

## OPENING A FRESH CAN OF WORMS—

Let's torpedo the "Greatest Show on Turf", yes, let's scrap the annual extravaganza called our national turf conference sponsored by the G.C.S.A.A. That's heresy you say; hear me out.

In January 1981 of the two hundred greenkeepers registered in metropolitan Chicago, less than sixty journeyed to Anaheim. Our commercial members were there in the tinselled booths with the buxom models distributing orange caps, key chains, ... even popcorn. The "new" equipment was there, with a different paint job and fresh new decals. The show floor has been invaded by tinkers and gypsies, the New Orleans exhibit will probably display encyclopedias and sweat-suits and jogging shoes.

Did the sixty of us go to Anaheim to sit in the operators seat or to kick the tires, on the "new" equipment? Not really. **Gerry Adank** (Illinois Lawn Equip.), **Vern Rascher** (Roseman Mower) or **Ray Scherden** (Toro) would be glad to deliver the 1981 models to our courses, and leave them for a day for our scrutiny and approval.

How many of us sat and listened to more than six educational lectures? I missed the ones on "Spring Deadspot on Bermuda Grass", "Nematodes are Felling the Royal Palms in Southern Florida" and "Will Volcanic Ash Ruin the Apple Crop in Yakima Valley"? I'm sure the program committee realizes you can't please everyone, but to import a prominent speaker and only have thirty people in the audience is most embarrassing. Perhaps there are too many distractions: delegates meetings, politicking, hospitality rooms and such. On the other hand, the USGA deserves four stars for their program on Thursday.

Who made the trip West? The same guys that attend every meeting, Albie and Bob Breen, Tony and Dave Meyer, Don Hoffman and Lenny Berg, and the three musketeers, Frederickson, Gilman, and DiGuido. You others were conspicuous by your absence. Why didn't you attend? I'll tell you, it wasn't complacency, it was ... **COST!** Roundtrip airfare - \$500.00, hotel room - \$70.00 per night, breakfast - \$6.00, dinner - \$20.00, scares you, right? How much do you think it cost Toro, Jacobsen, and Cushman to move the merchandise, and put the manpower in the booths? They felt the bite too. Was the overall effort worth it for anyone?

Just examine my log for educational meetings this winter: Daily Fee Owner and Operators at Michigan State in November (2 days), Midwest Clinic at Medinah in November (2 days), Illinois Turf Foundation at Springfield in December (3 days), National GCSAA Conference at Anaheim in January (8 days), Midwest Turf Conference at Purdue in March (3 days), USGA Seminar in Chicago in March (1 day) and CDGA Seminar at Butterfield in March (1 day). I didn't make the Milorganite Symposium, I had to **WORK!!!** My expenses for these meetings was over \$2,000.00. At three of these meetings I heard Oscar Miles speak on "Renovating Butler National". If I borrowed his slides, I could give his talk at the next meeting.

Here is my proposal. We should pool our efforts and condense all these road shows. Let's have one regional turf conference for each geographic area: Northeast, Southeast, Pacific Northwest, Desert, each year. For example:

**FOR EXAMPLE:** First week November 1985.

**SITE:** Chicago

**HOSTS:** GCSAA, Midwest Assn., Chicagoland Assn., Milwaukee Assn., Univ. of Illinois, USGA and the CDGA.

**SUNDAY:** Arrive and register at a hotel near O'Hare.

**MONDAY:** 18 hole golf tournament at Kemper Lakes

and Medinah, followed by social hour back at hotel.

**TUESDAY:** GCSAA offers two one-day seminars for certification credit.

**WEDNESDAY:** Morning session - Univ. of Ill.

"Research Progress Reports".

Afternoon session - USGA program, plus testing for Illinois Pesticide License.

Evening - Banquet with entertainment.

**THURSDAY:** Tour of selected Chicago Golf Courses, and then leave for home.

The following year move the conference to Columbus, Ohio. The GCSAA would team with local chapters and the professors from Ohio State to present the program. The golfing event on Monday could be at Muirfield Village. The following year on to Philadelphia, with the GCSAA working with the local chapter plus Penn State and Rutgers. Golf at Merion Golf Club and Pine Valley. Then think of the beautiful cities of Toronto, Colorado Springs, Montreal, Saratoga Springs in the Adirondacks, WOW! These smaller locations with cheaper hotel rates, less traveling time, some history or sightseeing, and a grand old golf course to play, what an inducement. Even the fellows staying home because of restricted budgets might be able to attend. Each area of the country would have a regional conference that moved annually from a city in our state, to a city in your state. Subject material would pertain to topics of interest in that locale. The speakers would not be talking to empty auditoriums. Booths and equipment displays would be at the discretion of area distributors. Perhaps a national equipment show could be arranged in a warm weather city, (Phoenix, Las Vegas, Orlando) about every fifth year.

I don't propose scuttling the GCSAA, or any of its educational pursuits. I only disapprove of the costly "three ring circus" it is putting on the road each February.

**Dudley Smith Silver Lake C.C.**

Note: If I don't hear any feedback on this, I'll know you didn't read the article.

## WATER - A TOPIC AT TURF CONFERENCE

The Turf Conference sponsored by the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation and Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN, at the beginning of March, 1981, was fully successful. Many famous speakers and lecturers discussed the latest problems on golf courses. Water was one of them.

Many cities and towns have shortages of drinking water and with the priority reserved for people and animals it becomes clear that there will be little of good water left for golf courses. Irrigation water is in many cases contaminated and it will be even more defective in the future. It means more toxicity and diseases of turfgrasses.

The golf course superintendents in the Chicago area began to tackle the problem of toxicity of irrigation water already 15 - 20 years ago. Some of them, as for example at Silver Lake C.C.; Elmhurst C.C.; Riverside C.C., to name just a few, have eliminated or substantially limited the damaging effects of defective irrigation water.

Since the problem of contaminated water today is more disturbing than ever before we have decided to reprint the article "The Problem of Contaminated Water", by V. J. Zolman which was first published in Turf-Grass Times and **The Bull Sheet** some 13 years ago and later reprinted in the Canadian periodical **The Greenmaster** in English and French.