Brief bits of news from in and around the golf business...

Superintendents often are confronted with unusual maintenance problems, but we doubt if many are more unusual than a problem the Bayou Golf Club in Texas City, Tex., had a few months ago. It seems four persons on horseback drove eight head of cattle across the golf course, damaging one green and several fairways. One of the cowboys told police they were trying to transfer the cattle from one pasture to another when the cows got loose and played through the course. It was reported in Texas Golf. Course manager Jim Bodd reportedly said, "I wouldn't want to guess how much damage was done. That's the first time I've ever had any cattle on the green."

On a happier note, Michael Wells, formerly of Grand Traverse GC, Traverse City, Mich., told GOLF BUSINESS, "After serving as golf course superintendent at both public and private clubs for the past 10 years, I'm pleased to announce I've finalized a purchase agreement on the St. Joe Valley Golf Club, near Centreville, Mich. It is an 18-hole public facility, and my family and I are anxious to begin our first year of operation during the month of April 1979."

In other recent changes of employment, Steve Badger took over the superintendent's post at Bel Air CC in Los Angeles after Art Twombly retired. . . . Bob Steele resigned as superintendent at Santa Barbara (Calif.) GC to take over a new course being completed for the city of Atascadero. . . . Steve Carlton resigned from Los Coyotes CC in Buena Park and was succeeded by Dan Smitley. Carlton will take over a new course that golf architect Pete Dye is building in Carmel Valley. Also in California, Al Giame moved from San Luis Obispo CC to San Luis Bay CC, Avila Beach. . . . Mike McCrow is now superintendent at Santa Maria CC. . . . Ben Kern is now at Yorba Linda CC.

In the Midwest, C. Thomas Bretho, CGCS, is moving from Indiana to be superintendent at the Hyde Park GC&CC in Cincinnati. . . . Gary Campbell replaced Dick George as superintendent at Valley View Clubs, Inc., Lancaster, Ohio, after George retired. Down south, James Norby moved to the superintendent's job at Hilton Head GC from Sea Pines Plantation; both are in South Carolina. . . . Randy Allen is now superintendent of Camden (S.C.) CC; he had been at Cleveland CC in Shelby, N.C.

Also in South Carolina, Rodney Day moved from Carolina Springs CC, Fountain Inn, to Holly Tree CC, Simpsonville. Two new regional directors recently joined the field staff of the National Golf Foundation. Mark DePalma will cover the North Central region: Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and North and South Dakota. His background includes working in a golf pro shop, and he is currently serving a 3-year term as a director of Highland Park Men's GC, a municipal facility operated by the city of St. Paul, Minn.

John LaPoint will be NGF director for the Northeast region: the New England states and New York. Previously an administrator with district golf associations in New York, Ohio, and Michigan, LaPoint will be based in North Gratz, Mass. The PGA Tour has hired Terry Buchen, former superintendent of Denver (Colo.) CC, as associate agronomist. He will assist Tour staff agronomist Allan MacCarruch.

In company news, the Golf Car Dept. of Yamaha Mootor Corp., USA appointed Jim Estill regional sales manager for the Eastern United States. Estill was previously Yamaha district manager for motorcycles and snowmobiles. Yamaha also named Rick Johnson assistant manager, marketing and sales of golf cars. He will also serve as western regional manager for the Golf Car Dept., and continue as product manager for Yamaha's New Product Division.

Ron E. Burkland has been named district sales manager for OMC-Lincoln's Cushman and Ryan professional grounds maintenance equipment. He previously was sales order supervisor for OMC, Lincoln, Neb.

Safe-T-Lawn, Inc., an irrigation equipment company based in Hialeah, Fla., has announced the appointment of B. R. Lindsay as chief executive officer. Lindsay replaces W. G. Muschett, who retired.

Roy L. Beatty has been appointed manager of communications for Jacobsen Division of Textron Inc., Wisconsin-based manufacturer of turf maintenance equipment. He will be responsible for all Jacobsen advertising, sales promotion, and public relations for consumer and commercial products.

Frank Guoee has been named Southern California sales representative for Applied Biochemists, Inc. Residing in Fullerton, Guoee is responsible for sales of the firm's specialty chemicals for surface water and pools.

TUCO, Division of The Upjohn Co., promoted Donald J. Maske to North Central district manager, agricultural chemical sales. In a series of promotions and new assignments of responsibility, The Charles Machine Works, Inc., offices in Perry Okla., now have this lineup: Dwayne Goldsberry: marketing manager; Bill Haynes, sales manager; Etsew Edme, marketing services manager; Jarrett Cowden, marketing research manager; Roger Layne, sales and service training manager; and Leonard Brannen, technical services manager. The company manufactures Ditch Witch trenchers, vibratory plows, and related equipment.

Richard J. Dittoe was named vice president, marketing, of the Jacobsen Division of Textron, Inc., Racine, Wis. He was previously marketing manager for Jacobsen Turf Products.

Robert J. Moeller has been named vice president and general manager of The Toro Co.'s Outdoor Appliance Division. He had been vice president of sales and marketing of Toro's Outdoor Power Equipment Group since joining the company in 1977.

Irrigation, Inc., Cudahy, Wis., a subsidiary of Kuyawa Enterprises, Inc., has been selected the Master Rainbird Sprinkler distributor in Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

At the recent Michigan Turfgrass Conference, TUCO Division of The Upjohn Co. presented 1979 TUCO turf scholarships to Stephen Brown and Allan Nielsen; both are seniors in turf management at Michigan State University.

Jacobsen Division of Textron Inc. ran a contest in conjunction with the GCSAA International Turfgrass Conference & Show to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Greens King mower. At the show in Atlanta, Superintendent Dean Sime accepted a certificate on behalf of Interlachen CC, Edina, Minn., for owning the oldest extant Greens King. The certificate is redeemable for a brand new Greens King II from Jacobsen.

Automatic Rain Co. of Menlo Park, Calif., and Lawn & Turf Co. of Conyers, Ga., were selected as the best of more than 90 distributors of irrigation equipment by the Turf Division of the Rain Bird Sprinkler Mfg. Corp.

The annual Southern California Spring Turf & Landscape Institute will be held April 18-19 at the Anaheim (Calif.) Convention Center. The institute is co-sponsored by the Southern California Turfgrass Council and the University of California Cooperative Extension. Theme for the 1979 meeting is "Economics and Maintenance." Full two day registration is $37, basic registration (no meals) is $15, and student fee is $5. For further information contact Ed McNeill, 1000 Concha St., Altadena, CA 91001 or call 213/798-1715.

The 1979 Arizona Turfgrass Conference will take place May 6-10 on the University of Arizona campus in Tucson. Speakers will include Tom Mascaro and Bruce Shank, editor of WEEDS TREES & TURF magazine. For details, contact William R. Kneebone, College of Agriculture, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AC 85721.

On May 15-17, Ohio State University, The Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, and ChemLawn Corp. will jointly sponsor a Symposium on Turfgrass Diseases at the University Holiday Inn in Columbus. About 20 leading turfgrass disease specialists from the U.S. and Canada will be on the program. For further information, write to Symposium of Turfgrass Diseases 1979, 2865 East Orange Rd., Galena, OH 43021 or call Dr. P.O. Larsen (614/422-6987) or Dr. B. G. Joyner (614/885-9588).