

much trouble and not our concern anyway? HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?

We as Superintendents have two (2) choices: Either we can stand around and cry "employee snatching" or we can make a concerted effort to develop our own personnel management ability. Personnel management is not an innate quality; it has to be worked at and learned. The choice, Superintendents, is ours!

"Employee Snatching" or "Passing the Buck"?

Virgil G. Robinson, Jr.

Jim Lathan, chief Field Agronomist for the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission sent us the following poem regarding the article "Keep Trying" also in the April edition.

THE SECRET OF GOLF A SURMISE

He could loft a ball from the top of his watch straight into his beaver hat.
He could tee a ball on the window-sill and pink the vagrom* cat.
He could putt from the top of the oaken stair to a hole on the floor below.
And niblick the sphere from a baby's ear and the baby wouldn't know.
He could brassie some fifteen hundred feet and clip off a daisy's top.
He could jigger the ball o'er a steeple tall as most men would jigger a cop,
He could stand on his head, to his caddie's dread, and dismay of all hard by,
And then, with the ease with which you would sneeze, lift the ball from a cuppy, lie.
He could drive a ball for two hundred yards to the blade of a carver, keen,
And cut it in two as easy as you could slice up sod from the green.
The bird that flies high up in the skies he'd wing with his driving cleek,
And I've seen him graze as soft as haze the down on a damsel's cheek.
But he never could win in the tournaments, no matter how well he played,
He'd never a cup on his mantle-piece; in medals was never arrayed.
For though his game was the finest golf that ever was witnessed yet,
He never could seem to comprehend a bit of golf etiquette.
He'd cross the putt of the other man, he'd play when nearer the hole,
He couldn't grasp the simplest rules to save his golfing soul.
And that is why this golfer keen is never "up" but "down";
And that is why this King of the Green doesn't wear the golfer's crown.
The moral is clear, oh golfer bold; oh golfer strong and true;
You may be able to whack the ball, and make your opponent blue;

You may be able to do freak things, and play past all compare;
but unless you learn the etiquette, you'd better play solitaire.

Carlyle Smith

From Harper's Magazine of 1899

*a corruption of "vagrant"

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above poem was "exhumed" by Harold Gard while cleaning out a desk drawer. Has anyone else similar gems buried elsewhere? J.H.B.

The following was sent in by Tom Harris of G.L. Cornell Co.

REELS VERSUS FLAILS AND ROTARIES by Stephen Moffett, Grass Cutting Equipment Co. Rochester New York

Reel type mowers are the safest, most efficient and most economical for maintaining turf areas that are cut regularly. Grass is sheared cleanly by an action similar to the blades of a pair of scissors.

Regular cutting prevents heavy stalk formation and permits plant nutrients to go into production of root and rhizome structures, important for effective soil binding.

Rotary mowers should be used for cutting tall grass, weeds and brush.

Many school boards, highway departments, municipalities and other customers having large grass areas do not realize the savings available with gang mowers and are inclined to buy rotary or flail mowers because of the lower purchase price.

Let's imagine an approximate 80 acre area and try to determine the type of mower best suited as to speed, cost, life span and expected maintenance cost. Let's draw a comparison between two basic types of mowers: (1) rotary or flail and (2) 5-gang Blitzer mower. For our purpose, let's use 43,500 ft. per acre.

We assume the terrain is average, and the day is 8 hours long, which actual test is really only 6 productive hours allowing 2 hours for time lost in coffee break, toilet break, long lunch and in going to and from the mowing area (not equipment breakdown), etc.

(A) A PTO rotary type or PTO flail type, cutting a 6' swath and using the following formula:
66" swath (72" less 6" overlap) @ 3 mph x 6 hrs/day cuts a little more than 12 acres per day or 6.75 days mowing time for 80 acres.

(B) a 5-gang Blitzer, using the above formula but having a cutting swath of 11' 10" and a speed of 8 mph cuts a little more than 66 acres per day or 1.2 days of mowing time for 80 acres.

Approximate list prices are:

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|-----------------|------------|
| Rotary or Flail | \$ 700.00 |
| 5-Gang Blitzer | \$3,350.00 |

Estimated life spans are:

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|-----------------|----------|
| Rotary or Flail | 4 years |
| Gang Mower | 10 years |

Using \$5.00 per hour for a man and tractor, labor alone would cost \$270.00 for each mowing with a rotary or flail and with a 5-gang Blitzer, labor would cost \$48.00 for each mowing. Assuming we have a normal mowing season of 26 mowings, seasonal costs would be as follows:

- (a) Rotary or Flail 26 x \$270.00 or \$7,020.00
- (b) Gang Mowers 26 x \$ 48.00 or \$1,248.00

From these figures, the tremendous savings that the 5-gang mower could effect are apparent. Many times the most expensive equipment at the time of purchase will prove to be the most economical when put to use.

Now a word on maintenance costs. The rotary or flail mower should be greased twice a day, and knives should be checked, sharpened from time to time during the season and sometimes changed. The gang mower does not require any greasing for an entire season. The big 10" reel cuts dandelion and most other weeds as long as a reasonable mowing program is maintained.

The rotary or flail mowers definitely have their place and can be used advantageously on some areas, but on large and reasonably maintained turf areas, the Blitzer mower will prove to be the least expensive method of cutting grass.

MID-ATLANTIC BY-LAW AMENDMENT

Notice to Superintendents with assistants - Article 5, Section H, Class D, Assistant.

Proposed amendment change to read as follows: Shall be employed full time as an assistant by a class A member of the association. He shall not have the right to vote or hold office.

SURPRISE

George Thompson, Superintendent of Columbia C.C., Chevy Chase, Maryland, was shocked to see his face on the front cover of The Golf Superintendent. The article inside featured the write-up he received last summer in the Washington Post Magazine - Potomac. Someone should let us know these things.

NEW EDITION

Tom Haske and wife Carole were blessed with a new baby named Carolyn who weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz.

FYI

Anyone interested in authentic Penngift Crownvetch, call Dr. Grau at 864-0090.

IT'S NOT HOW MUCH YOU KNOW BUT HOW WELL YOU USE WHAT YOU KNOW

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