

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

DICK TREVARTHAN, Editor
122 Evergreen Drive
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ILLINOIS TURFGRASS FOUNDATION CONFERENCE

THE ILLINOIS TURFGRASS FOUNDATION announces their 10th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE and SHOW, planned to be one of the most outstanding meetings of turfgrass ever held in the country, is having an extremely comprehensive educational program in conjunction with a large indoor trade show.

The entire affair will take place December 1, 2 and 3, 1969 at the new Arlington Park Towers Hotel and Show Centre in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

Dr. Jack Butler of the University of Illinois is arranging for noteworthy educators and consultants in the fields of turf to be speakers for sessions planned for Lawn, Athletic, Institutional, Industrial and Highway Turf as well as for retailers and garden suppliers. They will be delving into all phases of turfgrasses from problem weeds, insects and diseases to fertility, seed or sod, fertilization, maintenance, equipment, irrigation and much more — all this for your listening knowledge. And, you won't want to miss a highlighted evening Banquet with entertainment and hospitality rooms for that once a year 'get together' so many look forward to. Plan now to attend!

Exhibitors booth space and hotel reservations are being taken now by contacting PRESIDENT Robert G. Johnson, 349-8484 or SECRETARY Dorothy H. Carey at 349-7766.

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The President's Message

It annoys and disgusts me to hear people complain about the limitations of the community they live in. Comments such as "one horse town", "roll up the sidewalks after dark", or "there just isn't anything to do". Quotes such as these irk me no end. Because frankly, most of us have as much opportunity as anyone else in the world to do something about it. Every community has a road out and many have several, to take you away to areas that extend to you opportunities that you may be looking for. But so many of us fail to see the opportunities that are ours. Instead we only see the problems and the limitations that surround us, and fail to realize that any difficulties we may encounter could be opportunity in disguise.

I am sure we have all heard the excuse, that we were born in the wrong age. Every age and every situation would have been better than the one in which we find ourselves. There were opportunities in those days, but none now. I must admit I have been guilty of a few of these feelings myself.

Many of us like to think that opportunity is not distributed very equally. That some people get the better jobs and all the breaks. Actually, I believe most men get more opportunities than they can use. But that too few of us are prepared to take advantage of it when it presents itself.

In Rio de Janeiro, in 1886, the opera Aida was to be performed. When it was to begin, the conductor did not appear and the audience became restless. Someone finally appeared with the news that he was sick and could not conduct the concert (I believe it was later learned he had resigned without notice). The assistant conductor tried to direct the concert, but wasn't prepared and was booed off the stage. The concert master made an attempt to direct, but it was quickly realized that he definitely wasn't capable to do so.

Finally, in desperation the manager called upon a nineteen year old cellist who was already recognized by the orchestra as a very fine musician. But he was handicapped by very poor eyesight and had to not only memorize his own score, but also that of the en-

tire orchestra. And when he stood at the podium and closed the score, the audience Jeered — some probably thought it was a comic or a satire they had come to view. But as he raised his baton, they were silent. On his very first effort, he conducted the opera from memory and was a huge success. Arturo Toscanini, became one of the outstanding conductors this world has known, because he was prepared for the opportunity when it presented itself.

Just a few weeks ago I read, "The Conquest of Mt. Everest", by Sir John Hunt. Sir John Hunt was the leader of the group that made the first successful climb of Mt. Everest in 1953. Although the opportunity of victory went to Hilliary and a Sherpa (Nepal guide and porter) the ultimate success was a team effort. These two men stood on the summit only 15 minutes, but their success was with the help of many people who had tried and failed.

The knowledge of previous expeditions which had tried and failed, helped them. They were indebted to many people (48 in all, I believe) in their own group who carried the heavy loads of equipment. The men who did not make the final attempt carried the heaviest loads, so that those who were to make the final attempt could conserve their strength.

The two men who tried the final attempt, just before Hilliary and the Sherpa, reached a higher altitude than any before who had been there and lived to tell about it. When they were almost to the top they realized that because of their limited supply of oxygen and the coming darkness, their safe return to the base camp was endangered. So they gave up their attempt, but they left their oxygen there for those who were to make the successful attempt two days later.

