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May 1973



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Official Publication of the

Michigan & Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association

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The President's Message

The door has been opened. Let's walk through and make the most of the opportunity to advance our profession with the help of the GAM. The combined meeting of the Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Golf Association of Michigan held at Oakland Hills Country Club last month was one of the best efforts put forth in a long time. We were able to tell our story about automatic irrigation to the people that are responsible for the operation of the golf courses in Michigan. The story was told in a professional manner and our mission was accomplished.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the officials of the GAM for



their participation in this educational endeavor. I would also like to thank the panel members for their time and effort in preparing their portion of the program. You should be proud of your presentations.

Now that we have established our intentions of educating the golfing community, we should have little trouble in the future in preparing other subjects of interest. This type of meeting could be very helpful during times of stress during the golfing season to discuss mutual problems. This would also lend itself to the discussion of new products and materials for the maintenance of our golf courses.

Your President,
Ted Woehrle

Joint Meeting with GAM Huge Success



Left; Jim Standish, Executive Director, GAM, and Mr. Charles Chapman, Honorary Chairman, Greens Committee, GAM and member of C.C. of Detroit.

Oakland Hills Country Club was the site of the meeting on Automatic Irrigation as presented by the GAM and the Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association. Wednesday, April 4th, was the date that 175 interested members of the golfing community came to hear the latest on the subject of automatic irrigation systems for the golf courses of Michigan.

The kickoff was presented by Dr. James Beard of Michigan State and he covered the Subject of "Why Water?" He gave us many reasons for watering and the influence of the water on the

Continued on Next Page

Joint Meeting Cont.

well being of the turf. He covered the proper timing of syringing the turf during hot days and the reasons for using the proper amounts of water at the right time.

Next Bill Milne, Superintendent of the Country Club of Detroit told us about "The frustrations of the Superintendent". Bill discussed the many problems facing the Superintendent daily, as he must make the decision of what to water, when to water, and how much to water. He delved into the many problems facing the Superintendent concerning labor. He pointed out the difficulties in obtaining reliable help. The difficulty of conveying your message to the night water man was also discussed. Bill also mentioned how difficult it is, and sometimes how impossible it is, to water exactly the way we want to.

Our next speaker was Jim Vince of the Sprinkler Irrigation Supply Co. telling us what is presently being used in the Michigan area in the way of irrigation equipment. He mentioned the fact that very few Clubs are presently automated but that the interest in automation was present. This is one of the main reasons for this meeting. An attempt was being made to help the interested people in avoiding some of the pitfalls that other areas had found themselves in.

The next speaker to appear on the program came to us all the way from California. He was the National Sales Manager from the Rain Bird Manufacturing Corporation, Glendora, California. His message was to tell us how to go about automating our systems but without going into the "nuts and bolts" of the actual installation, His presentation is covered in another part of this issue.

Walter Wilkie followed with his outstanding presentation covering "Lessons We Have Learned". The information presented was the result



Speaker Jim Vince, Sprinkler Irrigation Supply Company.



Left to Right: Speakers Bill Milne, Superintendent C.C. of Detroit and Dr. James Beard, MSU.



Left to Right: Speakers Ernie Hodas, of Century supply, and Ed Shoemaker, of Rain Bird Mfg.

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"Next in importance to the divine profusion of water, light and air, those three physical facts which render existence possible may be reckoned the universal beneficence of grass. Lying in the sunshine among the buttercups and dandelions in May,

scarcely higher in intelligence than the minute tenant of that mimic wilderness, our earliest recollections are of grass; and when the fitful fever is ended and the foolish wrangle of the market and forum is closed, grass heals over the scar which our descent into the bosom of the earth has made, and the carpet of the infant becomes a blanket of the death.

Grass is forgiveness of Nature - her constant benediction. Fields trampled with battle, saturated with blood, torn with ruts of cannon, grow green with grass, and carnage is forgotten. Streets abandoned by traffic become grass-grown, like rural lanes, and are obliterated. Forests decay, harvests perish, flowers vanish, but grass is

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Joint Meeting Cont.

of a nationwide survey that Walter conducted last year concerning the thoughts of Superintendents that had operated automatic irrigation systems over the last year or two. What changes would they make. What didn't they like about their present system. What did they like about it. Other questions were also discussed and we will be covering these in future articles.

