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March 1980

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Vol. X, No. 2

MEETING NOTICE:

Date: Wednesday, March 26
Place: Westchester Hills Golf Club
White Plains, N.Y. 10605
Lunch: 12:30 P.M.
Directions: South: On coming to Rt. 684 continue south onto the Hutchinson River Parkway and take the North St. exit. Continue on North St. a quarter of a mile to Ridgeway, take a left at Ridgeway. Club is on left side.
Coming from 287: take exit 8 to Westchester Ave. Come up to a set of lights. Make right at light onto North St. At 4th set of lights, take right onto Ridgeway; Club is left.
RSVP Mark Millett, 914-948-5020

COMING EVENTS:

March 18	USGA Green Section Regional Meeting, Westchester Country Club
March 26	MGCSA Monthly Meeting, Westchester Hills C.C.
May 27-June 1	Golden Lights Tournament, Wykagyl Country Club
May 29	MGCSA Monthly Meeting, Fairview Country Club
June 12-15	U.S. Open, Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, N.J.
June 26-29	First U.S. Senior Open Championship, Winged Foot Golf Club
August 14-17	Westchester Classic, Westchester C.C.
September 25	Invitational, Elmwood Country Club

MGCSA NEWS

Congratulations are in order on the election of Mel Lucas as President of the GCSAA and Bob Osterman on his election to the GCSAA Board of Directors. Details of GCSAA meeting in St. Louis follow in GCSAA News.

Congratulations also go to Ann and Danny Higgins on the birth of their 8 lb. boy, Daniel Patrick Higgins born on January 14, 1980.

Dick Allen, formerly of Sunningdale Country Club is assuming the position of Superintendent at Woodway Golf

Club. Dom DiMarzo is assuming the position of Superintendent of Sunningdale Country Club.

At the MGCSA Board of Directors meeting held at the Fairview Country Club on January 16, 1980, the following committee assignments were listed:

Membership—Peter Rappoccio, Paul Caswell
Program—John Wistrand, Michael Maffei
Golf-Dennis Flynn
50-50 Raffle—Mark Millett
Public Relations & Publicity—Ted Horton
Tee to Green—Pat Lucas and Ted Horton
Christmas Party—Position open
Welfare—Bob Alonzi
Scholarship & Research—Michael Maffei, Sherwood Moore, Roger King, Dr. Andrew Virtuoso
By-Laws—Dick Allen
Advisory—This committee dropped.
Voting Delegates—Terry Mulligan, Dave Marmelstein
Roster—Updated by Mike Maffei and John Musto
Nominating—Assigned later in year

Please take a minute to fill out the attached Post Card so we can update our roster.

In this issue, we are reprinting a notice about ball marks from last year. With soft greens this spring, this article is just the right size to cut out and place on the locker room bulletin board.

GCSAA NEWS

LUCAS, BAVIER, OSTERMAN AND TIMMERMAN ELECTED BY GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

Melvin B. Lucas Jr., CGCS, superintendent of Piping Rock Club, Locust Valley, L.I., N.Y., was elected president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America during the association's annual meeting February 20 in St. Louis.

Michael R. Bavier, CGCS, superintendent of Inverness Golf Club, Palatine, Ill., was elected vice president for 1980.

New members of the association's board of directors elected during the meeting were Robert W. Osterman, CGCS, superintendent of The Golf Club of Aspetuck, Easton, Conn., and James W. Timmerman, CGCS, superintendent of Orchard Lake (Mich.) Country Club. Osterman and Timmerman will serve three-year terms.

President Lucas appointed James A. Wyllie, CGCS, super-

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Publication deadline for *Tee to Green* is 21 days before the regular meeting.

intendent of the Bayview Country Club, Toronto, Ontario, to serve as secretary-treasurer. Lucas also appointed Paul Boizelle, CGCS, superintendent of Fiddlers Elbow Country Club, Far Hills, N.J., to fill the remaining two years of Bavier's term as director.

Other members of the Executive Committee are David C. Holler, CGCS, superintendent of Gulph Mills Golf Club, King of Prussia, Pa. and Edward F. Dembnicki, CGCS, superintendent of Arcadian Shores Country Club, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Immediate Past President Charles H. Tadge, CGCS, superintendent of the Mayfield Country Club, South Euclid, Ohio, will remain on the Executive Committee through 1980.