On May 29, 1953, Hilliary and the Sherpa found the oxygen there. Their own supply enabled them to reach the top, but it was only because their teammates had left their extra oxygen that they were able to get back to the base camp alive. Opportunity then, is not just something that is for an individual, but it is a group effort whereby the whole life of man can be improved and bettered. And any person or organization that fails to enhance human personality is a liability and detriment to the growth and the development of better things to come.

Ed Wollenberg, President

17th Annual Turf Clinic Program

"The Superintendent, His Qualifications, Responsibilities, and Requirements."

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1969.

A.M.

- 9:00 Registration
Howard Baerwald
Ray Schei
- 9:45 Call to order
Host Supt. — Welcome
Edwin Wollenberg, Pres.
John Jackman
- 10:00 Keynote Address
Dr. J. M. Duich

SESSION 1.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS

Moderator — Joseph Canale

- 10:30 The Superintendent's Job
Panel —

Private Club — Ronnie Rosset
Daily Fee Club — Jerold Hanko
Public Golf Course — Bertram Jannes

11:45 Questions

12:00 Lunch

SESSION 2.

QUALIFICATIONS

Moderator — Richard Trevarthan

P.M.

- 1:30 Certification For The Superintendent
Robert Mitchell
- 2:15 Turf Education at the College Level
Dr. J. M. Duich
- 3:00 A Look at Labor and Pay Scales in the Chicago Area
Panel
Superintendent — Lee Record
Labor, North — Carl Grassl
Labor, South — Michael Bavier
Labor, West — John Jackmon
- 4:00 Questions
- 5:00 Cocktail Hour
- 6:30 Banquet
Toastmaster — William Heald

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1969

SESSION 3.

Moderator — Edwin Wollenberg

A.M.

- 9:30 Construction Projects; Do It Yourself or Hire a Contractor — Roger La Rochelle
- 10:15 Policies About Playing Conditions
Panel
Renovation — Dr. Alexander
Pin and Marker Placements —
Robert W. Owen
Golf Carts and Course Closed Policies —
H. Frederickson
Larry Runyon
- 11:30 Questions
- 12:00 Lunch

SESSION 4.

Moderator — Lee Record

P.M.

- 1:30 Basic Irrigation Engineering
Charles Stewart
- 2:10 Evaluation of a 2 yr. old Automatic Irrigation System
Ted Sokolis
Thomas Gilman
- 2:45 Purchasing a Modern Automatic Irrigation System
Robert Williams
- 3:30 Questions and Summary
Lee Record

The MAGCS December meeting will be an afternoon meeting starting at 3:00 P.M. After the meeting you will be on your own. There is no scheduled dinner.

Never Be Afraid To Try

By Rev. Lee Truman
Copley News Service

In one of the world's greatest devotional classics, "Imitation of Christ," Thomas A. Kempis tells a story about a man who was so anxiety driven and afraid that he could not bring himself to do anything.

He wavered back and forth in his uncertainty. Over and over he said, "Oh, if I only knew, then I would have the courage to persevere." And presently, wrote Kempis, the man heard within himself an answer from God.

In the still small voice of conscience the words were spoken, "And if you did know, what would you do? Go now and do what you would then do, and you should be very secure and not afraid."

This practical rule of living not only stops worry in its tracks, but also other apprehensions we all feel in daily life.

Let me illustrate. You cannot be certain that an admired acquaintance will enjoy visiting your home. But you might ask him to come if you were reasonably certain it would be an invitation he would accept and an occasion that he would enjoy. The point of what Kempis has said is to invite him as if you were sure.

You cannot be sure that your child will graduate, let alone distinguish himself, if you send him on to college. It is an expensive investment and there are no guarantees. But send him off to college as if you are sure that he will do well!

You can't be certain that you will be promoted in your job if you put extra work into it, but how can you satisfy yourself or even live at peace with yourself if you do not proceed as if you were sure there is success down the road?

There are practical examples in everyone's life. Each man has to decide how to act "as if" for himself.

These have proved to be useful words for many great men. Before you brush the idea off, remember it is the kind of star you can read on the blackest night. The results often will not be what you hope for, but the reward is to know you have done your best and that you have given opportunity a chance.

