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September 1977

Published monthly by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association

Vol. VII, No. 8

MEETING NOTICE:

Date: September 29
Place: Brae Burn Country Club
Brunch: 11:00 AM
Golf: 12:00 Shotgun Start—Superintendents Invitational
Cocktails: 6:30 PM
Dinner: 7:30 PM All A, B, & C Members who wish to come for dinner. Please contact Al Caravella 914-946-1074
Program: Mr. Eb Steinger. "Mr. Pine Valley."
Host: Al Caravella
Directions: Take Route 120 North from Hutchinson River Parkway. Follow 120 North, past Old Oaks C.C. look for Barnes Lane about 1 mile on the left.

MEETING NOTICE:

Date: October 11
Place: Siwanoy C.C.
Lunch: Available in Grill Room
Golf: 2nd Round Superintendents Championship, B & C Championships
Cocktails: 6 PM
Dinner: 7 PM
Program: Panel Discussion: Maintenance Building, Construction, Renovation.
Host: Vinnie Pentenaro
Directions: From Northern Westchester take Hutchinson River Parkway to Mill Road Exit, take right at exit, proceed to Waverly Square (route 22). Make a left to Pondfield Road. Club is on the left. From South take Hutchinson River Parkway to Pelham Road Exit, take left onto New Rochelle Road which will turn into Pondfield Road. Club is about 1 mile on the right.

Note: Please return your cards. The return card is for the October 11th meeting.

COMING EVENTS:

- October 4 NJGCSA Turfgrass Equipment, Irrigation and Supplies Field Day, Hopewell Valley Golf Club, Rt. 518 spur, Hopewell, N.J. Free Refreshments and Hot Dogs—Door Prizes
- October 26-27 WISCONSIN GOLF COURSE—Superintendent Turfgrass Symposium
- November 9 MGCSA Annual Meeting

- November 15-17 N.Y. State Turf Conference, Turf Inn, Albany, N.Y.
- Nov. 28-Dec. 1 N.J. Turfgrass Expo
- December MGCSA Christmas Party

MGCSA NEWS:

Fall is here and everybody is busy with aerifying, renovating, etc. It has been very dry most of the summer. Let's hope we can have some nice rainfall before the cold weather sets in and we have some Indian Summer this fall. All indications are that seed prices will remain high. The drought had its effect on this years seed production, especially Bluegrasses. It appears that Seaside Bentgrass may have to be replaced with Penncross because of the limited production of Seaside. Some of the newer varieties of bentgrass have adequate supplies. Rhode Island turfgrass looked like a rain out but by afternoon had stopped and the full tour was concluded without another drop. They have some interesting studies going on about topdressing with different bents. They are also using various sands in this study. Evidently fellows in the mid-west are trying all sand topdressing too. Some of the experimental turf fungicides look very good if they ever get to the Superintendent. They also are recommending that you mix your fungicide program, especially with systemics, or expect resistant strains to develop. It sure would be nice to get back the Mercury compounds in NYS.



Carmine Labriola, left, presenting a check for the Scholarship and Research Fund to MGCSA President Edward (Ted) Horton.



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Garry Crothers
Ted Horton

Co-Editor
Co-Editor

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Office 914-279-7179, Home 914-279-7895

Treasurer: Robert Alonzi, Burning Tree C.C.
Office 203-869-5779, Home 914-937-1527

Not copyrighted. If there is good here, we want to share it with all chapters - unless author states otherwise.

Chuck Martineau did his usual great job in hosting the Lawrence Labriola Memorial Tournament at Whipoorwill. It was a perfect day. We had a light turnout from MGCSA. They had a tremendous spread. The golf prizes were excellent, along with door prizes. Dan "Murph" Verrille beat out his brother Louis for low gross with a fine round of 74, followed by Lou's 75. Fred Scheyhing took low net with his best round in 4 years. Dick Almstead not only get a crying towel for high score but he also won a set of irons in the raffle. Dr. Virtuoso made a excellent speech, not only about Lawrence, but the usual great support of the Superintendent. It was good to see Guido Cribari. Chuck also pulled his number and won a prize to boot. Carmine Labriola, son of Lawrence Labriola, presented the MGCSA a nice check for Scholarship and Research Fund.

