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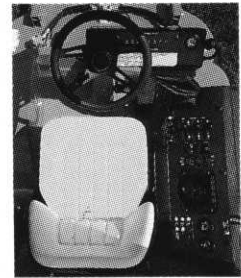


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River Oaks—

(Continued from Page 20)

on September 5th and finished on September 24th. This is the one part of the product that I wish I had the manpower to do myself. Profit orientation has no place on a golf course when it comes to seeding.

Finally, I had grass to take care of. It was an odd sensation being out on the course alone. For months, the golf course had been a beehive of activity. Then one day it was just myself and an irrigation system I had not quite figured out yet. Naturally, one of the wettest summers on record turned into one of the driest falls on record. Except for the rough, this was almost a blessing. With 120 acres of bare soil, a lot of rain is not what you pray for. Washouts were — and are still — a problem. We would just get grass established, and a heavy rain would take them out again. We finally resorted to sodding problem areas. Washouts are probably the most frustrating aspect of the growing phase. Although the construction phase had an adequate budget there was no money left to hire an assistant. I needed help! I cut the greens that were seeded in early September on the first of October. It was great to mow grass again. All the seeded areas did well with the exception of several tees and greens which were seeded too late to germinate, much less thrive.

As last winter came, I spent my time (when I wasn't glued to the radio for news of the war) finishing off the office space in the maintenance shop. The clubhouse was under construction and that was a welcome diversion to my own company. If you have never equipped a maintenance shop from scratch, it's a mind-numbing experience, but again the thought of all those

new tools and equipment somehow spurred me on. Winter also brought the most painful job of deciding who of the 47 people applying for the assistant positions would get an interview. I dislike firing people, but that's what I felt I was doing each time a resume went into the "no" pile. It was interesting how the selection process brought home the importance of a professional looking resume. Get thee to a professional typesetter and printer!

Spring brought Ben Ratzlaff and Kelly Johnson to River Oaks. We put a pound NPK per/m of ag grade 19-19-19 down the first of May. Then it rained and it rained and it rained and then it rained some more. The grass grew faster than we could ever hope to mow it, but the course looked better every day. We followed the rule of thumb: Fertilize! Fertilize! fertilize! I thought we had applied too much. Then I would notice an area where we had overlapped coverage and noticed how much better it looked and we would go out and fertilize again. We put a lot of fertilizer down (10+ pounds/M on greens) but if I had it to do all over again, I would put more down. We opened the front nine on June 13, a year, two weeks and two days from the start of construction.

The entire course opened June 29, 1991. From opening to the Halloween storm we had 26,000 rounds and generated revenues substantially over budget. Needless to say, this, in addition to bringing the project in on budget, the city was pleased.

I learned a great deal from this experience. When our deep well went down twice in the two hottest weeks in June. I wished I had a larger holding pond and several smaller capacity well pumps instead of one large unit. Most of our timing problems resulted from the well drilling and pump station installation. If

(Continued on Page 25)

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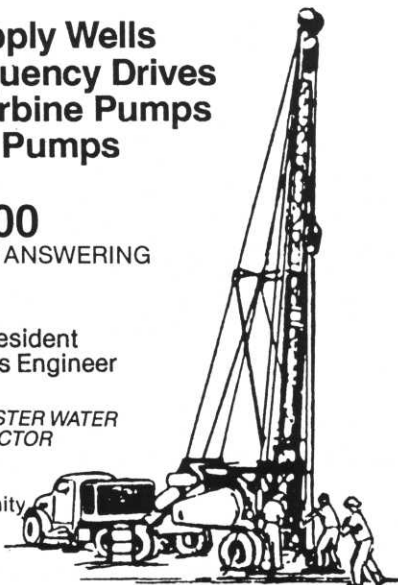
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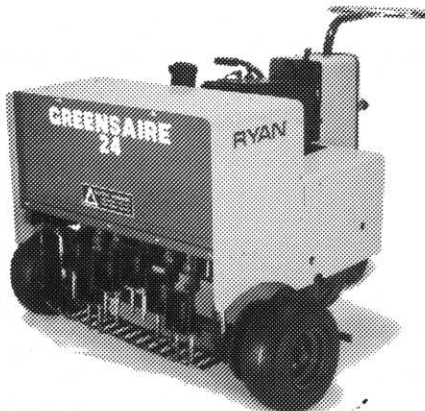
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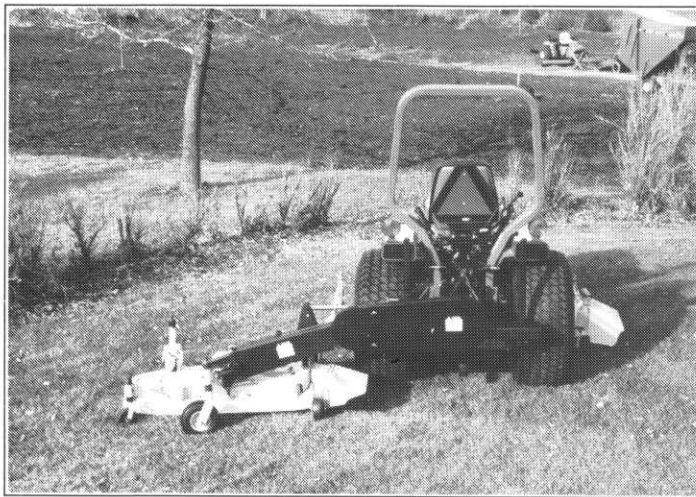
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Loyalty