Lastly, we discussed the economics of an automatic irrigation system. This subject was handled in an excellent manner by Ernie Hodas of the Century Supply Corp. He covered many of the questions that the audience wanted to hear. It was determined that an automatic irrigation system is expensive but well worth the money because the water is put into the hands of the Superintendent and he will be able to do a much better job of maintaining the turf with this new tool. The members will be much happier and the course will be more beautiful.



Left to Right: Dr. Fred Adams, Chairman Greens Committee, Golf Association of Michigan, and Mr. Bill Prew, President, GAM.



Dr. James Beard, left, discussing the program with Walter Wilkie, of Wilkie Turf Supply and speaker on "What We Have Learned."

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YOUR GOLF COURSE DEALER

How Do We Go About Automating Our Irrigation System

by ED SHOEMAKER, National Sales Manager, Rain Bird Manufacturing Corp.

In the successful installation of an automatic irrigation system there are many people involved: designer, manufacturer, distributor, contractor, golf course superintendent, green chairman, and board of directors or owner as the case may be. All play a very important role in this process and we all see our individual role from a different viewpoint.

Four blind men were "viewing" an elephant for the first time: The first was feeling his tail and said, "I see a rope." The second was holding onto

a leg and said, "This is obviously a tree." The third was leaning against the side of the elephant and said, "It's a wall." The fourth was being encircled by the trunk and said, "I'm being attacked by a cobra." This is typical of how we all describe events and situations from our own viewpoint.

As a manufacturer of irrigation equipment, it is our role to provide you with the best possible hardware to perform the functions that you specify. Specifications for minimum performance would include:

-Adequate capacity for peak moisture use (1" to 2½" per week depending upon area conditions).

-All watering to be done between 9 PM and 6 AM.

-Automatic syringe capability for: 1) cooling of greens during hot weather, 2) disease control, wash off dew, 3) frost control.

These are typical of the type of specifications for minimum performance that you should establish.

As a marketing organization our role is completely different. Here we see ourselves helping you stay out of the "traps". There are many possible traps and pitfalls in a major undertaking such as the construction of an automatic irrigation system.

TRAP NO. 1 - Inadequate Budget
Football coaches who do a poor job of recruiting are in low paying jobs or are soon replaced if they get into the big leagues. Superintendents and green chairmen who can't sell their program and recruit an adequate budget will soon be in trouble. It is not necessary for you to do all of this selling yourself. Consultants, manu-

Grass Cont.

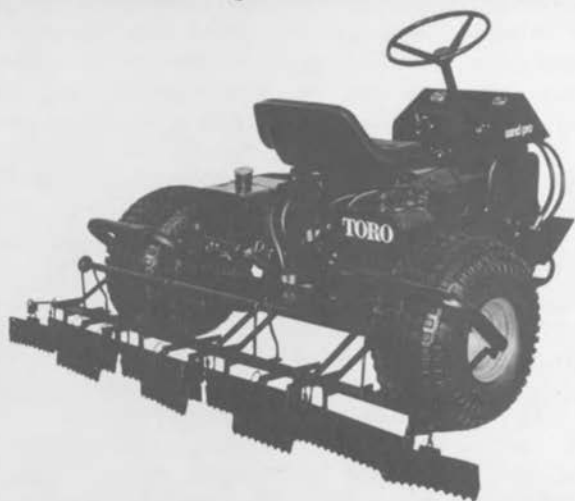
immortal. Beleaguered by the sullen hosts of winter it withdraws into the impregnable fortress of its subterranean vitality and emerges upon the solicitation of spring. Sown by the elements which are its ministers, servants, it softens the rude outlines of the world. It invades the deserts, climbs the inaccessible slopes and pinnacles of mountain and modifies the history, character, the destiny of nations.