The Met area will have a new computized irrigation system installed in the next 6 months at Stanwich C.C. Ray Twombly is very excited about it. It sure will be nice to be able to see it in operation in our immediate area. Automatic irrigation continues to improve each year. Lightning damage stills seems to be a big problem (ask Dick Allen he lost 10 clocks in one storm). This golf season is almost 3/4 over and certainly it has been one of the busiest I can recall in regard to play, one of the factors being the weather. There have been very few week-ends if any that golf weather has not been good. When was the last time the golf course was closed by weather? the carts were not allowed out? Pat Lucas has officially started at Innis Arden. Ron Boydston will be officially retiring at the end of this year. He will help out the new Superintendent who ever it may be and then head south to Florida to his retirement home in Coco Beach. He says he hopes to have a part time job a few days a week. He has already been offered several jobs. It's pretty nice to be able to retire at 51, and if you can do it, why not?

The Sympathy of Metropolitan GCSA

Our sympathy is extended to the Lucas family due to the passing of Mel Lucas Sr. CGCS. Mel was a friend to all and was as devoted a Superintendent as you would ever meet. He loved and lived turf and inspired many young Superintendents by his enthusiasm for his work. He was a Quarter Century Member in GCSAA, a member in MGCSA, LIGCSA, past member NJGCSA. He took great pride in the history of golf in all aspects. He was equally proud that his only son was a Superintendent (Mel Lucas Jr.) and especially proud that he was a Director of GCSAA. Mel was always willing to help his fellow Superintendent. He never stopped his quest for knowledge about his work and was always seen at National and local conference at the educational sessions. To Murial and Mel Jr., your loved one is now in the ultimate turf world. God Bless you both.

Our sympathy is also extended to The Ormond Family on the passing of Jack Ormond. Jack "the great Scot" Ormond was a great friend to many of us in the Metropolitan GCSA. He received his Life plaque at Quaker Ridge C.C. He also was a great friend and help to many young Superintendents. He was like a father to many a up and coming Superintendent. He was the Superintendent at the Canoe Brook Golf Club for many years. After he retired he still remained active in the local association. Jack was a Quarter Century Member in GCSAA, being a member since the late 30's. We will miss him. Jack suffered greatly the last few months and so he will rest in peace in the great green pasture joining his friend Mel. God Bless all his family.

For Sale:

Torrey 2 yd. sand spreader for pickup truck mounting. Cab controls. Excellent condition. \$1,000.

Spare 48" rotary unit for Simplicity tractor. \$100.

Sweepster Broom for garden tractor mounting. Good for snow sweeping as well as debris cleanup. Excellent condition. \$400.

Call Mike Maffei at 914-279-7179.



Guido Cribari, Executive Sports Director, Rockland-Westchester Gannett newspapers, speaking. Harry Montevideo, golf pro, Whipoorwill Club, eating and listening simultaneously.

MGCSA ASSOCIATION NOTES

By Ted Horton, President

This year continues to be an exciting period for our Association. MGCSA board members and Events Chairmen and their wives have worked hard, but, more important still—the members have supported us by attending the educational and social events. This has been rewarding to all of us.

However, at our last board meeting it was suggested that I mention three items of concern:

1. **Dress standard**—it is requested that a jacket and tie be worn to our meetings. Many clubs still require this standard of dress for their members and as a result, we must ask that our members attempt to also comply.

2. **Return cards**—please make every effort to return cards or to place a reservation with a host superintendent. All of us have experienced how difficult it is to prepare for an event without an accurate attendance estimate.

3. **MGA Budget Survey**—time is running out on the Golf Course Maintenance Survey. The MGA office must start to tabulate data in September in order to be ready for the seminar on November 11, 1977 at the Rye Town Hilton. To date they have received only 28 completed copies of the survey. Please send yours if you have not already done so.

Enough said—now, on the brighter side, I would like to comment on some of the approaching events which require your assistance or attendance.

1. **MGCSA Invitational Tournament**—Al Caravella, host superintendent, and Al Tretera and Jim Kaczinski, Golf Chairmen, have worked hard to prepare for this year's event. Eb Steiniger, recipient of the USGA Green Section Award, GCSAA distinguished service award and in his spare time Golf Course Superintendent at the Pine Valley Golf Club in New Jersey will be our guest speaker. If you will not be playing golf, please join us for dinner.

