

## From "Down Under" to "Up and Over"

Fred Opperman, CGCS, Editor

This message to report on the travels of your wandering Editor is first being written at 37,000 feet over the South Pacific just north of the island of Fiji. I have just finished visiting three different countries: New Zealand (both north & south islands), Australia, and Fiji.

I find the numbers of this trip kind of mind boggling, like: 37 days away from your family, 24,562 air miles which included 32 landings and take-offs on both private and commercial aircraft. The aircraft ranged from a tiny L4 World War II spotter plane (the only such plane in the southern hemisphere), a Cessna 180, up thru the 747B. A total of over 66 hours in the air. Bus trips totaling about 780 miles, and car/camper van of over 2,656 miles.

I was able to visit golf courses in all of the countries and the range of maintenance went from oiled greens in the desert of central Australia at Coober Pedy to the high budget of the Royal Sydney Golf Club where they employ both a greenkeeper who takes care of the 4 bowling greens (Penncross) and 13 grass tennis courts, flowers and shrubs around the clubhouse; plus a Golf Course Superintendent who maintains the 27 holes of golf with a crew of 15. In between these two extremes you have courses in New Zealand where in the summer they fence off the greens and turn the sheep loose to maintain the grass and keep it "cut" and fertilized. It seems the "Kiwi's" are too busy in the summer with their sailing, swimming, trekking, and camping to play much golf. Their golf season is during the winter months of June, July, and August.

The first golf course I visited in New Zealand I was behind a tanker truck going up the driveway to the clubhouse. But this tank truck was different from any I had ever seen before — it was a tanker full of beer. This beer tank truck was making a delivery at the clubhouse. I had heard that "down under" the people could drink beer; but a tank truck!

The Superintendents in New Zealand and Australia have the same problems we have in the north but they have one very serious problem we think we have, but really don't, when compared with their problem. Their serious problems is the availability of parts and equipment. Most of their turf equipment comes from the states and it is slow and hard to get anything and very expensive. We complain if we don't get it in a couple of days, they are happy if they get it in 2-3 weeks.

Overall my trip was a success and I had a great time and met a lot of wonderful people.

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John Lapp, CGCS

## "Wild March Hare"

That Wild March Hare is again on the run,  
Playing in the open, soaking up Sun.  
Scampering about, leaping for fare,  
Spurred on by Spring's smell in the Air.  
Just like that Hare, we're rearing to go,  
Soon as We're through with Ice and Snow.  
It's hard to hang in there, not jump the gun,  
Once You taste Spring's warming Sun.

Kenneth R. Zanzig

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### FOR SALE

Toro Super Pro, excellent condition. Reels all sharpened and ready to go. \$750.00 (negotiable). Contact: Roger Stewart, CGCS, Riverside Golf Club, 312-447-1049.

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### FOR SALE

1979 Toro Pro 84 — 7 blade reels, external oil filter & cooler, Roto Mist converted to trailer type leaf blower - directional, 4 cylinder engine, 2 sets spring comb kits for Toro series IV PGM, 2 sets caster wheel pull frames for Toro PGM III, ¾" irrigation keys & quick couplers, 1½" irrigation keys and quick couplers. Best Offer — Kishwaukee C.C. — Dan Murray, (815) 758-5273.

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### FOR SALE

1982 7 gang Jac F-10 Diesel, asking \$16,500, only 3 seasons of use. Call Bob Winter at Oak Brook Maintenance, (312) 759-0820.

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Pete Mirkes wishes to thank the members for remembering him while in the hospital and reports everything came out fine (what does that mean?) and is feeling great. (That's good to hear, Pete!)

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Move aside Donny Osmond, here comes The Big Al and Marie Show! That's right, for all you folks who missed the GCSAA Banquet and Show, Big Al made his stage debut with Marie Osmond. Seems Big Al got so excited on stage that when he got back to his seat there were sequins imbedded in his coat and tie! If you are interested, Big Al will have an autograph session at the next MAGCS meeting. Unfortunately, he only has pictures of himself for autographing. Contract negotiations for the remake of "A Star is Born" are reportedly moving at a slow pace! (Big Al alias Al Fierst)

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This editor would like to thank Roger Stewart for the great job he did in pasting up the February issue of **The Bull Sheet** and the gathering and writing of materials for the March issue. I think we might have found a replacement for me when I step aside some day. Thanks, Roger, for a good job while I was off down under playing in the sun.

Fred Opperman, Editor