

## THE COYOTE HOWLS

2/27/77

Springtime must be here in the Southeastern Desert, the Daffodills are in full bloom, the peaches are covered with bloom, and the bees and the cactus wrens are busy. The bees are trying to gather pollen and nectar and the cactus wrens seem to be going carefully over the tree picking bloom after bloom to pieces and eating just a little of the flower left so the ground is full of fallen petals. Maybe that can be called nature's thinning, but I wish they would join the other birds and fly away north. We are some two miles away from the regular fly away, but there seems to be plenty of overflow to make the flyaway miles wide.

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Down the street the daisies and other cultivated desert flowers are in full bloom and cars with out of state licenses cruise slowly with their occupants enjoying the color of the Southwest. To them, this is the desert in bloom, but some years the true desert really blooms, when you can drive through miles and miles and miles of desert truly in bloom, with poppies, daisies, lupines, and thistles all forming vast open fields of beautiful color and lucky is the person that can truly say, "I saw the desert in bloom". There are reports that the Javalinas (Havalinas) are working their way down from the hills to roam along the river again. In some cases they have been seen up the big washes probably looking for a chance water hole and a unwary jack or bunny rabbit, and now and then one can see a few quail here in town running across the golf course or down the arroyo. One man close by raised two coveys in a big arborbite last spring but I have seen no parent quail enter it this year, and the road runner cruises both the front walk and the back line daily looking for lizards, and the crows make their daily flight over the town. The last two mornings the temperature has been 28 degrees but so far the inch high tomato plants, and the four inch high beans show no signs of having been hurt, and all the other growing plants are hardy. The days are longer, now at both ends so the angle of the sun's rays is getting straighter and the strength of it's heat is stronger earlier, and the evenings are so beautiful that the TV is hardly used, nature is far more interesting than the boob tube.

One by one, the winter visitors who have found the rock shop so fascinating come to say "Good Bye" for another year with their promise to be back next winter, and others work frantically to complete just another item to take home to give to their loved ones to prove they have acquired skill in artistry while enjoying the west, and the thinning crowds around the pool prove that spring is about to come other places, too. Have a nice spring, you northerners, you sure earned it.

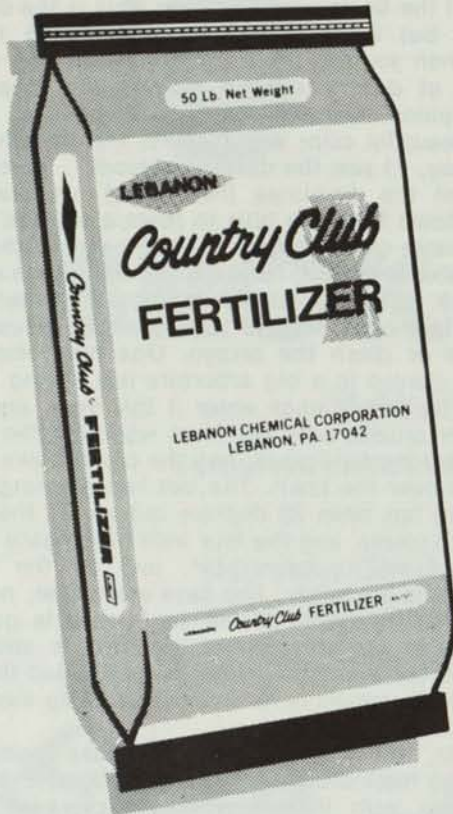
The Desert Coyote and the Beautiful Aloe Plant



Mr. Allan T. Reid, certified paramedic full credential "CPR" was the educational speaker at the MAGCS March 21st meeting at Brookwood C.C. A wonderful meeting - everything just fine.

**M.A.G.C.S. April 19th meeting will be held at Mission Hills C.C.**





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Have an item here from the horticulturist at the Iowa State University extension you might find helpful with your house plants. He says that just as a double boiler can keep your fudge from scorching, so double-potting can keep your house plants from drowning. Says double-potting supplies water to the plant through the side of the inner pot. What you do is pot the plant in a new or well-cleaned porous clay pot as usual. Then set this inside a large water-tight container, one without a hole in the bottom. Fill the space in between the two pots with peat moss or shredded sphagnum moss. Water both the soil and the moss. The latter will hold water and supply it through the porous pot. He says that double-potting is great for plants that don't require a lot of water or for growing plants in dim light.



