

Director's Column



Give 'em a Break!

by Roger A. Stewart, Jr., CGCS

The weather we have had this summer has been tough on just about every living thing. I talked with Dr. Randy Kane at the end of July and he said he thought it was even too hot for fungi! If that's the case, what about those people who work for us on our crews outside in that heat all day every day? It's just common sense to keep an eye on your employees during these stressful periods. Often times heat exhaustion or heat stroke can creep up on a person. Remind your employees to drink plenty of water, work at a pace that matches up with the heat index, rest in the shade when you have to, and above all we as managers must give these people the opportunity to do all these things.

Try to provide cool water and buckets of ice in the shop to wet towels to help people cool off. Buy an extra fan or two for the shop. If an employee begins to show signs of heat exhaustion, get him to a cool place to bring his body temperature down. If you have an office air conditioner, turn it on and let your crew relax there for a short period at lunch or break. Some people who prefer to work outside don't like to go in and out of air conditioning and I'm one of them. I usually don't run my air conditioner in my office unless I have a meeting planned or several hours of office work planned. I do however make it available to any employee who feels a little break will help him get through the day.

When you read this it will be September and I have a feeling the heat and drought will still be with us and we can all be thankful to those loyal employees who have stuck it out and done their job well all year. If you haven't done it yet, how about just a little extra time off for those people on your crew and if you can, pay them for it. In most cases they deserve it. I think you will find an extra afternoon or even an entire day off for doing a good job will repay you many fold. What the hell, give 'em a break!

"Coming Attractions"

At the last beat of Summer's Sun,
Cool Fall will have begun.
Farewell to all of Summer's pressures,
We're looking to Fall's Cool Treasures.
A little Frost to nip at the Annuals,
Will show that Summer's had It's Day.
Tinted Leaves and Golden Harvest,
Says, Fall is here to stay.

Kenneth R. Zanzig

Tour of Soldiers Field

by Fred D. Opperman, CGCS

The Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents and their guests had a tour of Soldiers Field on Wednesday, July 13th, 1988. Ira Berke was our host who in turn had Dave Heiss the contractor for the PAT System and Mike Reinhardt, the foreman for the field, talk to us on the construction and maintenance of the new field.

Soldiers Field is a very attractive stadium, especially since they now have natural turf. The place is all "shined up" for the start of the Bear football season. All seats have been repainted in reds, blues, and yellows and with the dark green field it is very attractive.

Some interesting facts on the field are: It is only 2 feet above the present level of Lake Michigan — so it has a curb around the field of about 15 inches high. This is to prevent Lake Michigan flooding the field when the lake rises. All of the storm drains drain into the lake and if the lake rises and you would have high waves, water can back up and flood the field. 10,000+ yards of Huber Ranch Sod was laid over a layer of about 14-16 inches of a sand mix. The sod used was Huber's Executive Blend which consisted of equal parts of Baron, Adelphi, Glade, Rugby and Parade. (Huber also has their sod in the Cleveland Stadium, which was laid just this past spring). The pumping station was still in the process of being built where the vacuum pumps are to be installed. Once installed the vacuum pumps would apply 5½ to 6 pounds per square inch to drain the field when needed. They are hoping for the system to be in operation 100% by the 1st of August. At the present time the field is not capable of being heated. But they feel that in a year or two that it will be (especially if the Bears get into the play-offs and have to play on a frozen field).

There must be a curse on the editors of "The Bull Sheet", for I did take pictures, used black and white film for better clarity, took time to get close-ups, group pictures, single pictures, the whole ball of wax so to speak — what happened — my film was lost while being developed! It's a curse . . .

(The curse may be broken . . . the pictures were returned 25 days later. It was too late for the August issue in which I had hoped for this to appear, but better late than never.)



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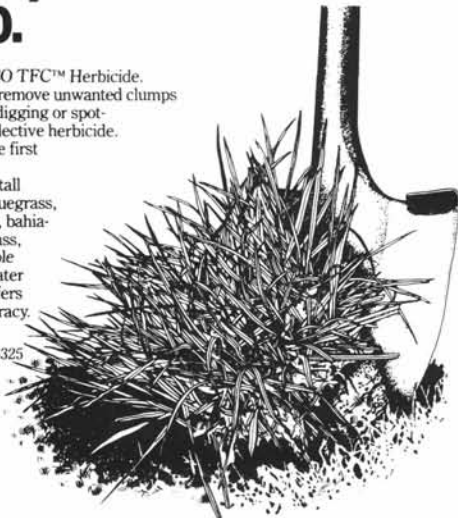
De Ann Leuzinger just had to sneak into the Bear's locker room — and then it turned out to be empty!

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No Carrying Charge

Once there was a golf course superintendent who never joined the MAGCS, but always enjoyed the benefits won for him by members of the society. On his deathbed he told his wife: "Dear, please do something for me. I want members of the MAGCA to be my pallbearers.

But you never belonged to the society, his wife said.

"Honey", he replied, "they've carried me this far, they might just as well carry me the rest of the way."

What? Scotland Without Golf for Over 30 Years?

About six years after golf was introduced in Scotland, the game became so popular and resulted in so many people "wasting their time" that it was prohibited by Parliament for more than 30 years (from 1457 to 1491).

Charles E. (Scotty) Stewart, P.E.