



AUGUST, 1971



Golf Course Superintendents Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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CEMENTING OF A RELATIONSHIP

Maybe in some isolated quarters the name of the vendetta is "super vs. pro", but no one knows better than the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England how warped is that feeling.

The relationship today between golf course superintendent and golf professional is one of complete harmony. For example, in Connecticut the Conn. Professional Golfers Association has initiated a program whereby it will take part in the building of a scholarship fund for worthy candidates pursuing careers in the field of fine turf and grasses.

More evidence pops out from behind the pro shop day in and day out. For those of us, attending the last meeting of the association at The Orchards, the cementing of the relationship between the super and pro was in full view in the co-operation and just plain cordial reception given the group by Orchards professional Bob Bontempo.

"It doesn't cost anything to be nice to people", Bontempo quips. "I am especially interested in the work of the superintendent. After all, what he accomplishes on the golf course affects me as well as the member. It's a pleasure to be able to sit back and hear members and guests rave about the condition of our course. What the super does makes all of us proud."

Bontempo must rate as golf professional of the year as far as the New England superintendents are concerned. He was the host at the first "super-press" tournament when he overwhelmed both parties with hospitality at the Twin Hills Country Club in East Longmeadow, Mass.

That was a banner day and Bontempo treated it as such. "I knew you people were trying to make a good impression with your first tournament", he tells. "And there never was a better relationship between professions than the one I had and still have with Roy Mackintosh (TH super). In fact,

when I left Twin Hills to come to The Orchards two years ago, I really had to consider what leaving Roy would mean. We figured we had grown with the club together. Now, I can appreciate the superintendent's job. Dave Vibber (Orchards super) and I hit it off real well."

Bontempo has been associated with golf all his life. He is the son of Henry Bontempo, a municipal course pro who once was considered one of the finest golfers in New England. So, the introduction to the game was second nature. And Bob caught on . . . real fast.

He immediately became one of the stars of the junior golf scene in the Springfield area and reached out for glory beyond when he won the state schoolboy championship while playing for Classical High. More junior honors were garnered before he made a big jump to college and the University of North Carolina where Bontempo was a regular on that school's powerful golf team.

The 31-year-old Bontempo was natural pro material and his first job was as head professional at Twin Hills. He is in his second year as the top gun at The Orchards and members there already think of him as a fixture.

"I'd like to see more opportunity (like the last meeting) for the professional and superintendent to get together," Bob says. "We have so much in common it's a shame that some of us think we can go our separate ways without any communication or mutual respect. Besides, there's no sense feuding with each other. We really don't have anything to argue about. We are in the same boat. The way I figure it both of us have to pull our oar . . . and pull them together."

So, the relationship between superintendent and professional is doing quite well these days. With pros like Bob Bontempo leading the way in that direction, the days of the vendetta are kaput!

— Gerry Finn

A Sad Note

It was with deep regret that we inform you of the death of Theodore (Ted) Anderson, a member of the GCSAA and the New England section who passed away last month in Orange, Mass.

At the time of his death Mr. Anderson was the retired superintendent of the Ellinwood Country Club in Athol and regarded as one of the most respected golf figures in the Central Massachusetts area.

Ted was from the old school and had to whip some of the problems of his profession with his bare hands. This he did with much acclaim and the satisfaction of club members who always held him close to their hearts.

Mr. Anderson found his interest in golf at the Alpine Golf Course in Fitchburg and was introduced to the profession

of supervising the condition of the course by his brother, Arthur who later went on to fame as the head man at Brae Burn.

Both Ted and Arthur moved from Alpine to the Oak Hill Country Club and the pair were still together when Arthur took over the job at Brae Burn. It was from Brae Burn that Ted received the call to Ellinwood. That was in 1931 when Ellinwood was just a name without a course. It was Ted who altered that, working away until he had developed what one sportswriter called "some of the finest greens in New England."

Ted stayed on and became legend at Ellinwood until his retirement in 1970. He will be missed by all . . . friends, Ellinwood members and his brother superintendents. The Association sends its deepest sympathy to his widow, Blanche, and the rest of the Anderson family.

Golf Course Superintendents Association

VANDALISM... WHERE WILL IT END?

There is an old pest lurking around many corners of the superintendent's domain. Only the invader no longer is a pest, something to sweep under the rug. The pest has grown horns and fangs. It has become ever so deadly that it is more harmful than turf disease or quirks of nature. Its name is "vandalism". A cobra is less dangerous.

Once upon another generation vandalism consisted of nothing more than the trick or treat stuff youngsters pull when they're in a playful mood. Maybe a few flag sticks would be pulled from the greens and thrown into adjacent woods or the trash barrels turned upside down. These acts fell under the heading of pranks and were easily handled by the super.