2. **31st Annual N.Y. State Turfgrass Conference**—this year the event will be held at the Turf Inn, Albany, New York—November 15 to 17, 1977. We have enclosed a program for the conference in which you will be able to see that the committee has prepared an outstanding conference. In particular, Dr.

Dick Smiley has been extremely attentive to all details. It is now up to us in the field to support his efforts by attending and if possible exhibiting. Mark your calendar with the above dates and plan to be there. Your support is needed.

3. **MGCSA Championship**—Vinnie Pentenero is looking forward to again showing us his beautiful Siwanoy club on October 11, 1977. Undoubtedly he has also been practicing his golf. If possible, because of the date of this event, check with Vinne about the availability of caddies or carts. He may need some assistance.

4. **Travel arrangements**—we are again checking on group fares for the GCSAA San Antonio Conference in February, 1978. Also, two travel agencies have submitted proposals for your consideration as vacation possibilities. Rather than detailing this information at this time we have permitted the agencies to mail to you their proposals. The MGCSA has not officially endorsed these programs but we felt that the offered plans might be of interest to some of our members. Further details should follow from SeaAir Travel and Depp's Travel.



Left to right: Carmine Labriola, brother of the late Lawrence Labriola, Jack Lombardy, Town Supervisor of North Castle, Don Spadaccia, and Carmine Labriola, Lawrence's son.

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5. **Mel Lucas, Jr. for V.P.**—MGCSA has nominated Mel Lucas, Jr. for V.P. of GCSAA. Any support that you can give to Mel at this time would be appreciated. Write to your friends across the country and prod their thinking a little.

6. **Sherwood Moore Nominated for GCSAA Highest Service Award**—each of us would agree that Sherwood has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession both locally and nationally. As a result, the MGCSA has nominated him to be considered for this award which will be given at the 49th International Turfgrass Conference and Show in San Antonio, Texas in February, 1978. A nominee should have wide-spread support with substantial documentation of his outstanding performance to be a successful candidate for the award. Write to GCSAA in support of our candidate.

7. **Use of Mercury in New York State**—as the only state in the country unable to use Mercury Fungicides, it behooves us to write to all concerned individuals expressing our desire to have these fungicides permitted for use. If you haven't done so already, please write a short note to Mr. Frommer.

8. **MGCSA Membership Roster**—our roster is now in the process of being updated. If you desire any corrections to be made, notify Chuck Martineau immediately.

9. **John Traynor Appointed to MGCSA Board**—to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Gene Grady. We are pleased to appoint John Traynor. John has agreed to serve on the Board through November 1978.

10. **MGCSA Nominations**—the success of any organization depends upon the ability of the members to select candidates for its Board of Directors who are truly willing to participate.

Please contact Al Tretera, Chairman of the Nominating Committee with any suggestions that you have.

In rereading the above information, it seems that I have requested a lot of letter writing on your part. But, this is truly a sign of an active organization and I think each of us is proud to participate. If there are further matters which you feel you would like to have discussed at the Board Meetings or at a Membership meeting please contact us. Thank you for your support of the above programs.



Al Tretera, golf chairman MGCSA, and Dan Verrille holding the trophy he received for low gross in the Lawrence Labriola Memorial Tournament.

