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A PATCH of GREEN

Official Publication of the
Michigan & Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association



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"A PATCH OF GREEN"

Published monthly by the
**MICHIGAN AND BORDER CITIES GOLF
COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION**

Circulation: 1,250

Ted Woehrl, CGCS, Oakland Hills C.C.
James Timmerman, Orchard Lakes C.C.
CO-EDITORS

Printed At

BLAKEMAN PRINTING COMPANY
31823 Utica Road
Fraser, Michigan 48026
Phone: (313) 293-3540

MONTHLY ADVERTISING RATES

Double Page Spread.....	\$150.00
Back Outside Page.....	75.00
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Editorial

Sometimes a solution to a problem that has seemed almost impossible to solve appears almost by magic after you put it out of your mind for a month or so. A kind of "not being able to see the forest for the trees". It was sometime after the annual meeting and I was recalling all that had happened when it occurred to me that of the 42 present, 13 were either on the Board or running for it, 15 were interested members and 14 were past presidents of the Association. The 14 past presidents represented 70% of Association presidents for the last 20 years. It followed then that if we had an election every 6 months, there would be tremendous increase in the attendance at our monthly meetings. Better yet, let's have an election every month and in 15 years we will have a total of 180 past presidents and should have at least 125 at every meeting. Simple enough!!

I can think of about 4 legitimate reasons for missing a meeting:

1. It is Yom Kipper and you are required to attend services at your Synagogue.

2. You are a member of the town council and there is a meeting at the time of the M.A.G.C.S.

3. Your son or daughter is starring in the school play on the evening of the meeting.

4. You have just been married and your bride insists you accompany her on her honeymoon.

5. You had to sit up at night with a sick pump.

God, country, family and job. Who can find fault with these excuses?

Excuses that are not acceptable are:

1. The meeting was on the other side of town.

2. It fell on my bowling night.

3. I didn't have anyone to ride with me.

And the grand daddy of them all -- I must have heard at least a hundred times in the last five years -- "I don't like the way the Association is doing things and I don't want any part of it."

Alright, let's assume for a moment that is correct, but let's make it a green that's sick and starting to deteriorate. I am sure that the first thing you would do every morning, and the last thing you would do before leaving in the evening would be to check on that green. Your mind would be occupied with diagnosing the problem, considering the alternatives for correcting the problem and then implement a plan to get the green back in shape.

Why should it be different with your Association? The people who run it are human and as such may see things differently than you do, but you can rest assured that their goals are the same as yours. The best way to have things done your way is to get involved and at least have a voice in the way things are done. If you were in attendance at the annual meeting you would have seen what one person can do when Walter Fuchs Sr., overcame his inherent shyness and softly spoke against the Amendment that would have changed the name of the Association.

So get off your "deceased donkey" and get to the meetings. Every game of golf will not be played at Medinah #3. Every meal will not be a feast fit for the gods and everyone you encounter will not be your first choice for a brother-in-law, but you will meet some people who are very much involved in the same problems as you are and are very willing to share their experiences with you.

Robert Breen
Past President
Midwest Chapter

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A GOLF PRO TO BE A GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT

by
Ronald W. Fream
Santa Rosa, California

There seems to be a misconception which is commonly encountered in the world of golf to the effect that to be a professional golfer is to be a golf course architect. This misconception is promoted internationally in magazine advertisements, in newspaper interviews and in promotional literature. The famous golfer is "quoted" or noted as being a golf course architect and being that accomplished golfer, the public in general automatically assumes that the two facts are mutually interchangeable.

In actual fact, being a famous and accomplished professional golfer contributes modestly, at best, and is detrimental at times, to the ultimate result of an effort to design, build and main-

tain a golf course. There are somewhere over twenty-five million golfers in the world. Golf is a game, or recreation, which is growing in popularity at a fairly consistent rate of four to six percent per year in a country like the United States, but considerably faster in such emerging golf countries as Singapore or Malaysia. Developers of golf courses for profit motives, i.e., destination resorts and real estate developments, are eager to attract this ever growing group of potential customers. Some promoters of new private golf club projects and governmentally sponsored public courses, as well, are frequently impressed by the presence of the "name" golf pro who promises

Continues on Page 13

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GREEN SEMINAR A SUCCESS

Once again the combined efforts of the Golf Association of Michigan and The Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association has produced a most successful Greens Seminar.

Co-Chairman Neil J. MacPhee of the GAM and Superintendent Bruce J. Wolfrom C.G.C.S. of the Michigan and Border Cities G.C.S.A. presented the annual Seminar to 150 interested attendees - at the Detroit Golf Club on Saturday, March 21, 1981.