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## STRAIGHT SHOTS

How to generate enthusiasm in yourself:

1. Listen to what you say. You'll be surprised at how many negative statements you make without thinking about it.
2. When you catch yourself giving vent to a negative thought or attitude, examine it carefully. Ask yourself if you really think things are that bad.
3. When you feel a negative statement coming on, censor it and replace it with a remark of the exact opposite nature.
4. Keep an accounting of events as they happen each day. If, in the past, you were inclined to observe that things were not going too well, you'll now find that they really are going better, if even slightly, which helps fuel enthusiasm.
5. Put the most favorable interpretation possible on every person and event in the course of each day.

People who follow these rules faithfully find that over a period of time something new and exciting starts to happen to them. In a word, they have succeeded in generating enthusiasm.

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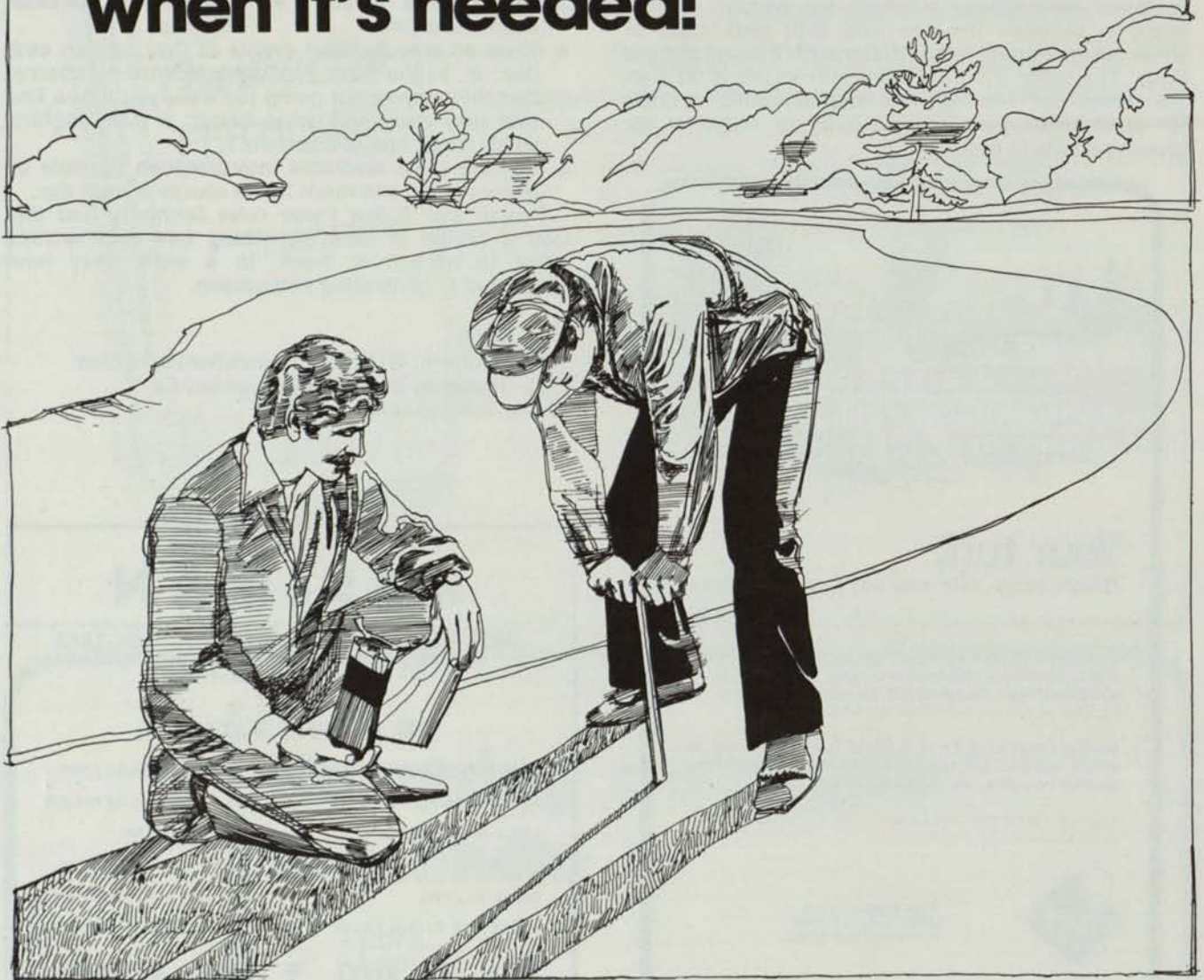
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## IRRIGATION