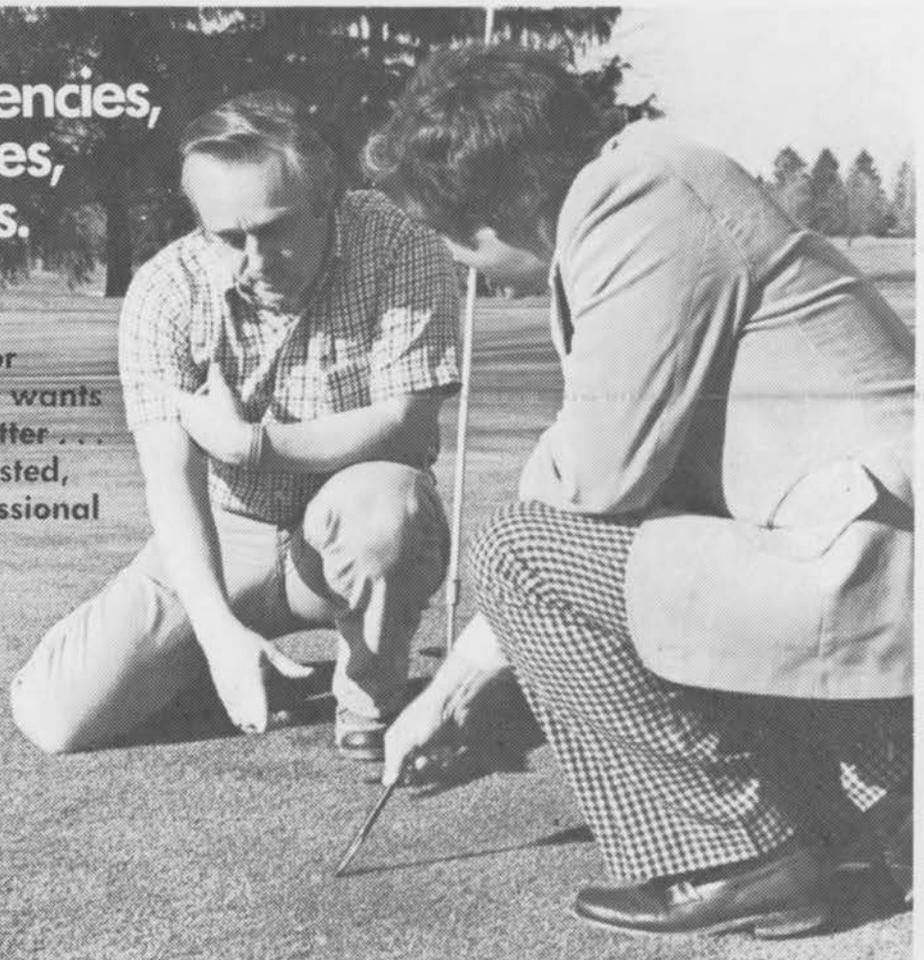
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Contact: Mr. Richard Cole, c/o Patterson Club, 1118 Cross Highway, Fairfield, Conn. 06430.

GCSAA'S SEMINAR

Principles of Landscape

Meriden, CT.—November 2-3

Landscaping requirements of golf courses are unique unto themselves and this seminar should help superintendents identify the assets of an area and solve or avoid potential problems, while providing the beauty associated with golf courses.

REGISTRATION

Please register me for the **Principles of Landscape, Meriden, CT.** My check, made payable to GCSAA Seminars, for \$_____ is enclosed (GCSAA Members \$50 each, non-members \$70 each).

Mail this form and your check to: GCSAA Seminars, 1617 St. Andrews Dr., Lawrence, KS 66044

Name _____ No. _____

Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cancellation Policy—Fee will be deducted as follows: 2 weeks prior to seminar 10%; 1 week prior 20%; 2 days prior 30%. No refund within 24 hours.

GCSAA 49th INTERNATIONAL TURFGRASS CONFERENCE AND SHOW

February 12-17, 1978

San Antonio, Texas

"ECONOMY THRU IDEAS" is the theme for the premier turfgrass industry conference and show, sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. This is a once-a-year opportunity for turfgrass managers, educators and industry representatives to learn about and share the latest ideas and developments in turfgrass management, services and equipment. Exhibits featuring new products for the turf industry will be open February 14-16; the conference will be in session February 12-17. This is the place for you to meet the other people who make the turfgrass industry dynamic and to capture dollar-saving ideas. See you in San Antonio in '78.

MGCSA Research Fund Report

To date we have heard from 26 clubs but we still haven't heard from many of the clubs that contributed last year. Many individuals also have not sent in their contribution for this year. MGCSA is committed to raising at least \$8,000 for the research work to be conducted this year. If you or your club has not contributed to date, please try and help us in this important research for all of us. Last year we had 38 clubs contribute and 38 individuals.