Subject matter included introducing remarks by Neil J. MacPhee, GAM Green Committee Chairman, Essex Golf and Country Club, Windsor, Ontario and James McLoughlin, Executive Director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America - G.C.S.A.A. Headquarters, Laramie, Kansas. The theme of these two speakers emphasized the impor-

tance of the working relationships between their associations and ours.

Next, Director Dan Uzclac, moderated a panel on Summer Disease Controls. His panel included Bill Fack, Superintendent of Essex Golf & Country Club, Roger Gill, Superintendent of Pine Lake Country Club and T. Karl Dannenberger of M.S.U.

Dr. Joe Vargas, Turf Pathologist and Treasurer of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation - Mich. State University - gave us an update on the Progress of the Hancock Research Center and the plots that are planned. A special thanks was given to those companies and individuals that donated their time and materials to make this project a reality.

Sand Topdressing was updated by Kevin Dushane of Wabeek Country Club and his fine panel consisting of

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"OPERATION VASECTOMY"

Devised to slow proliferation of "Golf Course Geese"

Strapped to a field operating table, his head beneath a calming cover, the vasectomy patient didn't bat an eyelash. He didn't even honk.

The patient was a Canada goose of the non-migratory variety, sometimes called "golf-course geese."

These are honkers who have decided not to make the annual round trip from the far North to the deep South, choosing instead to make a permanent home on idyllic links where they can nest in the rough and swim in the water hazards.

A prolific lot, they have multiplied in place, driving golfers crazy by dropping slippery hazards of their own on greens and fairways up and down the East Coast. Many Westchester golf courses have large populations of the birds.

"Anyone can live with two Canada geese, and most people can live with four, but when you get into geometrical progressions, that's where you get into the problem," said H. Lloyd Alexander of the Delaware Fish and Wildlife Division.

When not cut down by hunters' guns, Canada geese are a long-lived lot. They can live 10-12 years in the wild, and after they're 3 years old they generally have three to six goslings a year.

Solving the problem of the golf-course geese hasn't been easy. Not long ago, one flock in Wilmington, Del., was captured and trucked to West Virginia. Some people think the geese beat the trucker back home.

That's where sterilization comes in.

The goose vasectomies, which took place in Westchester and Fairfield, are part of a cooperative study by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Dr. Jim Kennelly of the Wildlife Service's Wildlife Health Laboratory in Madison, Wis., heads the experimental project, under which 24 ganders have been sterilized.

So far, \$5,000 has been spent getting the three-stage project through its first two phases. Researchers have asked for \$30,000 more from Fish and Wildlife to cover the costs of studying the sterilized geese the next two years.

Some of that money comes from hunters who buy licenses and duck stamps, said spokeswoman Meg Durham.

Simply raising hunting bag limits or declaring open seasons on the permanent flocks won't control the burgeoning population of golf-course geese, she said. "There are situations

Continued on Page 12

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ELECTRIC CHARGE BOOSTS PESTICIDE APPLICATION EFFECTIVENESS

Dr. S. Edward Law, Agricultural Research Engineer of the University of Georgia, has developed a new system for pesticide applications. Under sponsorship of the University of Georgia and Cotton, Inc., Dr. Law electrically charges pesticide spray droplets which are then attracted to the plant leaf surface. The system can cut pesticide consumption by one-half at a saving of \$1 billion annually for the American farmer. The USGA Research and Education Fund is supporting Dr. Law's work as it relates to turfgrass applications.

When spraying pesticides, compressed air is used from a spray-charging nozzle to propel the electrically charged droplets toward the plant. A negative charge is usually used. As the charged cloud approaches the crop, the constraint to remain at ground voltage induces into the crop an op-

posite charge to that of the cloud. Thus, the negative particles are drawn down to the plants.

"Of special importance," says Dr. Law, "is the fact that not only is more pesticide deposited on the plants, but it is distributed more evenly." This means less pesticide will be needed for control and low volume spray applications will be ideal.

U.S. Patent rights were granted in January, 1977 and foreign patent applications are already filed. The equipment will be relatively inexpensive and will utilize a solid state power supply that can be run off a tractor battery. Since conventional pesticide applicators usually put only 20 percent of the material onto the target plants, Dr. Law's new technique expands agricultural scientific horizons once more. Diseases; insects; and Weeds--Beware!