Unobtrusive and patient, it has immortal vigor and aggression. Banished from the thoroughfares and fields, it bides its time to return and when vigilance is relaxed or the dynasty has perished, it silently resumes the throne from which it has been expelled but which it never abdicates. It bears no blazonry of bloom to charm the senses with fragrance or splendor but its homely hue is more enchanting than the lily or the rose. It yields no fruits in earth or air, yet should the harvest fail for a single year famine would depopulate the world."

Anonymous

Continued on Page 13

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Irrigation System Cont.

facturers representatives, and distributor personnel are available to help you present your program to the Board. In the final analysis you are judged by the job you get done and not how you did it. An inadequate budget will provide an inadequate irrigation system.

TRAP NO. 2 - The Free Plan

There are no free plans. Any good plan costs a considerable sum of money and someone must pay for this effort. The most important thing is not the price of the plan, but whether it is a well engineered plan. Does it fit the irrigation needs of the golf course. Did the designer spend enough time with you to know your course. Did he *personally* inspect your complete golf course to become familiar with all of its unique features? Is he familiar with all of the latest sophisticated equipment available for golf course watering? Has he designed other successful systems? Have you seen these systems operate?

TRAP NO. 3 - Custom Designed Equipment

Beware of equipment manufactured "just for your course". In the earlier days of automatics there were some custom controllers manufactured, primarily because the major equipment manufacturers weren't producing equipment to perform all of the functions needed. At the present time, the major manufacturers are producing very sophisticated equipment which

will do an adequate job for your course. If you feel the equipment you need is not available, then you should try to convince one of the existing manufacturers to add the features you need. "One of a kind" equipment is very expensive since the total engineering and development cost must be charged to a single unit. It is also difficult to service since there usually are not service manuals or parts lists provided if only one unit is manufactured.

TRAP NO. 4 - Do It Yourself

This can be a trap. There have been many successful automatic irrigation systems installed by a superintendent and his crew but it takes an unusual man to do this job successfully and not let his other primary responsibilities slip. Good superintendents have lost their jobs trying to install their own systems. If you attempt to install your own system, be sure your green chairman, board of directors and members are behind you and will allow you to neglect some of your regular duties. They should expect that some of the normal maintenance on the course will suffer while you are doing this demanding job. If your budget permits, you should insist on an experienced contractor for your installation.

TRAP NO. 5 - The Low Bid

Evaluating bids is one of your most difficult jobs. The low dollar bid may very well be the bid you should accept

Continued on Page 15

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Irrigation System Cont.

but often isn't. The equipment sold by the different manufacturers today is not equal since most of the major manufacturers are selling different concepts, especially in the area of control systems. There are differences in functions performed, materials used, and longevity of equipment. Also very few contractors are equal in their ability to install a good system. Often a local plumbing contractor (sometimes a member of the club) is the low bidder. If this is his first job, then you can expect him to make many of the first time mistakes. Local service from distributors is very seldom equal. You no doubt are familiar with what kind of back-up service they get from their manufacturer suppliers. Visiting existing systems will usually provide you with this type of information.

When you award a bid you are usually selecting a team consisting of a contractor, a local service distributor, and a manufacturer. All three of these parties are going to be very important in the initial and long range success of your system. It's important that they are all compatible and are planning to cooperate with each other to assure that you get a first class system.

TRAP NO. 6 - Cut Now-Pay Later

A well designed automatic system will include an adequate number of:

-Zone Isolation Valves. These provide the capability of isolating a

part of the system for routine maintenance or repair without shutting down the entire system.

-Manual Valves Ahead of Automatic Valves. Electric and hydraulic valves are mechanical devices which eventually need to be serviced. These manual valves enable you to service one automatic valve at a time with no interruption of the system.

-Screens and Filters. Your water supply should be analyzed to determine what kind of screens or filters are necessary to provide clean water to the system. A good filter system is quickly paid for through reduced maintenance.

These important items are often left out of systems to get within the budget but their absence only provides a short term saving in trade for higher long term maintenance costs.

TRAP NO. 7 - Push Button Operation

A well designed, properly installed system that has been built from top quality materials will require good management and regular maintenance. If you do not understand how the equipment functions, then you may find the maintenance to be difficult. On the other hand, if you become familiar with the equipment before and during the installation, you will find the maintenance to be routine.