Sandy Tatum, vice-president of the United States Golf Association gave a talk regarding golf course operations to the American Society of Golf Course Architects at Pebble Beach. During the course of his talk he dwelt at some length on the practice of many, if not most, golf courses to apply far too much water. "In fact", he stated, "Far too many superintendents apply much more water than is required by the grass plants." He further stated, "I would hope that there is a place prepared in purgatory for those who have wet, soggy, golf courses even in the time of the years when they should be dry."

There is no surer way to encourage disease, encroachment of annual bluegrass (*Poa Annua*), cause foot-printing of greens, rutting of fairways, weeds, poor cutting by fairway units, poor grass vigor, destruction of soil quality, leaching of fertilizers, than by overwatering.

George Blake of the Soil Science Department, University of Minnesota, passes along this tip to superintendents about overwatering your course. According to Blake, too much water is wasted on golf courses these days. "Plants normally grow if watered thoroughly, but less frequently," says Blake. "Healthy roots aren't developed in wet soils. They develop during the drying out cycle."

"Some overwatering problems are due to poor system design. A good shop drawing is one thing, but more often than not systems are set up without taking into consideration the contours and low ground areas on the course."

"Cut down on your sprinkling time. See how little irrigation you can get away with. Adjust down till you border on the lean side. Your turf should respond with greater health and vigor."

Dr. James Beard, probably one of the world's foremost turf authorities, says that, "The net result of an irrigation frequency in excess of that required to maintain a positive plant water balance is an overall reduction in turfgrass vigor and quality as evidenced by the decreased root and shoot growth. The weakened, less vigorous turf is more subject to weed invasion, diseases, insects, nematodes, and damage from traffic. In addition, the turfgrass plants may become lighter green, more spindly; and less tolerant to heat, cold, and drought stress."

Musser's TURF MANAGEMENT, the Bible of golf course superintendents, says, "Water should be used sparingly during the transition from the wet to the dry season, with maximum periods between waterings. This will help to produce a hard turf with a deep root

system and a slow growth rate that is more capable of withstanding adverse conditions. It will permit withholding water during unfavorable weather for longer periods than is possible when grass is in a succulent condition."

A superintendent must carefully monitor the water needs of greens, tees, and fairways. Weather reports must be carefully noted. The evaporation-transpiration rates should be examined closely to determine water loss and need. Virtually every superintendent in the Pacific Northwest, if he wants to keep his course playable, will start to cut down on water application about August 15. It is at this time that the nights are beginning to be longer, the time each day that the temperature is apt to be higher than 80 degrees is shorter; morning dews are returning, sub-surface soil moisture starts to move up. Shorter irrigation periods are used and if cool, cloudy weather or perhaps early Fall rains come, irrigation is drastically reduced. Long-term average rainfall records show that August receives .84 of an inch of rain. September jumps to 1.66; October to 3.45; November to 6.30. This year, because of heavy rains in August it was possible to eliminate supplemental irrigation for some period of time.

If we do not cut down on watering in the Fall months, we would go into the winter season with soggy fairways, greens that would footprint badly and difficult maintenance problems. We could not achieve a good cut on fairways, soil compaction would be a real problem with poor drainage the immediate result. A beautiful golf course is the end result of proper water management. Turf management experts say water sparingly—you will have better turf. We concur completely.