These must have been the good old days. Today the super almost wishes he might run into a prankster. "It would be a pleasure to see someone just doing those things a boy might consider part of growing up", one harassed super remarked. "We were all kids once. We liked to ring doorbells and all that. But today there's a big difference. These people are vicious."

One of the favorites of the dastardly deeds is the destruction of the green. Somehow vandals have discovered that the most expensive item to be replaced or duplicated on the golf course is a green. It all started when automobiles were used to sink deep tire marks into the surface. Since then the methods of scarring the green have expanded to the point where a planned attack with rakes, hoes and other sharp instruments makes a veritable battlefield out of the course.

And it doesn't end at one green. There have been reports of every green on the course being hit by one or more people during a typical "raid". In one example the damage was so extensive it took a call to members and more than 300 man hours to get the course playable again.

One of the new favorites with these parasites is the stealing of golf cars and subsequent destruction of same. Some cars have been discovered as many as 10 miles from the course. Discovered and then labeled a complete loss. They are seldom left in one piece.

Other favorite pastimes of the vandal is pouring dye on the porch or steps of the clubhouse, breaking windows (several at a time with what likely is buckshot), digging up and carting off ball washers, stealing tee markers and burning initials or other letters on greens and tees with harmful chemicals.

Naturally, the invasion of the golf course more often than not winds up with a wholesale theft, either in the clubhouse . . . the pro shop . . . or the super's equipment building. It has been proven that the early traces of vandalism have been noted prior to the eventual robbery of the course.

Where will it end? No one can give you a sound answer there. It seems inevitable that vandalism will reach the point where perhaps (and God forbid) human life is lost. There doesn't seem to be any end to the spread of this problem and it doesn't seem to have any cutoff point in way of increasing the amount of damage.

Several weeks ago the *Newsletter* received a letter from an irate country club member who had seen her course slashed to smithereens by vandals. She wanted to know what could be done about it and the reply was "don't shoot until you see their ratty rear ends". Maybe that was written in half-jest. However, the increasing incidence of vandalism makes the suggestion gather more serious tones than one would imagine.

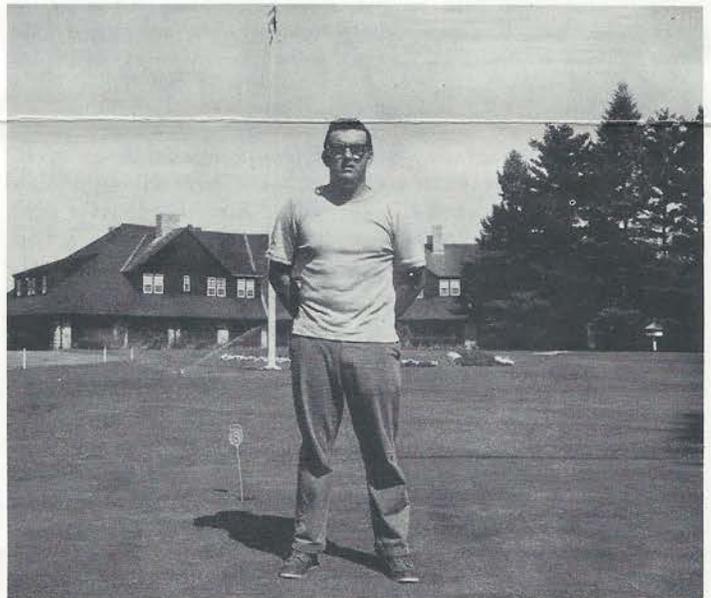
Vandalism must be stopped . . . stopped before someone, not something, gets hurt.

— Gerry Finn

NEXT MEETING

The Annual Superintendent — Green Chairman meeting will be held August 2, 1971, at Vesper Country Club, Pawtucket Boulevard, Tyngsboro, Mass. Vesper was the site of the 1971 Mass. Open and is an exciting Donald Ross layout. Golf can be played anytime after 11 a. m. and lunch and caddies or carts are available. Cocktails will be served at 6 p. m. followed by dinner at 7 p. m. sharp. After dinner Dr. Joseph Troll of the University of Massachusetts will discuss "research plans to help country clubs."

Burt Frederick is the man at the reigns of Vesper. He started working on a course in 1956 under Bob Mucciorone at the Merrimack Valley Golf Course. After a few years there he decided this was for him and entered Winter School at U. of Mass. and graduated in 1960. But went on to be super at the Island Country Club on Martha's Vineyard only to be drafted a short time afterward. While in the service for two years he supervised the construction of the Ft. Devens Golf Course. After discharge Burt worked as assistant to Manual Francis at the Vesper Country Club. In November of 1967 when Mr. Francis retired, Burt was named Superintendent and has been there since.



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SOUND OFF!!!!

