

Lee to Green

July 1981

Published monthly by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association

Vol. XI, No. 6

MEETING NOTICE:

Date: July 16, 1981
Place: Edgewood C.C.,
Rivervale Rd., Rivervale, NJ 07928

Host

Superintendent: Bill Gaydosh
Club Manager: Jerry Kotimsky
Golf Professional: Mike Higuera
Greens Chairman: Ed Sands
Club President: Irving Herman
Telephones: Superintendent: 201-666-1204
Clubhouse: 201-666-1200
Golf Shop: 201-666-1200
Golf: 11:30 a.m. Carts: \$16
Caddies: \$12.00
Lunch: At Midway
Social Hour: 6:00 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres
Dinner: 7:00 p.m. \$25.00
Program: Dr. Louis M. Vasuary, Extension
Specialist, Entomology at Rutgers
Topic, "White Grubs"

Directions: NY Thruway to Palisades Parkway.
South to Orangeburg Rd. West to
Blue Hill Golf Course. Make a left
on Blue Hill Rd. and go to Rivervale
Rd. and make a left. Continue to
Club which is on right side of street.

COMING EVENTS

July 16	MGCSA Meeting, Edgewood C.C.
August 10	MGCSA Family Picnic, Woodway C.C.
August 25	MGCSA Joint Meeting with Hudson Valley, Waccabuc Country Club
August 26	Univ. Of R.I. Field Day, Kingston
September 24	MGCSA Invitational, Elmwood C.C.
October 14	Pro/Superintendent Tournament Old Oaks
November	MGCSA Annual Meeting
November 16-19	N.Y.S. Turfgrass Assoc. Conference & Trade Show, Albany, N.Y.
December 12	Christmas Party, Ridgeway C.C.
Jan. 31-Feb. 5	GCSAA Int'l. Turfgrass Conference and Show — New Orleans.

WELFARE: Please contact Bob Alonzi, 203-531-8910 (office), or 203-531-1930 (home) regarding any hospitalizations, etc. of members of the MGCSA.

MGCSA NEWS

Al Caravella's Brae Burn Country Club hosted our Superintendent/Managers Meeting on June 18th. A smaller turnout than expected played the well groomed facilities and the golf results are as follows:

First Place — 74 (match of cards)
Silver Spring Country Club
Peter Rappoccio, Superintendent
Gino Torcellini, Manager

Second Place — 74
Siwanoy Country Club
Scott Niven, Superintendent
Mr. Jergensen, Manager

Third Place — 75
Ridgefield Golf Club
Byron Johnson, Superintendent
Vinnie Adams, Manager

Our thanks to Al Caravella and everyone at Brae Burn.

MGCSA Vice President Chuck Martineau joined the Hole-In-One Club on June 6th. Chuck scored his ace at Whipporwill's 167 yard 4th hold using a 7 iron.

At the MGCSA Board of Directors meeting held at Westchester Hills on June 10th, the following applications were approved:

Louis Mytych	Old Oaks	Class B
Wayne Remo	North Jersey C.C.	Class A
James McNally	Mamanasquam River C.C.	Class A
Mark Fuller	Longshore Club Park	Class A
John Wantz	Rockland C.C.	Class A
Mark Loper	Turf Products (Irrigation Div.)	Class C
Bert Jones	Grass Roots, Inc.	Class C

Welcome to the MGCSA!

Geese Control! I guess everyone is still at it in one form or another. A month or so ago my wife Michele and I were walking around the pond at Bruce Park in Greenwich. The pond has an assortment of ducks, Canadian Geese and a pair of swans with a couple of babies. The swans didn't pay attention to the ducks but it was a different story with the geese.



EDITORIAL STAFF

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<i>President</i>	Michael Maffei, Back O'Beyond, Inc. Office 914-279-7179; Home 914-278-9436
<i>Vice-President</i>	Charles Martineau, Whippoorwill Club Office 914-273-3755; Home 914-273-9112
<i>Secretary</i>	Peter Rappoccio, Silver Spring Country Club Office 203-438-6720; Home 203-866-4276
<i>Treasurer</i>	Sherwood Moore, Winged Foot Golf Club Office 914-698-2827; Home 914-234-9469

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Publication deadline to *Tee to Green* is 21 days before the regular meeting.

