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The President's Message

Each spring is my fountain of youth. Every year at this time I can hardly wait to get going and to start doing things to my golf course. I am enthused, accelerated, energized, and revived by old Mother Nature every spring. All past setbacks and remembrances of bad luck with her idiosyncracies are forgotten and washed away. I enter this wonderful season full of vigor and youth like ambition, resolving to produce the best golf course ever for my membership. The first time I don't get this feeling, when crocuses bloom, I will look for employment in another profession.

Mike Bavier, our hard working Secretary-Treasurer, informs me that we have a record number of new members this year. He further states that each new month brings more requests for Midwest membership applications. That's good news. I know that the new members will form wonderful friendships in our old and historic organization, such as my brothers and I have formed. It takes time, patience, and goodwill. A poplar or a willow breaks in the wind because it grows too fast and is weak. But anything that is durable and lasting — whether it's a tree, a friendship or a professional association takes time to form roots, become strong and unbreakable. Welcome to the Midwest!

Let it be recorded in the history of the Midwest Association that under this Presidency the Midwest Golf Team won the national championship — and I want to make sure that I get all the credit! The Sunday TV golf team that chairman Michels selected certainly was unimpressive the first day on the tough Killearn golf course, and something drastic had to be done. We will not indulge to anyone what was said to inspire our Don Quixote golf team of overweight golfers. But the message was so dire that the boys gallantly rallied together the next day, and with terrific scores, beat the great mid-Atlantic team by 16 strokes. The fact that some of our olympic golf team stayed out till 3 o'clock in the morning, worrying about their poor first day scores, certainly helped. But still I want to take all the credit for their supreme golfing effort at Killearn. Seriously, Peter, Harold, Kenny and super-senior-champ Benny, we all are proud of you and you are congratulated for such

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great golfing. I am only miffed that the National Association Green Committee didn't see fit to award you a team trophy such as you deserve, along with the flimsy things they gave you to keep.

Paul Voykin
President.



ANTHONY MEYER

Mr. Meyer will be our host superintendent at our April 10th meeting at Woodridge Country Club, Lisle, Illinois. Dinner at 6:30 P.M. Golf during the day if conditions permit. Woodridge Country Club is on Rt. 53 just south of Lisle.



Peter A. Mirkes was our host superintendent for our March 15th meeting at Pheasant Run Country Club. Seventy-five members and guests attended. Truly a great place.

Dr. Al. J. Turgeon, Extension Specialist in Turf-grass Management, was the main speaker. He did a fine job and we hope he attends all our meetings.

We were happy to have as our guests Tom Tomasek and Art Dunn, sports writers for the Chicago Tribune, at our March 15 meeting. I was told they are not only writers, but good golf swingers. Check your handicap, superintendents.



Editor

At this date the bent and blue grass on the golf course looks good. No comparison to the condition that was experienced a year ago. Which proves that some clouds do have silver linings. Most of our memories are very short when it comes to remembering the good things. It is the cloudy days that are not forgotten very quickly.

I am sure most of us would be much happier and more healthy, if we try and remember and appreciate, the many good things we have in this great country of ours. Freedom and health, what more could one ask for? Freedom is something our forefathers fought and died for, and many young men of today are giving their lives for the same cause. Some day when you are walking, turn around and look back. What is it you see? Some of the best country in the world, and you have the privilege of living in it.

What is one of the cheapest things you can wear? It is a smile. Wear it at all times. When you get out of bed in the morning, look in the mirror. What kind of face do you see? One with a smile or one with a frown? Which one would you like to have sitting across the table from you? I am sure it is not the one with the frown. This kind no one wants to look at.

Always remember the old saying, a smile will go a long, long way, and also the cloud that has the silver lining.

The Chicago District Golf Association's annual seminar will be held at the River Forest Country Club on April 28, 1972.

The program consists of the following:

Paul Voykin — Moderator

Stan Rachesky — Pesticide

Dr. Paul Alexander — Chemical Fertilizer

Dr. Bill Daniel — Good turf in usage

Oscar Miles — Waste disposal

Don Johnson — Trees

Arthur Howard — Trees, Planting and Their Care

This sounds like a real good program. Bring your Green Chairman and any other member of your club who may be interested.

If you have changed your address, please let me have your correct one.

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Chuck Daugherty is back in the saddle again. Riding for Toro.

Marv Gruening, Superintendent at Midwest Golf Club, and his wife, Loraine, vacationed in Florida during the month of February.

