

Honing The Homestead

It all started when Fred Reese found that his job was getting boring . . . when he yearned for some excitement, adventure - and, what else? A new challenge.

So, from the ho-hum life of a Virginia State Trooper, Reese went into the business of an adventure all in its own - that of becoming golf course superintendent.

That wasn't too long ago, nine years to be exact. But in those nine turns of the calendar, Reese has risen to the top of his profession in matter of assignment. Presently, he is the superintendent at the world-famed The Homestead resort in Hot Springs, Virginia. And under the touch of his natural ability to make turf behave are 54 holes of magnificent golf courses - one of which is The Upper Cascades, rated in the top ten whenever connoisseurs of the sport gather to knock around the relative merits of the world's finest layouts.

Reese started at a nine-hole course in Staunton and in no time at all he went to Homestead president, Thomas J. Lennon, when the position there was open. Perhaps it was an upset, but Mr. Lennon liked Reese's approach and his ideas for conditioning the 54 holes. There were other applicants, but Fred got the job. And Mr. Lennon's eye for excellence in a superintendent can be seen in the well-groomed condition of all three courses - Homestead, Lower Cascades and Upper Cascades.

Ironically enough, Reese states that he doesn't shoot for anything special in the way of an end result. "I don't look to turn the courses into those pampered things you see on television," he cracks. "I'm a sort of natural maintenance guy, myself. I just let nature take its course and maybe give it a little direction when I see fit."

The 36-year-old Reese is a member of the GCSAA and is looking forward to taking his examination for certification. "I'm digging up the books now," he advised. "I think I'll get something out of it. Mostly, I'm doing it to improve course conditions at The Homestead."

Reese has put a streamlined look on the process of conditioning the 54 holes, set in the Virginia Alleghanies. "I've got my crews down to a workable number, so that everyone has something to do all the time," he tells. "I have 25 men working the three courses and seven more on the resort grounds. Over them are four foremen, one for each course and another for the grounds. I'm at the four different sites at least once every day. Actually, I'm the first ever to supervise all the courses. But that's the way I sold myself."

Certainly, the high elevation at The Homestead gives Reese an edge in grooming the three layouts. In fact, all irrigation at the Homestead and Upper Cascades is done manually. The Lower Cascades - the youngest of the three - has automatic irrigation. "But it needs it," Fred snaps. "It's 800 feet lower than the other two, and, boy, is there a difference in heat and humidity. I find that I have to set an entirely different conditioning program at the Lower."

Problems along turf lines ring a familiar bell. Pink snow mold is pesty at the high elevations (it really snows in Virginia) and Reese has his share of dollar and leaf spot. Being a naturalist, he prefers to use as little chemically-based remedies as possible.

Reese says he doesn't operate under a set budget, nor does he have a green committee to deal with. "I meet with Mr. Lennon every once in a while," he reveals. "We go over the program and if I need anything, he just okays it. That's how the budget operates, if you want to call it that. Guessing at a figure, though, I'd say it costs around \$200,000 to maintain the three courses."

No worries about member interference, Fred? "Only when Sam and Carlyle are in town," Reese cracks. "They're my severest critics. But I listen to them. They mean well. And sometimes they're right."

Sam and Carlyle would be Sam Snead and his nephew, J. C. - a couple of pretty fair country boy golfers. They live right there in the shadow of the three Homestead courses. So, maybe Fred Reese gets all the excitement there that he couldn't find as a state trooper.

Gerry Finn

Christmas Party

Friday, December 3, 1976
Mt. Pleasant Country Club
Boylston, Mass.

Dealers Cocktail Hour 7:00
Dinner & Dancing 8:00-12:00

Any friend of the association wishing to sponsor the Cocktail Hour please notify Pete Coste at 566-0240 or 359-7247.

Directions:
Off Mass. Pike take Rte. 495 North to Rte. 290 West. Off Rte. 290 take the Church St. exit for Boylston. Club is on the right several miles up Church St.

Golf Course Superintendents Association

Maintenance Practice - Brae Burn C. C.

Each year after the John Shanahan Memorial Tournament several superintendents have questions in regard to the operation and maintenance program at the Brae Burn Country Club. With that in mind, your editor, Larry Bunn, felt a brief explanation of the maintenance staff and the golf course operation would be of interest to our members.

Six men are employed year round. Two additional men are employed April to November and five or six college students are added June, July and August.

