

EXCUSES, EXCUSES, ETC.

The three "R's" may no longer be taught in the traditional manner by our educators. Nevertheless, the "traditional" excuses for being absent from school are still being received by the teachers.

A Greenville, S.C. teacher who received them passed the following along to the **Fort Jackson Leader** recently.

Dear School:

Please excuse John for being absent on January 28, 29, 30, 32 and 33.

Chris have a ache in his side.

Mary could not come to school because she was bothered by very close veins.

John has been absent because he has two teeth taken out of his face.

I kept Billie home because she had to go Christmas shopping because I didn't know what size she wear.

Please excuse Gloria. She has been sick and under the doctor.

My son is under the doctor's care and should not take P.E. Please execute him.

Lille was absent from school yesterday as she had a going over.

Please excuse Joey Monday. He had loose vowels.

Carole was absent yesterday because he was playing football. He was hurt in the growing part.

Mary Ann was absent December 11-15 because she had a fever, sore throat, headache, and upset stomach. Her sister was also sick, fever and sore throat. Her brother had upset stomach and ached all over. I wasn't feeling the best either, sore throat and fever. There must be the flu going around. Her father even got hot last night.

Please excuse Blanche from P.E. for a few days. Yesterday she fell out of a tree and misplaced her hip.

Please excuse Joyce from JIM today. She is administrating.

My daughter was absent yesterday because she was tired. She spent the weekend with the Marines.

Please excuse Jimmy for being. It was his father's fault.

Please excuse Dianna from being absent yesterday. She was in bed with Gramps. (AFPS)

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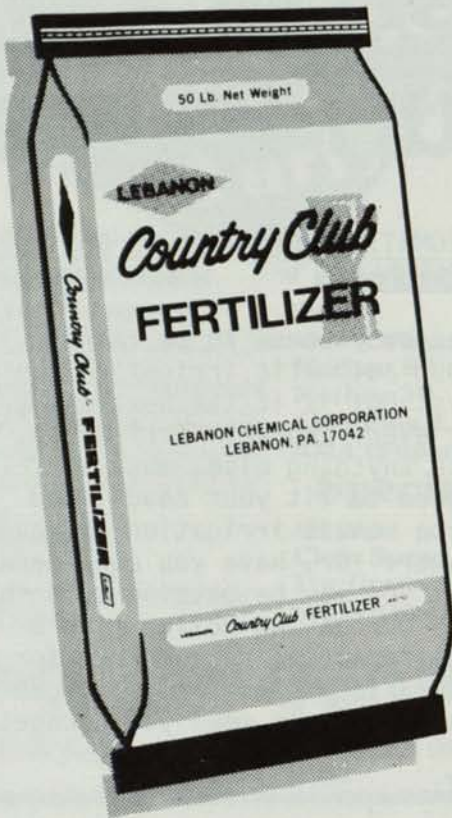
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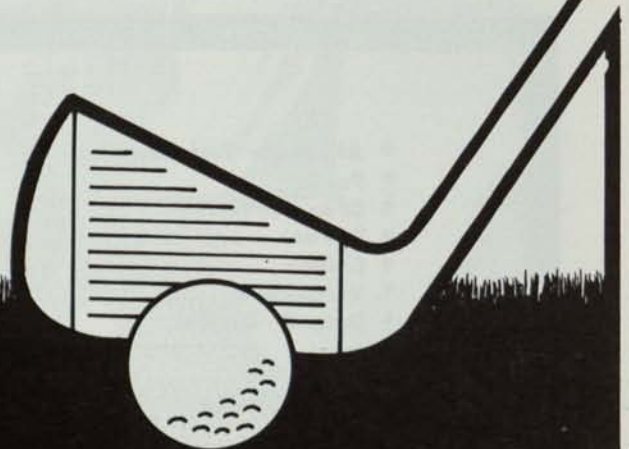
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IMPROVE YOUR DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

The golf course superintendent makes decisions every day in every area of his work. Most are good decisions, or he wouldn't be where he is. But some aren't so good, and then the superintendent should review his decision-making process. Here are four suggestions for making good decisions.