Reprint from The New Leaf News

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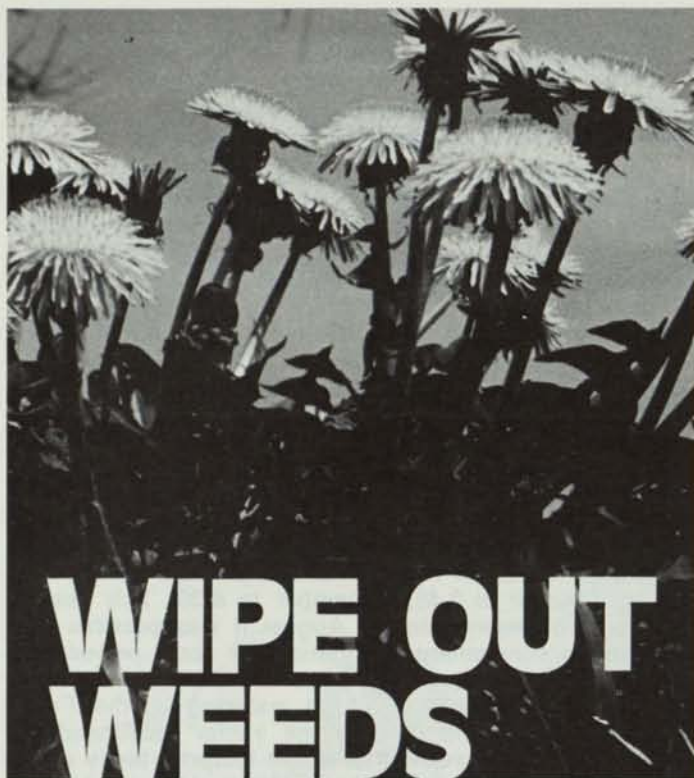
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James A. Fizzell  
Extension Adviser, Horticulture

**WINTER INJURY TO PLANTINGS APPARENT NOW**  
The severity of the weather this winter along, with the lack of moisture last fall has resulted in injury to some plants. Following several years of relatively mild winters the intense cold, and the unusual winds have been particularly damaging according to James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Horticulturist in Cook County.

#### **What to do for Winter Damaged Evergreens**

Evergreens and yews suffered greatly this winter. Young growth was frozen, dried, and killed by the high winds and sub zero temperatures.

This damage can be seen now, but will become more evident later this spring.

Don't attempt to prune away this damage early. Allow the plant to make as much new growth as possible. Then do your corrective and regular maintenance pruning in early July or after new growth matures.

A light fertilization with a high nitrogen fertilizer such as one with an analysis of 10-6-4 for N, P and K in late March or early April will help stimulate new growth.

Other plants that will show damage are the broadleaf evergreens such as the Hollies, Azaleas and Rhododendrons. The damage will look like burned areas on the leaf, and twigs that have died. Allow new growth to start before pruning away dead wood on such broadleaf evergreens.

Junipers also have been damaged, but their injury will look different. Andorra and Meyer Junipers will probably be the most affected. The injury will appear as small dead tufts of foliage throughout the plant. Early it may appear yellow and then turn brown in late spring or early summer. This damage can be helped with fertilization and watering if the soil is dry. If there are large areas of dead material prune it out early in July.

#### **Split Tree Trunks**

Extreme cold temperatures have caused many tree trunks to split, says Fizzell. Sycamore, Tulip Poplar, and Locust have been most seriously and frequently affected.

If you have a tree that has split, wait until warmer weather before attempting to repair it. If the tree is young and growing rapidly, it will probably heal itself, says Fizzell. But if the tree is severely damaged or is a mature tree, the trunk may need to be bolted together. Use one-half inch diameter all-thread bolts. All-thread is a completely threaded rod which will accept a nut and washer for tightening from each end. Remove any dead or damaged bark along the split. When the split is closed be sure the surface is clean and smooth to promote quick healing. A sharp wood chisel can be used to smooth the surface and clean away damaged bark. If a large wound is left, Fizzell recommends covering it with a tree wound dressing. The tree will repair itself in one or two growing seasons, Fizzell concludes.

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Bruce R. Williams [right] receives the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation Outstanding Student Award in Turfgrass Management at Michigan State University. The award is presented by Gordon LaFontaine [left], Vice President and a director of the Foundation.

