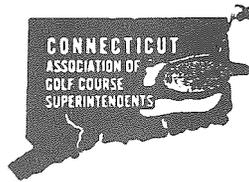


CONNECTICUT



CLIPPINGS

DECEMBER/JANUARY 1984/85

Volume 18, Number 6

Mr. Robert Viera — A Super Superintendent

A common thread that seems to be running through the fiber of our Superintendent of the Year Award recipients is modesty. Our 1984 award winner, Robert Viera, epitomizes that quality. "I think the award is a good idea and should definitely be carried on, but honestly, I never imagined that I would win it," says Viera who is quick to downplay his success and popularity.

Bob has been around golf and golf courses almost as long as he can remember. He grew up in North Dartmouth, Mass., a block away from New Bedford Public Links Golf Course (now the Country Club of New Bedford) where he caddied and also worked on the maintenance crew for eight years, starting at the age of 13. After a two-year stint in the United States Army, Bob attended the Stockbridge School at the University of Massachusetts, courtesy of the G.I. bill. And from there the rest is easy — Professional Golf Course Superintendent at the Watertown Country Club where he is now.

Bob's relationship with the Watertown Country Club is special. "Barring any very unusual situation, I would certainly like to finish out my professional career here," he says. "I can't see myself ever leaving Watertown. The club and its members have been so good to me." Watertown honored Bob recently at a testimonial for his 25 years of service to the 500-member private country club.



CAGCS/SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE YEAR — 1984
BOB VIERA



Bob and wife Betty
Success thru teamwork

In keeping with his modest nature, Bob is reluctant to talk about himself. However, Betty, wife of 28 years and one of his most ardent fans, gives us a

closer look at Bob. "Bob's philosophy about his profession is simple. He's a proponent of hard work and dedication to the job, and has a sincere concern for his employees, the golf course and the game of golf," she says.

"Bob respects his employees and their feelings, and from what I could see, that respect is mutual," Betty says. As one of his seasonal employees, Betty reveals, "Bob doesn't realize just how good he is to his employees, and he's unaware of the respect they have for him," she says. "Bob occasionally gets calls from workers who need help, and he always assists them in any way he can, whether it's to fix their car or appliance or just offer his advice on something."

When asked what advice he would give to a young and upcoming superintendent, Bob says without hesitation, "attend everything: conferences, seminars, regional and local meetings and social events. You can never learn enough in this business," Bob says. To that, Betty adds, "Twenty years ago, the business seemed so much simpler. Today, continuing your education and keeping yourself abreast of the newer complexities in equipment and techniques is essential."

Bob truly enjoys his work. He is a jack-of-all-trades and a master at many of them, especially mechanical work. But Bob has also been very successful in sports. Besides being a low-handicap golfer who plays "at least once a week," Bob's younger days were headlined as a touted football and basketball player. He played semiprofessional football for

(con't. on page 2)

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The object of this association is to encourage increased knowledge of golf course management and greater professionalism through education, research, exchange of practical experience and the well being of each individual member.

The CONN. CLIPPINGS is an official publication of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Inc.

Greg Wojick, Editor
1347 Newfield Avenue
Stamford, CT 06905

Future Happenings

Feb. 5-13, 1985
GCSAA International
Conference & Show
Washington, D.C.

March 5-7, 1985
Mass. Turf Conference & Show
Springfield, MA

March 19, 1985
CAGCS Monthly Meeting
Yale Inn
Meriden, CT

April 9, 1985
CAGCS Monthly Meeting
New Haven Country Club
New Haven, CT
James MacDonald,
Host Superintendent

Robert Viera's Better Half

If you discuss golf or golf course maintenance around Betty Viera, wife of Bob Viera, golf course superintendent at Watertown Country Club, it doesn't take you long to realize that she knows exactly what you're talking about. But marriage to a golf course superintendent is only partially responsible for her knowledge. Betty's acquired much of her expertise on the job — on the grounds crew at the Watertown Country Club. "I've become somewhat of an expert on the Toro GM III," she says proudly. "I mow greens, tees, collars and approaches with the machines, and I also service them, you know, grease them, change the oil, bedknives, backlap, that sort of thing. We have four of them now, and they've sort of become my babies," she says, "I know how important it is to get a good cut, so I take extra care to make sure they are adjusted correctly."

Betty has found her work on the golf course invaluable. "I only wish that every superintendent's wife could spend at least one summer working on her husband's crew," she says. "Only then can you fully appreciate what it takes to maintain a golf course. It certainly was an eye-opener for me," Betty says, "to see the tremendous pressure a superintendent has to endure over the course of a season. I have a much greater understanding and respect for the work Bob and all superintendents do, now that I've experienced, first hand, what they go through," she concludes.

