

(Fusarium cont'd.)

Dr. Johnson suggests a sunscreen for all Caucasians who are exposed for long periods to the sun's ultraviolet rays. A sunscreen is a lotion designed to give protection in varying degrees. A sunscreen with a SPF of 10 offers ten times as much protection compared to no protection. The ultimate in protection is attained with a sunscreen offering a SPF of 15. Baby Oil, mineral oil or cocoa butter do not contain any protective ingredients and should be avoided. Dr. Johnson also suggests a Sam Snead type hat as being preferable to a cap.

If you are at all in doubt about whether or not you have skin cancer, I would suggest you see a dermatologist as in most cases the treatment is painless, consisting of freezing the affected area with liquid nitrogen. The dermatologist will also have a better opportunity for early detection of melanoma, which has increased 85% over the past several years and can prove to be life threatening.

## Immigration Information

To receive more information on "The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986" and its proposed rules affecting all employers, write: Burditt, Bowles & Radzius, Ltd., 333 West Wacker Dr., Suite 1900, Chicago, IL 60606-1218. Phone: (312) 781-6633. Ask for Volume 1, Number 2 newsletter dated March 1987.

## Views and Reflections

by Edwin Wollenberg, Retired Supt.

It's a beautiful day and the sun is warm and bright. And that's the way you would expect it to be in coastal Florida. But the weather in the Chicago area, I've heard, has almost been on par with "Cracker Country". It must have started many superintendents and their crews scurrying and wondering if they are ready for a new season.

This is the first year in 39 past seasons, that I don't have this responsibility. I'd be remiss in saying I don't miss it.

Received the March issue of the **Bull Sheet** this past week, and it felt so good to be still in touch. And I would like to thank the Midwest Board for my Class AA membership and keeping me on the mailing list. Also to welcome back our very capable and traveling editor — I detected a very definite "Aussie clip" in his article.

Enjoyed President Evans article "A Rebuttal" very much. I always admire our young superintendents with formal education, who get their point across with diplomacy and in a tactful manner. My rebuttal would have been very short and to the point, like, "You're a stupid rectal orifice". That's about as diplomatic as I could get. Anyway, I have put up with this type of character for more years than I like to admit to. It took me 20 plus years, scores of letters to my green committee and board, to explain way they shouldn't and couldn't play with frost on the grass in the fall and frost coming out of the soil in the spring. And the golfers hardest to educate were doctors and attorneys, who should know about the good and bad. Which leads me to a true story that is very apropos here. (cont'd. page 12)



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When I was employed at the club before I came to the club I retired from, George, my night watering man and I were in the shop waiting for a cloudburst to end. On the 4th green, which was about 300 feet from the shop, were 4 golfers putting out in the downpour. George's comment on viewing this scene was, "Boss, you gotta have money to play this game of golf, don't you?" I agreed, and filled him in on the expenses involved like, clubs, bag, balls, green fees, cart, possible food and refreshment whims and applicable gratuities. George's reply was, "Well, that's what I thought. But haven't you ever wondered how they made their money, because you know that they haven't got a brain in their head". No truer words were ever uttered — not even by a Harvard cum laude graduate. I wondered then if I had chosen the right profession, but I was pretty soft in the head myself by then and so I stuck it out with the rest of the odd balls. How did I ever come so far with so little between my ears? Fate and love, I guess.

Another article that impressed me was Brian Chalifoux article on bentgrass turf. Very good Brian. It was rewarding to read, that some sensibility will prevail over unfavorable demands by "golfing Andretti's". And it should also leave an informative message to everyone anticipating going the bent route.

I have always been amused and also a little disgusted, why we allow ourselves to fall prey to 9/64 inch or lower cutting heights to promote fast greens. We all know that there is a limit to the capability of any living organism to perform to peak expectation under stress. But we will push the turf to extremes, because a handful of low handicappers and their "Pro cousins", who do the televised golfing events on a Saturday and Sunday afternoon, tell us how the game should be played and how fast the greens are; "greens were double cut, triple cut and rolled with a 40 ton roller".

Because of my age, I don't recall what year it was that I had a C-15 problem. But it was about the same time so many other clubs were plagued with this condition. I do know, it started to show up when I started cutting at 1/8 inch. Dr. David Wehner dropped in on me about this time, while visiting his folks in the area, and we looked at the few C-15 greens I had. He informed me that I had definitely joined the "elite group" and had so-called C-15 decline. This did not show up until I went from a 3/16 to 1/8 inch cut. We now have a much superior bentgrass to work with, but according to Brian's article we still have a height problem, especially during stress periods and failure to recognize it.

Professionals — the God's of golf. I looked in several dictionaries to get a true definition for the word that may define what it might mean in relation to a golf Pro. Either my dictionaries are out of date, or there just isn't a true description for this species of the game of golf. So I guess I'll have to use my own interpretation, right or wrong.

It has always been my understanding that the Pro's function in golf was to teach, analyze and improve the game of their enthusiastic pupils. If he's a touring Pro, competing for big purses, he should have the expertise and graduated knowledge to play the game with the legal number of clubs allowed him, and cope with the frustrations better than the golfer who plays it as a hobby rather than a vocation. And, although not certain, I don't think anywhere in the rules book does it say what fraction of an inch the height of cut should be.

Of course I realize that most tournaments are governed by



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a golf association like the Western, USGA, PGA, LPGA and others, and they have the authority and responsibility to make decisions on the playability of the course. But why not play the golf course exactly like the hosting club members play it every day? If the height of cut on greens is 1/64 or 63/64, so what? They are supposed to be Pros. Playing under changes and rules of the tournament committee they are not playing the same golf course members play everyday — and it may be months before they can fully enjoy their club again. At most, a touring Pro plays a host club for 7 days, and except in some cases like the Masters, Western and a few others, they could care less what the condition of the course is after they leave it, because they may never play again.

Decisions as a general rule are always made by people who have the least knowledge of turf. I recall the year the La Grange Country Club hosted the LPGA tournament. On television I saw greens that were not a pretty sight. Howard Baerwald, the superintendent and personal friend, had to be a lousy superintendent to have greens looking that bad. I'm sure millions of TV viewers had the same reaction. What we weren't told, and I found out a few days later, is that Howard was ordered to lower the height of cut a day or so before the event started.

I am always amused, and also P O'd (if the presidents daughter can use it, so can I) when I read about unfair conditions. Like the expensive reconstruction program the Medinah Country Club went into, because they had a hole the Pro's said was unfair and it could have cost them a major tournament if they didn't correct it. Or a certain club that hosted the Western, and there was a movement afoot to boycott it if there weren't some changes made so the Pro's could score better — and I think a few also wanted something done about the weather, particularly the lightning. And what about that horrendous West course in the Hope Desert Classic this year? Well, we "ain't going to play that course again next year". On any given day everyone plays the course under the same conditions. And whoever said golf had to be fair? We all know life isn't.

The surprising thing is that somebody always wins in these tournaments, and a helluva lot more money than the forerunners to this game did, and who played under conditions far below in turf and equipment standards of today to prove their prowess. Basically the game is still played as it was intended. Our problem seems to be, having unqualified personnel telling the superintendent the requirements of the turf the game is played on. Maybe these groups are in minority, but unfortunately, they also seem to be the ones with the most authority.

Please excuse the soap box oratory. This is what happens when your retired and on Geritol treatments. My doctor says it's a natural aging process. He doesn't call it senility or "old timers disease", but describes it as a "cantankerous repulsion" of putting up with the "system" for so many years.

Thanks again for everything, and for allowing me to still be a part of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

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