

up with a solution. After the first day of the tournament, he had his men spread grass seed along the crowd's traffic patterns. "The spectators spiked the seed into the ground for me, and all I had to do was water it," recalls Mr. Miles. "Three weeks after the tournament you wouldn't know we had anybody here."

Working with nature is the easiest part of their jobs, the superintendents agree. It's getting along with the club members that can be a strain, which is why some superintendents dream up occasional little extras as public relations efforts. On ladies' day at Sunset Country Club in St. Louis, for example, superintendent Robert V. Mitchell sets out potted geraniums at the tees and marks the cups on each green with pink poles holding pink flags trimmed in black lace.

It helps to have a tight rein on tempers, too. One recent Fourth of July the Danville, Ill., Country Club brought in some ponies for member's children to ride. That night somebody tied one pony to the flag on a green. When James W. Brandt, the superintendent, arrived at work the following morning he found the tethered pony had worn a trench in the green by circling the pole all night.

The bad luck award, however, seems to have been permanently retired by Fred Harris, superintendent of the 27-hole Los Coyotes Country Club near Los Angeles. In October 1964, he bought some fertilizer and told his men to put it on a few greens. Unfortunately, when the stuff had been packaged, soil sterilants somehow were mixed in with the nutrients, and every blade of grass on four greens promptly withered and died.

A livid board of directors threatened to fire Mr. Harris, but he proved with soil tests it wasn't his fault. After a long period of litigation involving the fertilizer company and other suppliers, the club was reimbursed for the damage. Meanwhile, it took six months to rebuild the greens.

Then in December of the same year, a mammoth storage tank on a neighboring oil tank farm sprang a leak and sent about 300,000 barrels of crude oil gurgling over five Los Coyotes fairways. The oil company resodded the course, but with soil that had such a high saline content it took Mr. Harris a year to restore the fairways to normal.

The worst most superintendents have to put up with is vandalism, which is increasing despite efforts to increase grounds security. Besides tearing up the sod with drag races or spinning motorcycles, a seemingly favorite bit of vandalism is scratching dirty words deeply into the close-cropped greens. "It always seems to happen just before the ladies' tournament," moans one superintendent.

At one Los Angeles-area course, the superintendent walked out one recent morning to find a green completely stripped of sod. The police quickly nailed the culprit, a nearby homeowner who had decided his yard needed some nice grass. "It was easy to track him down," says a friend of the course superintendent. "All they did was go down the street and look for the best lawn on the block."

Reprint from the front page of **The Wall Street Journal**

### INSTRUCTION IN TURF MANAGEMENT

J. D. Butler will be teaching Turf Management, Horticulture E236 at the Naperville High School on Tuesday evenings, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., beginning

September 16 and ending on January 23. Description of this course is as follows:

The principles and practices used in the management of turfgrasses is the areas of general and special use. Of value to students interested in one or more aspects of turfgrass utilization. The course will include lectures, assigned readings, and laboratory exercises. Enrollment in this class is limited. Pre-enrollments will be accepted in the order received, Masters degree or Advanced Certificate in Education candidates at the University will have preference. This course will carry 3 semester hours credit if taken for college credit, or it may be attended as a visitor after due registration procedure. Further information concerning this course may be obtained by writing to Mr. R. F. Casper, Extension Specialist, Division of University Extension, Box 4348, Chicago, Illinois 60680, or by calling 663-8560.

### NEW RAIN BIRD DISTRIBUTOR FOR NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Ed Shoemaker of the Rain Bird Sprinkler Company of Glendora, California and Peoria, Illinois, recently announced the appointment of Illinois Lawn Equipment, Inc., 14750 LaGrange Road, Orland Park, Illinois, as the new distributor for the northern fifteen counties of Illinois, including Chicago.

Robert G. Johnson, of Illinois Lawn Equipment, Inc., stated that his sales department has been attending factory training schools and holding field trips to become better acquainted in the field of automatic underground irrigation systems.

Illinois Lawn Equipment, Inc. has been the Jacobsen turf distributor as well as representative for many other nationally known lines for the past fifteen years and are looking forward to working with Rain Bird, which has been the top line in the field for many years.



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