How many of you have had an early morning call, or one waiting on your desk, from a caller who identifies himself as representing the "XYZ" Chemical Co. from Dallas, Texas, or New York, or wherever?

He likes to address you by your first name or by your surname and the conversation starts like this: "_____, we received your card asking about our product. Now before we go any further, would you like to receive our clock radio or the five inch TV set? And have we got a deal for you!! We have a great deal on 50-gallon drums of our special weed killing chemical (or roofing compound). Now would you like three or four drums today? We have a special shipment coming your way this week and could give you an additional break."

"Oh, you don't need a drum, what about a 30?"

"You could only use a five? We don't put them up that small."

If you should fall for this "sucker bait" and buy, you will soon find that you got taken. The weed spray is so watered down that it take several times as much to accomplish the same results as the spray you had bought from your local dealer. The special roofing compound washes off in the first rain.

There is much to be said in dealing with your local chemical fertilizer, seed or turf equipment dealer.

(1) he is close at hand. (2) He is almost assuredly selling a product that can be relied upon. (3) He is as close as his phone or at most only a few miles away. He is in business to stay. He wants to serve his customers and have them satisfied—and coming back. Have you a complaint? He is there to listen and answer.

And certainly not the least—he is probably a member of your local association. He supports your activities with his dues, with his help at seminars, participates in your turf equipment shows. Not the least, he is a taxpayer in your district, he participates in community activities.

So, next time you need to purchase some fertilizer, or weed spray, or grass seed, some irrigation or turf equipment—give your local dealer a break. We need him—he needs us.

—Credit: OGCSA Newsletter

River Oaks— (Continued from Page 22)

possible I would recommend that both are installed before the earth movers arrive. I learned you can get what you want if you're willing to fight for it. Remember, the contractors and the architect work for you . . . not the other way around. I pushed hard to eliminate any areas that would require hand-mowing. I did not want to buy a fleet of flymos. This can usually be done with very minor changes. Fortunately, Don Herfort is not from the school of what I call "reckless architects." Except for some excessive green sculpting, the course has an excellent design and is very playable and manageable. Don is a master of bunker design. Only once last year did we have problems with washouts. During construction we sodded around the greens and bunkers to prevent erosion. I highly recommend this and would strongly recommend sodding around the tee surface areas.

As I said at the beginning, I don't want to do it again any time soon. But I wouldn't have missed it for the world. It was very rewarding to watch a rough piece of ground develop into what so far is — and in several years hopefully mature into — a splendid public golf course.

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Cut Down Lawn Mower Hazards

Sunny skies, flowers budding, trees blooming and birds chirping are all signs that Spring is in the air. But along with this new season comes that dreaded routine of mowing the lawn.

Whether you're doing this job yourself, or hiring a neighborhood youngster, you should be aware of the hazards that can result from careless use of power lawn mowers.

During the days of the simple hand mower, dangers of getting cut by the blade or receiving injuries from objects thrown by the mower were not very common. But with the convenience of the power mower come hazards that can and do accompany this burst of speed.