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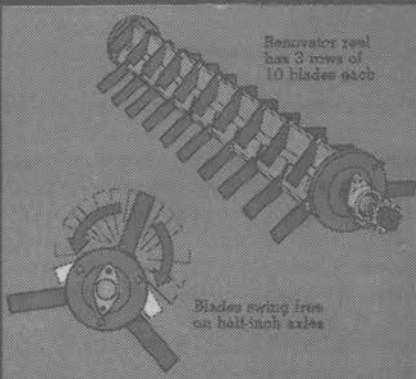


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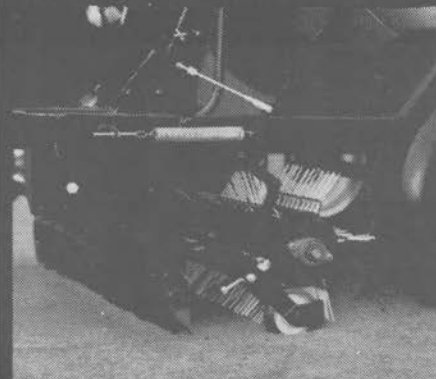


IT'S QUICK AND CLEAN: special renovator reel has 30 blades that slice a 58 $\frac{3}{4}$ " swath. Renovates large areas in a short time, and the vacuum picks up the pieces. Greater capacity makes more frequent treatment practical—leading to healthier, more beautiful turf.

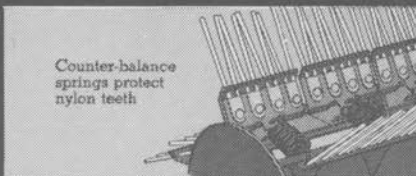


SHOCK-ABSORBING blades, pivoted to reduce damage, swing into action as reel rotates. Renovator reel is an accessory to the basic machine, and is interchangeable with rake (see below) or sweeper reel (next page). Reels raise for high-speed transport.

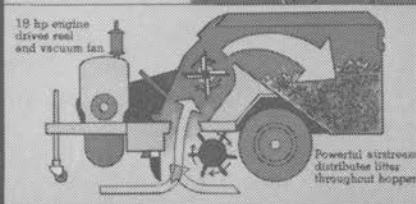
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CENTURY RAIN-AID OPENS THIRD FLORIDA BRANCH

Fort Meyers, Florida is the location of the newest branch of Century Rain-Aid, distributors of underground sprinkler irrigation supplies, announced Ernie Hodas, President of Century.

Opening for business in mid April, 1981 this facility will supply underground sprinkler irrigation requirements of sprinkler installers, landscapers, golf courses, municipalities, construction, building contractors and do-it-yourself homeowners.

The new Century branch is a master distributor of Rain Bird sprinklers, valves, clock timers and related accessories. In addition, a complete range of pipe, pumps, fittings, tools is stocked. Nelson, Safe-T-Lawn and Myers are among the product brand names.

Heading the branch is Bill Dasher with a background of 10 years experience in sprinkler designing, installation, service and distributing.

Located at 1960 Dana Drive, off U.S. 41, just west of the airport east-west runway, the new branch will serve the Fort Myers, Naples and Cape Coral area.

Other Century Rain-Aid locations are in Clearwater, Tampa, Florida, Madison Heights, Southfield, Coldwater, Michigan and Elk Grove Village, Illinois.

NINE WAYS TO NEGOTIATE A RAISE

Many people who have no trouble dealing with their superiors in most day-to-day situations find it very difficult to ask for a raise. If you're faint-hearted at negotiation time, consider these recommendations to ease the process:

*Know your worth. Ask yourself how valuable you are to the course, how much would it cost to replace you, what have you done lately to help the organization.

*Pick your place. Get your boss outside of the office to listen to your request. Take him to lunch if possible.

*Detail your reasons. Tell your boss why you deserve a raise.

*Suggest an amount. You, not your boss, should propose the amount of

your possible raise.

*Set your figures high. Ask for more than you expect to get. This leaves room to bargain.

*Compromise--but not too easily. Since you've started with a high figure, realize you probably won't get it. Let your boss make a counter-offer, and be ready to compromise.

*Rehearse. Don't go into negotiation cold. Be sure to be in top mental and physical condition when the actual talks begin.

*Get it in writing. If possible, get your boss to put it in writing--for both signatures--the raise he agrees to.

*Don't wait--ask. Don't wait around for the company to recognize your value and give you a raise. Ask for it. Your aggressiveness may pay off.

Vasectomies, cont.

when that's just not practical . . . Neighbors aren't going to be very amenable to people blasting away with shotguns."