The male swan would single out the closest goose and go after him. I mean, really go after him, and drive him out of the pond. Obviously natural enemies! Interesting.



The June 19th edition of the Stamford Advocate carried a short article on geese control at the Kiwanis Park in New Canaan. According to First Selectman Charles P. Morton, geese had been a problem at the Kiwanis Park swimming hole, but Morton noted that a home-made swan which cruises the pond during the non-swimming hours acts as a scarecrow to chase geese and sea gulls.

Well, it's worth a try. How about some feedback on the results so we can publish it in a future issue?

—Pat Lucas

Massachusetts Group Gathers Feeding, Migration Data

COMPLAINTS SPARK STUDY OF 'LOCAL' GEESE

The unexpected sight and sounds of the birds may relieve a seemingly endless winter, but as Canadian Geese make Fairfield County their permanent home, local farmers are learning the hard way that too many geese spoil the crops.

Canadian Geese, like most birds, migrate as winter and summer arrive, spending only a small portion of the year in this area. But according to Kathryn Converse, a research assistant to the Massachusetts Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Fairfield and Westchester country farmers have made "numerous" complaints that Canadian Geese were making nuisances of themselves throughout the year. As a result, the research group has begun a study of the birds, designating an estimated 163 of them "residents" of Fairfield County.

While this region not well known for being agriculturally productive, a number of small farms are active here, and Converse reports that many are devastated as the hungry geese eat their way through winter rye and wheat, usually safe from birds making their annual migration north later in the spring. Converse says local residents have also complained of indoor swimming pools being wrecked in the winter as the geese seek unfrozen bodies of fresh water. Others report that beaches and lawns are littered year-round now with the geese's droppings, she said.

Converse said that the goal of the research is to determine why Fairfield's geese are so much more stationery than their free-flying counterparts.

Well-intentioned bird lovers appear to be a major contributor to the goose crisis. "People feed the geese white bread and rolls, thinking that they're helping," said Converse. Assured of a satisfying, easily attained and permanent food source, the geese are never forced to migrate, she said, but the lack of available natural vegetation here in the winter ultimately doom the birds to malnutrition and generally weakened health.

The sight of white swans gracing many Connecticut ponds in warm summer months is a common sight, but Converse said she has found "many swans dead along the shore in recent years." She said that to avoid disturbing natural migratory patterns of Canadian Geese and other birds, it's best to refrain from feeding any birds past September. "These noble, wild birds were never intended to be pets in this way," she said.

To study the Canadian Geese problem further, about 350 of the birds in Fairfield and Westchester were collared with gray plastic bands in June of 1980, and more will be collared in June of this year. The wildlife group would like residents of these two counties to report any sightings of collared or uncollared geese, including the following information: date, time and place the geese were seen, the number observed, and any collar numbers read. The information should be sent to Kathryn Converse, Massachusetts Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, 204 Holdsworth Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts 01003.

—Julia McNamee,

reprinted from The Stamford Advocate

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JOB OPENINGS

Golf Maintenance Manager

PGA National, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

Duties include: golf course maintenance, golf course budget, purchasing responsibility, club house lawns, flower gardens, trees and shrubbery.

The Manager will be directly responsible to Colin M. Wright, Senior Vice President.

Private membership course, open year round, resort, 54 holes plus 18 under construction, bermuda grass greens, tees & fairways and a semi-automatic irrigation system.

Salary: \$40,000 to \$50,000. Employees: 30+ in summer, 30+ in winter. Club paid life insurance and health insurance. 14 paid vacation days per year. Paid annual sick leave varies. Dues paid for membership in GCSAA. Transportation and/or vehicle allowance. Expenses paid for attending regional & national educational conferences. Annual Maintenance Budget is \$200,000 per course.

Requirements: College education in Agronomy and Turf Maintenance, at least five years as a superintendent with southern grass experience. Also multi course and course construction experience.

Travel Expenses of applicants interviewed will be paid.