One man had to learn to recognize the dangers of using a power mower the hard way. While pushing his mower up a grassy slope, he slipped and fell, thrusting his left leg under the housing of his rotary mower. The fast-spinning blade cut off two toes and part of another.

A more serious accident occurred when a woman did not check her lawn carefully for debris before mowing. She pushed the mower over a piece of barbed wire that shot out the back of the machine and severed an artery in her leg. Unable to call for help, the woman bled to death.

But adults are not the only ones injured as a result of the careless use of a power mower. A 10-year-old boy was cutting the lawn on a riding mower when a tree branch knocked him off the machine. The mower ran over him and cut off his left arm.

In another incident, an 11-year-old girl was mowing a steep slope in her back yard when the mower overturned and crushed her to death.

And, a five-year-old girl had her left foot cut off when her six-year-old brother, driving a riding mower, ran over her.

You may think these accidents could never happen to you or your child. But last year an estimated 77,000 persons visited emergency rooms for lost fingers, toes and other extremities that were nicked, lacerated or amputated by power mowers. Thousands more were probably treated in doctors' offices for lesser injuries that went unreported.

For these very reasons the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) was formed in 1973 to save the public from these hazards. After nine years of changes and repeated extension of standard deadlines, the CPSC enacted a mandatory standard governing the safety of power mowers last spring.

Statistics show about 50 percent of the injuries from all mowers and 64 percent of the injuries to operators of walk-behind mowers occurred from blade contact.

With the new standards in effect, all types of mowers manufactured after June 30, 1982 must have certain safety features to protect the user from blade contact.

This standard requires:

- The mower must have a blade clutch, also called a "dead-man" handle control, which the operator must grip to keep the blade spinning.
- If the user has to release the blade clutch for any reason, the blade must stop spinning in three seconds.
- All new mowers must have a safety start. This will allow the operator to start the mower on the handle used to push the machine.

- The tip of the blade on the mower must be far enough from the perimeter of the deck to prevent contact with a person's foot if it were pushed under the deck.

The CPSC standard requires that design engineers determine if this would result in a larger diameter deck and a heavier and clumsier mower, or a shorter blade and a narrower cutting swath.

On many new mowers the trailing shield on the back of the mower protects the operator from flying debris and from the likelihood of operators trapping their feet under the mower.

According to local lawn mower dealers, these new safety requirements have added \$35 to \$45 to the cost of a new mower. This may sound like a lot, but it is a much smaller price to pay, compared to the price of losing a finger or a foot.

However, most people will be back to using their old standby tucked away in the garage. And, many of these mowers do not have the safety features added by manufacturers in recent years.

But these safety tips can get you on your way to better mowing times:

- Study your operator's manual to know the different functions of your mower.
- Make any adjustments to the mower before you begin to cut. And make sure the motor is not running.
- Remove all stones, wire and other objects from the area you are going to mow.
- Make sure children and other bystanders are away from the area you plan to mow.
- Never mow up and down a hill with a walk-behind mower. Always mow laterally to prevent slipping toward the mower.
- Never mow wet grass. It clogs up the motor and increases the chance of slipping.
- Never mow barefoot or in sneakers or sandals. Wear sturdy leather shoes or steel-toes to protect your feet as much as possible.
- When refueling, let the mower cool down first.

These tips cannot guarantee mowing protection. It's all up to you and your willingness to be safe!

Credit: Divots

Miami Valley Golf Course Superintendents Assn.

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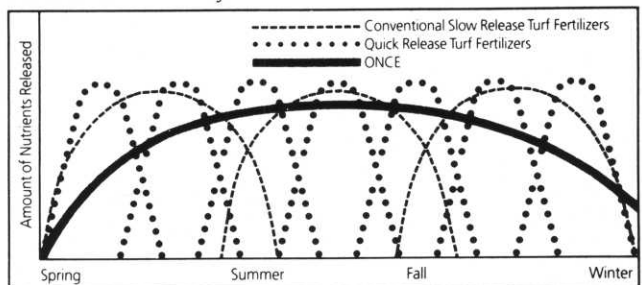
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PUTTING ON THE EDGE OF DISASTER

When old Bill Fownes wanted to check the green speed at Oakmont, he would walk out to the second hole and carefully drop a ball on the back of the putting surface. If it didn't roll down the slope off the front of the green and into the fairway, he would tell the crews to cut and roll the green again.

