newsletter reserves the right to comment on all published letters.)

"It has been my unhappy and disturbing experience to notice that your Sound Off column is lacking in one very important ingredient--more comment from our own NEGSCA members.

"Since this is my first year out of the "business" after serving as the Newsletter chairman for many years, I have given stories all the more attention. Because I'm interested in the publication and view it as one of our strongest means of promoting our profession, I think it's high time some of us started becoming involved in the Sound Off space.

"The editor has assured me that the Newsletter takes an impartial stand on the opinions of individual members. Whenever he is asked to withhold a name, he will do so. And he also repeats that any controversial sounds will be treated in strictest confidence once the letter becomes published without name and address.

"So, I think it's in the best interest of the superintendent and his organization that he take part in this important feature of our publication and that part is easily there for the taking through a Sound Off letter. Why can't we all get involved in a good thing for the good of ourselves and the sport of golf?"

DEAN ROBERTSON
Newbury, Mass.

You hit the club on the sweet spot, Dean. Someone out there must have something to say. . . and we bet it's darn interesting.

"I just wanted to add my congratulations to Messrs. Zoppo and Hearn for their part in the most enjoyable 50th anniversary celebration a couple of weeks ago.

"The pace of the party couldn't have been better. Wayne and Don put something out there for every person who attended. I mean that all the different generations in attendance. . . and I figured it to be at least three. . . were treated to a special kind of entertainment. The old, middle and younger aged party-goers seemed to revel during the entire evening in the pleasure accorded them.

"Once again, it was a grand affair. And, by the way, why wait until the 75th birthday to do it again? After all, people celebrate their own 51st birthdays!"

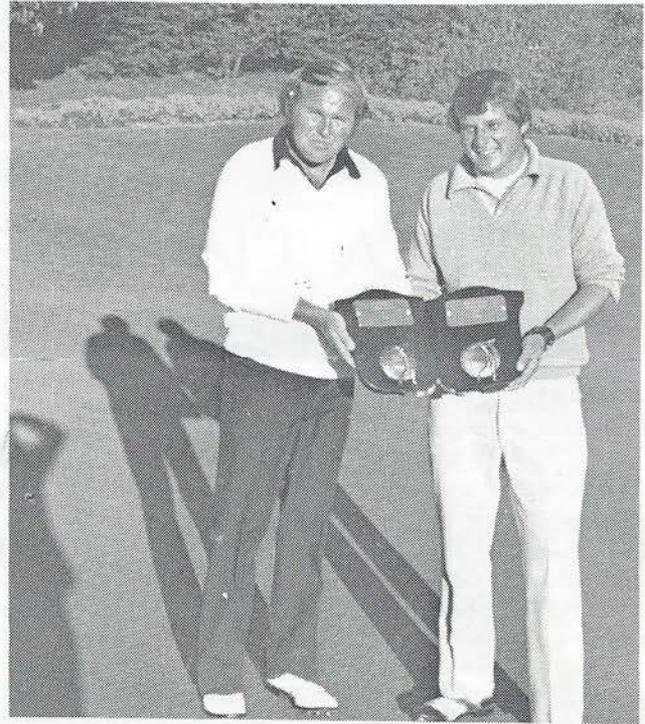
GERRY FINN
Suffield, Conn.

Everyone's still talking about the 50th. For that reason, you might have something in suggesting a 51st bash!

"Your senior readers might get some bang out of this list of old time names that we used when golf was played 'way back when.'

"There are still some around who played golf in the twenties and who remember when clubs were made of hickory, when clubs were often carried in a little white canvas 'Sunday bag' and when the oddly fashioned implements used to play the game had names--not numbers as we have today. Here are the old Scottish names which more than likely will bring a touch of nostalgia to the senior citizens in your audience:

- "One Iron.Driving Iron
- "Two Iron.Mid Iron
- "Three Iron.Mid Mashie
- "Four Iron.Mashie Iron



Winners of the Pro-Supt. Tourney at Brae-Burn C/C -- Mike Smith and Ron Kirkman.

- "Five Iron.Mashie
- "Six Iron.Spade Mashie
- "Seven Iron.Mashie Niblick
- "Eight Iron.Pitching Niblick
- "Nine Iron.Niblick
- "Ten Iron.Putter
- "Eleven Iron.Jigger
- "One Wood.Driver
- "Two Wood.Brassie
- "Three Wood.Spoon
- "Four Wood.Cleek (or Baffie)

"The sand wedge and pitching wedge were not developed until later. Those delicate approach shots were made by opening the face of the Niblick."

ANGUS MACDONALD
Palmer, Mass.

Those certainly were the days, Angus. And there were some pretty good men swinging those brassies and jiggers. God bless 'em.

"Maybe it's a little too soon for this, what with the golf season just about over. But why can't our association revive the husband-wife (friend) golf socials that we enjoyed a few years ago?

"I think there is so much interest in golf today that the girls would like to join with us on one of our golfing days during the summer. I think it might pick up our summer program considerably."

MANNY FRANCIS
Marshfield, Mass.

Just seek out the tournament chairman and let him know what you think, Manny. Sounds great from this end. . . just as long as I get to play with Laura Baugh!

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Golf Course Superintendents Association

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