That may be so, but a couple years ago, on a golf course near Washington, one 67-year-old golfing doctor took matters into his own hands. He told investigators he performed a "mercy killing" with his putter after finding a badly injured Canada goose on the 17th green.

But witnesses told a different story. The doctor was putting, they said, when a "Honk!" rang out. The doctor missed his putt but cornered his nemesis with deadly accuracy. He bludgeoned the goose with his putter before wringing its neck, they said.

The goose vasectomies are "just an experiment," Durham emphasized. "They don't have plans to do any more at present. We're studying the geese to see if their behavior changes."

Even so, the project has drawn fire from the water-fowl establishment. Ducks Unlimited, a politically and financially powerful international organization that spends millions to increase the numbers of waterfowl, has blasted it as a ridiculous waste of money and diametrically opposed to the mission of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

*Credit: Steve Marshall
Gannett News Service*

Golf Course Architect, cont.

fame and fantastic results. The end user, the average golfer who pays the greens fees and supports the golf course, is also frequently impressed by the obvious superiority of the "name" golfer when the name is attached to a golf course.

What is almost universally overlooked is the unquestionable fact that in order to have a golf course which is challenging to play, beautiful to look at, fair to all golfers, economically affordable to build initially and to be maintainable to proper standards for reasonable expense, the ability to hit a 3-wood well contributes very little to the finished product! In other words, there is much more which goes into designing a truly quality golf course than golfing ability alone.

What is the background of the typical golf pro? If he is of the older generation, he was a caddie who progressed to club assistant to sponsored player on a tour to international name if natural ability and sheer determination prevailed. This method still holds true in numerous countries. If he is of a somewhat younger group, he might have been a tradesman or real estate agent who played very well and achieved his wildest dream of finding a sponsor to embark on that glamorous and nomadic life as a touring pro. If he is of the youngest generation, especially in America, he might be the product of a major university where he majored in psychology, literature or business management, all the while gaining the experience of intercollegiate competitions. Perhaps, our "name" pro was the product of a university where a full scholarship was provided so that he could major in golf, bring achievement to the university and serve his apprenticeship for the life of a professional with no real regard for intellectual achievement.

Nowhere in the above does any mention of botany, soil science, ecology, geography, ornamental horticulture, soil conservation, hydrology, geology, turfgrass management, landscape architecture or land use planning occur. Yet without the aforementioned subject matter and other even more

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Golf Course Architect, cont.

technical areas of understanding, there would be a few golf course in the world of noteworthy playing stature. Playing the game of golf well or even exceptionally well, does not automatically insure that when designing and building a golf course, the ability of playing well will guarantee a finished product of quality and durability.

It is a sad commentary when all too many golf courses today are very little but stereotyped copies of others - greens flat and round, tees as if postage stamps in size and shape; sand bunkers round, shallow and always in the same general location hole after hole; fairway after fairway indistinguishable from one another. Playing golf well does not automatically give one a mind which is creative, distinctive and original.

When it comes time to consider the selection of a golf course architect, consider more than the prospect's handicap. Consider an ability to relate to your club, or your proposed course and project. Consider the merits of a background which offers the ability to distinguish between silt and clay, Bermudagrass and Bluegrass, pH and soil fertility levels. Not all golf courses need measure seven thousand plus yards. Does your prospective golf architect realize that?

To design creatively, with an original style and distinctive result, is highly commendable in golf course architecture. However, to design creatively without due regard for the costs of construction or the means to implement the creativity is self-defeating at best. Many are the excessively expensive golf course construction efforts which never quite achieved their anticipated objectives.

Great design will not stand or survive on its own! Design alone soon deteriorates into mediocrity. Without considerable attention to such unglamorous aspects as putting green seedbed construction materials and procedures, teeing area carrying capacity, irrigation system sprinkler head spacing and pipe sizing demands, no design will survive for long. Without ample attention to the needs of fairway contouring and drainage, pre-plant fertili-

zation, selective formulations of turfgrass seed variety and species mixtures, seeding rates, mowing heights and mowing frequency, almost all golf courses regardless of who was the architect will sooner or later deteriorate into mediocrity.

Perhaps, this is why so many existing golf courses are seeking professional assistance and guidance in order to develop and implement remodeling and renovation programs. Golf courses, which some years ago successfully accomodated play of fifteen thousand to twenty-five thousand rounds per year are now finding that those same facilities cannot support or withstand the onslaught of forty to sixty thousand rounds per year.