(Time to pinch the mailman and see what he has for Sound Off readers this time around the popular feature's grounds. Sound Off is both for and by the readers of this publication. It is presented with the hope that it stimulates some faction of the game of golf and subsequent active part in that aspect of the grand and ancient. Readers are invited to air their views via this column. Letters and cards should be sent to Newsletter Mail Box, 24 Riverview Drive, Newbury, Mass. 01950. The Newsletter reserves the right to comment on each published letter.)

"I would like to add my congratulations to Lee Trevino for the many big tournaments that he has won this season.

"Fortunately, I had an opportunity to watch Trevino beat Jack Nicklaus in the playoff for the U. S. Open Championship at Merion Golf Club. By the way, I was quite impressed with the layout and conditioning of that course. It was really something.

"But I am straying from my original reason for writing this letter. In Trevino the little man of this country (and all other countries, I suppose) see a new hero. Certainly, he will be the favorite with the majority of golf fans whenever he tees it up.

"I was wondering if you people had any material on his background. I heard that he once was a golf course superintendent. How does that sound? Is that where Lee got his start and is he interested in the game of making a course sparkle?"

SANDY STIMSON
Overbrook, Pa.

Lee is said to be interested in the superintendent's work, but never took part in it. Maybe you are thinking of Bert Yancey, another pro star. He and his brother once were involved in a golf development where both did the work of the super.

"Recently I read somewhere that the number of golf courses in the United States being converted to shopping centers and big parking areas is getting to the point where it exceeds the number of new golf courses being built.

"I think this is an alarming note. If that trend continues, we will be so short of golf courses it might take a two-week's notice to get a starting time. I can't believe this country would allow such a situation to develop."

HARRY JUDSON
Pine Needles, Va.

Your information is slightly over par, Harry. The number of new courses is higher than the number of conversions. However, the rate of new courses has declined which might cause us to worry.

I would like to comment on Mr. Blake's theory that the golf course superintendent should educate people outside of his organization. People such as club presidents, greens chairmen, and members should be familiar with our aims and problems.

One way of accomplishing this would be to have a slide presentation. Last year at my course I took slides of projects done, problems encountered, and areas which needed improvement. At the end of the golf year my greens chairman asked my wife and me to attend the annual golf dinner. I told him of the slides I had taken and suggested giving a presentation at the dinner. My chairman was very enthusiastic about the

idea and arranged for the talk. During the presentation, I explained some of our maintenance operations and problems, and pointed out some areas which could be improved in the future. The members showed much interest and a number of questions were asked.

I believe that a slide presentation is a good way for the golf course superintendent to communicate with, as well as educate, his club's membership.

Larry Bunn
Milton-Hoosic Club, Canton, Mass.

Thanks for the letter, Larry, it sounds like you have done a good P.R. job for yourself. It's too bad more supers couldn't do the same thing for themselves.

"The other day I played in a tournament at a local country club and was surprised to see where the superintendent had placed the holes on the greens. He had them in places even the USGA wouldn't suggest for their big golfing championships.

"Several players in the field commented on what they thought were unfair pin placements. It certainly ruined my game. On one of the greens I took five putts. The cup was set on a mound and I think it took me three strokes to make the hole from an original three feet.

"What's the matter with you guys. Just because you aren't as able to play as much as the next guy, you take all the enjoyment out of the game. Are you superintendent's mad at the world?"

FRANK STEIN
Freeway, L. I.

You're too loud, Frank, and also way off line . . . and we don't mean your putting. Usually, the superintendent gets his orders to place pins from the tournament committee chairman of the club. Five putts! No wonder you're mad.

"I'm a nongolfer but just happened to be in a barber shop where one of your Newsletters was lyin' around.

"What I would like to crow about is the fact that golf courses are tappin' our water supply somethin' awful these days. In June there was all kinds of dog days goin' on. I mean it was hot and humid.

"Our local paper threw out a caution to residents. What they said was that people livin' here should be careful about usin' water. That's quite a laugh, too.

"The laugh is that everytime I go by the local golf course in the evening, all I see are those water spouts jiggling and tossing out water like there was no tomorrow.

"What I'm writing to you for is because it's you supers who should be readin' our local paper and start to worry about the water shortage that could happen. I'm not a golfer like I said before. And maybe that's why this thing bugs me more. But I say what's good for the goose is good for the duckling. (I think that's the sayin').

"Anyway, how about it, you guys. Shut off those sprinklers!

BERT BEEF
Jersey City, N. J.

Bert, you're all wet. Most golf courses draw their water supplies from private ponds. And when they are on city or town lines, they follow the local edict just as the homeowner does.

(That really shuts us off for this time. Remember, you can be part of the parade of letters. Let's hear from you. Sound Off !

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NEWSLETTER

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