Of the six full time employees there is a mechanic, foreman and gardener. The fourth full time employee spends six months each year as the ice maker at the Curling Rink.

This staff is responsible for the maintenance of the golf course, (27 holes), tennis courts, paddle tennis courts, clubhouse grounds, curling rink, golf cars, and skating pond.

Full time employees receive two or three weeks vacation, are paid for holidays and are eligible to enroll in the group insurance plan.

Greens are South German Bent except number 11, which is Pennecross. They are cut five or six times a week at three sixteenths of an inch. Verticutting, top dressing, and spiking are done three or four times a year. All greens are aerified late summer - early fall. Total nitrogen applied is 2 1/2 to 3 pounds per 1000 square feet. A complete fertilizer or Milorganite is used late spring and early fall. Small amounts of water soluble fertilizer are used spring and summer.

Acti-Dione, 1991, Daconil, Tersan and Tersan SP are used for a preventive fungicide program. Dursban is the insecticide used twice a year. Lime is applied in the fall at the rate of 20 pounds per 1000 square feet.

Fairways are cut 3 or 4 times a week at three quarters of an inch spring and fall and are raised to one inch during July and August. Fertilizer is applied 3 times per season, late May, August and September at the rate of 1/2 pound of nitrogen. Spiking is done twice a year.

When turf is lost because of wet-wilt, dry-wilt, or compaction a mixture of Bluegrass, Bents and Rye are over-seeded. Acti-Dione and 1991 fungicides are used about four times a year on the number one course. Lime is used at the rate of 1000 pounds per acre in November.

Tees are maintained about the same as fairways except for a lower cut and 3 to 4 pounds of nitrogen per 1000 square feet.

With the exception of six holes, the water system has been converted to automatic and we hope to complete the job in the next two years.

About \$12,000 is spent each year on leaf control and pick-up.

Last but not least is the fact that lower rates of fertilizer on the tees, greens and fairways have seemed to cut down on wet-wilt and dry-wilt turf problems.

Bob Grant CGCS
Brae Burn Country Club

Lawn And The Environment

Everyone admires a thick, green, carpet-like lawn surrounded by beautiful landscape and succulent shrubs, trees and flowers. We are attracted by the visual beauty and the aesthetic value of this seemingly urban paradise. But this property, and others like it, provides more than aesthetics.

For the last decade, the public has become more aware of pollution and the environment. Federal and state agencies have been established to cope with the problem. Some improvement has been made in correcting the situation.

Homeowners, collectively, can make a contribution to environmental quality that goes beyond writing our Congressman. The plants growing outside our front door can contribute to a better environment. Living plants besides providing visual beauty, assist in removing many wastes from the environment.

Through photosynthesis, plants take gases such as carbon dioxide from the air and liberate pure oxygen. A 150 acre golf course, through its activity during the growing season provides enough oxygen for 110,350 people for a year. To bring it closer to home, a 50 x 50 ft. plot of grass provides enough oxygen for a family of four.

Grass and trees are also effective dust traps. The particles are attracted to the leaf surface through static electricity or are trapped by dense foliage. Rainfall washes the particles into the soil. This claim cannot be made for man's growing architectural achievements expressed in towering skyscrapers and asphalt parking lots.

Grass also acts as a cooling system. A 2000 square foot plot releases as much as 120 gallons of water through a method called evapotranspiration. The releasing of water reduces the heat factor. Grass also cools the environment by absorbing less energy. It absorbs only 50-60% of the incoming solar radiation while buildings and pavement absorb 90%.

Sports fans may be aware of the heat absorption of artificial playing surfaces present in sports stadiums across the country. Readings taken sometime ago at Bush Stadium in St. Louis measured air temperature at 90 degrees. On the artificial surface, the temperature was 123 degrees.

The 18th century writer, Jonathon Swift, seemed to understand mankind's role in regard to nature when he wrote: "Whoever could make two blades grow where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together."

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ANNUAL MEETING

Date: Dec. 6, 1976

Place: Dedham Inn

Directors Meeting: 10:30 a.m.

Lunch: 12 noon (Lunch available at Dedham Inn)

Membership Meeting: 1:00 p.m.

