

are going to find out it's not going to work and there really is no money saved. So let me be absolutely blunt. Become a manager or stay a golf course superintendent, but whatever, be true to yourself—you can't be superb at both jobs. Declare your hand. Don't get into a mixed-up ball game—unless you want to change jobs every few years like some of the general managers are doing. The wise ones (and we have a few outstanding ones in the Chicago area) work with us, co-operate with us, communicate and co-ordinate with us, but are smart enough to keep their hands and noses out of our responsibilities and something they don't know anything about. And that's the way it should be.

I would like to say something else also. I am not, nor is anybody else, impressed by greenkeepers calling themselves managers, golf engineers, turf managers and other nonsensical names. Golf or green superintendents — yes, greenkeepers — lovely, "grass growers or grass farmers" is fine with me. I know what I am and I make good money at it. I don't need to seek extra "janitorial" jobs around the clubhouse to tarnish my true professional image. My direct responsibility is the golf course and that load is heavy enough for me. And please don't give me that old crap about shrinking my duty as a breadwinner, or not being able to take on extra responsibility, or not trying to uplift our profession. I take on more responsibility and I am more involved with exciting things than I know what to do with—for my family and for the image of my profession. And I know many of you are the same. Long ago I could have become manager, but that's not my forte. I am a GREENKEEPER and in this field of endeavor I strive for perfection.

There is something else I must tell you that is in me (and unless you have a touch of the same, you might as well become a manager or go into something else). I would miss the soft warm rains that fall on the turf that I grow. I would miss the white snow that covers the golf course in late fall for the first time, melts, and then softly comes again. I would truly miss all the challenges of mother nature that go with my profession. The hot sun of summer heat and the salty sweat of humidity on my brow. I would miss the pleasure of admiring turf manicured and maintained under both good and adverse conditions and I know that I had a hand in keeping the verdant picture that way. But of course there would be other things also, soothing the frustrations of working with mother nature. I would miss her many gifts to us greenkeepers, the trees changing in the seasons and the flowering shrubs in spring. I would miss the daisies and other wild flowers hiding from our mowers next to the majestic elms, and I would miss the pheasants calling to their mates in early morning. I know I would miss the honest faces of commercial friends calling on me and old greenkeepers advising me. But most of all I would miss getting up each early morning and playing the endless chess game of man against nature, or perhaps more truthfully, trying to work with her and relishing the achievement and oh, the satisfaction and the pleasure that comes once in a while each season when just for a short time I have won the battle.

Paul N. Voykin, President

Midwest Association dinner dance will be held at River Forest Golf Club on Saturday Night, October 14.



Editor

## Editorial

Many people write articles or make statements that everyone cannot accept. I have read articles and listened to discussions advocating the use of topdressing on golf greens. After having spent fifty-six years of my life on a golf course, I feel that I am in a position to make a few statements on the subject.

I agree that a newly constructed green requires topdressing until the time that the putting surface is smooth and the turfgrass has established itself. What would happen if no more topdressing is applied? A reasonable answer is that it depends on how well the construction of the green was executed. Let us assume that the green has excellent drainage, is finished with ten to twelve inches of the best top soil that humanly can be made, is planted with a good strain of grass and receives proper management. What are some of the disadvantages or problems that could be created by the use of topdressing?

On the morning following the day the topdressing was applied the green will usually be wet, either from dew, rainfall or sprinkler. The early golfers will be walking on the wet topdressing resulting in the creation of a hard thin layer, especially near the cup. How many days will it take before this is no longer noticeable?

When will the green be mowed? One must wait until the surface of the green is dry—late enough to interfere with the golfer who sometimes becomes sort of abusive. What about the damage done to the mower that is used to cut the topdressed green? Is topdressing a maintenance procedure that has been carried on from years ago, before the equipment that we have today was available? Has not our increased knowledge permitted the unnecessary use of topdressing?

I know of a good private club on the west side of Chicago that has good putting greens. Seven of them have not been topdressed in thirty-seven years. The other eleven were rebuilt between twenty-five and thirty years ago and were topdressed occasionally for about two years—after that, nothing. Another course nearby has not topdressed greens during the past seventeen years and they are good putting greens.

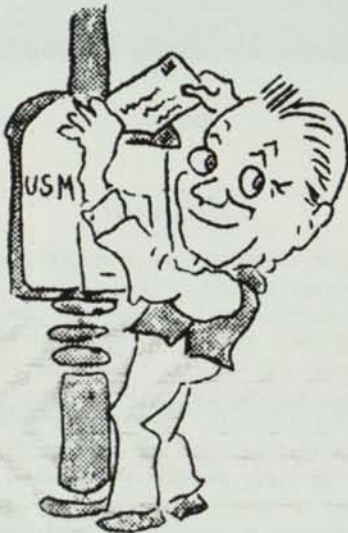
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These two clubs have one thing in common. The greens were not built in a **slipshod way**. **Good workmanship** took place at all times. The greens have good drainage; are finished with ten to twelve inches of the best top soil man could make; and were planted with a **good strain of grass on a smooth surface**. **Good planning** and **construction work done with pride** will yield dividends in future years.

If you do not agree with the statements that I have made, letters to the editor are welcome.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## CHLOROSIS — KILLER OF PIN OAKS

Courtesy Nels J. Johnson

A tree or plant with abnormally yellow foliage could be in serious trouble. If the veins remain green while the rest of the leaf is yellow the plant is suffering from chlorosis, generally caused by lack of available iron.

Among plants most sensitive to chlorosis are the various oak species with pin oak the most severely affected. Sugar maple, sweet gum, tulip tree, birch, quince, rhododendron, heather often are also chlorotic.

One of the peculiarities of chlorosis is that one tree may exhibit severe pallor while a neighboring tree of the same species will be normally green.

Treatment of trees, suffering from chlorosis caused by iron deficiency, varies with local conditions. Alkaline soils "tie up" the iron, making it unavailable to the plants. It is commonly known that many trees and plants do best on acid to neutral soils. Correcting chlorosis then becomes a matter of changing the "ph", making the soils more acid. This is done by adding iron sulfate, powdered sulfur, aluminum sulfate and ammonium sulfate. Lately, chelated iron, a complex chemical compound has also been successfully used.

Teacher: "Claude, this is terrible writing. Why can't you write so I can read it?"

Claude: "Sure I can, but then you'd complain about my spelling."



Walter Pieper

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents will hold their September meeting at Flossmoor Country Club on September 18. Walter Pieper will be host Superintendent.

Walter has been employed at Flossmoor Country Club for the past forty years. Eighteen of these years as Superintendent. His son has been with him at Flossmoor for fifteen years and is his assistant. This sounds like a good deal for Walter, Dale and also the club.

Flossmoor Country Club is south of Chicago at Flossmoor, Illinois. Check your road map for correct directions.

The sympathy of the Midwest Golf Course Superintendents Association is extended to Mrs. William Brenner and family at the death of Mr. Brenner. Bill was a member of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents and a golf course superintendent for many years. He will be missed by his many friends.

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