Bob and Betty live happily in Watertown, just a drive and a seven-iron from the club.

Viera (Continued from front page)

awhile on the James P. Murphy Memorial team in New Bedford, Mass., where he claims his pay consisted only of how much he could make "selling peanuts at halftime." Now, Bob just tries to enjoy his golf game, not letting his slight fade get in the way of that enjoyment.

Dedicated to the golf profession and to his fellow professionals, Bob has been a member of CAGCS for 25 years. In that time, he's served on the CAGCS board as director, vice-president, president (1972-73) and immediate past president. Bob has also been a regular

President's Message

Where has the past year gone? It seems that the seasons pass quicker and quicker and that the golfing season becomes longer and longer each year. Here it is the end of the year with high temperatures and golfers getting in a few last bonus days.

Now is the time of year when we should evaluate ourselves to determine our strengths and weaknesses and decide which conferences and seminars we should attend to help strengthen our weaknesses. There are many educational seminars available to us over the winter months and we should take advantage of them. Our own seminar will be held on January 8th with another outstanding program planned. I hope to see you all there.

We are now getting our meetings organized for 1985. Also, a new membership list is being printed and hopefully available in the spring.

Now is also the time when the Board of Directors lay the groundwork for next year's events. If you would like to serve on a committee or host a meeting, contact a member of the board. Your input is valuable to the Association and is always welcome.

I sincerely hope that everyone enjoyed a very happy holiday season and wish each of you best wishes for the New Year.

David C. Stimson CGCS
President CAGCS

member of the education and nominating committees for CAGCS.

Upon accepting the Superintendent of the Year Award at the CAGCS annual meeting in November, Bob gratefully remarked, "You know, you can get all those trophies and plaques from the clubs, but to receive this award from your peers . . . that's really something."

Bob, you're really something. Congratulations on being honored as our 1984 CAGCS Superintendent of the Year!

Greg Wojick, Editor

Membership Update

The CAGCS board of directors, at their December 10 meeting, voted in the following persons as members of our association:

David Athans
Richter Park Golf Course
Class D
Construction Supervisor

Timothy Berge
Race Brook Country Club
Class B
Assistant Superintendent

Ernie J. Cuzzocreo, Sr.
Cuzz Acres Nursery
Class C

Bud Eskola
East Haven Wholesale
Landscape Products
Class C

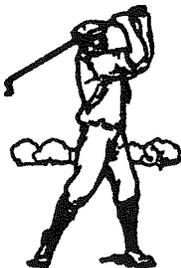
Michael Ferriaiuolo
Ridgewood Country Club
Class B
Assistant Superintendent

Peter B. Howe
Mill River Country Club
Class A
Golf Course Superintendent

Michael Kravonta
Wethersfield Country Club
Class B
Assistant Superintendent

Joseph Malay
Country Club of Fairfield
Class B
Assistant Superintendent

Congratulations and Welcome to CAGCS!



GCSAA News & Highlights

GCSAA's 1985 International Conference and Show and all that accompanies it is proving to be a most attractive draw and promises all who attend a multitude of things to do and places to see. A very heavy pre-registration indicates that the Conference program, the lure of Washington, D.C. and its many, many historical attractions, pre-conference seminars, the annual banquet where former President Gerald R. Ford will receive the Old Tom Morris Award, the Opening Session with the keynote address of ABC sports commentator Jack Whitaker and the many other scheduled events have created unusually high pre-conference interest in this year's conference thus insuring a most productive and exciting time for those who attend the D.C. Conference.

The annual golf tournament which precedes the conference has been filled since early December with nearly 300 men registered and another 50 on the waiting list. All that is needed to insure a successful tournament is for Frank Lamphier to get everyone off on time and for Mother Nature to provide a mild week in early February at Hilton Head.

GCSAA headquarters has announced several award winners of prestigious awards which will be presented at the opening session of the conference. GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award will be presented to three individuals. They are Mr. Clifford W. Waganer, CGCS who is a former GCSAA President and who has been exceptionally active during his career as a golf course superintendent in California for over thirty years; Mr. William C. Campbell, Immediate Past President of the USGA, a long-time prominent amateur golfer and one who is credited with establishing and maintaining improved lines of communication between GCSAA and the USGA; Mr. James L. Blackledge, who receives the award posthumously for his dedicated and untiring efforts in regard to turfgrass research and education and who is also considered the founding father of turfgrass associations in Florida. The Leo Feser Award given to a superintendent who is judged to have authored the best superintendent written article published in *Golf Course Management* during the preceding year

goes to Jerry W. Redden, CGCS for his article entitled "Bulkheads Can Be Beautiful" which appeared in the 1984 April issue of *GCM*.