The association's annual meeting and election was held during the record-setting GCSAA 51st International Turf-grass Conference and Show held Feb. 16-21 in the Cervantes Convention and Exhibition Center in St. Louis. More than 7,000 attended the activities which included the show, business meetings and a wide array of educational sessions. Attendance was the highest in the 51-year history of the event, and records were set in the number of exhibitors, amount of exhibit space sold and in attendance at educational sessions.

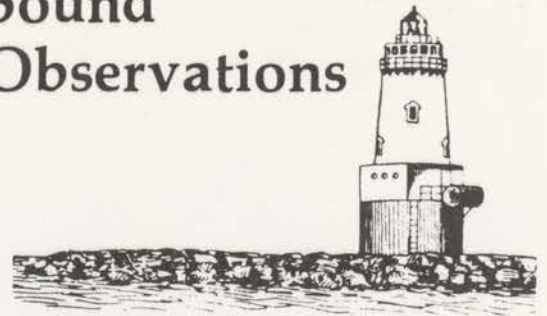
Something to Think About . . .

IMPOSSIBLE

What a man can imagine or conceive in his mind, he can accomplish. Impossibles are impossible as thinking makes them so.

—Henry J. Kaiser

Sound Observations



Lately it appears that our area has been invaded by different types of suitcase peddlers making pilgrimages to our clubs. The products for sale range from soup to nuts. A main reason for these sale calls may be the slowdown in other industries. Whatever the case, many of these companies are just discovering golf courses and their possible selling potential. Many are determined to sell to golf courses in spite of the fact that they know little about our wants or needs.

These mail order firms have a secret tonic said to cure anything on your course. And you are entitled to that 'free' watch or coffee maker with every 55 gallon drum of product. If you happen to ask these order takers what is in the product, the usual answer is something to the effect of "lots of good materials." But in more cases than not, they just happen to be out of specimen labels.

We are fortunate in this area to have many good commercial members who call on us. People who handle nationally advertised products, whether they be equipment, chemicals, or turf supplies. People who attend our meetings, advertise in *Tee to Green*, and support our association. You know the people I am referring to, people who are concerned with our problems and how to solve them. People who we will see throughout the year, not just in the spring. People we can trust.

I think it is these individuals and firms who deserve our support.

—Pat Lucas

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An unwavering Boy,
Inspired by a Father's glow,
Stood Tall on virgin-grass,
Caught in the thunder of Nature's grasp;
Planning with maturing skill,
Masterfully mounting a meaningful hill;
Engrossing knowledge, as tho' a stream,
Perceiving, even then, — His Dream; —
Of one day, He'd seek, —
A Stellar-Peak.*

*Now a couple decades later,
Delegates amass,
At the "GCSAA's Internat'l Turfgrass,"
For Executive-Seats;
As the voting completes,
Uttering voices leaving the Floor,
Sprung-open a jubilant door;
Its echo, now clean and deep; —
"Mel's President;" Ah, A youthful leap, —
Outstanding, is this year's keep; —*

*This Story is especially outstanding;
For it involves a Man and His Dream, —
Who had aspired from boyhood,
And made it come true.*

—Frank Paladino



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WHY ACCIDENTS HAPPEN

Accidents are generally thought to be a result of bad luck or an act of God. However, an unsafe act, a hazardous condition or some combination of the two must occur before an accident can happen. Of these two conditions, unsafe acts or work practices are a contributing factor in 90 percent of all accidents. Here are some of the factors which can cause workers to commit errors leading to accidents.

Lack of proper training can be a major cause of accidents. Employees must be trained to do their jobs safely, and care must be taken to ensure that they continue to perform as instructed.

Ignorance of a hazardous condition can result from lack of experience or poor communications.

Indifference or laziness resulting from fatigue, a poor relationship with the boss or a lack of motivation can make an employee take an unsafe short cut.



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Bad examples set by other workers can be imitated by less experienced employees. New workers have a higher injury rate than more experienced employees.

Undue haste caused by supervisory pressure, an overloaded schedule or a desire to complete an unpleasant task as quickly as possible can make workers bypass important safety steps or processes.

— Fore Front, January 1980

GOLFERS TEED OFF AT THE GEES

Mayor Alan M. Parente of Glen Cove, L.I. sent six marksmen out to the city golf course this week with orders to shoot birdies—the kind that fly, that is. But things did not work out the way the mayor planned.