Proposed slate of officers for 1977 to be voted on at this meeting is as follows:

President	Wayne Zoppo
1st Vice President	Tony Caranci Dean Robinson Guy Tedesco
2nd Vice President	Ron Kirkman CGCS Norman Mucciarone
Secretary	Dave Barber
Treasurer	Don Hearn
Trustee 3 years	Max Mierzwa
Finance Chairman	Al Auger
Golf Chairman	Brian Cowan
Educational Chairman	Pete Costs, CGCS
Newsletter Chairman	Larry Bunn

The Nomination Committee consisted of the following:

Chairman	Tom Curran	Ron Kirkman
	Bill Carter	Robert Mucciarone
	Burt Frederick	

Directions to the Dedham Inn:

Off Rte. 128 take exit #60 South, Rte. 1. Take first right at the lights by movie theater. Dedham Inn is on the right.

President	First Vice President	Second Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer	Trustee	Trustee	Trustee	Finance Chairman
WAYNE ZOPPO 9A Village Green North E. Providence, R.I. 02915 Home Phone 434-1759 Office Phone 434-9512 Club Affiliation Agawam Hunt	DEAN ROBERTSON 24 Riverview Drive Newbury, Mass. 01950 Home Phone 462-4540 Office Phone 254-3678 Club Affiliation Chestnut Hill Country Club	RONALD KIRKMAN, CGCS 25 Green St. Needham, Mass. 02192 Home Phone 444-8412 Office Phone 444-5548 Club Affiliation Needham Golf Club	DAVE BARBER 1 Muriel Road Chelmsford, Mass. 01824 Home Phone 256-4417 Office Phone 358-4882 Club Affiliation Wayland Country Club	DONALD HEARN 4 Topeka Road Chelmsford, Mass. 01824 Home Phone 256-8709 Office Phone 894-5906 Club Affiliation Weston Golf Club	PAUL JOHNSON RFD 1 Locust St. Middleton, Mass. 01949 Home Phone 777-0902 Office Phone 777-1134 Club Affiliation Ferry Country Club	ARTHUR WASHBURN, CGCS 520 No. Main St. Cohasset, Mass. 02025 Home Phone 383-9532 Office Phone 383-1870 Club Affiliation Cohasset Golf Club	MAX MIERZWA 106 Crestwood St. Chicopee, Mass. 01020 Home Phone 594-4996 Office Phone 592-9540 Club Affiliation Chicopee Country Club	AL AUGER 3 Andover Rd. Beverly, Mass. 01915 Home Phone 927-0060 Office Phone 922-8511 Club Affiliation Folly Hill Country Club

Newsletter Notes -



I must apologize for the Newsletter being late last month and again this month. Seems there was a mix up at the printing office and the October issue was late getting to the post office. The November issue is late because the meeting date for our November meeting was not arranged in time. So you will be getting this issue after the meeting. Just be patient and we will get back on the right track.

The slate of officers is printed in this issue to make sure that you will be notified the required 10 days before election. Also make note of the change in location of the meetings. We are not going back to the Holiday Inn because they have doubled their price for the room rental. The new location is the Dedham Inn off Rte. 128 in Dedham. This will be either 10 miles shorter or 10 miles longer to travel depending where you live. Their facilities are very much the same as the Holiday Inn. Lunch is available in the restaurant or in the lounge. All three meetings will be held there and I will list the dates so you will know in advance. Monday, Dec. 6, 1976 is the annual meeting. Tuesday, Jan. 4, 1977 and Tuesday, Feb. 1, 1977 are the other two meeting dates. Of course, there is no meeting in March because of the turf conference that will be held in Springfield.

The directors had a meeting the evening of Oct. 13 to discuss several upcoming matters of the association. Don Hearn, Treasurer, gave a report that indicated a possible increase of dues for next year. In the report he stated that dues were \$10 in 1951, \$15 in 1960, \$25 in 1968, and the last increase in dues was in 1971 when it was raised to the present fee of \$30. The directors are in favor of an increase to \$40 for the year of 1977.

Several things to think about. One is are there any items you would like to see put on the agenda for the Advisory Committee meeting at the national meeting in Portland next February. The other is I was talking to Dick Haskell of the MGA and he is looking for suggestions for topics to discuss at the spring conference next March. If you have any ideas let them be known.

Sawtelle Brothers have been honored by being named the top distributor of the year for Jacobsen. That is an award to be proud of and one that I am sure was well earned. Sawtelle Brothers have also given a contribution to the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund. Congratulations on the award and many thanks for the contribution!

