

## Transformed: Whiele-type roller made 'solid' for bucks

By TERRY BUCHEN

PARAMUS, N.J. — You can transform a Whiele-type roller into a solid roller without buying a solid roller. What? Yes, Ridgewood Country Club equipment manager Ronny Cestaro had the idea, then proved its worth, according to superintendent Todd W. Raisch. Cestaro also proved that sometimes the greatest ideas are the simplest.

"We like to use a Whiele-type front roller on our Jacobsen LF 128 fairway mowers, but there are certain times of the year that we would like to use a solid roller," Raisch said.



SHOP TALK

Instead of buying a solid roller, Cestaro uses a 3-inch-diameter piece of class 200-schedule 40 PVC pipe and cuts it the exact length as the Whiele roller.

He then pulls the end bracket and roller scrapers off on one end and

raps duck tape two full revolutions on either side of the Whiele roller to take up any slack.

The 3-inch PVC pipe is simply slipped over the top of the Whiele roller and the end brackets and roller scrapers are reinstalled.

The PVC should not be used on greensmowers because of the precision required on greens. But, it provides "an instant, very good-quality solid roller setup for fairways," Raisch said. "We have saved a tremendous amount of money by not having to acquire solid rollers. The PVC pipe only costs a couple of dollars for each one."



Terry Buchen photo

PVC piping can turn a Whiele roller into a solid roller in a matter of minutes.

Indeed, solid rollers for fairway mowers can cost more than \$150.

All this is done on a course that in 1990 hosted the U.S. Senior Open. Ridgewood's 27 holes were designed in 1929 by A.W. Tillinghast, and remodeled in 1988 by Rees Jones.

Also, Gil Hanse designed a short-game practice area that is similar in nature to the Tillinghast design on the regulation course.

## Voice Organizer a gold mine for super, assistants

By KEVIN ROSS

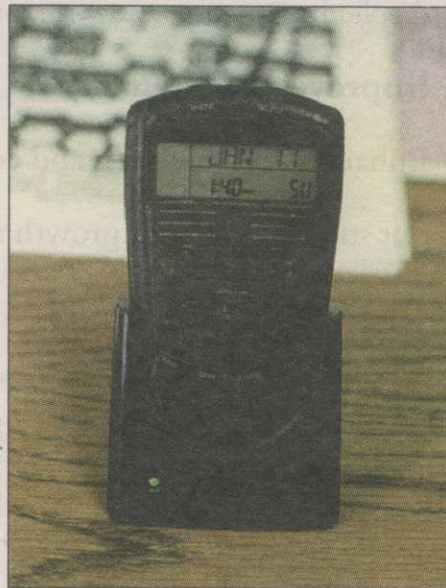
As technology has advanced, more products are available to help superintendents be organized and efficient. The Voice Organizer is one such electronic gadget.

Voice Organizers are trained to respond to an individual's voice command. Although this is a unique feature, they are much more than just something to talk into. There are many types on the market, with varied features. The unit I have has three main features which daily help me manage Country Club of the Rockies.

First is the message center. This unit, with no tape, will contain 100 voice messages. Messages are stored by a small computer chip. It records the date, time and body of the message. The messages are saved for future reference and can be deleted when finished.

I consider this message center the most-used and important feature. It is extremely handy to carry in your pocket when out of the golf course. As my daily travel takes me around the course, I record notes about various items requiring attention on the course. When I return to the office, I play back the messages and add on to my "to-do list" at the shop. Recording these messages on the course with the voice organizer is much easier than using a notepad and pencil, or tape recorder.

The next feature is the appointment/meeting notice. This lets you talk into the recorder and tell it of a special meeting you need to attend. For example, "Greens committee meeting,



Kevin Ross photo

The Voice Organizer has a special place in the maintenance operation at Country Club of the Rockies.

Friday, July 12, 1997, at 9 a.m." On July 12, the organizer will alert you of that meeting.

The last feature is the phone number database. The organizer will store up to 100 names and phone numbers. You simply speak into the organizer, telling it the name of the person first, then their phone number. These numbers can be retrieved at any time by speaking the person's name to the organizer, which then reads out the number.

I purchased the unit five years ago for \$225. Since then, the price has dropped drastically. The model that I have can now be bought for \$99. Also, there has been a flood of new brands and models on the market. With their present affordability, I decided to purchase one for my first assistant.

If you're not familiar with these units, they're worth serious scrutiny. I'm sure it can help in the day-to-day organization and running of your operation. I know I couldn't live without it.

## Cook College offers IPM short course

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — The Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education is planning a short course called "Landscape Integrated Pest Management: An Intelligent Approach." It is scheduled on the Cook Campus here from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on three consecutive Tuesdays and Wednesdays: Jan. 26-27, Feb. 2-3, and Feb. 9-10.

Landscape maintenance using an integrated pest management (IPM) approach improves plant quality and health, while reducing the use of traditional chemical pesticides. This six-day course will improve understanding of the decision-making process that allows for the use of alternative pesticide products when controlling landscape insect and disease problems.

Detailed instruction on monitoring identification and control of key insect and disease pests of landscape and turf will be highlighted, including plant problem diagnosis and pest resistant varieties, as well as on marketing IPM. Interested people should call Dr. Karen Plumley at 732-932-9271.

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