President's Desk from Page 2

for any soils related service. To contact
him, call 624-3478.

Plans for the annual conference in
December are well under way. Chris Hague,
Scott Hoffmann and Jim Nicol have
preparations well in hand, and we look
forward to being at the St. Paul Radisson.
With our change of facilities, we are
going to better serve our spouses by
offering some activity for them. A survey
was sent out in May, so please see to it
that your spouse has the opportunity to
respond to this effort.

Our July meeting will be at the Purple
Hawk Country Club on July 14. This is a
good opportunity for us all to visit the
"traveling superintendents" (Fred
Anderson, Jr.) golf course to pay homage
for all of his use on our own courses.

See you on the course!

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BROADENING
HORIZONS

by FRED V. GRAU
President
Musser Int'l. Turfgrass Foundation

The letters "CGCS" after a golf course
superintendent's name indicate that this
person has attained a level of
professionalism far removed from that of
the early 1900's image of the "the grass
cutter at the barn." Today's professional
golf course superintendent often enjoys a
comfortable office in a modern maintenance
building that is the nerve center of
multimillion dollar golf course grounds
and associated facilities, including the
clubhouse.

Old-time "greenkeepers" typically had
crews but no assistant. Quite often, some
of the equipment was operated by the head
man.

With CGCS following his name, today's
golf course manager may have an assistant
being trained to become a superintendent
himself. In addition, some
superintendents have a secretary to handle
phone calls, file papers, answer
their image, many superintendents could
accomplish those goals by broadening their
horizons. Day after day devoted
exclusively to the golf course without any
outside relief tends to develop "tunnel
vision" similar to that of a horse with
blinders.

Outside interests are essential to broaden
the mind and to share the unique knowledge
of growing things that superintendents
possess in such abundance.

What are some of these other interests in
which the golf course superintendent might
become involved so that more people get to
know him and his unique abilities?

First, consider the fact that golf courses
occupy sites in the midst of people, many
of whom do not play golf. Their interests
should be considered as one potential
starting point.

Garden clubs, for example, frequently seek
out speakers who can tell them more and
more about how plants grow, how grass
grows, what kinds to plant and when to
plant. Country clubs, golf clubs and
other kinds of golf operations, should be
proud to know that their superintendent is
public-spirited and is carrying the name
of the course wherever he or she goes.

Service clubs also are frequently looking
for interesting speakers at noon
luncheons. Some superintendents have
prepared themselves for this volunteer
service by taking Dale Carnegie or GCSAA
courses.

Businessmen belonging to various service
clubs enjoy hearing about growing grass,
shrubs, trees, flowers and other plant
materials. This broadens their
horizons. As they follow the teachings of the
speaker they tend to improve their
properties, which adds to their value.
Helping a person to have a better lawn can give satisfaction - and the work spreads.

Another related opportunity may be found among or through service club members whose children are engaged in active contact sports.

Often, sports fields in a community are poorly maintained. Some are replete with broken glass, bottle caps and mud. The progressive superintendent might take one hour a week away from the golf course to help the local high school improve the sports turf. For the most part it will again be volunteer work, unpaid. But the mutual benefits that can be gained by all involved in such an undertaking are incalculable.

There is a well-established professional precedent for successful community involvement on the part of golf course superintendents.

Some of the long-ago greenkeepers made names for themselves doing lawn work for club members. They achieved favorable publicity even though they lacked the improved modern tools, grasses and fertilizers that we enjoy today.

Who, indeed, does know more about growing fine grass than the golf course superintendent? Some may hesitate to "stick their necks out" for fear of criticism if things don't go quite right, but a true professional knows how to meet potential obstacles even on unfamiliar ground.

Again, consider the opportunities for professional outreach in connection with improvement of sports fields. With the help of county agents and turfgrass extension specialists, golf course superintendents can become leaders in their communities by leading discussion groups (mini-seminars) on "How to Improve Athletic Fields." There is so much that needs to be done in this area and so few are doing it.

Education is the name of the game. Many schools ask an untutored janitor to maintain the sports turf. Given the
"If you would know anything thoroughly, teach it to others." This comes from an unnamed ancient philosopher. The advice is sound today.

Credit: GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT

MINIKAHDA VANDALIZED

Shortly after midnight on Tuesday, June 24 a car was driven extensively around the wet turf at the Minikahda Club with the intention of damaging the course. It was driven in tight circles on seven greens, nine fairways and two tees. This resulted in the closing of the course on Tuesday. Temporary greens were put in play on Wednesday and will be used until repairs can be made. As a result of a reward and a tip to St. Louis Park police by the Crimestoppers program on TV Channel 5 the vandals were arrested within two days. The driver was an ex-caddie at Minikahda who knew exactly where to drive to do the most damage and still not get his car stuck in a bunker or water hazard.

It is suggested that other golf courses tighten their security on the chance that other such acts may occur because of the publicity given this vandalism. In an upcoming issue we will have Superintendent Dan Hanson give us details of the damage and what methods he used to repair it.