To date the following clubs have contributed:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| The Apawamis Club | Piping Rock Club |
| The Ardsley Country Club | Ridgeway Country Club |
| Blind Brook Club | Rockland Country Club |
| Bedford Golf and Tennis Club | Round Hill Club |
| Brae Burn Country Club | St. Andrews Golf Club |
| Century Country Club | Sleepy Hollow Country Club |
| Elmwood Country Club | Waccabuc Country Club |
| Fenway Golf Club | Wee Burn Country Club |
| Knollwood Country Club | Whippoorwill Club |
| Greenwich Country Club | Winged Foot Golf Club |
| Old Oaks Country Club | Woodway Country Club |
| Pelham Country Club | Wykagyl Country Club |
| Quaker Ridge Golf Club | MGCSA |

Metropolis

Individuals:

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Robert Alonzi | Jerry Scaffa | Ted Joswich |
| Terry Boles | Phil Santucci | Mike Russo |
| Garry Crothers | Robert Tosh | Alan Tretera |
| Michael Dale | Dan Verrille | Paul Caswell |
| Roger Harmonay | Dr. Andrew Virtuoso | John Corsi |
| Edward Horton | Almstead Tree Co. Inc. | Paul Sartoretto |
| Roger King | Robert Phippe | Bob Bruce |



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SNOW MOLD CONTROL PROGRAM

As many of you know, the Environment Protection Agency has modified its restriction on the use of Calo-Clor, Calogran, and PMAS for use by Golf Course Superintendents for Snow Mold Control on Putting Greens.

Forty-nine states have registered these materials and only New York State remains to do so. In New York State, the situation is simply this—it is up to you! Now is the time to get busy and write a letter to:

Mr. Charles Frommer, Director
Department of Environmental Conservation
Wolf Road
Albany, N.Y., 12201

A personal, hand-written letter is the most effective means to let Mr. Frommer know that we need these chemicals for the proper maintenance of our greens. Please take five or ten minutes to write to him right now.

Thank you,
Edward C. Horton, President

FEDERAL MOWER SAFETY STANDARD ADOPTION MAY COST \$371 MILLION

A proposed federal safety standard for power mowers could cost consumers an estimated \$371 million the first year it is in effect, according to a research report commissioned by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI).

The report, prepared by the Stanford Research Institute (SRI), based this estimate on analysis of the cost increase which would result if the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) proposed standard is adopted.

In addition to costing more, the report said mowers complying with the CPSC standard will not cut grass as well and will be more difficult to maintain.

The SRI study predicts that the new standard will drive 15 to

20 manufacturers, along with some suppliers, out of business. Manufacturers would have trouble raising the needed capital to design, test, tool-up and manufacture the new mowers, the report said. The price of the lowest-cost walk-behind mowers would rise from about \$69 today to about \$104, a 51 per cent jump. Average walk-behind mowers would go up about 24 per cent and riding mowers and garden tractors would increase 36 per cent and 14 per cent respectively.

The report estimates, however, that market demand will drop 20 per cent for walk-behind equipment, 35 per cent for riding mowers and 20 per cent for garden tractors.

The report goes on to project a ratio of \$.09 in benefit for every \$1.00 of cost increase as a result of adopting the proposal.

The OPEI says that a slowdown in sales would impede the rate of replacement of existing units while maintaining that present accident count is due mainly to operators misusing equipment.

Testifying at a recent CPSC hearing, representatives of the OPEI labeled the proposed standards as a "classic example of regulatory overkill," accusing the commission of mandating design and production without knowing if the consuming public will accept it.

Spokesmen for OPEI also questioned some other factors, including the feasibility of the two-year effective date on the proposed standard, the statutory authority for many of the provisions, a "misplaced engineering judgement," and a denial of petition to cross-examine the CPSC staff and contractors.

In related action, OPEI has filed for a preliminary injunction against imposition of noise emission standards for power mowers by the Environmental Protection Agency. The suit charges a denial of due process of law and a violation of the elementary rules of fairness.

OPEI is the national trade association representing manufacturers of about 90 per cent of the lawn and garden power equipment used by consumers.

Credit: Lakeshore News, August-September 1977

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WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR ASH TREES

During the months of July and August 1977 White Ash trees in the Westchester-Fairfield County areas and other areas in metropolitan New York have been seriously infected by Ash Canker Fungus. This fungus was collected from trees in early August by ourselves and Dr. P.P. Pirone, a plant pathologist with the New York Botanical Gardens. This fungus was identified as *Dothiorella fraxinicola* by Dr. Clark Rogerson, mycologist at the New York Botanical Gardens, from laboratory cultures of recently infected stems.