First, ask others for their opinions. Incorporate worthy ones into your thinking but don't base your decisions solely on someone else's opinions.

Second, approach decision-making with creativity, as explained above. Don't assume that what worked in the past will still work today—check it out.

Third, use your intuition and play your hunches, but temper them with facts. Legitimate hunches can be

easily confirmed by seeking out relevant information.

Fourth, attack the problem. Don't procrastinate, hoping it will go away or solve itself. Fight problems with action, not inaction.

Credit: FORE FRONT, April 1977

OGLESBY GARDENER FINDS GRENADE

Joseph Canale of 422 E. Walnut St., Oglesby, unearthed an unusual item while digging up hedges in his yard Thursday—a hand grenade!

"I was digging out the hedge along my property line and hit it with a pick—in fact I hit it twice! It must have been there for years."

The grenade, an old "pineapple" type of World War II vintage, was rusted and the handle was missing but the pin was still in it.

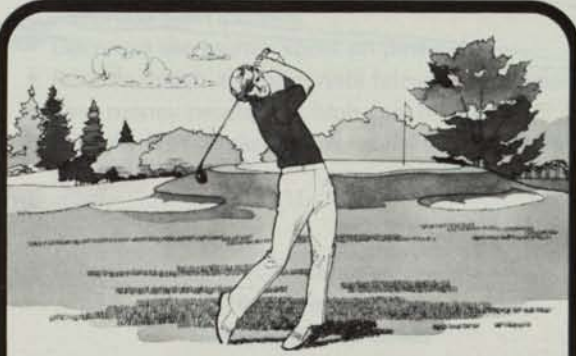
"I put it off to the side, I didn't want to have anything to do with it," Canale said. "It was no bigger than a baseball," he explained.

Oglesby policeman Ken Siensa took possession of the grenade and notified U.S. Army personnel at Savanna who picked it up Friday.

The army sergeant who took the grenade told Siensa it probably was still live and capable of exploding.

Canale has no idea where the grenade came from or how it got into the soil six inches under the surface. Canale put the hedges in 20 years ago.

Editor says - Lucky Joe.



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C. E. (Scotty) Stewart's many friends will be pleased to know that he has been elected to his third 3 year term as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Homewood Federal Savings and Loan Association. This financial institution, which has assets in excess of 84 million dollars, specializes in making mortgage loans to home owners and Scotty is pleased to state that a number of superintendents have been helped in the mortgaging of their homes.

It is suggested that any superintendent who wishes to purchase a home contact Scotty for current data.

THE SYMPATHY OF THE MIDWEST

Our sympathy is extended to the Borgmeier family due to the death of Oscar Borgmeier who passed away on May 15, 1977. Mr. Borgmeier was one of the former owners of The Geo. A. Dairs Co. He was one of the founders of the A. J. Noer Research Foundation.

He was a member of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Supts.

Oscar was respected by everyone - always willing to help his fellow men. Mr. Borgmeier's passing away has left considerable sorrow among his many, many friends.

The sympathy of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Supts. is extended to the Arthur Clesen family due to the death of Mr. Clesen. Art passed away on April 23, 1977 very suddenly. Mr. Clesen was a business man dealing in golf course equipment and other supplies. He was a member of the Golf Course Supts. Association of America and also a member of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Supts. His death was a shock to his many friends.

Sympathy due to the death of Mel Johnson is extended by his many friends to the Johnson family. He left a host of friends and a record everyone would be proud of. Mel was the Pro-Supt. at Butterfield C.C. for many years. He rebuilt several greens at various golf courses in the Chicago area. He always had time to help others. In the early forties the Chicago District Golf Association furnished the necessary funds to build a nine hole golf course at Hines Hospital for the veterans. Help was needed and Mel was one that was ready to help a good cause. At the dedication a large plaque was placed on the wall of the pro shop. Mel Johnson's name along with Norman Johnson and this editor's name were on the plaque. I have been told the plaque is still there. And I am happy to have my name along side of these great men.

