

# Pump maintenance program can make your job easier

by Richard D. Brown

Congratulations! You have just accepted the position of golf course superintendent of Bayview Country Club — a big job with an awesome responsibility. After the customary congratulations and cocktails you find yourself sitting alone in an office sur-

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rounded by mounds of papers, magazines, and miscellaneous irrigation heads, broken valves, bent golf clubs, and three empty Coors cans. So you start, sweep off the top of your desk to see if there is a bottom to the paper when the phone rings and the club manager informs you that the pumps by the clubhouse are making a noise like they are gargling marbles. And if that isn't enough, the pro walks in and informs you in the King's best

English that his greens are burning up and unless you have direct communication with the almighty to produce rain, you had better do something — now!

You wonder why you left the army. Did they say "congratulations," or was it condolences"?

I'm sure all of you, like the writer, have found yourselves in this situation. Assuming a miracle doesn't occur turning the club into one monumental sink-hole, you somehow survive the first few hours by uttering the byword of golf course superintendents everywhere — "I'll be there in 5 minutes" — and you know something? You do get there in 5 minutes, and drawing from your skill as an engineer, mechanic, horticulturist, and priest, the job is taken care of.

Now that things are back to normal, let's set up a pump and equipment maintenance program for the club that will make your job a lot easier. I will only talk about pumps, but what is said will be applicable to

*Maintenance records are invaluable in preventing costly repairs. A typical pump like the one on the left will carry most of the information you need to fill in at the top of the maintenance record card (below).*



PUMP NO. \_\_\_\_\_ LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_ DATE INSTALLED \_\_\_\_\_

Service Primary  Mfg. \_\_\_\_\_ Construction \_\_\_\_\_ GPM \_\_\_\_\_  
 Secondary  Ser. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Casing \_\_\_\_\_ Head \_\_\_\_\_

Driver No. \_\_\_\_\_ Fig. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Impeller \_\_\_\_\_ Liquid \_\_\_\_\_  
 H. P. \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_ Shaft \_\_\_\_\_ Sp. Gr. \_\_\_\_\_  
 RPM \_\_\_\_\_ Imp. Dia. \_\_\_\_\_ Sleeves \_\_\_\_\_ Temp. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rotation \_\_\_\_\_ Seals \_\_\_\_\_ NPSH \_\_\_\_\_

### MAINTENANCE RECORD

Date	Reason for Maintenance	Parts Replaced

all equipment.

We will first set up a card file on each pump we have on the club grounds. This card is for more than inventory records that must be used for accounting and insurance purposes, but will list the following information necessary for a good maintenance program:

- pump manufacturer
- model number and size
- pumping characteristics
- electrical characteristics

- date installed
- serial number
- purchased from whom
- complete well information (can be obtained from the driller)
- maintenance to pump (Let's go into detail on this)

A complete maintenance records file in an accessible location is invaluable in diagnosing pump failure, in ordering repair parts, and in establishing lubrication and maintenance scheduling. Also, notations of

pump failures and the repairs required can be used to define the optimum period of any pump before complete inspection and overhaul is required. If the pump maintenance record indicates that no failures have occurred over a period of years, a longer period between inspections would be warranted. If, on the other hand, the records indicate frequent failures, this may suggest additional inspections and repairs are required. It should also flash a red warning light, something is wrong with the pump, either in application, installation, or operation.

A chronological listing of failures is invaluable in diagnosing the problem and effecting its cure. Simple maintenance records for each pump are much less expensive than trial-and-error solutions.

Please take a few minutes after you have read this and ask yourself, "Do I have records like this — or for that matter, records of any kind?" Let me suggest you do the following:

1) Look at each piece of equipment you have and write down all the information that is on the name plate of both the pump and the motor. After getting this, contact the manufacturer and give them the information you found. They will be glad to give you complete engineering and maintenance data on the pump. Also, be sure to request a curve on your units. Upon receipt of this information be sure to record key information on your maintenance card.

2) Read what they send you. Each manufacturer will spell out in detail the maintenance information you need. Do what is recommended.

3) Don't be bashful — ask questions when you're not sure of what maintenance is required.

4) Don't try to guess how to make a repair if you are not sure what you are doing. This not only can be expensive, it can be a direct factor in your longevity with the club.

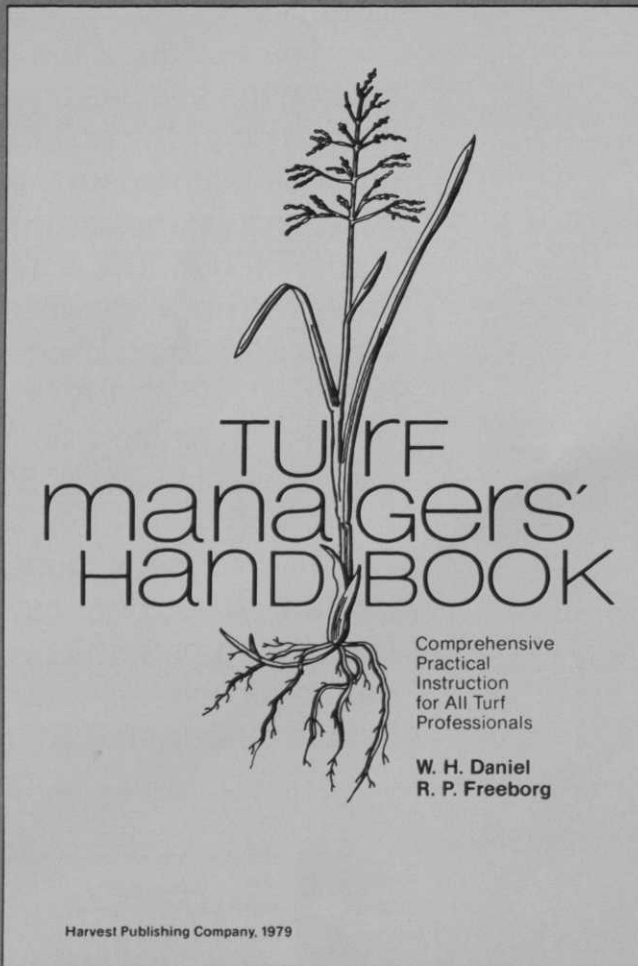
Equipment, like your body, does need attention and proper care. If it doesn't get it, the results are a forgone conclusion. Ask questions about your equipment. Call us and we will be glad to answer all your questions concerning the maintenance of your equipment. By setting up a program for your equipment and sticking to it, the result will be years of trouble-free operation.

We both would rather be playing golf on Sunday instead of repacking a stuffing box that due to maintenance negligence failed 5 minutes before your tee-off time. □

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Published by  
 Business Publication Division  
**The Harvest Publishing Co.**  
 9800 Detroit Ave.  
 Cleveland, Ohio 44102

**HARVEST PUBLISHING COMPANY**

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