At least that is according to Oakmont lore. For most of this century, Oakmont has set the standard against which all other top clubs measure their green speeds. Now comes evidence from architect Pete Dye that green speed in the old days may be wildly exaggerated.

Dye has had motion pictures of the 1962 U.S. Open at Oakmont studied by mathematical experts. Analyzing the time lapse of putts rolling across the greens, they have concluded that Oakmont's speeds back then were "about 8 on the Stimpmeter," which is considered relatively slow today.

If true, Dye's discovery is important because it might curb the chase for faster greens, golf's costly equivalent to the arms race. "The USGA is trying to raise \$10 million to find hardier turf," says Dye, "All they've got to raise is the mowers, 1/16 of an inch."

But golfers persist in the mistaken belief that faster is better. And, just as mistakenly, club members argue that their greens were faster back in the '50s and '60s. Most agronomists agree that this is not possible, and USGA Green Section National Director Jim Snow cites four innovations that have greatly added speed in recent times:

- It's only been in the last 15 years that clubs cut greens seven days a week; they used to be cut every other day, a big change.
- Cutting greens at 3/16ths was considered very close and 1/4th of an inch was common until the 1970s; the introduction of thinner bedknives (against which the rotary blades of mowers cut) allowed greens to be scalped below 1/8th of an inch.
- Clubs used to topdress greens once or twice a year; now they do it lightly every three weeks.
- And until the 1970s, we didn't have verticutters and groomers, new machinery that takes the excess top growth off the leaves of grass.

But the real culprit is a yard-long metal rod known as the Stimpmeter, which was developed to quantify green speed. When it was introduced in the mid-'70s, the USGA surveyed more than 1,500 greens in 36 states and found that the average roll was 6 feet, 6 inches on the Stimpmeter. "It's crept up over the years until the average is closer to 8 today, and 9 feels slow to some people," says Snow.

The result has been higher expenses for maintenance of weaker turf that is more susceptible to disease. Several years ago in the Midwest, dozens of country clubs noticed that their bentgrass greens were dying of bacteria known as C15 Decline, while the greens at neighboring daily fee and municipal courses were unaffected. Turf-types began calling it "Rich Man's Disease," because it hit only the wealthy courses like Muirfield Village and Butler National, where the greens were cut too low.

"Trying to maintain consistently fast greens means always living on the edge of disaster," says Snow.

Some classic, old courses have now increased their speeds to the point that severely undulating greens are unputtable. Then members argue that the greens have "settled" over time and

need to be rebuilt. Of course, all they need to do is play the greens at the speed they were designed for.

Now some courses are starting to post their green speeds on locker room bulletin boards. This only encourages idiotic competition among clubs for the fastest greens in town and leads macho golfers to demand higher numbers or the superintendent's job.

Longtime turf authority Al Radko says good putting begins at 7 feet, 6 inches. And for everyday play, it should not get above 9.

The PGA Tour aims to have its greens at around 10 feet, and the U.S. Open shoots for 10 to 11 1/2 feet. But these are once-a-year occasions, with the host club's maintenance program targeted for tournament week.

SPEED KILLS, we've learned. If not your superintendent, your greens.

—Jerry Tarde, Indiana GCSA

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

MARCH 4, 1992
NORTHLAND INN

NEW MEMBERS—MARCH 4, 1992

Butch Brown	Birch Bay Golf Club	Class	A
Colin Hogue	Greenhaven Golf Course		D
Wayne Jensen	Tracy Country Club		A
Bruce Luchsinger	Valley Townhouse Maintenance		E
Lary Falck	Midwest Specialty Sales		F
Kenneth LeVoi	Braun Intertec Environmental		F
	Incorporated		F
Dennis Sakstrup	Courtland Industries		F

RECLASSIFICATIONS—MARCH 4, 1992

Randall Allen	Tartan Park	B to A
David Bauer	Keller Golf Course	B to A
Alex Ellram	U of M	BII to C
Roger Hanson	Green Lea Golf Course	BII to B
Thomas Hougnon	Lakeview Golf Course	D to BII

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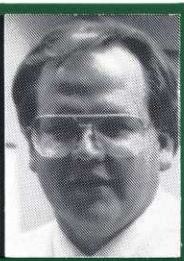
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EDITOR'S CORNER

By Dale Wysocki
Faribault Golf & Country Club



Well, it's here. Spring at last. You realize that when I started writing this editorial, it's the early part of March and for a while there, if the weather had stayed above normal, we could have been playing golf by March 24. Scary thought. But anyway, I am thankful that our friend, Mother Nature has removed two inches of solid ice for me and all the snow has made a temporary exit, but this is March and who knows what is going to happen.