Because of the tremendous interest in and limited seating available for the annual banquet, GCSAA will accept phone orders at headquarters for banquet tickets prior to Feb. 1. Don't hesitate to call if you're interested in attending the banquet.

For further info regarding activities or attractions in Washington, the following can be called: Visitor's Bureau 202-737-8866; Park Service 202-426-6975; Smithsonian 202-357-2020 or the National Archives 202-523-3000.

Steve Cadenelli

Grass Catcher

Look for new membership directories to be available shortly. The finishing touches on the new books (new format too!) are almost completed. These new directories will help solve the long-time problem of "Where the hell is he?"

Also, look for the new membership cards to be plastic, very similar to the GCSAA membership cards. CAGCS has purchased the machine which makes these plastic cards.

There have been many job openings and job changes that have occurred recently or are about to occur in our area. The following is, I'm sure, an incomplete listing.

George Hunter Memorial
Golf Course
Meriden, CT
Superintendent position

Oak Hills Golf Course
Norwalk, CT
Assistant Superintendent position

Cohasse Country Club
Southbridge, MA
Superintendent position

Rolling Hills Country Club
Wilton, CT
Superintendent position

Please contact Mike Wallace for information regarding job referrals.

Job Opening Golf Course Superintendent

The Links at Vista Center
V&S Development Corporation
1033 North Maple Ave.
Toms River, N.J. 08753

The Links at Vista Center is a new golf course just under construction and which is the center piece of a 1000 acre office, light industrial, and residential development. It is planned that the new superintendent will come on board during the spring of 1985. Seeding of the golf course is planned for August of 1985. The golf course is being designed by the Robert Trent Jones Company; will be eighteen holes with a totally automatic irrigation system.

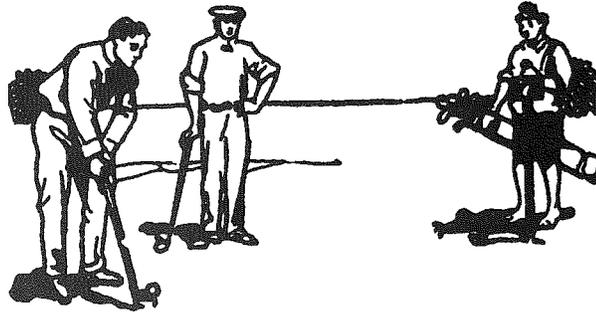
Superintendent will be responsible to Mr. Herb Sambol, owner, with all resumes going to him at the above address.

Further info can be obtained from Mr. Bruce Cadenelli, project consultant, who can be reached at 201-531-3609 days. Mr. Cadenelli will be involved with the project throughout the entire development phase.

Superintendent will have responsibilities of bringing course into play as well as normal responsibilities of golf course maintenance, purchasing, landscaping, clubhouse grounds, budget, etc.

Base Salary:
\$45-55,000

Open to Negotiation:
Hospitalization & Major Medical
Pension
Expenses
Vehicle



GCSAA Chapter Newsletter Contest Winners 1984

Ten Best Overall Newsletters:

Green is Beautiful, Ontario GCSA, Barry Endicott, editor; *Greens Briefs*, Northwestern Pennsylvania GCSA, Cloye Moser, editor; *Indiana GCSA Newsletter*, Indiana GCSA, John L. Morris, CGCS, editor; *Kentuckiana Klippings*, Kentuckiana GCSA, Louis E. Miller, editor; *The Florida Green*, Florida GCSA, Dan Jones, CGCS, editor; *The Grass Roots*, Wisconsin GCSA, Monroe S. Miller, editor; *The Greener Side*, GCSA of New Jersey, Edward Walsh, CGCS, editor; *The Mountain State Greensletter*, West Virginia GCSA, David W. Williams, editor; *The West Coast Wind*, Florida West Coast GCSA, Cecil Johnston, editor; *Turf Talk*, New Hampshire GCSA, Ray Richard, editor.

Those newsletters earning special awards and their editors are:

BEST FLAG DESIGN, *Rocky Mountain Reporter*, Rocky Mountain GCSA, Charles A. Clark, CGCS, editor; BEST COVER, *The Florida Green*, Florida GCSA, Dan Jones, CGCS, editor; BEST USE OF SPOT COLOR, *Greens Briefs*, Northwestern Pennsylvania GCSA, Cloye Moser, editor; BEST ORIGINAL EDITORIAL CONTENT, *The Grass Roots*, Wisconsin GCSA, Monroe S. Miller, editor; BEST FORMAT AND READABILITY, *The Greener Side*, GCSA of New Jersey, Edward Walsh, CGCS, editor; BEST "LIMITED RESOURCES" PRODUCT, *The West Coast Wind*, Florida West Coast GCSA, Cecil Johnston, editor.

