

don't feel they can really do much about it by themselves."

McKay feels the heart of the association will be numerous education programs on golf course management. "We're trying to set up the association for business management aspects. The biggest problem in the golf industry is that no book or guidelines have ever been written for golf course management," said McKay.

The group is working with the Michigan PGA Section to include a seminar for daily fee management at a state PGA show in mid-October.

The association hopes to pay for its manager and other expenses, such as a planned newsletter, through proceeds from a state tournament this summer.

Amateur golfers who play at daily fee courses can enter the tournament for \$10 each. Winners from each course will meet for the state championship in the first week in August, with the association guaranteeing \$1,400 in prize money for the top finishers. Grossnackle said the association expects to net about \$20,000 from the tournament.

McKay said the tournament has been devised so association owners won't have to pay dues that will become too high in the future and force owners to drop out. "We want to have a source of income other than dues to pay the manager's salary," he said.

Dan Burgess, owner of Hickory Hills golf course in Jackson, Mich., is the president of the association. Other officers are Keith Ronan, vice president, owner of Alwyn Downs golf course in Marshall, and Jack Grossnackle, Perry golf course.

McKay said attempts to organize other state associations are taking place in Ohio, Indiana, Florida, and North Carolina.

GOVERNMENT GOLF

Courses may unite as OPRA chapter

A movement has been initiated in Ohio to form an organization under the auspices of the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association to unite approximately 70 government golf courses in the state. Included would be golf facilities operated by municipalities, counties, the state itself, and other government bodies.

The organization would be a chapter of the OPRA and would provide for "the free exchange of

ideas among golf administrators, golf course managers, golf professionals, golf superintendents, and others," according to Gene Burress, supervisor of golf for the City of Cincinnati and one of the prime movers of the idea.

Burress suggested the organization could provide guidance in organizational structure, job descriptions and salaries, expense accounting, purchasing, setting greens fees, player development, and similar areas.

OPEN SPACE RULING

Two Maryland clubs retain tax privileges

Concluding a legal struggle that goes back several years (see GB, August 1976, p. 20), Maryland Attorney General Francis B. Burch recently ruled that the Burning Tree Club and Congressional Country Club, located just a mile apart in the Washington suburb of Bethesda, could retain their "open space" preferential tax treatment because they do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, or national origin.

The prestigious, all-male Burning Tree, the golf club of U.S. presidents, was given a clean bill under a provision of the law that makes discrimination against women acceptable if the club is operated "primarily" for men.

Burch cited as evidence the fact that the men's locker room occupies two-thirds of the clubhouse and a substantial addition would have to be built in order to accommodate both sexes. He also observed that Burning Tree, unlike other clubs, "does not play host to women at any time." He noted that the golf shop, separate from the clubhouse, "allows entry to members' wives only by appointment on specific December days prior to Christmas."

The ruling also found that Burning Tree does not discriminate against race, because the 547 members include two blacks as well as "members of Spanish, Indian, and Oriental origin."

Congressional was found not to be discriminate against blacks even though it has no black members. An opinion of the attorney general's office noted that the club adopted a new policy of screening applicants last December that was an "affirmative action to make its membership practices more open and less susceptible" to the "blackball."

COMPANIES

Textron agrees to buy Jacobsen

Textron Inc. and Allegheny Ludlum Industries Inc. signed an agreement in principle on May 3 for Textron to acquire for an undisclosed amount of cash the assets and business of Jacobsen Manufacturing Co., an Allegheny subsidiary producing tractors, mowers, and other course maintenance equipment.

Corporate officials declined to comment until the deal is finalized — which Jacobsen Advertising Manager Roy L. Beatty said would be about June 1. No drastic changes in organization were expected, however.

Textron is already involved in the golf business through such subsidiaries as E-Z-Go golf cars, Homelite power equipment, and Bell helicopters.

Toro sets record for quarterly sales

The continued increase in the sale of turf irrigation equipment helped The Toro Co. achieve sales of \$71.8 million from February through April, the highest amount during any quarter in the company's history, David T. McLaughlin, chairman and chief executive officer, has announced.

Sales of turf irrigation equipment rose 67 percent during those three months compared to the same period last year.

Jacobsen closes sodcutter plant

Jacobsen Manufacturing Co. stopped production on all sodcutters and three other pieces of equipment, and also shut down its Minneapolis factory on April 26, said Howard L. McPherson, vice president and general manager of the Turf Products Division.

Other products that were discontinued are the Edge-R-Rite, an edger used for trimming; Sub-Air, an aerator; and Mete-R-Matic, a machine used for top dressing.

The company will continue to supply parts for the equipment through its dealers and distributors.

The production of Trap King,

the machine that rakes sand traps, will be moved to its Racine, Wis., plant.

This is the second plant Jacobsen has closed within a year. Its Bruce, Wis., plant closed on July 1, 1977. "The closings are part of a total program aimed at utilizing manufacturing capacities more efficiently," McPherson said.

SEED

Still no decision on burning limits

As of late May, no decision had yet been made by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regional office in Seattle on the amount of land in Oregon that will be allowed for field burning this year by the state's grass seed growers.

State law limits the burning to 50,000 acres, but the Oregon Seed Council is requesting that 180,000 acres be burned this year to prepare the land for the 1979 seed crop. Opposition has formed in Springfield and Eugene, with residents in the latter city reportedly not wanting any land to be burned.

Groups there say particulates from the burning fields create a health hazard and violate the federal Clean Air Act.

A 50,000-acre limit will cause a gradual deterioration of seed quality and a 25 to 75 percent reduction in the amount of seed produced for the 1979 crop, said Dave Nelson, executive secretary for the Oregon Seed Council.

Oregon Assistant Attorney General Don Arnold has said he believes the growers will be allowed to burn between 100,000 and 120,000 acres. "They hinted they would allow something over the 50,000-acre limit," Arnold said.

Nelson has proposed that growers use backfiring and strip-lighting to reduce the particulate levels, but apparently the idea has not impressed government officials. Nelson said the group is prepared to go to court if the EPA does not grant the 180,000-acre limit or its equivalent by using the alternative burning methods.

Seed growers have been asked to contribute funds for a possible legal fight and the seed companies will be approached, Nelson said.

The Seed Council feels burning has done little to violate the clean air standards in Eugene and Springfield.