Send resumes to: Mr. Colin M. Wright, Senior V.P., PGA National, P.O. Box 3267, West Palm Beach, FL 33402

Position is available immediately.

Application deadline date: July 10, 1981.

—Credit: GCSAA

This month we'd like to thank:

Blue Ridge Peat Farms, Inc.
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for helping to make this issue of *Tee to Green* possible.

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

As of this writing, the Scholarship Committee has received six applications for consideration for a special MGCSA Scholarship.

This is your final notice!

Applicants wishing to be considered must write, no later than July 20th, to:

Robert U. Alonzi
Chairman, Scholarship Committee
% Fairview Country Club
Greenwich, CT 06830

Golf Course Superintendent Position

Lakewood Country Club, New Orleans, LA

Duties include: golf course maintenance, golf course budget, purchasing responsibility, club house lawns, flower gardens, trees and shrubbery.

The Superintendent will be directly responsible to Mel Altschul, Green Committee Chairman.

Private membership course, open year round, 18 holes, 7100 course yardage, bermuda grass greens, tees & fairways and a manual irrigation system.

Salary: \$27,000 to \$32,000. Employees: 10+ in summer, 10 in winter. Club paid health insurance, paid annual vacation, dues paid for membership in GCSAA. Annual Maintenance Budget is \$200,000.

Requirements: Experience far more important, must understand Southern Turf. Must have experience with tee & green construction, equipment maintenance and management of golf course crew. Also be a working superintendent and have knowledge of pond maintenance.

Travel Expenses of applicants interviewed will be paid.

Send resumes to: Mr. Mel Altschul, Lakewood Country Club, New Orleans, LA 70114 (504) 393-2610

Position is available immediately.

Additional Information: Lakewood Country Club is rather unique in two respects. Mr. Reese Coltrane was our superintendent for 47 years, retiring in 1980, with a handsome pension. Secondly, we host a PGA Tournament each year. It is anticipated that the purse in 1982 will be the largest on the tour and will be carried on National television. The membership is composed of many low handicap players, avid in their desire to play a tough, well groomed layout. We have a great deal of water throughout the course and New Orleans poses problems that are not found elsewhere. Excessive heat & rains are not unusual.

—Credit: GCSAA

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FROM THE FILES . . .



1920 postcard forwarded to us by Bob Oechsle of Surf Side. It's so old that it's addressed to Flushing, Long Island — no New York State, no zip code! And it has a 1¢ stamp.



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Something to think about . .

Some days, conflict is inevitable; a colleague disagrees with one of your pet ideas; all your subordinates seem bent on taking issues with your directives; your boss is determined to get your approval of what you consider to be a poor plan. What can you do? Here are some basic strategies for re-routing potential arguments into more constructive channels: 1) listen. Try to hear all of what the other person is saying instead of planning your own reply or marshaling arguments against what is being said, or interrupting the speaker before you've heard what he has to say; 2) Try to agree with at least some of the other person's points; 3) State the other person's position as accurately as you can, to his satisfaction, so that he's sure you understand what he's saying; 4) Avoid flat statements of disagreement and concentrate on probing questions; 5) Back up your own viewpoint with reasoning and facts, not emotion.

Avoiding an argument takes discipline, even planning, but the results are worth the effort.

—Credit: Kano Laboratories

POISONOUS PLANTS AND FLOWERS

The little girl filled with pride at the play lunch she had arranged in the backyard — an apple, a radish and some berries she had picked from a shrub in her mother's garden.

Four hours later she went into a coma. Three hours after that she was dead.

The child died from the berries from a daphne plant which is cultivated in home ornamental gardens and grows wild throughout the country. It is one of more than 700 flowers and plants that can cause death or severe illness.

The Minnesota Safety Council has warned that plants have replaced aspirin as the most common cause of poisoning to children.

"Their colorful leaves and bright flowers are a magnet to children, who often can't resist the temptation to put them into their mouths," said the council, which urged parents to teach children not to eat plants or flowers.

"If you have small children, place houseplants out of their reach. Keep an eye on your children in the garden too, since the leaves of potato and tomato plants are highly poisonous."

