

A Very Tough Act to Follow

He is, as one would suspect, a summa cum laude graduate of the school of hard knocks.

His voice, often heard at monthly meetings, is the conscience of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England.

It's little wonder, then, that Nazareth "Narry" Sperandio holds a special place in his profession.



Narry Sperandio

NEXT MEETING

**Blue Hill Country Club
Canton, MA
Tuesday, October 12, 1982**

Directors Meeting - 9 a.m.
Regular Meeting - 10 a.m.
Educational Program
Lunch
Golf
Host - David Barber, CGCS

Dave is in his 3rd year as golf course superintendent at Blue Hill. Prior, he served in the same capacity at Wayland Country Club for 17 years.

Dave is very active in GCSANE and is currently serving as second vice president and has also served as secretary. We all look forward to a fine day on the 12th of October.

Directions - From Boston take rt. 128 south to rt. 138 Stoughton (exit 64 s) Go to first set of lights and bear right (Washington St.) go approximately 1 mile then take a right (Pecunit St.). Club is on the left.

Important - please make a reservation by Friday, October 8th. Call Dave at 828-6540.



"I've been through it all," Narry mused the other day. "It's a strange thing, too. Originally, I wanted no part of it."

You just heard right. At one stage of his life, Narry was content to play the game rather than tend to its cosmetic and physical needs.

And player he was. Once he shot six threes in a row and lipped out a seventh while scoring a then-record 70 at the Marlboro Country Club.

"I used to be able to play the game — darn well, too," Narry remarked. "But once I got into the task of grooming it for other golfers, my swing paid the price."

Sperandio, who will blow out 70 birthday candles next August 16, almost bowed out of the superintendent's field before his lengthy career started.

"I was just out of the service, had bought a home in Framingham and peddling milk from a horse-drawn wagon," Narry recalled. "A friend told me of an opening at the Concord Country Club, but the job was of little interest to me. However, I agreed to meet with club officials just to see what they had to offer."

That first offer turned Narry sour on the superintendent's position and he went back to his horse and wagon. But Concord officials, learning of his background as a former super and one-time owner of the Marlboro course, were determined to land him. Eventually, they met his salary demands and Narry's been on the job since March 1, 1945.

Obviously, each side of the bargaining table made the wise decision. In his 46 years at Concord, Narry has developed the course into one of the finest-groomed layouts in New England.

In fact, Narry was an instant hit at Concord. After nine months and a series of improvements on the course, club officials retaliated with a healthy raise. Through the years there has been an orderly succession of increases that renews Concord's trust and respect in Sperandio's talents.

Away from Concord, Narry has been a dynamo in the NEGCSA.

"I've held every office available and I've been making meetings as if it were a sin to miss them," Narry noted. "My two years as president were rewarding, at least to me. And since my last tour of office I've tried to keep abreast of developments in the association."

Sperandio's presidential election in 1960 caused somewhat of a celebration, because that was the year he marked his 25th season as a NEGCSA member and Concord super.

Concord Country Club and Narry go hand in hand.

The club was infested with weeds and other blemishes when Narry took over in 1945. Consequently, membership ranks were on the decline. Now, 46 years later, Concord sparkles to the point where there is a waiting period of 8 to 10 years for new members.

The Sperandio family, consisting of Narry and wife, Phyllis, plus son Jimmy and daughter Karen, has become

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Smooth Ride on "Flagship"

"It was a smooth ride on America's Flagship course."

That statement by United States Golf Association president Bill Campbell, quoted in *Golf World*, pretty much puts the wrapper on last month's USGA National Amateur Championship at The Country Club.

TCC's dawn-till-dusk superintendent, Pete Coste, agrees with that assessment.

"I'm not saying we weren't lucky — what with the weather and all — but the tournament went along just as smoothly as anyone could hope for" Coste remarked several days after its conclusion. "It's very gratifying to hear some of the comments by players and USGA officials. Everyone was so satisfied with the operation that it sort of scares you."

Coste's odyssey of several weeks before and during the championship ended when Jay Sigel marched through David Tolley, 8 and 7, to take the title he had pursued in 15 previous trips to the event's first tee.

Sigel was among a slew of contestants who praised the course and its condition from the opening day of qualifying to the tournament's final putts.

"I'd have to go a long way to find fairways as good as these," offered Ohio State golfer Chris Perry whose uncle is the pride of spitball country, Gaylord Perry. "I don't know how they did it, but I felt I was walking on and hitting off rugs all week."

Coste admits he took special pains to produce fairways that were the talk of the locker room.

"We cross-cut the fairways four times the week before play started and we cut them after every round of the tournament," he disclosed. "That's where we came up lucky with the weather. They were all dry-cuts, which made the cosmetic effect an eye-opener. We had a 5/8's setting and that's how short they ended up. Yeah, it was nice to see. I would have liked to hit off them myself."

The Country Club, which had a hand in the founding of the USGA some 90 years ago, has been the scene of countless national championships. Hence, it is deserving of the "Flagship" tag. And that descriptive was enhanced by the condition of the course for the latest big time event there.

"I knew what was expected of me and the golf course," Coste explained. "I was here when the Walker Cup matches were played in 1973. They wanted the same kind of setup for play then, so I just carried it over."

