

Editorial

by Bruce A. Burchfield
Superintendent Calumet Country Club

As I sit here on this January day, one might think my main thoughts would primarily be concerned with the usual winter chores of getting ready for the upcoming season and anticipating a trip to our National Conference. However, I have had a very trying experience which has occupied the majority of my time. I would like to relate this experience to some of the younger superintendents, such as myself, and to the more experienced ones also, who possibly may have not had this problem.

A new irrigation system was installed last season at our club. Before proposing the new system to the general membership, we (The Board of Governors and myself) contacted the local well works company and requested all the information which they may have on our two wells. They were very cooperative and told us we have good wells and our pumps should be in good condition, due to recent repairs. The galonage required for the new system was the same as required for the old system, and there appeared to be no problem. I proposed to The Board of Governors that we have tests run on both wells anyway. But, due to the fine report the well works company had given us, and the recent repairs, it was decided that the testing was not necessary at the present time.

Now the problem begins. The new irrigation system was completed and we found that we were short of water and pressure. Once again the well works company was contacted. They now think that the pump bowls and impellers could be worn, or possibly we need a couple of stages added to the present pump. Lowering the pump to a deeper setting would also be done with the addition of the stages, to insure the possibility of not breaking suction. The well works people were doubtful if acidizing would be beneficial.

After discussing this matter with the superintendents in the neighborhood, one suggested I contact C. E. (Scotty) Stuart on the matter. Scotty stated that according to his last test of our well (1957), and comparing it with the wells in the area, that we should be producing much more water.

Because of the fact that the well was only an eight inch hole (drilled in 1918), could it be that the 7'-5/8" pump was actually plugged off the top fissures of the well over the past several months. The pump was lowered 20 ft. (80' - 100') two years previous. We decided we would raise the pump back to its original setting (80'), and acidize with one thousand gallons of 15% muriatic acid. Lo and behold we not only increased our water capacity back to its original expectations, but also added an additional 150 gpm (90 gpm - 500 gpm).

The reasoning became so very apparent. The pump was actually blocking off the top fissures of the well, and a gradual bridging was forming between the large pump and the bore of the well. The acidizing

cleaned out the fissures which had not been used to their full capacity.

The cost to acidize and adjust the pump came to a total under \$3,000.00, quite a lot less than drilling a new well or purchasing a new pump, which in this case would not have helped anyway. I am convinced that one cannot afford not to contact a knowledgeable individual, such as an irrigation or civil engineer, who knows the situation of the wells and water tables in your area, before hiring a well works company to either sell you a new pump or drill a new well.

A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT THE WORLD FOOD SHORTAGE

As most of you have read recently we, in the turf industry, have been blamed for a good portion of the food shortages in the world.

We are fertilizing our grass on our golf courses when people in other parts of the world are not able to buy fertilizer and consequently they are starving to death.

Nothing is being said about the fertilizer used to grow tobacco, which we all know is of no benefit to man — (It actually kills people because of the cancer caused by smoking) maybe that's not all bad either because then we would have fewer people to feed.

Nothing is being said about the alcohol being produced from grain and hops — these all need fertilizer too.

What about all the pets that mess up our lawns and golf courses? It is estimated that our cats and dogs in America consume enough food to feed over 10,000,000 people — No one mentions this point — because the Humane Society would not allow it.

We don't have a lobby in Washington to extol the benefits of turf in America.

Sure, golf is a rich man's game. But he needs this sport to wind down after a tough day at work. It is mentally rewarding.

The oxygen produced by the grass is also beneficial —

A plot of grass 25 feet x 25 feet (625 square feet) can produce enough oxygen to support the life of four people.

There are seventy such plots per acre or enough oxygen produced to sustain the life of 280 people per acre.

Most golf courses average 130 acres in area so the average golf course supports 36,400 people.

The State of Michigan has over 500 golf courses located throughout the State. This is enough grass to support the oxygen needs of 18,300,000 people There are over 11,000 golf courses in America.

Some other beneficial aspects of turf are:

Erosion control caused by wind and water; Air purification (turns CO into O); it is valuable in noise abatement; cools the air, reduces glare, and increases property value.

The next time someone feels that we are responsible for the starvation of people because of our fertilizer use — just point out all the good we are doing for America. We are supporting life through oxygen production, and because of this, we have been helping to keep the air fit for breathing, which perhaps is more important than food.

Taken from **A Patch of Green**

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