It began when the 10-member golf committee complained to Parente that about 300 Canadian geese had found a home on the course and were making a nuisance of themselves. The birds, the committee said, interfered with chip shots, tore up greens, and dug fairway divots. Robert Hornosky, the

warden for the North Shore bird and game sanctuary, said, "It's so dirty on the golf course that you just can't putt."

Parente asked the local rod and gun club for help. The marksmen turned up and opened fire and bagged three geese, but made so much noise the area residents complained—and then bird lovers decried the whole idea.

Parente has canceled two more shootouts planned for this weekend but said he was worried about how to deal with the birds.

—Daily News, January 17, 1980

AND THE FIGHT GOES ON . . .

Maggie Polk, the Mayor's administrative assistant, said the shooting session turned out to be something of a wild goose chase. "The geese didn't show up until 3:30 and the shoot ended at 4," she said. "And they landed on the pond instead of the golf course, where the hunters were."

So city officials began looking for less drastic measures, and some esoteric suggestions landed on Mrs. Polk's desk.

One was to prepare a mixture containing Tabasco sauce and leave it in buckets on the greens. It was said to be so foul-tasting that the birds would flee.

Another was "egging" which involved sending a posse of game wardens out, finding the nests, shaking up the unhatched eggs and putting them back. "To me that was almost like abortion," Mrs. Polk said.

An inventor offered a metal clapper attached to a two-by-four and connected to an electric timer that would set it off every once in a while to scare the birds away. "But if a golfer lines up a putt and that thing went off," Mrs. Polk said, "that was worse than having a goose wander by."

A more plausible suggestion was to wait until mid-June, when the geese would be flightless while another year's worth of feathers was growing in, and carry them off to a more hospitable spot. "If you don't take them when they can't fly," explained Ann Radloff, president of the East Island Civic Association, "they're home before you are."

Helium balloons and rope stretched across the shorelines were mentioned as means of disrupting birds' flight patterns, and although the ornithologists said these do not always work, Mr. Parente said they might be tried.



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Whatever happens, Mr. Parente said that he did not see geese as a major item on the municipal agenda when he was elected last November as Glen Cove's first Republican Mayor in a dozen years.

"I thought I would dazzle the people with the brilliance of my logic," he said. "Instead, I am up to my neck in geese, and some people are mad at me because I allowed a few of them to be shot. The golfers are mad at me because I won't shoot any more. The only ones who aren't mad at anybody are the geese. They're still there."

—NY Times, March 3, 1980

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PAYS PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVIDENDS

Effective public relations is an art which has been defined as 90 percent doing the right thing and 10 percent telling someone about it. Generally, nobody will notice how well you do your job unless someone tells them, and, in most cases, that someone will have to be you.

This can be a serious problem, especially for golf course superintendents. Turfgrass managers, no matter how professional they may be, are not exactly in a position to be noticed by the general public. It is often difficult enough to convey the importance and professionalism of their work to their own club members and golfers.

So how does the golf course superintendent get public recognition for being the professional turf expert he is? One good way is by voluntarily sharing his expertise, by getting involved in community activities. Although many country

clubs, concerned about their image in the community, have rules that limit their employee's contact with the media, chances are great that the club and its membership would take pride in their superintendent if he, as an individual, wanted to do something for his community. For superintendents to be recognized in their communities as the horticultural experts they are, some effort will be required. However, this community involvement will pay dividends not only in local visibility but in personal satisfaction as well.

Invite representatives of the local media to your course for a round of golf. When they see what you do for a living, they will be much more likely to use you as an authority. However, you should not expect or demand any special treatment as a result of this. Newspaper space or air time is reserved for news, and the editor must be the sole judge of what makes the news his audience wants to read or hear.

Never pass up an opportunity to send a news release to your local media. Even if they don't use your material, at least it keeps them informed about your activities. It can help to establish your credentials so they will think of you when they need expert information.

These community activities take time and effort, and some may pay greater benefits than others. However, if you become involved in local activities, your community will become a better place in which to live, and you will have a feeling of personal satisfaction for having helped to make it that way. And remember, when one golf course superintendent gets a chance to tell his story, the entire profession benefits.

—Fore Front, January 1980

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