Inadequate consideration of the fundamentals of quality golf course - earthmoving economy, the soil preparation, turfgrass variety selection, seeding or stolonizing methods, proper after planting turfgrass establishment maintenance and related matters - will sooner or later result in a less than desired result.

To conceive a design and be unable to translate that design into graphic detail drawings and construction specifications will only lead to a questionable finished product at best. Hitting a golf ball a long distance does not prepare a person to visualize or draw contour grading plans or author precise seedbed construction material specifications. The final result of the golf course is actually more dependent upon those abstract technical abilities than a superior playing ability.

For golf course superintendents, those unsung "growers of the grass", it is all the more vital that what goes into a design concept comes out correctly in the final result. Far more superintendents are fired for problems which occur on a golf course than are golf architects. Many of these problems originated with the so-called golf architect. There is no substitute for building a golf course correctly the first time!

Certainly an understanding and awareness of the demands of golf play, finesse and subtlety are essential. However, to rely alone upon the physical accomplishments of a golfer, and to

Continued on Next Page

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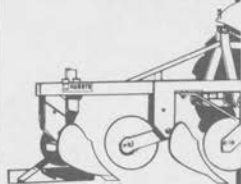
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Dormant oils are designed to be mixed with water. The rates vary depending upon the pest in question. In some cases, an insecticide is added to the oil to improve the effectiveness of the treatment.

Consider the temperature before applying an oil. It should not be applied if the temperature is below 40 degrees Fahrenheit or will go down to freezing shortly after applying the oil. On some evergreens, injury may occur if freezing temperatures appear within three weeks after treatment. Oils applied after October 1st may increase cold damage to some trees. An oil may also cause plant burning if applied when the temperature is 90 degrees Fahrenheit plus during or immediately before hot, dry weather or on plants suffering from drought.

Oil sprays should not be used on certain plants because the result will be burning. Sugar maples, hemlock, larch, Cryptomeria, Japanese maples, beech, hickory, walnut, butternut, mountain ash, maidenhair, ferns, Co-cos palms and African violets fall into this category. Oil will also injury Douglas fir flower buds and will remove the blue color from blue spruce. Oil applied in August or September on fruit trees may affect fruit color and solids content.

Do not use oils with or following the application of certain pesticides: dinitro compounds, sulfurs, captan, Folpet, Pyrene, Karathane, Morestan, lime sulfur, wettable sulfur, Dichlone, Phal-tan, or Sevin. Read your labels carefully for additional instructions.

Check your oil to see if it is still good before you use it. The mixture of water and oil should be uniform and milky-white after shaking. If it doesn't emulsify, don't use it.

Stanley Rachesky

Golf Course Architect, cont.

discount or ignore the intellectual accomplishments of the professional golf course architect will lead to far more disappointment than remarkable achievement. Being able to hit the golf ball very well does not automatically and unquestionably certify one as a competent and professional golf course architect.

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Green Seminar, cont.

Don Warrender of Construction Aggregate Corporation, Perrysburg, Mich. who showed us how his sand was processed. Keith Patterson, Superintendent, Spring Lake Country Club, Spring Lake, Mich. and Tom Mason, Superintendent, Birmingham Country Club, Birmingham, Michigan, gave us their opinions on sand topdressing. Both have been on ambitious programs.

The afternoon session on **Soil Management Through Drainage** was Chaired by Bruce Wolfrom, Superintendent, Barton Hills Country Club, Ann Arbor, Michigan. His panel consisted of Dr. Paul Rieke, Crop and Soil Science Department, M.S.U. who described the importance of proper drainage as relates to good turf Culture and Ted Wohrle, Superintendent, Oakland Hills Country Club, Clem Wolfrom, Superintendent, Detroit Golf Club and Harry Schueman, Superintendent, The Moors Portage, Michigan. They shared their experiences in draining their golf courses. Ted talked about tile, Clem discussed the importance of keeping tiles clean and Harry stressed the importance of good trap drainage.

The last session of this outstanding seminar was moderated by Director Mike Edgerton, Superintendent, Meadowbrook Country Club, Northville, Michigan. His panel on **True Planting and Maintenance** was made up of Jerry Mathews, Golf Course Architect, Langsburg, Michigan, Jerry Faubel, Superintendent, Saginaw Country Club, Saginaw, Michigan, Bob Birdsall, Superintendent, Grosse Ile Golf & Country Club, Grosse Ile, Michigan, and Stanley Zontek, the new North Central Regional Director of the United States Golf Association. They discussed the importance of proper planning and planting of golf course trees. Many examples of improperly planted trees were shown by slides collected by the speaker.

