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Mike Bavier — President

The President's Message

General Manager — Executive Director — and what next! Corporate Superintendent?! Yes, these are just a few of the titles being used today. Some of you are already familiar with this terminology from personal experiences, past conferences, and magazine articles. Those of you that were in attendance at the Midwest Turf Clinic this fall were able to hear a talk given by a general manager — Mr. Harry Gray from Exmoor Country Club did a fine job covering the subject, both pros and cons. However, he could relate only to the situation at his own club and, as he said, it might not work at every club. The Turf Clinic committee was quite progressive in having a general manager on the program, for this has been a so-called "hands off" subject locally and nationally. Hopefully, we haven't delayed too long in discussing the general manager concept — each of us needs to obtain some insight into this occasional thought of panacea.

Probably the biggest objection most golf course superintendents have to a general manager is that many times he knows little, if anything, about golf course maintenance. Possibly only a general manager that is experienced in club house operation, has a background in the game of golf, and has some knowledge of course upkeep would be of much benefit to a country club.

Over the last few years, there has seemed to be some cooperative effort by the golf professionals, club managers, and golf course superintendents to uphold the triumvirate structure at country clubs. This seems to be falling through with many managers and some pros and "greenkeepers" trying to assume other duties. Last year's president of the P.G.A., Bill Clarke, has taken on the duties of "executive director" at his club and, as was stated in the last issue of **Golf-dom**, he feels that many new golf superintendents are strictly turf oriented. This is a little hard to believe considering the number of potential superintendents coming out of many fine universities with outstanding curriculums in both turf and business. Also, the superintendent's associations, both local and national, have many superior education programs compared to the other related professions. In my opinion, the counter to Mr. Clarke's statement might be that most of the new golf professionals are strictly clothing merchants, which we know is absurd. (By the

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ABOUT OUR COVER PICTURE

Ray and Jo Gerber will be married 50 years on February 18, 1975. In Ray's absence, the Board of Directors of the Association decided to surprise them for their anniversary by printing their picture on the cover of this month's paper.

way, a letter to Mr. Clarke regarding his **Golfdom** article was sent by your president.)

So where does all this lead us? Right back to the triumvirate structure where you have **good qualified department heads** running **each department**. Along with this, we have the **members** as the nucleus of the structure. Letting the members be a part of the club operations is as it should be, like you and I are part of our church activities and other organizations with different committees to work for the cause. This keeps the check and balance system in order. Oh yes, there are members interested and that have the time to serve on committees or the board, for it is their club and only their support will make the operation a successful one.

General Manager or Executive Director — will this be the trend in the future? Even though it is our responsibility to be prepared for this situation, let's hope we can continue to cooperate and combine ideas at our clubs while, at the same time, strive to keep our professions separate.

Last fall at **Turnberry Country Club**, we added a variety of trees to improve the beauty of our course and also making it more challenging for our members.

We planted trees such as Emerald Queen Maples, Skyline Locust, Shade Master Locust, October Glory, Pen Oak, Australian Pines and White Pines.

Most of the trees averaged 3-4" trunks. Some were balled and the others were moved with a Vermeer 44. We used a 24" auger on a three point hitch PTO operated to plant the balled trees. We used the auger to dig three or four holes the depth we needed and to remove the soil between the holes. We dug all the holes about four inches wider around the balls in order to place better soil mixed with peat around the balls. We saturated the soil around the balls to eliminate air pockets.

We used a Vermeer 44 to move the Emerald Queen Maples, Pen Oaks, Skyline Locust. The machine was mounted on a 1-Ton chassis and can move trees up to 4" trunks. We also had a Vermeer 60 that's supposed to move trees with a 9" trunk. We decided to try moving a couple of pines that size. We had the machine pick one up to see how large the roots were and how many were actually in the ball and then decided to return the pine and move the smaller trees of 7" in diameter rather than chance losing the larger ones.

Clifford Behrendt, Supt. Turnberry C.C.

Mr. Ray Gerber, Editor
865 Hillside Ave., Glen Ellyn, Ill. 60137
Dear Ray:

It is indeed a pleasure to be included on the mailing list of your fine publication, and I appreciate very much your thoughtfulness in sending it to me.

The experience at Medinah was indeed a most pleasant one for Joe Vargas and me, and we were most pleased to get acquainted with your fine group down there.

Hope this finds you well and having a happy holiday season.

Best wishes,
Kenyon T. Payne, Professor

The January issue just arrived — Charlie's "wet elbow" turned out swell!

THE FUTURE FOR FERTILIZER

Dr. Robert W. Schery
Director, Lawn Institute

In order to better feed on ill-fed world suggestions have been advanced, even legislation proposed, to restrict fertilization of non-farm plantings in America. That this would be ill-advised is evident to those familiar with urban and recreational horticulture, and to those aware of the food producing system in most of the less-developed countries.

What little "extra" fertilizer might be released for food production, by denying ornamental maintenance in America, is but a drop in the bucket. Moreover, where famine is chronic, factors other than fertilizer limit the food crop. Lack of a food-marketing system rewarding a grower for the cost of fertilization is said to be the chief disincentive to greater fertilization in underdeveloped countries. Actually, worldwide, upwards of 90% of fertilizer demand is being met, and, as new production comes on stream within a few years, there should be surpluses. Where food crops are under-fertilized, it is usually because no system exists for distributing fertilizer, or properly using it, rather than its absolute unavailability. Food insufficiencies result from many causes, and technological agriculture (emphasizing fertilization) such as we are familiar with in temperate regions may be entirely inappropriate for crowded, tropical lands.

On the other hand, fertilization of non-farm plantings is not just a luxury but a necessity for urban well-being. Parks, gardens and street plantings make a more healthful environment (less suicides, less infant mortality), and a more enjoyable one (less psychotic irritations). Turf guards and builds the soil, preventing erosion and siltation. Ornamental plantings absorb noxious gases, and refresh the air with oxygen. They recycle nutrients, hold down dust, abate noise. In summer they cool surroundings several degrees, and in winter they buffer habitations, saving energy. Indeed, reasonable fertilization is not only necessary for plantings to survive in the difficult urban environment, but it saves energy and costs because it makes other maintenance (such as weeding) less necessary.

Most certainly today is not the time to be extravagant with fertilizer, although shortages and present price pretty well assure that. But to maintain our horticultural standards, and to keep our heavily-used recreational grounds in service, certainly we cannot forego use of fertilization entirely. As Business Week reports, "By applying an effective population-control policy —, South Asian countries could avoid starving 500 million children to death. With no population control, despite help from developed countries, famine conditions will be 'apocalyptic'". A monumental problem of this nature must be dealt with in meaningful ways, in the regions where the problem occurs, and not by trivial improvisations such as over-restricting fertilizer use in America.

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