Dave O'Kelley, son of Marshfield Country Club superintendent Mel O'Kelley, has won the Southeast Amateur Golf Tournament. This is a three day tournament held over three golf courses with the best golfers from that area. Dave had rounds of 72, 73, and a closing round of 68 which he fired 14 pars and 4 birdies! He set tournament records for being the youngest winner, lowest winning score, and lowest last day score. Dave is 17 and is a senior at Marshfield High Schol.

George Wallings must live right. George is the mechanic for Art Washburn at Cohasset Country Club. He has flown planes for many years and a couple of weeks ago he was up in his plane when it developed engine trouble. The plane came to rest in the tree tops with the nose pointing straight down! He then climbed out of the plane and down the tree to safety on the ground. Miraculously he was not hurt and walked to a fire station 500 feet from the scene of the accident to report what had happened!

Ponkapoag Golf Course was hit with vandalism with damages estimated at \$1000. The vandals drove a jeep or truck over the third green, three fairways, and destroyed 8 sapling trees. Everybody has problems with vandals at one time or another. I like the way Osceola Country Club in Osceola, Iowa handled the problem of vandals whom they caught in the act. Two youths stole golf carts and drove them over greens doing considerable damage. They were given a choice of having charges filed or

trying to make amends. They chose the latter and were given the job of mowing roughs with a hand mower. The lesson - a lot of time to think about the wisdom of such unwanton action at the scene of the destruction and to learn more about the things they were so willing to destroy.

It's not too early to start making plans for the GCSAA's 48th Turf Conference to be held February 6-11 in Portland, Oregon. The theme for the conference is "Turfgrass Management: A Synergistic Approach." There will be a total of 70 speakers from universities, industry, government and the ranks of the association itself will present the most up-to-date information in the world of turfgrass management. Prior to the opening of the conference, the association will once again hold certification and recertification examinations and a series of seminars on landscaping, management, pesticides and turfgrass nutrition. Other features of the week-long event are the association's annual meeting and election, tours of Portland area golf courses, tours of the Oregon grass seed industry and social events during the week.

Don Hearn will be a chairman for a Turf Management session and Dr. Joseph Troll from the University of Massachusetts will be a speaker. Hope to see a lot of superintendents in Portland.

I was unable to play golf at Mt. Pleasant Country Club, but I understand the course was in excellent condition. The buffet lunch was very enjoyable and the people of Mt. Pleasant Country Club gave us a very pleasant day. I was also unable to play at Brae Burn Country Club because of illness and that course was reported in excellent condition as always. Many thanks to George Lane, Pro at Brae Burn Country Club and George Wemyss, Executive Director of NEPGA for their help in the Superintendent/Pro tournament. Bob McGuire, Superintendent at Mt. Pleasant C. C. and Bob Grant, Superintendent at Brae Burn C. C. thank you for having us at your clubs.

Don't forget the Christmas party on Dec. 3, 1976 at Mt. Pleasant C. C. and don't forget the meeting place for our winter meetings has been changed to the Dedham Inn off Rte. 128 in Dedham.

Larry Bunn
Newsletter Editor

Superintendent - Press/Celebrity Tournament Results

Ken Mooridian & V. Commilli	Net 70
Gary Luccinni & A. Ficco	Net 70
M. Hermanson & O. Cormier	Net 71
Ron Kirkman & Milt Schmidt	Net 71

Individual Tournament

Dave Loker	Net 72
Burt Fredricks	Net 73

Results of John Shanahan Memorial Tournament Superintendent - Pro

Net Winners

Bob Johnston & Dan DiRico, Hampden C.C.	81 - 66
John Dolan & Stan Daluik, Kirkbrae C.C.	76 - 69
Wayne Zoppo & Paul Butler, Agawam Hunt G.C.	84 - 69
Nick Cummuso & Bill Ezinicki, International C.C.	82 - 71
Tom Schofield & Bruce Krazzkowski, Wellesley C.C.	79 - 72

Gross Winners

Ray Woodbury & Bill Flynn, Thompson C.C.	75 - 70
Dave Barber & Joe Browning, Wayland C.C.	75 - 70
Mel O'Kelley & Charles Lanzetta, Marshfield C.C.	76 - 72
Brian Cowan & Curt Madson, Eastward Ho C.C.	77 - 72
Menze Herorian & Bruce Dobie, Green Hill C.C.	77 - 74

Ties broken by matching score cards.

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Scholarship Fund*

NEWSLETTER

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