Mr. Bruce R. Williams received the Outstanding Student Award in Turfgrass Management at the 47th Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference held at East Lansing, Michigan, January 18, 1977. Bruce was President of the Michigan State University Turfgrass Club this past year. While employed as a research aide in Turfgrass breeding, he also served as a peer counselor for the 2-year program. Bruce will become the Assistant Superintendent at Bob O'Link Golf Club, Highland Park, Illinois in March.

#### THE WAY IT WAS

70 years ago, putting greens were seeded. They were not planted with stolons as became the fashion in later years, but various grasses were recommended for putting green turf, and these were all from seed.

Recommended were Crested Dog's Tail, Rhode Island Bent and Creeping Bent. The recommended mixture was Crested Dog's Tail, 30 percent, Rhode Island Bent, 35 percent and Creeping Bent, 35 percent. The Crested Dog's Tail was not recommended to be used alone but in a mixture. I am not sure why it was used but I think it was probably to fill in and give the turf a better color, it being of a dark green shade. Sometimes fescue was also seeded.

Grass seed was expensive in those days, that is, for those times. To name a few.

Crested Dog's Tail	\$55.00 per 100 lbs.
Rhode Island Bent	25.00 per 100 lbs.
Creeping Bent	24.00 per 100 lbs.
Fescue	38.00 per 100 lbs.
Kentucky Blue Grass	14.00 per 100 lbs.
Poa Trivialis	38.00 per 100 lbs.
Bermuda	40.00 per 100 lbs.
Red Top	15.00 per 100 lbs.

If the reader is wondering about this Crested Dog's Tail, I cannot remember seeing any of it, but if you want to see the seed heads and seed, journey out to Lake Shore Country Club where Adolph Bertucci holds forth and you will see it and other grasses displayed under glass in his office.

These seeded greens had rather a patchy look and I can remember some large patches of velvet bent, which according to a survey taken many years ago, was the favorite grass for greens. Unfortunately, velvet bent disappeared from the greens a number of years ago, but that's the way it was.

**Bill Stupple**  
Retired Golf Course Supt.

#### MIDWEST MEETING DATES

April 19 -	Mission Hills
May 9 -	Ravinia Green
June 6 -	Beverly C.C.
July 18 -	Aurora C.C.
August ? -	Indian Lakes Joint Meeting I.T.F.
September -	
October -	Possible Joint Wisconsin meeting
November -	Annual Meeting River Forest - Dinner Dance
December -	Annual Clinic

#### THE ROAD WE HAVE TAKEN

James P. Callaghan

One of Robert Frost's poems tells of two roads diverging in the woods. The first road appeared to be the one that promised easy travel. Being wide, straight and smooth, it was the road, by logical choice, to take. Unlike the first, the second road was narrow, meandering and bumpy - it disappeared into the undergrowth. It was the road least travelled; a definite challenge to undertake.

As golf course superintendents, the road we have taken is much like the second road in Robert Frost's poem, "The Road Not Taken". Each day of our lives may bring us a new road that we have never seen before. As we travel along our road, challenge is the name of our game, its omnipresence is with us every mile.

We are a special breed of human beings, looking forward to tackle the treacherous road. Taking the easy way out is not our nature. We overcome the uncertain aspects of tomorrow that seem to be lurking everywhere on the road.

Like an icebreaker opening new channels through the Arctic, we are constantly opening new pathways towards better turf management. We are always trying to fill in the potholes and straighten the curves that we may encounter.

Knowing that sections of our road may be very rough, we keep ourselves tuned. We rarely let our oil pressure get low and we keep our fuel level full. Our correct timing is a must and we travel on a full set of balanced wheels.

Like the moth searching for the proverbial light, we search for knowledge to enable safe travel along the road by attending meetings, reading trade journals and sharing our thoughts. Absence of proper improvement is like traveling in the dark without headlights. It is a fact of life that plays a very important role during our journey.

In recent years, our road has been made somewhat easier to travel along. New breakthroughs in mechanization have resulted in improved mileage. Correct applications of fertilizers have provided for healthy green turf along our road. Proper use of pesticides have eliminated many of the flat tires we encountered. Irrigation systems have kept the dust out of our eyes. And recent research has added guardrails along the dangerous stretches of road.