The canker causes branches to die back and whole trees to die. We have seen cases where within a week an entire tree after the infection is first noticed would die. Some trees are being hit more heavily than others. The first indication of this particular Ash Canker is in a small twig here and there scattered throughout the dying tree. The canker forms on the branch and the fungus then works its way completely around the branch girdling the branch which cuts off its supply of nutrients to the leaves, causing the leaves to turn brown. This is different from the other diseases in that a twig here and a twig there throughout the crown of the tree die. This disease is progressing rapidly throughout the New York area and we approximate thousands of trees have died within the last two months.

This disease should not be confused with Ash tree die back which has existed very heavily in the metropolitan area over the last five years and has been around for 20 years. The Ash tree die back has an unknown cause, although we feel it is a weather-related problem. Ash tree die back shows as the very top of the tree begins to wither and the tree dies from the top down, branch after branch, the entire branch. The Ash tree canker which we have discovered hits a twig here and there throughout the tree. Eventually reinfesting another branch with the fungii spores moving from one branch to the other and killing the entire tree.

Unfortunately, there is no known cure for the disease once it infects a tree. In a tree that is not seriously infected it would be possible to cut out the infected limbs with the cankers existing on them. This would entail removing all canker-infected limbs

and probably disfiguring most trees that we have seen over the past two months.

The disease in my opinion has spread heavily this year due to the high humidity we have experienced during the summer. The very humid weather provides excellent conditions for fungii spores to proliferate.

Probably the best thing that anyone with large Ash trees could do would be to have a competent Arborist look at the trees to see if this infection exists in their trees. As to what to do—proper feeding, watering, and spraying are the best known methods of keeping the tree from getting totally infected. Even if these methods are utilized, if we have a tremendous growth of the disease as we evidenced this summer, the trees will still probably be infected. There is no known cure to preserving these trees. Apparently, the White Ash trees are going the same way as the American Elm and as to why this disease should show up all of a sudden is unexplainable.

I do have reports from other people that they have seen the disease in other parts of this state and Pennsylvania and New Jersey and other states in the Northeast. I have also spoken with Dr. George Hudler, Cornell University, and he relates that he has seen typical symptoms of the decline which I showed him in Westchester County in other parts of New York State. Apparently, this disease is something new. Unfortunately, Ash trees are one of the prime trees in the metropolitan area.

—Robert Mullane
Consulting Arborist
Alpine Tree Care, Inc.

Membership—The MGCSA welcomes the following members:

John Musto—Class A
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John Adriany—Class B
Glen Moore—Class B
Gerard Kane—Class C
John Auresto—Life Member



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LEAVING IT TO CHANCE

Too many golf courses are leaving their irrigation programs to chance. Eventually, it will catch up with them. Hopefully, it won't take an act of tragedy to convince them that manual watering went out with horse drawn plows and hand-sewing.

This should not be taken as a commercial for the automatic irrigation industry, although at times it might sound like one. Obviously, the business of supplying and installing dial-a-rain systems is a spiraling one with competition within its ranks. Thus, we are not indorsing the company; we are promoting the product and idea behind it.

The disadvantages of a manual dependence on irrigation are many.

Probably, the most glaring adversity attached is the labor problem it nurtures. Since the hours are weird (late night, early morning shifts make the job about as attractive as cleaning stables), there is bound to be constant turnover in personnel—hand-placing sprinklers and running around the course to set them in motion.

The trend erodes further along labor lines because of the minimum appeal the job presents, often forcing the golf course superintendent to hire applications who are less than appealing, themselves. This results in slipshod handling of the cranky chores and the super usually winds up being a watchdog watching over his hired hand. So, the quality of the work suffers.

Another disadvantage—more aptly a hazard—is the danger involved in manual course watering. Only recently a crew of



Left to right: Chuck Martineau, host superintendent, Maria Cannato, restaurant hostess, Dr. Andrew Virtuoso, Green Chairman and Harry Montevideo, golf pro . . . all of Whippoorwill Club.

two (that's the least number as dictated by state law) at a nearby club was involved in an accident in which one member met an untimely death. The two-man buddy system wasn't a factor here. But what if the job were solo and the worker had been seriously injured . . . caught in a tipped over truck in the dead of night with no one aware of his plight?

The danger factor leaks over to plain uncomfortable and uninviting conditions by the very nature of the time and place. Sometime ago, at an Eastern course (obviously where two-man crews weren't mandatory), a lone worker was found . . . chained to a tree, beaten and scared half out of his mind after being mugged while watering the layout.