This produces in yourself that inner peace which is the best kind of security. As Dorothea Brende said, "Act as if it were impossible to fail." With that attitude you are halfway to success.

The rest of the way is down-hill.

Thanks to Oliver Miles, Supt. Joliet Country Club.

AN INCH OF RAIN IS A LOTTA WATER

When the weatherman says "an inch of rain fell today" it doesn't sound like much water, does it?

Believe it, it IS a lot of water!

An inch of rain falling evenly on one acre of ground is equivalent to about 27,154 gallons of water, according to hydrologists of the U.S. Geological survey. Here's how it's determined: One inch of rain falling evenly over one acre (43,650 square feet) of ground would amount to a total of 6,272,640 cubic inches of water. This is equivalent to 3,630 cubic feet of water. A cubic foot of water weighs about 62.4 pounds. Therefore, the weight of a uniform fall of one inch of rain over one acre would be about 226,615 pounds, or 113 1/4 short tons. The weight of one U.S. gallon of pure water is about 8.3 pounds. Consequently, a rain-fall of one inch over one acre would mean about 27,154 gallons of water.

"Simple multiplication," notes the survey, "reveals how water would fall over a given city, if it fell evenly. For example, an even inch of rain over the District of Columbia (44,000 acres) would amount to about 1.2 billion gallons of water."

What happens to the water after it reaches the ground depends upon many factors such as rate of rainfall, topography, soil condition, humidity, density of vegetation, extent of urbanization, etc. Of the total amount of water, about 25 per cent would run off immediately; about 15 per cent would be evaporated; about 40 per cent would be taken up by surface soil; and about 20% would filter down into sub-surface, water bearing roots (aquifers).

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MAJOR DECISIONS IN TURF MANAGEMENT

Dr. W. H. Daniel, Turf Specialist
Dept. of Agronomy, Purdue University

Sometimes a decision is made which dictates going in one direction and greatly affects other things. These I call major decisions. Twelve are discussed briefly below as examples of this. Readers may have others to suggest.

1. **WEED CONTROL WITH 2,4-D** — An obvious choice, now standard procedure, but the earlier decisions, about 1950, to use 2,4-D meant that now turf could be promoted and weeds repeatedly removed. This is an old decision.

2. **REMOVAL OF CLOVER** — with Silvex 2,4,5-TP, MCP, or Dicamba. The absence of clover means a closer cut means more fertilizer, particularly more nitrogen, and it meant more attention to turfgrasses about 1954.

3. **VERTICAL GROOVING AND OVERSEEDING.** The newer machines permit the use of light rates of the newer varieties of grasses. The 10 lb. seed per acre bluegrass price is not critical. Performance produced in subsequent years is the key; thus this has released the experimenter and the seed grower from the burden of tonnage to the challenge of performance.

Equally important has been the well established procedure of vertical tillage with tines, spoons which reduce compaction, punch holes through the thatch and provide certain topdressing benefits.

4. **PRE-EMERGENT TOXICITY** — With arsenic usage, no added phosphorus, slow build-up of arsenic, and the losing of the benefits of earthworms are all important to the performance of arsenic toxicity. Plan on a 5-10 year program; stay with the program.

Now with Balan, Betasan, Dacthal or Tupersan, each have their time of year, their period of toxicity, their dissipation — each should be used to get a specific response. Overseeding presents special problems with some materials. These chemicals can protect existing turf.

5. **AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION.** The supervisor tends to operate the system. There are design limits. It can be used for air-conditioning. There is a possibility of obsolescence. Nevertheless, automatic irrigation can serve well and is another major decision fast becoming standard procedure.

6. **WARM SEASON GRASSES IN FAIRWAYS.** In the Midwest the proper management for establishment and long term maintenance is to avoid fall fertilization on Zoysia or Bermuda at the very time when bluegrass needs pushing; thus it is not surprising that some have killed Zoysia and Bermuda as they "fertilize bluegrass."