Although our road is paved with trials and tribulations, we are ready to undertake it, knowing that successful completion of each mile means reward.

Traveling our eternity road, we marvel at everything we find there. We are carrying a heavy load, searching to find peace of mind.

When we reach the end of our road, the great feeling of accomplishment will be overwhelming. Looking back upon it, we will see ourselves speeding through a shadow of a million miles. Indeed, we will be saying, "And that has made all the difference".



## STANDING STILL IS FALLING BEHIND

Johnny Miller, sometimes called the pro tour's thinking golfer, commented recently that many golfers reach a certain level of perfection and then can't seem to progress any further. That's because they don't keep learning constantly, in spite of how much they already know.

The good golf course superintendent is much like those golfers. He often has reached an admirable level of perfection — his course is in great shape, he knows what to watch out for and how to treat problems, and things generally are going along quite well.

But then something happens. Maybe it isn't noticeable for a while, but slowly, almost imperceptibly, things begin to go downhill compared to other courses. That isn't because the once-expert superintendent has lost what he already knew. It's often because he has failed to keep up with new ideas, products and methods in golf course management.

Those superintendents have become confident and satisfied, and with good reason. But in today's world where things move rapidly, standing still is really the same as falling behind.

How can the superintendent keep up and progress? First he can consciously think about and work at learning new things. It's easy to get caught up in the day-to-day operational decisions and problems and not find the time or the motivation to look into new developments, including some that might not directly apply to him and his course.

Where can a person look for new ideas? There are the obvious answers — books, papers, magazines, literature about new equipment and products, GCSAA Conference and Show, seminars, and chapter meetings.

Volunteering to teach someone else is a way for some superintendents to progress professionally. The students' questions and the superintendent's preparations to teach open up areas the superintendent might not have thought about for a long time. Everyone who teaches also learns.

Some superintendents continue to grow by speaking at meetings, offering to teach their specialties to younger superintendents and working more closely with their crews. Some take on handicapped workers and teach them useful skills. At the same time, the superintendents learn more about their own courses, themselves and turf management procedures.

Taking extension courses through a university is another way to increase knowledge, and so is delving deeply into a subject that has been interesting for years but that there has never been time to really study. To understand turfgrass physiology, for instance, a superintendent could take advantage of the many excellent books on the subject and he could also talk with university, extension and industry experts who are nearby or accessible.

Sharing knowledge enriches the sharer doubly, and writing an article for a magazine is one way to share. How about THE GOLF SUPERINTENDENT?

Challenging yourself and your knowledge through testing is another way many people have chosen to improve themselves. While it soon will be a requirement in all states for superintendents to be tested if they use restricted chemicals on their courses, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has offered superintendents the professionalism yardstick of a certification program since 1971.

Preparing for any test will require you to at least refresh your knowledge if you want to perform

acceptably on the test, and it usually will reveal new areas of knowledge you may have overlooked. Similar to most professional association certification programs, and like the licensing requirements of other professionals (teachers and pilots, e.g.), the GCSAA certification calls for continued demonstration of improvement at least every five years in order to renew certification. Certified Golf Course Superintendents demonstrate their abilities and knowledge and they thereby challenge themselves, for their personal betterment and that of the profession.

Most of all, growth can come from listening to what others have to say. Johnny Miller put it this way: "I'm not afraid to listen to anybody ... because I feel that if you're smart and know what you're doing, then another guy might say something that's not even right but it will spur you to think about something that is right. Or he may trigger some thought. You might be able to take a primary level thought and go ahead and put it up at the ... level in your own mind. If it's not a good thought you can just say it doesn't work for you. So I don't mind listening to anybody. I love to talk to people."

Cultivating the skill of listening makes it possible for even experts to learn from other experts and from amateurs. Being an expert in one's field today doesn't necessarily mean that a person will be an expert in that field tomorrow. Stagnation is negative, no matter at which level it sets in, and it can be avoided by concentrating and making continued efforts to grow and progress. Remember, no one really stands still, because those who stand still are quickly passed by others.