The lily-of-the-valley, long a gentle symbol of springtime, can be fatal. The dieffenbachia, a popular house plant, can be a killer. And the leaves of rhubarb — the most dangerous plant in the vegetable garden — contain oxalic acid, which crystalizes in the kidneys and can cause convulsions, coma and quick death.

The leaves of the colorful, oleander contain a heart stimulant that could kill a child. The Ciba-Geigy chemical firm in Ardsley, N.Y. said there have been adults who have died from eating barbecued steaks skewered oleander twigs.



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Castor bean seeds — frequently made into necklaces for children — are deadly if chewed or swallowed. Sage berries also can be fatal.

Other common plants and flowers that can cause death or serious illness include hyacinth, narcissus, daffodil, elephant ear, larkspur, monkshood, iris, foxglove, bleeding heart, dutchman's breeches, wisteria, laurels, rhododendron, azaleas, wild and cultivated cherries, oaks, elderberry, jack-in-the-pulpit, May apple, buttercups, nightshade, water and poison hemlock and jimson weed (thorne apple).

Here is a list prepared by the Ciba-Geigy chemical company of common household plants and flowers that can be dangerous — and often fatal — if ingested by children:

House Plants

Hyacinth, Narcissus: (Bulbs) Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea.
Daffodil: May be fatal.
Oleander: (Leaves, branches) extremely dangerous. Affects heart. Can cause death.
Diffenbachia, Elephant ear: (All parts) Intense burning and irritation of the mouth and tongue. Can be fatal.
Rosary pea, Castor bean: (Seeds) Fatal.

Flowers

Larkspur: (Plant, seeds) May be fatal.
Monkshood: (Fleshy roots) Digestive upset, nervous excitement.
Crocus: (Bulbs) Vomiting, nervous excitement.
Lily-of-the Valley: (Leaves, flowers) Irregular heart beat and pulse, upset mental confusion.
Iris: (Underground stems) Digestive upset.
Foxglove: (Leaves) May be fatal.
Bleeding heart: (Foliage, roots) May be poisonous.

Vegetable Plants

Rhubarb: (Leaf blade) Fatal.

Ornamental Plants

Daphne: (Berries) Fatal. A few berries can kill.
Wisteria: (Seeds, pods) Digestive upset.
Golden chain: (Bean-like capsules) Severe poisoning. May be fatal.

Laurels, Rhododendron, Azales: (All parts) Fatal. Nausea, vomiting, prostration, coma.

Jessamine: (Berries) Fatal.

Red sage: (Green berries) Fatal.

Trees and Shrubs

Cherries: (Twigs, foliage) Fatal.

Oaks: (Foliage, acorns) Takes large amount to poison.

Elderberry: (Bark, shoots, leaves) Nausea, digestive upset.

Black locust: (Bark, sprouts, leaves) Nausea, weakness, depression.

Wildflowers, Plants

Jack-in-pulpit: (All parts) Oral burning irritation.

May apple: (All parts) Diarrhea.

Buttercups: (All parts) Severe digestive injury.

Nightshade: (All parts) Fatal. Digestive disturbance, nervous symptoms.

Jimson weed: (All parts) Can be fatal.

—Reprinted from Soundwaves,
Old Greenwich School newspaper

CRYING TREE

A weeping willow it's not, but thousands of people have been flocking to a rural site near Butler in southwest Alabama to listen to a crying tree.

Choctaw County deputy Kenneth Crenshaw says the narrow dirt road leading to the Linnie Jenkins home has been jammed with cars ever since the family first heard the noise — reportedly similar to a whimpering puppy — emanating from the huge pecan tree on April 12.

There's no official explanation for the crying noise as yet, although Jenkins says a forester told him it could be gases seeping from inside the tree.

A hole has been dug at the base of the tree and, for a 50-cent fee, the curious can put an ear to a pipe to listen to the tree do its stuff.

—Credit: Greenwich Times

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WHAT MAKES THE GOOD LIFE?

Everyone has her or his own theories on what constitutes the "Good Life." The details will vary from person to person, of course, but most people would agree, at least on first thought, that the good life is one with the minimum number of problems, conflicts, disruptions, troubles, and difficulties.