In addition to being groomed beyond expectations, TCC offered the amateur stars a fair layout.

"There wasn't anything tricky about the way the course was laid out," Coste continued. "The USGA came in, told me what they wanted in matter of rough extension and graduation of height and speed of roll on the greens. I just conformed to its specifications. Then, we got the weather to cooperate and you saw what the field got."

The course came through the week's play without any damage, too.

"That's another thing which added to everyone's delight," Pete noted. "The USGA tells its players how to conduct themselves on the golf course. It's a mandatory thing, also. All ball marks were repaired and the players saw to it that traps were raked after every entrance. I think that everyone playing golf could take a lesson from



Pete Coste

those guys. They left the course as they found it."

Coste revealed that he put in "the standard 13-hour day" during tournament week.

"I made myself available to tournament officials and was ready to make any adjustment or correction they proposed," he said. "My crew has to take some bows, too. They were out filling divots with seed and making other repairs almost as soon as the day's play ended."

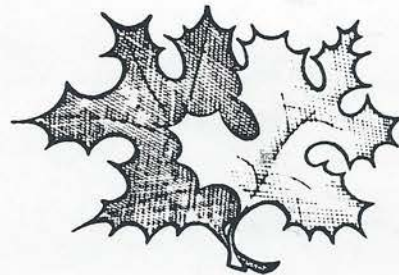
"I had three working on fairway divots early in the week. But as the field was reduced by match play, I cut it down to one man. The quality of play helped there. Most of the players put their shots in the same landing area, so it wasn't one of those search and repair deals."

Asked if he was glad the "ordeal" was over, Pete surprised by alluding to a welcome for another major event at TCC.

"Actually, the way I operated the week of the tournament is how I'd like to do my job year-round," he mused. "Everything was cut 'n dried. I knew just what they wanted and tried to give it to them. From what I heard, we were pretty much on target."

That The Country Club and Pete Coste were. The Flagship came through again and its first mate (Coste) was right there to see that there wasn't a ripple of complication or confusion. USGA National Championship rides don't come any smoother.

Gerry Finn



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a fixture at Concord. "I think they like me," Narry quipped. "There isn't a social function that goes by that Phyllis and I aren't invited to. This really has been a labor of love and reward."

Narry's golf roots follow a familiar path, also. His brother, John, is superintendent at Spring Valley while brother Tony is a former super who owns Grounds Equipment Company and the Lakeview Golf Club in Laconia, N.H.

With the 70-mark in sight, Narry admits that the subject of retirement has come up.

"My bosses and I are going to sit down one day and talk about the future," Narry disclosed. "Actually, the club is leaving it up to me. Right now, I've penciled in January 1, 1984 as the logical date for me to start my lazy life. When that happens, I will have been in golf 61 years because I took my first caddying job at nine."

One thing the Concord fathers must face: Golf life without Narry and the problem of finding someone to follow in his footsteps. That will be an assignment in itself, one whose accomplishment borders on the possible.

Narry Sperandio — a very tough act to follow. Once Concord lured him away from that milk wagon it had latched onto an institution in the superintendent's profession. And, from the looks of the course, that institution is sturdier than ever.

Gerry Finn

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DIVOT DRIFT ...First, we are saddened by the recent loss of Guy Tedesco. Our association and the game of golf has lost a great friend. Our sympathy to the Tedesco family ... Congratulations to Brian Cowan of Eastward Ho for successfully becoming recertified ... Golf chairman turned director Steve Murphy has slashed many handicaps, some rather harshly. The Murph would not divulge what method he used for the cuts but one has to believe it was on one of those nights when another handful of hair fell out ... Congratulations to Bobby Brown of Sawtelle Bros. and his wife Karen on the birth of their second daughter ... One of the worst games of golf that my eyes have ever witnessed is that of Kevin Lyons of O.M. Scott. He parred the 18th hole for a newspaper 120. Some of the outstanding moments of Kevin's round came when Ron Ryan nicknamed him the snowman (8) after starting off with five straight eights. Then on the sixth hole he ran out of golf balls and remarked "give me an eight." On the seventh hole he talked Max Mierzwa into helping him ball hawk the woods, which did produce four golf balls. He lost all those by the turn and had to make a pit stop in the pro shop. On the back side it was more of the same, but the highlight of the whole day came when he started the seventeenth hole using an orange ball, finished with a white and said he didn't lose a ball ... Finally our thanks to Tony DeBettencourt and the staff at Andover C.C. for hosting our September meeting.



September Meeting at Andover

We had a fine turn out for gold and a warm day. The tournament format was a team of four blind draw with full handicap. The winning team consisted of Joe Rybka of Thorny Lea, Neil Loomis of South Shore, Jim Fitzroy of the Presidents and Dave Barber of Blue Hill.

Photo Quiz



Who is that behind the Foster Grants???

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THE WINNERS (l-r) Joe Rybka, Neil Loomis, Jim Fitzroy and Dave Barber.



A HAPPY GROUP (l-r) Kip Tyler of Salem C.C., Rick Arzillo of Bellevue, Mike Hannigan and Charlie Zeh of Sandy Burr.

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