Fred Opperman, Superintendent Glen Oak Country Club, and his wife, Judy, took a short vacation after the Cincinnati conference and motored to Northern Wisconsin to find deep snow and try out snow shoes. Most golf course Superintendents travel in the other direction in the Winter time looking for dandelions and camellias.

Tim Miles is passing out cigars. Mrs. Miles presented him with an addition to the family on February 26, 1972 a new worker on the golf course in a few years. Congratulations.

Mrs. Howard Baerwald is home from the hospital recuperating from a serious operation. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Oliver Miles is home recovering after a visit to the hospital. Wishing you a speedy recovery, Mrs. Miles.

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LOOK FOR MORE TROUBLES

by Robert R. Updegraff

Be thankful for the troubles of your job. They provide about half your income. Because if it were not for the things that go wrong, the difficult people you have to deal with, and the problems and unpleasantness of your working day, someone could be found to handle your job for half of what you are being paid.

It takes intelligence, resourcefulness, patience, tact and courage to meet the troubles of any job. That is why you hold your present job. And it may be the reason you aren't holding down an even bigger one.

If all of us would start to look for more troubles, and learn to handle them cheerfully and with good judgment, as opportunities rather than irritations, we would find ourselves getting ahead at a surprising rate. For it is a fact that there are plenty of big jobs waiting for men and women who aren't afraid of troubles connected with them.

SHORTER, MORE STRATEGIC COURSES SEEN

B. R. E. Robinson, President

American Society of Golf Course Architects

When all is said and done, money is what makes business tick, and budgets certainly dictate the number of new courses to be built and older ones to be remodeled. With tight money the past two years, many plans for building and remodeling have been shelved. However, in the past six months there have been several positive indicators that construction activity will be strong in 1972. In addition, most developers feel that a golf course is a "must" in a resort complex or quality residential development.

Since money is a factor, many of these new courses will be shorter than the standard 18-hole courses. With land at a premium, many will be par 60, or executive length. Although shorter, they will require as much, or more, strategy on the part of the player. Golf Course architects are requiring accurate club selection and shot placement by the strategic location of multiple tee, hazards, and smaller greens.

Although the trend toward shorter courses may not please the touring pros (although there still are plenty of championship and standard 18-hole courses being built), the new type courses are preferred by businessmen, senior citizens and women. The executive-length course doesn't require five or six hours to play and it doesn't have the long par-5 holes that discourage many golfers.

In all current golf course design—remodeling as well as new courses—easy maintenance is a prime consideration. The golf course architect, while planning the most challenging course he can on the available land, he must think ahead and give the golf course superintendents a layout that can be maintained at peak condition with the modern equipment and supplies now available. "Monster" holes that require a great deal of hand mowing, raking and watering put too great a dent in the superintendent's schedule and budget.

The American Society of Golf Course Architects is most interested in preserving the "green belts" in our urban areas, many of which are golf courses, and many of the design techniques used on the shorter executive courses can be utilized in the remodeling of some of our older courses, giving them new dimensions for years to come. With the many executive-length courses now on the boards, it appears that golf soon will have a course for everyone—championship, standard, executive, and par-3. And if you don't have every type in your area, remodeling tees and greens give a standard course the versatility to stretch itself into championship length, or shorten itself for ladies competition. With this planning, it seems certain that golf will continue to be the most popular sport with our leisure-conscious population.

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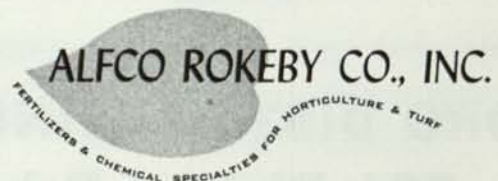
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Art Dunn, Paul Voykin, Tom Tomashek.

GRASS PROBLEM SOLVED BY ACCIDENT

The state Highway Department has found a grass that heavy winter salt spreadings can't kill. Department officials have named it alkaligrass because it seems to thrive on heavy doses of salt.

For years, the Highway Department has been concerned because trees, shrubs, and grasses along major expressways could not withstand the heavy spreadings of salt used to keep the expressways free of snow and ice.

Origin Is Uncertain

The department is not sure where the alkaligrass came from, but it was first discovered in 1969 near U. S. Hwy. 45 and Int. Hwy. 55. It then spread to become the major cover between U. S. 45 and Summit. Some of the grass also is found on the Kennedy Expressway and the Tri-State Tollway.

Highway Department architects believe the grass may have started growing from some contaminant in the sod used to establish the original turf. When the turf, which looks almost like Kentucky Bluegrass, survived the salty winter, the state asked the University of Illinois to look into the matter.