Yet, in fact, many people who have achieved this kind of good life find it hard to live with for very long. They begin feeling vaguely bored or dissatisfied. There is really nothing specific to complain about, and yet there is not the expected contentment.

Perhaps, then, there is some flaw in this basic premise about the good life. Certainly, some people think so. They hold a view that life, at its best, involves dealing with problems, solving them, and moving on to other problems. For those who feel this way, the good life consists of risks and adventures, of battles they can't be sure they will win—and of the satisfaction that comes from successfully coping with the difficulties involved in living this sort of life.

Two Kinds of Stress — According to some psychologists, however, there are some choices that people can make — *if* they are dissatisfied with the kind of life they are living. Not huge, life-disrupting choices, but small, subtle attitude changes. It all depends on how well they understand the basic concept of difficulty and stress.

In studying these two views of the good life, one psychologist has come to the conclusion that there are two kinds of stress. The first is the stress people generally like to avoid (get-

ting caught in traffic jams, for instance). It might be called *dys-stress* (*dys* meaning *bad* in Greek). The second is the stress that people seek out (mountain climbing, for example, or assuming more responsibility). This feeling is labeled *eu-stress* (*eu* meaning *good* in Greek).

There are further distinctions between the two kinds of stress. For example:

- Dys-stress makes you tired (typing a thirty-page report for the second time); eu-stress turns you on (attending a top management meeting with your boss).
- Dys-stress seems to be what people encounter most of the time; it is usually referred to as "character building" or "socially useful." Paying bills might fall into this category. Eu-stress, on the other hand, seems to be of short duration — like falling in love, or running a race.
- Dys-stress is characteristic of the "disadvantaged," even when they have improved their lot in life. For example, many older people who lived through the depression of the thirties have grown accustomed to viewing life as one fatiguing demand after another. Thus energy must be expended only on such activities as are necessary to survive. Eu-stress, on the other hand, is more often found on the more affluent levels of society (golf-tournaments, African safaris, and the like). Of course, it is somewhere between those two orientations that most people would classify themselves.
- Dys-stress and eu-stress are inextricably linked. That is, the exhilaration that comes from eu-stress (the parachutist's free-fall) cannot be attained unless the dys-stress (fear of stepping out of the plane) is overcome.

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Changing Attitudes — All of us can contemplate our own private and particular fears — and speculate about what our feelings will be once we have actually overcome them.

Perhaps you might start with overcoming so small a fear as that of telling your boss that you deserve a raise. Or the ridicule you might be subjected to if you spent your lunch hours studying the art of mime. Or the disapproval you might encounter by doing your job slightly differently than it has been done by your predecessors. The payoff in facing up to these fears is eu-stress — another word for joy. But it won't happen, obviously, if you concentrate on making yourself comfortable, doing only what you know to be safe, always living what to some people is the good life.

Perhaps the good life doesn't come from avoiding trouble, but rather from creating a certain amount of it yourself — then coping with it the best way you can. To quote on Greek, the fabulous Zorba, "Life is trouble. Only death is not. To be alive is to look for trouble."

—Credit: Research Institute Personal Report

GETTING INFORMATION OUT OF WASHINGTON

Almost every part of our lives, from our jobs to the very air we breathe, is affected in some way by our government. It's only fair, then, that we should return the favor by keeping a close eye on those who make, interpret and enforce our laws.

Even if you don't know your "way around" the Washing-

ton maze, you can still find out what's going on there. The information you need is usually available. The challenge is sorting it out of all the information you don't need.

You should start your search in one of the Federal Information Centers located in major cities in most states. The information specialists there will help you find the right federal office to answer your particular question. You can also write the Federal Information Center, General Services Administration, 7th & D Sts., SW, Washington, DC 20407.

To get information out of Congress, start with the *Congressional Staff Directory*, which is available at most libraries. This annual publication lists names, room numbers and direct extensions of staff members of Senators and Representatives.

