

FLOOD OF '72

Agnes will long be remembered by all East Coast Superintendents; probably more so than hurricane Hazel in 1955.

Agnes was unique in that all damage resulted from flooding and raging currents of water. Relatively little wind destruction was noted in the Mid-Atlantic area.

The Mid-Atlantic States were not familiar with handling such a crisis and consequently were unprepared for Agnes. Most courses suffered much loss of trap sand, washed out pump houses, bridges, and maintenance shops.

Hardest hit in our area was Mike McKenzie at Goose Creek C.C. in Leesburg, Virginia. Some of you Washingtonians might have noticed Mike was pictured on the front page of the Washington Star paddling across his course in a canoe.

Four holes at Goose Creek - tee to green - were completely covered with at least one foot of silt, debris mixed with oil, grease and gas, and many dead uprooted trees. Mike's shop, located near the turbulent Goose Creek, was severely flooded. All his maintenance equipment suffered from silt and oil deposits, including his car which has since been junked. "I was standing in ankle deep water in my shop, and 40 minutes later I was swimming", Mike said.

Mike's first major effort of clean up was to remove the silt off his greens and salvage his power equipment from the mud covered shop. For three days, he and his men worked on uncovering the greens on the back nine and two greens on the front: some of which were hard to locate because familiar landmarks were washed down the river and land contours changed.

How does one go about removing slick silt, mixed with grease and oil, from the surface of greens? Mike found an answer. He bought out all the laundry soap from the area stores and powdered his greens with soap. A four inch water hose was then used to flush the surface clean. Mike shoveled much of the debris off before soaping his greens. Some greens were pure white in color after cleaning, which was attributed to lack of sunlight and oxygen. As of this date, the soaped greens are recovering well with 75 to 80% salvaged.

Mike's primary objective now is to keep the front nine open for play and concentrate on clean up on the back nine to prepare for fall seeding of tees, fairways and lost greens. Hopefully the full 18 will be open by next spring.

VIRGINIA GETS 3rd GENERATION "SUPERINTENDENT"

Michael Paul McKenzie, born June 1, 1972, provided the McKenzie's with a healthy 7 lb. boy. His father, Mike, is superintendent at Goose Creek Golf Course in Leesburg, Virginia. Mike's father, Paul, is superintendent at Chartwell Golf and Country Club in Arnold, Maryland.

JOB REQUEST

Douglas Eugene Dailey received a B.S. in agronomy in June, 1972 from V.P.I. He is interested in golf course work in the Washington area. He is 22 years old, single, and his military status is 4F. For further information contact him directly. His address is Route 5 Box 451, Winchester, Virginia.

RAINGAUGE READINGS

Last year at this time, 15.25 inches of rain was recorded from April thru mid July. It was a very wet year for our area. This year 34.5 inches of rain was recorded for the same period of 3½ months. Over 15 inches of this rain fell during the month of June. (These readings are of the Rockville area and may equal or surpass those in neighboring areas.)

With the above figures in mind it is interesting to note that one inch of water over one acre equals 27,000 gallons of water.

Fortunately, we are blessed with improved chemicals and modern maintenance equipment to enable most of us to live through this stress period of rain, heat and high humidity. The real summer is still in front of us, and a bad year is anticipated for all diseases, especially pythium. The use of fungicides on greens has increased in spite of the newly introduced systemic fungicides. This will increase our anticipated chemical and labor costs.

Increased frequency of mowing roughs and the shoveling and raking of washed out sand traps have also increased our labor costs.

HOPE YOU'RE FEELING BETTER

Jim Reid, retired superintendent of Suburban Club of Baltimore (1951 - 1967) recently became ill and is now in the Chapel Hill Convalescent Home. Jim would appreciate a card or note from his Mid-Atlantic friends.

His address is: Chapel Hill Convalescent Home
Liberty and Robosom Road
Randallstown, Maryland 21133

RAINY DAY JOBS

This topic has plagued all of us this year in the Mid-Atlantic States, more so than normal. Rainy day jobs become scarce when we live through a constant monsoon season.

Early in the morning the skies darken, rain begins to fall, and the crew comes in quickly. The repair of equipment was completed during the last weeks rain, new tee markers and benches were made, some painting was done, and the whole shop was cleaned out twice. You don't want to send the men home - good men should be guaranteed a 40 hour work week. Unfortunately rainy days are hereto stay and constructive work must be found for all employees.

The old motto "Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today" does not apply if you can hold a given inside project for a time when rain delays outside work. Your files should contain a folder on suitable jobs for bad weather days. This will help you prepare ahead by having on hand materials needed for any given project - 4x4's for tee markers, cement and redwood for benches, etc.

Following are a few guidelines to insure all employees a productive rainy day's work:

Equipment Familiarization

Teach the proper technique of sharpening a reel, bed-knife, or chainsaw to all who operate this equipment. Have