Confirm Its Hardiness

Four researchers at the university's Agricultural Experiment Station confirmed that the grass was indeed hardy, and it was their research that disclosed the grass was started accidentally.

But tho the grass is hardy and may provide the answer to keeping the expressways green, the state still has a problem; it can't find anyone who sells the seed.

So for the last two years, the state has been propagating its own seed supply and now is thinking about patenting the grass in the name of the state and university.

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Bringing to mind here the first word of the article title; Care. Care of equipment will result in considerably reduced maintenance to equipment. Care is costly, but far less costly than maintenance. Care requires time, extra time, but time well spent. The most important word when applying fertilizers, fungicides, herbicides and insecticides is timing. Timing can insure satisfactory results, therefore; breakdowns, when the job must be done, waste money and prevent your goal from being accomplished. Insuring care of your equipment requires personal instruction and example by you, the Superintendent. Exercising proper care demands that operators of your equipment use common sense. Enforcing rules like drive slow, don't corner sharply, don't hot-rod, speed shift, skid tires, etc., requires a constant watchful eye. Directing the use of proper equipment for the job is very important. Weight can easily be misjudged, thus matching correctly the implement to the tractor, (especially if P.T.O. driven implements are used) eliminate problems. Pulling a 300 gal. spray rig with a light tractor results in a traction problem, which results in damaged turf from skidding tires, and probably damaged equipment.

Check the oil before starting the engine is important, not only to determine oil level, but prevents overfilling the engine crankcase. Instructions of this nature should be known by all members of your crew. Too many times machines are operated when you or your mechanic are not present. Labeling simple instructions on the machine help aid crew members when key personnel are not present. However; restricting crew members to only check the oil, must be enforced. Amateur mechanics can cause more problems than you bargain for. If further mechanical assistance is required, the operator should place the machine in a predetermined area of the maintenance shop, notifying the mechanic of machine failure.

Care while cleaning your equipment should be exercised. Washing engines down with water is not a good practice, for water will be forced under flywheels and in point housings (small engines) causing rust accumulation on electrical components. When steam cleaning equipment for winter storage or otherwise, grease and oil all parts requiring such lubrication immediately after steaming, preventing rust from forming on bearing and/or bushings because of water

lodging in those areas. Washing down reel type mowers after each day's use, also results in rust accumulation on reels and bedknives by the next morning. Cutting adjustments should be made immediately after use, when bedknives and reels are free from rust spots.

Care of equipment is a function that your whole crew must be instructed to take part in. Maintenance of equipment must be undertaken by a qualified mechanic. Sophisticated machinery is overtaking our turf industry with Triplex greensmowers, powered sand trap rakes, computer operated rotary mowers, etc., requiring not only qualified mechanics, but progress minded technicians. Routine daily and weekly maintenance, oil change, grease, battery check, should be tabulated in record form, which can be accomplished in many different ways, usually decided upon by the person in charge, the mechanic. With the introduction of hour meters utilized on turf equipment, automotive type stickers work well in recording maintenance service data that should be remembered.

Annual maintenance and major overhaul is usually undertaken during winter months when time allows for complete teardown. Organize your shop facilities so as to handle turf vehicles and equipment. Your mechanic should have quick access to reel and bed-knife grinding equipment; overhead chain hoists aligned with grinding stands, make it convenient for one man to roll the gang unit in the shop, lift it in place, and complete the grinding job without assistance. Shops permanently situated in this fashion reduce winter maintenance with respect to grinding mowers, a time consuming process, by accomplishing the job during slack periods through the year, and are always ready in case of emergency.

As mentioned previously, golf course equipment is in constant contact with moisture, causing a continuous rust problem, thus, preventive measures to reduce rust accumulation should be used. Clear epoxy coatings painted on the underframes and carrying boxes of utility vehicles increase their life expectancy, but have to be applied when vehicles can be completely disassembled. Using rust preventive products on gang mowers, fertilizer spreaders, chemical applicators; better their performance, simplify their repair and prevent chemical and fertilizer corrosion. Vibration is also a constant problem, especially on small equipment. Holes and cracks become evident in gas tanks, but usually go undetected until the dead grass appears. Using thick rubber stripping underneath gas tank straps, prevent metal to metal contact which causes the wearing action. Fiberglass gas tanks can also be utilized to reduce weight and prevent wear by absorbing vibration.

Care of your equipment will become an endless task, but a rewarding one, if proper instruction is the practice. Costly maintenance will be reduced, and if a competent mechanic takes pride in his work, your objectives will be accomplished.