We were happy to have Stan Zontek join us here in Detroit and we are looking forward to a fruitful relationship with our association and the U.S.G.A.

The success of this seminar once again points out the need for these educational programs in the future. Thanks to all the participants for making this all worthwhile.

LIFE SAVING TIPS given at February meeting.

On February 24, 1981 we were pleased to welcome Steve Waymaster as our speaker on the life saving techniques known as CPR, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation. Steve is with the Stewart Oxygen Service.

The meeting took place at the Salt River Golf Club. Glen Korhorn is the Superintendent.

After we enjoyed a delicious meal and free drinks, Steve introduced his staff and proceeded to demonstrate the life saving steps that we can all use in our everyday lives.

UPJOHN - Sponsors joint meeting.

On Monday, March 9, 1981 we joined the Western Michigan Chapter of Golf Course Superintendents in a tour of the entire Upjohn facilities in Kalamazoo, Michigan. They treated us to a delicious lunch and a guided tour of the chemical plant producing their pharmaceutical products. It was once again an outstanding program. Our thanks to Russ Tiller for making the arrangements.

Clarence Wolfrom Celebrates 50 Years at Maple Lane Golf Club.



The Wolfrom family of Superintendents - All three have been leaders in the Michigan & Border Cities G.C.S.A. - Clarence - center, Proud father of Clem-left, and Bruce-right.

Congratulations to Clarence for his outstanding achievement - In April he completed 50 years at one Club as the Superintendent. He has seen many changes at the Club. He has been there for the good times as well as the bad and endured them all. To my knowledge he is the only Superintendent to complete 50 years at the same Club. Lets have a party!

6 ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WE NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D ASK (BUT DECIDED TO ANSWER ANYWAY)

1 Yes, GCSAA can help you become a better superintendent. One way it does this is through educational seminars and conference sessions it sponsors each year to help you become better informed about turfgrass diseases, pesticides, landscaping and management practices.

2 Yes, GCSAA is helping to further the advancement of the turfgrass industry. Through the GCSAA Scholarship & Research Fund, Inc., GCSAA provided more than \$13,500 last year in research grants to leading turfgrass programs. GCSAA also provides educational opportunities to turfgrass students through annual turfgrass scholarships.

4 Yes, GCSAA offers recognition for superintendents. Through its public relations efforts, its magazine, and its award programs, GCSAA helps promote the image and the professionalism of the superintendent. GCSAA also provides information to superintendents about how they can use public relations to promote their own image to their course, their community and their association.

3 Yes, GCSAA provides a meeting ground for superintendents. Each year, GCSAA sponsors an annual conference and show for its members. Last year more than 6,500 educators, industry representatives and members from all over the world attended. GCSAA's executive committee decided at its last board meeting that the conference experience is so valuable that first-year members should be encouraged to attend by being given free admission.

5 Yes, GCSAA provides each member with a life insurance program. Supplemental insurance, disability and pension programs also are available.

6 No, GCSAA can't help you with your golf handicap. You'll have to work on that yourself.

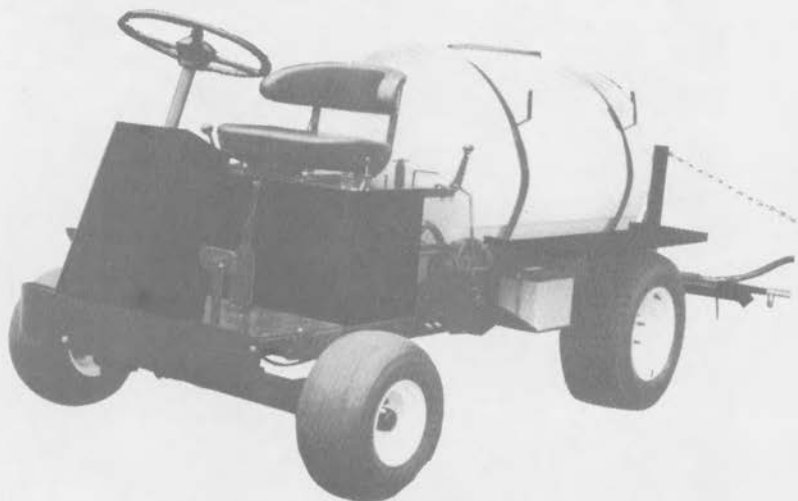


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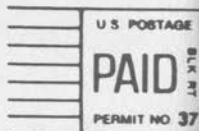
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