Another valuable source of information is the Government Printing Office. Not only is this office in charge of all government printing, it also operates bookstores in 20 U.S. cities. More than 25,000 titles are available, including one called *Consumers Guide to Federal Publications*.

The GPO also offers the *United States Government Manual*, an official, comprehensive guide to the workings of governmental agencies, and the *Congressional Directory*, which lists all government offices, Congressional committees, embassy locations and maps of Congressional districts.

For timely information on Congressional activities, consult the daily *Congressional Record*, *The Congressional Monitor* and *The Congressional Record Scanner* or the weekly *Congressional Quarterly* and *Regulatory Monitor*.

—Credit: GCSAA Fore Front

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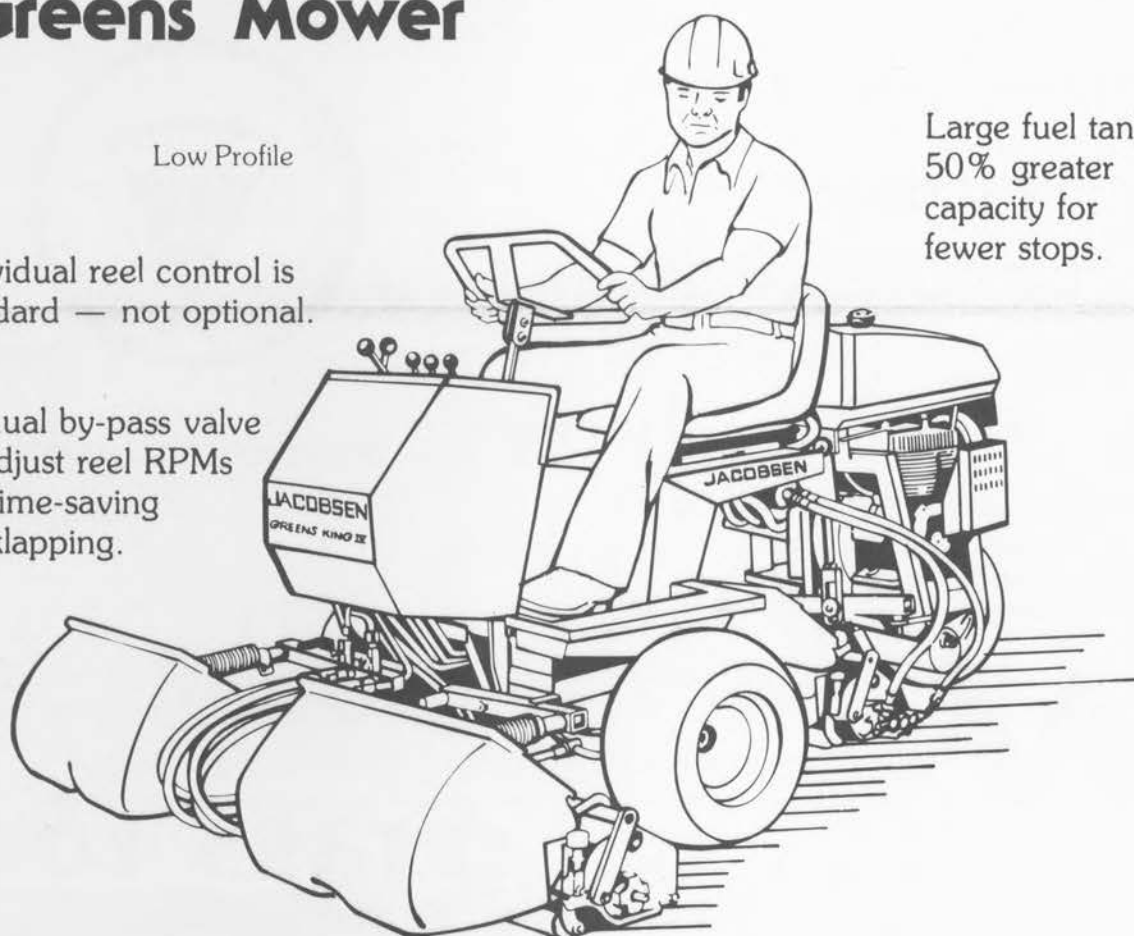
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