7. **MOWING WITH HYDRAULIC POWERED EQUIPMENT.** Formerly a fairway situation now also being used on greens, there is the problem of higher inventory, fewer workers, equipment reserves — it is more adaptable. This alone, if nothing else, makes hydraulic mowing equipment a major decision for it affects so many other.

8. **INCREASING GOLF CART USAGE.** There is no turning back. Water will increase, damage will be more obvious — flags, signs, paths, barriers, curbs will all be inadequate in certain places.

9. **COARSE GRANULAR FERTILIZERS** to slow down and regulate release the IBDU (Isobutylidene diurea) offers particular promise. We are using particles 3/8 to 1/2" in diameter under sod and in new seed plantings, etc.

10. **SYSTEMIC FUNGICIDES** offer completely new concepts. With Benlate it is root absorbed so weather is not as critical — leaf coverage is less critical. There will be other systemics also.

11. **DWARFING OF GRASSES.** Already accomplished in the Bermudas it offers much promise for other species, less competition, less frequency of mowing, more attention to manicuring — why not?

12. **PURR-WICK SYSTEM OF ROOTZONES** — new, different, most promising. It does conserve moisture and nutrients. It does permit the manager maximum control of both wetting and drying circles.

13. **MOBILITY OF WHEELS UNDER WORKERS.**

Readers may think of other Major Decisions, which ONCE MADE require additional technology, performance and management conditions. The above twelve illustrate the ongoing character of Turfgrass Improvement.

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From the National Golf Foundation

GOLF FACILITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

National Golf Foundation records reveal that 346 regulation length golf facilities (232 new facilities, 114 additions) were reported opened during our fiscal year of October 1, 1968 to September 30, 1969. Of these 346, 43% are classified as private operations, 43% semi-private, 12% municipal and 2% as miscellaneous categories (collegiate, industrial, military, etc.). About 26% of these projects are part of real estate developments.

There were also 51 par-3 operations (39 new facilities, 12 additions) reported opened during this period of time. Of these 51, 20% are private, 65% semi-private, 14% municipal and 2% miscellaneous. Approximately 27% are part of real estate developments.

Of the total 397 facilities opened, 277 are nine hole facilities; 105 eighteen hole facilities and 15 facilities other than 9 or 18 hole facilities.

During our fiscal year of 1968-69, 381 regulation courses were reported under construction. Of these 381, 36% are classified as private operations, 43% semi-private, 13% municipal and 8% miscellaneous.

There were also 58 par-3 operations reported under construction. Of these 58, 17% are private, 48% semi-private, 22% municipal and 12% miscellaneous.

In addition, NGF files also indicate 681 new regulation prospects and 124 new par-3 prospects for the year.

LEADING STATES IN GOLF COURSE ACTIVITY October 1, 1968 thru September 30, 1969

OPENED FOR PLAY — Florida (27), Texas (23), Ohio (22), Michigan (17), New York, North Carolina (15), Illinois (13), California, Georgia, Kentucky, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Canada (12)

STARTED CONSTRUCTION — Florida (30), Michigan (25), Illinois, Pennsylvania, Canada (21), California, Ohio (20), North Carolina (19), Tennessee, Texas (18).

PROSPECTS — New York (55), Michigan, Ohio (47), California (44), Illinois (43), Pennsylvania (34), Florida (33), North Carolina (28), Texas (27).

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GAS IN WELL WATER

Many water wells in Illinois give off flammable gas, such as methane, often called marsh gas, and hydrogen sulfide gas. While the hydrogen sulfide gas is readily detected by its rotten egg odor, methane gas is odorless, tasteless and colorless and where the concentration is high or the ventilation is poor enough of this gas may accumulate and mix with the air to form an explosion. The Bureau of Mines states that a mixture of about 10% methane in a gas air mixture will support combustion.

An oak log one foot in diameter and five feet long, buried in the ground, can generate enough methane gas when it decomposes to form an explosive mixture in 15,000 to 45,000 cubic feet of air, this is usually greater than the volume of the average pump house, so all pump houses containing a well should be adequately ventilated; before starting up any of the electrical equipment in the early spring, after the pump house has been closed all winter, the superintendent would be well advised to "air it out" thoroughly for an electrical spark can, and has, caused an explosion.

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