Aside from the personnel woes, which account for enough ammunition to switch to automatic irrigation in themselves, the manual application simply does not do an adequate job. Working in the dark (most watering of fairways and roughs take place after 8 p.m. and on into the wee hours), the laborer finds himself exposed to the possibility of a helter-skelter performance. And, if he is not motivated properly, that performance can go all out of whack.

Mind you, the automatic irrigation system does require occasional "touch-up" services by hand. It is not perfect but so close to it that a uniform watering of the target area is had virtually by every kick of the switch. Thus, installation of the equipment overshadows convenience by performing a task which is almost impossible to complete by hand without encountering major flaws and problems.

The automatic irrigation program is not a luxury, as some club members and purse watchers claim. Rather, it is a highly refined method of safeguarding the health of the course when Mother Nature gets to pulling a squeeze on the plant by shutting off her water supply. It has been a veritable lifesaver for many a course and a help in retaining the sanity of many a superintendent.

The combination of performance and elimination of labor problems makes it well worth the while for clubs without automatic systems to study the possibility of switching to them. In the long run, they save a lot of headaches . . . and heartaches. They should be considered an integral part of the super's arsenal in his never-ending quest to present and perpetuate the very best playing conditions his know how and Mother Nature's cooperation can bring about.

Gerry Finn

Credit: NEWSLETTER, NEGCSA, September 1977



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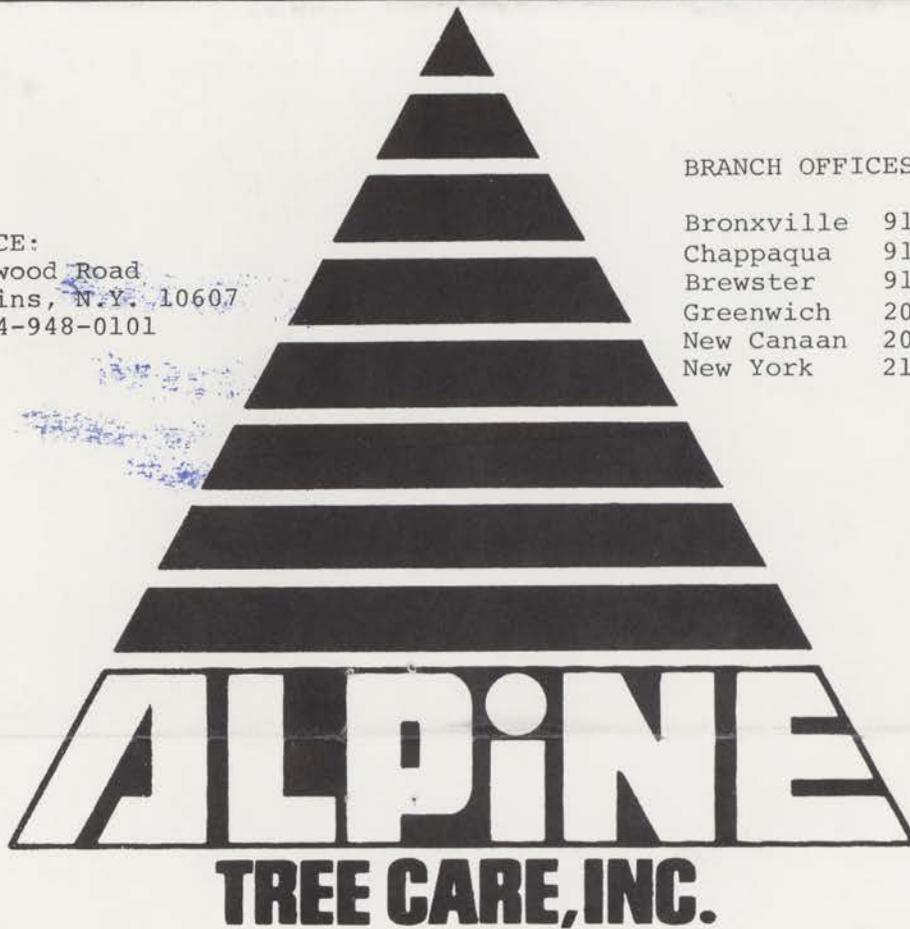
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