An automatic system will greatly reduce your labor bill and put you in

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Preserving Wood - Here's the Latest

Foot bridges and out of bounds markers seem to present a perpetual maintenance problem to the groundskeeper. A structure begins the process of deterioration from the moment of its installation. All building materials are subject to deterioration and eventual destruction and man constantly strives to retard or eliminate the process of deterioration.

Irrigation System Cont.

complete, accurate control of when you water and how much you water each time. This will enable you to concentrate on the other important aspects of growing green grass. Superintendents who produce uniform, healthy green golf turf are well paid and happy in their work.

Golf courses are traditionally beautiful and rustic and are landscaped with esthetics in mind. Wood structures blend well with nature and naturally are usually the preferred material for golf course structures. Coincidentally wood is inexpensive and easy to work with by maintenance crews; but, wood rots and is attacked by insects such as termites. This is a problem, but one that can be eliminated. The wood preserving industry has the solution - pressure treating with the wood preservative Osmose K-33.

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Preserving Wood Cont.

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It has many uses around a golf course. To name a few there are: Fence and Fence Posts, Out of Bounds Marker Posts, Bridges for players golf carts and maintenance equipment, Retaining Walls, Edgings, Shelters

and Comfort Stations, Boardwalks, Stairways and a host of other uses such as maintenance free in-the-ground swimming pools, docks, patios, etc.

Anytime pressure treated wood is used it creates a very favorable economic situation. Even though pressure treated wood costs more than untreated wood, the useful value of the wood is so increased that it actually costs much less.

Let us take Out-of-Bounds Marker Posts for example. A 2" top diameter by 5' long post untreated costs about 60¢ each. The same post treated with Osmose K-33 costs 80¢. The untreated posts will usually last no longer than 5 years. That is 12¢ per post per year. The K-33 post will last about 40 years. That is only 2¢ per post per year; and this comparison does not even take into account the labor of replacing the untreated posts on a

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Preserving Wood Cont.

regular basis. We think anyone who has used Osmose K-33 pressure treated wood has quickly found out how big a budget-stretcher it can be.

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Satan and the Superintendent

Old satan sat with face so grim
And muttered, "What'll I do with him?
He's sure to find this place a bore
With the life on earth he's had before!"

And then while shaking his horny head
He opened his ledger and this he read:
"John Doe — Superintendent of Greens,
A man behind the golfing scenes —
Had sixty years of toil and strife
Pleasing golfer, manager, pro and wife!

His job included keeping the greens
Planting new turf, repairing machines.
Fighting diseases, insects, defeat
Battling rain, humidity, heat.

Fixing water pipes that break thru the ground
Changing all markers and mowing weeds down.
He worked all the day — studied all night,
Trained all new men in the ways that were
right.

Knew the diseases; 'Till his face would turn
blue.
Not only a scholar and teacher was he,
But an ambassador of good will — and publicity.

Records he kept; watched budget allocation —
On him depended the course reputation.
And the heading a project whose value was high,
Credit and praise went to some other guy.

Gripping and moaning he got every day
But seldom a raise in the old take-home pay!"
Now here he lies, his days they are thru —
"Tell me," said satan, "What hell can I put
him to?"

After sitting and thinking for quite a while
His face broke out in a great big smile;
The best known hardship he could deem
Was to send him where all was calm and green!

— from FINGER LAKES GOLF COURSE SUPT.
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Now, Front Mowing for Fine Turf...



F-10 MOWING TRACTOR

JACOBSEN designed the F-10 just for mowing your fine turf areas with minimum manpower. Because all mowing units are ahead of the tractor wheels, you won't have wheel tracks or streaks of uncut grass on fine turf. Operator has full visibility of all mowers without twisting and turning . . . a distinct safety feature.

Individual hydraulic controls let operator adjust width of mowing swath to mow between trees and obstacles. With 7 mower units, the F-10 cuts from 45 to 62 acres per 8 hour day. Hydraulic system raises and secures mower for safe transport. Travels at speeds up to 30 mph. Handles safely on hills and slopes, too.



THE NEWEST MOWING

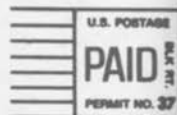
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