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When the weather department announces that an inch of rain fell during the last shower, do you know just how much rain fell? An acre of ground covers 43,560 square feet or 6,272,640 square inches. An inch of water is therefore 6,272,640 cubic inches. That amount at 231 cubic inches per gallon equals 27,154.285 gallons or 226,466.73 pounds per acre. Say your club covers 168 acres. Therefore an inch of rain falling on the property weighs 38,046,410 pounds or more than 19,023 tons.



## THE INVISIBLE MEN

By Furman Bisher  
Sports Editor

The biggest subject of gossip around any golf course is not the pro, not the nifty feminine member who wears the shorts too short and the blouse too tight and behind whose foursome all the panting male members want to play. Nor the sandbagger with the 18 handicap.

It's an invisible man. You know he's there, but you never see him. He might have lunch at the next table in the men's grill, but you wouldn't recognize him.

He's a kind of Santa Claus with a green thumb. He works while you sleep. You go to bed at night and wake up the next morning to find that he has achieved wonders.

He probably couldn't break 100. It's possible the only club he ever swung was a pick. (That's a No. 2 club in your gardening bag.)

The spring breaks, the greens are like parlor rugs, the fairways look like long verdant hallways through the forest and the rough is but yet only tender sprouts, all the members go about cooing, "The course is in the greatest condition I've ever seen." They're talking about the Unseen Man with the Unidentifiable face.

The winter has been rotten. The course a bog from rains that turn the fairways to ponds and the color to brown. Greens are patchy. Bunkers have washed. April comes and the course looks like Sulphur Pits 9-Hole Municipal Links — though it's 1,000 miles from any ocean — \$1.50 a round. You curse him. You're not sure who, but you curse him.

### —Their Business Is Grass

You've never met him socially, but you invite the Lord to join you in bringing down an avalanche of wrath upon him. Your putt hits a patch of poa annua, you assail his parentage. Your drive hits a sign that says, "No Carts Today," you demand an immediate face-to-face with him.

You discover that he is real. Flesh and blood. A very tranquil man with cool, clear eyes, and in condition to swim the rapids — upstream. Chances are, he wouldn't know Calcutta from a church bazaar. But he knows grass, and how to grow it. Basically, that's his business — grass-growing, and barbering it.

Mostly, he's referred to as "the greenkeeper," a rather pleasantly bucolic term. As a group, they refer to themselves as "golf course superintendents." They have a national organization called "Golf Course Superintendents of America." They didn't get off some hay mower and come to town. They study for it, and they're as devout toward their duty as monks.

They don't wear bib overalls and dip snuff. They use words longer than some of your putts. One of the topics at their annual convention this year will be, "Turf Management: A Synergistic Approach."

That's one you don't hear being thrown around the locker room, or over the gin table.

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### News Release

#### TEXAS A&M TURFGRASS RESEARCHER LECTURES IN AUSTRALIA

Dr. James B. Beard, Professor of Turfgrass Physiology at Texas A&M University, participated in a three-week lecture tour in Australia as a guest of the Australian Turfgrass Industry. Two major addresses were given before the Biennial Australian National Turf Conference as well as lectures before professional turfmen in Sidney, Melbourne, Brisbane, and Newcastle. Dr. Beard also consulted with the turfgrass research groups at the Victoria Turfgrass Research Institute in Melbourne and the Australian Turfgrass Institute in Sidney, Australia.

In conjunction with this trip Dr. Beard also toured New Zealand for a week. During this time he visited and consulted on turfgrass research at the New Zealand Turfgrass Institute in Palmerston North and also in Christ Church.

#### THE LIVING SERMON

"I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day,  
I'd rather one would walk with me than merely  
tell the way;

The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear,  
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear:  
The best of all preachers are the men who live  
their creeds,

For to see God put in action is what everybody needs.

I soon can learn to do it, if you'll let me see it done,  
I can watch your hands in action, your tongue  
too fast may run;

The lectures you deliver may be very wise and true,  
But I'd rather get my lessons by observing  
what you do;

I may not understand the high advice you give,  
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and  
how you live."

-Selected