Clubs that have made a commitment to hold a 1985 CAGCS meeting at their club include: April-New Haven Country Club, May-Shennecossett Golf Course, June (Supt.-Invitational)-Patterson Country Club, June-Sterling Farms Golf Club, July-Willimantic Country Club, Sept.-Wampanoag Country Club, Oct.-Yale Golf Club, Nov.-Oaklane Country Club.

Greg Wojick, Editor

Classifieds

Stockbridge student seeks placement training position for 1985.

Please contact:

Paul Siliski
University of Massachusetts
1008 George Washington
Tower
Amherst, Mass.

Official CAGCS Sportcoat on sale now

Orders thru Jan. 25 only

Jacket & Patch

Still only \$93.00

Send info below

or call Steve Cadenelli
at 966-2145 to order

Name _____

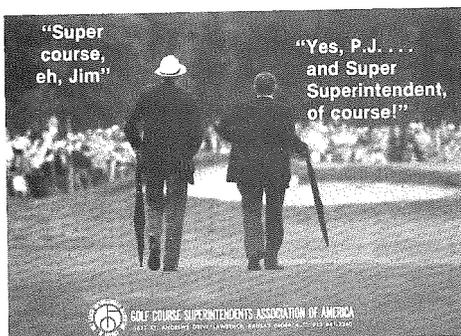
Address _____

Phone () _____

Jacket size _____

Deposit of \$50 appreciated.

Send to: Steve Cadenelli
127 Country Club Road
New Canaan, CT 06840





Some of 1984 Golf Winners in CAGCS Championships

1985 Meeting Schedule

March 19 — Yale Inn, Meriden
April 9 — New Haven Country Club
May 14 — Shennecossett Golf Club
June 10 — Sterling Farms Golf Club
July 9 — Willimantic Country Club
August — Open
September 10 — Wampanoag Country Club
October 15 — Yale Golf Club
November 12 — Oak Lane Country Club

1985 CAGCS Committees

Education

Eric Johnson — Eric will go it alone this year after co-chairing the education committee last year with Jim Medieros. Eric has set up the meeting schedule for 1985 but is still looking for speaker suggestions for these meetings.

Membership

Tom Watroba — Tom takes over for Armand LeSage who handled the membership duties last year. The membership committee is a tough one because of all the changes and new members. Keeping track of over 200 members is a never-ending chore. Tom is new to the board this year.

Golf

Peter Bly — Peter is also new to the board this year. Peter says that he will follow much the same format that Ted Maddocks aptly prepared last year. Ted will assist Peter as a member of the committee in 1985.

Scholarship and Research

Steve Durand — Some new criteria has to be set up for awarding scholarships and research grants in the future. Steve Durand and his committee are looking into all the options. Steve will also organize the annual S & R Tourney for 1985.

Newsletter

Greg Wojick/Steve Cadenelli — The newsletter did not win an award in the 1984 GCSAA newsletter contest. Technically the newsletter is set up very well but variety in headline size is needed. The page jumps were sometimes confusing as well. I feel that the main reason the newsletter didn't do well in the contest, however, is because there was a need for original material from the heart of our association — our members. Board members will again be assigned to write articles for Connecticut Clippings this year. Also look for the return of the Superintendent's Tour and Meet your class "C" members in 1985.

Organizational Study Committee

Frank Lamphier — We look to Frank Lamphier to suggest some healthy changes in our by-laws this year. Frank's years of experience and dedication to our profession make him the ideal person to head up the OSC.

Public Relations

Richard Marcks — Richard has become our "Hartford Connection," keeping us abreast of the happenings in state government as they relate to our profession.

Welfare

Carl Wallace — Carl has done a commendable job of finding out what's going on around the state. He needs help, however. Call Carl with info on births, deaths, illnesses, etc. (Note: Best time to reach Carl is between 7:00 and 7:15 A.M. during the week at home.)

Social

The entire board will be working in this area, trying to come up with the "secret formula" that gets our members together in a social setting.

Job Referral and Historian

Mike Wallace, CGCS — Mike has done a good job getting job notices out. This is a tough assignment because of the many "behind-the-scenes" problems. Some clubs don't like to cooperate.

The history file is taking shape. Mike will continue to get things "the way they were."

Mike is also working on a "communications network" for our association. Look for more on this important area.

This year, why not try to help out these people and their committees. They're only trying to help you, the member. Get involved with a committee. Don't wait to be asked — volunteer.

Greg Wojick, Editor

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