* * * *

The pesticide recertification was held March 4th at the Northland Inn and 249 members of the Association attended. Many comments are often heard regarding this event, and some of them have to do with, "Why do we sit through 8 hours of the same thing year after year?" I think with the coming changes in pesticide regulation and what we (as Superintendents) are doing to show other allied associations, our maintenance staffs and the people that we work for, that we are **Professional, Conscientious and Leaders**. Just because you have heard it before does not mean it's the same theme. With the changes that seem to be happening with every legislative session it's good to go and be made aware of the new changes. Your association strives to bring you the best education possible. With the Environmental Committee now being chaired by Scott Austin of Midland Hills Country Club, you know that the information that comes from that committee will be accurate and up-to-date.

* * * *

With our first monthly meeting just days away, it's time to get those marvels of technology out. I haven't even thought of swinging a golf club yet, although there is that bug that is just taunting me to go and grab a bucket of range balls and see if my slice or "cut shot" is just as accurate as last year.

* * * *

Speaking of monthly meetings, our first meeting is at Lake City Golf Club on April 13, with Cliff Reynolds as our host.

* * * *

Another thought that comes to mind is the Joe Garske Scramble at Tartan Park Golf Club in July. This event is a fund raiser for the Scholarship Fund is open to all members of the association. It's time to formulate your teams now for this competition.

* * * *

Many times over the last several years golf courses have really been taking it on the chin from certain groups. Now is the time to think about what you can write in your club's monthly newsletter on how a golf course does benefit the surrounding environment. If you have a copy of "Lawn and Sports Turf Benefits" by Eliot Roberts and Beverly C. Roberts of The Lawn Institute, read it and use the material provided to inform your membership of the environmental benefits. By providing our golfing members with accurate information concern-

ing the benefits of our finely manicured turf areas, together we can work towards a common goal that will be beneficial for everybody.

* * * *

MGCSA Scholarship applications are now available. To request an application, simply call the MGCSA office.

* * * *

Please extend your deepest sympathy to Randy Allen, superintendent at Tartan Park Golf Course. His father, Leon Allen, past away early in March.

* * * *

The MGCSA wishes a speedy recovery to Glenn Rasmussen.

* * * *

Also extend your sympathy to Tony Maginas. Tony's wife passed away.

— Dale Wysocki

USGA Announces Special Offer to Public Courses

As one of many activities, the USGA has an ongoing commitment to support the public golf sector.

In furtherance of this commitment, the USGA Executive Committee has authorized the USGA Green Section to provide special support to public golf courses defined as courses that accept green fees from the general public and do not have a membership that owns the course.

Specifically, the USGA would like to make a one-time offer to send one of its expert agronomy consultants for a full-day Turf Advisory Service (TAS) in 1992 for only \$700, its normal price for a half-day visit. This offer is available only to public golf courses that have not used TAS in 1989, 1990 or 1991.

It costs the USGA \$1,500 per course to provide this service. So why is it making such an offer that costs it money? The USGA hopes that by providing expert agronomic advice to public courses, it can help to improve the quality of playing conditions for many of the nation's public golfers and that is a goal that fits within the charter of the USGA.

"You need not be afraid that a USGA Turf Advisory Service visit will result in an increase in the cost of maintaining your golf facility," said Raymond Anderson, chairman of the USGA Green Section Committee. "On the contrary, the TAS usually shows a facility how to get the most out of a limited budget."

"Our staff of 16 highly trained and experienced agronomists provides on-course consulting services to more than 1,600 golf courses each year," he said. "Odds are high that our agronomists have seen your special course problems before and can give you quality solutions that will save you time, money and frustration. The staff is disbursed throughout the country in different regions and sees most of the turf problems experienced in a region as well as their solutions."

To apply for this one-time TAS offer, please send a letter of intent or purchase order, along with the name and telephone number of your course official whom the USGA should contact, to:

USGA Green Section
Public Golf Course Offer
P.O. Box 708
Far Hills, NJ 07931-0708