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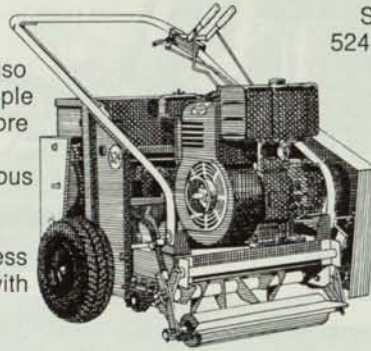
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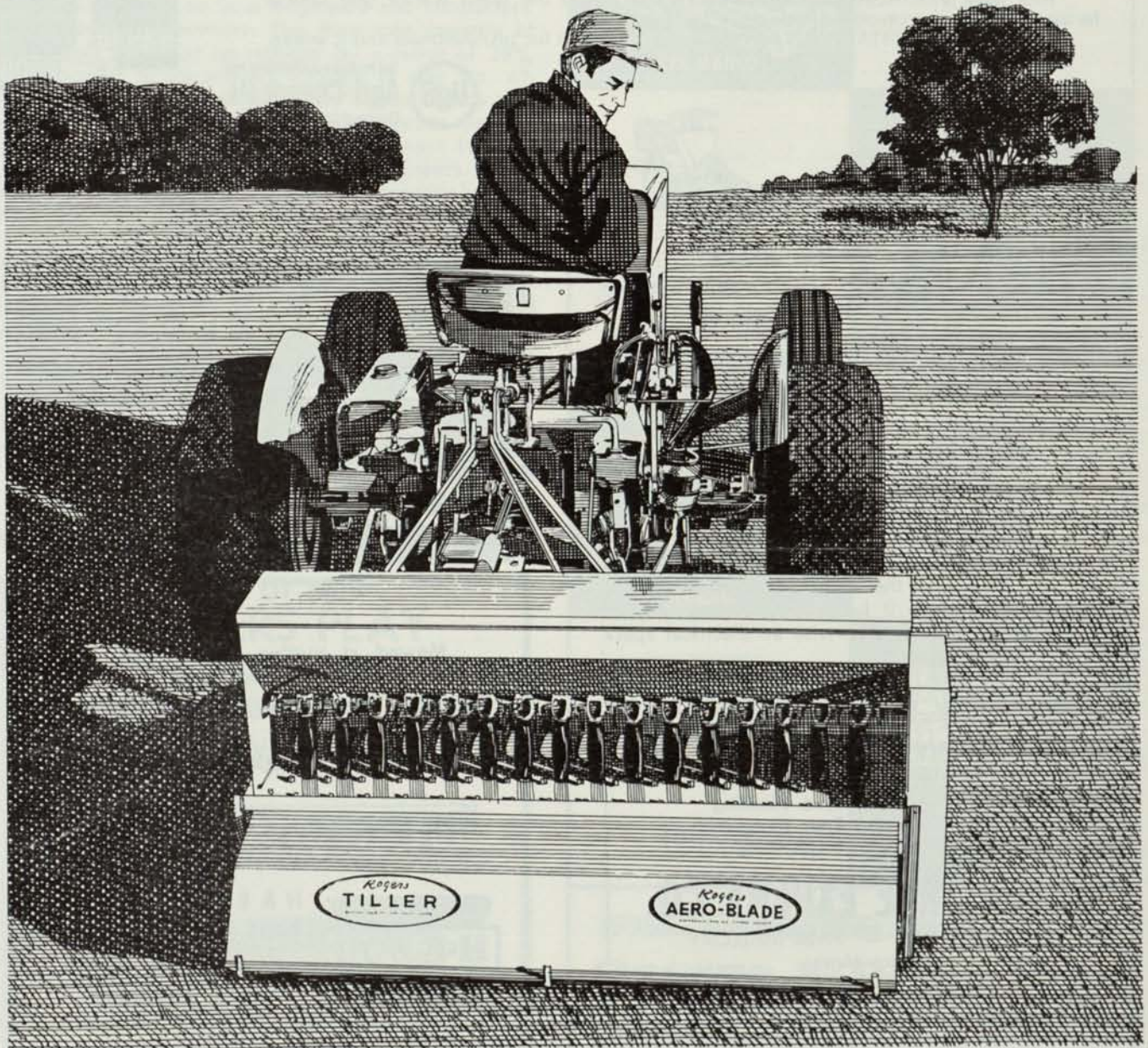


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If a pumphouse, which houses a well, has been closed tight all winter the superintendent is advised to thoroughly ventilate it before starting up any of the electrical equipment, otherwise an electrical spark might set off an explosion.

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