

capacity until February, 1971, when he was appointed president emeritus.

Also active in numerous community activities, Mr. Kramer served on the St. Matthews Lutheran School Board in Benton Harbor for four years (two of them as board chairman).

Survivors include his wife, Peggy, and two teenage daughters, Lauri and Lynn, who reside in Benton Harbor, Michigan.

CHEMICAL BAN PUTS 'BLACK HAT' ON GOLF'S GREENSKEEPERS

By John Husar
(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

DENVER, Feb 9—For the first time in their quiet, contemplative lives, the nation's greenskeepers are wearing black hats.

Because of their position on the use of pesticides and other chemical agents, they are among the "bad guys" in the environmental battle against pollution.

Naturally, as people who have spent lifetimes practicing the element of conservation, they do not like their new image. The corridors and back rooms at the Golf Course Superintendents Association convention fairly ring with hurt, defensive talk. Their leaders have vowed to hammer out some type of guidelines by the end of the week.

Basically, the men who care for the grass, trees, and shrubbery around the golf courses do not believe that certain potentially harmful chemicals should be banned. Controlled, yes — just as society limits the prescription of some drugs to doctors and pharmacists — but not denied to proven experts, which the greenskeepers rate themselves.

Rspnding to the pressure of the times, they will agree to undergo strict governmental testing and licensing if only they can have the freedom to apply chemicals as they see fit.

In Massachusetts and Ontario, such testing is underway. "You'd be surprised how many boys have to take a course and go back a second time," said a Canadian. "We feel this is upgrading the profession."

The prime fear of superintendents is that severe chemical suppression will downgrade their work. "We'll probably revert to 1940 turf conditions," said Norman Kramer, president of the association.

Lee Record, midwestern agronomist for the United States Golf Association said there may be no way to control weeds and plant diseases sizably, according to today's standards.

"It will separate the men from the boys in our business," he said. "An awful lot of the younger men have never had to work without these chemicals."

Already, Illinois has banned four major agents — DDT, a foe of insects; deildrin and aldrin, which are hydrocarbons lethal to grubworms; and a weed defoliant canned 2,4,5-T, which has been successful in Viet Nam. All four leave residues that appear in animals and streams.

Other states have gone even further. New York, for example, has rigid controls on 50 chemicals and has banned 10 others — notably mercuries and arsenates. While these chemicals are used throughout agriculture, they are of particular importance to the golf course superintendents.

"People will not have the groomed courses they have gotten used to," Record said. "And I wonder what will happen to the memberships of some shaky

private clubs, where people have been paying so much for this extra grooming."

To a man, the greenskeepers believe that overzealous, emotional crusaders have blown concern for the chemicals out of proportion. They insist they know of no instances where humans have been hurt by chemical use, especially on golf courses.

"Why, everytime you go to the dentist and get a filling, you'll have more metallic mercury in that filling than you'll have in five lifetimes with these chemicals," said Ben Chlevin, the association's executive director. "We're evolving into a society of unthinking people."

Allied with spokesmen for the chemical companies, the greenskeepers are arguing that these chemicals have helped lessen disease (in the case of DDT, Typhus and Malaria) while contributing an abundance of foodstuffs.

"Some of these people want us to hand the planet back to nature," Chlevin said, "instead of continuing as we have for thousands of years — battling to overcome nature."

While the superintendents talk of developing a belligerent attitude and plan ways of gathering public support for their chemicals, other elements of the campaign are being mounted.

One industry speaker suggests using the term "crop protection agents" instead of the lethal-sounding "pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides."

Nevertheless, there are signs that the industry is coming around. Grumbling about complex processes, high costs, and so-so results, company spokesmen are telling of products that break apart chemically instead of seeping into the environment.

Reluctantly, they are issuing lists of substitutes that appear to do the Job — maybe less satisfactorily, and sometimes not at all. But they're trying.

According to Record, better cultural practices probably will evolve as a result of the controversy.

"I think you'll find a lot of the guys are going to have to be more observant about their chemicals from now on," he said.

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