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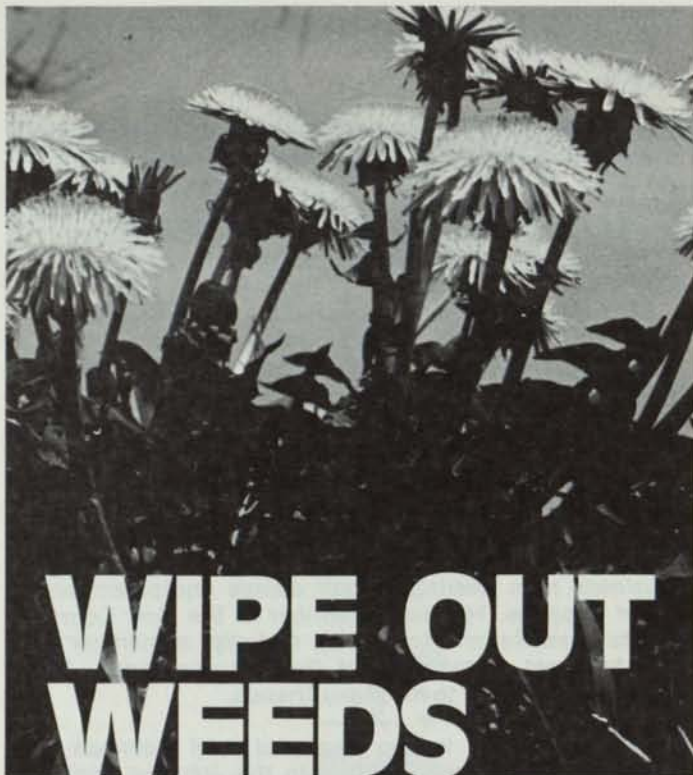
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The following article was published in the Bull Sheet a few years ago. It received nationwide interest. It will refresh your memory and be helpful to the many young supt's. of today.

GREENS MOWING NOT AS EASY AS IT LOOKS by Bob Williams, Sup't. Bob O'Link Golf Club

Highland Park, Ill.

To most golfers, the mowing of greens is just an insignificant necessity that happens periodically in the routine of course maintenance.

To the seasoned superintendent, greens mowing becomes somewhat routine too until some facet of the operation begins to break down. Then we can get into all sorts of problems.

Actually, greens mowing is an art which is coupled with a number of scientific factors. To begin with, good, true, putting surfaces are one of the primary assets and objectives for any golf course. Considerable scientific know-how must go into the development of the turfgrass on these surfaces. Selection of adapted grass strains, soil mixtures, drainage, irrigation, disease control, plus many others are samples of items that have to be in balance before we get around to the mowing and grooming. The mowing of the putting green is the final touch in providing a velvet smooth surface that hopefully allows the golfer to see his ball run true to its target at the bottom of the cup.

In the northern climate, greens mowing should start as soon as the frost is out of the ground and the surface is dry. In Chicago, this is normally around the last of March or the first of April. This first cutting takes off the accumulation of winter growth. By about the third week in April there is enough growth to require a daily mowing schedule. Here is where one of the keys to good greens lies. Greens must be mowed at least six days a week and preferably seven throughout the growing season.

In greens mowing, we are harvesting a crop of grass of approximately a ½ bushel per day, per green. If we skip a day of mowing, we begin to accumulate excess leaf blades that can eventually develop into graininess and matting of the leaf blades. Combs or brushes can be used ahead of the mower to help offset this tendency towards the establishment of grain.

What frequently happens unfortunately, is that when a superintendent is short handed for labor, he is inclined to skip the greens mowing occasionally. This practice eventually leads to problems of thatch, grain and poor putting. So by all means, I consider it a MUST to mow greens on a daily basis.

Another important element in greens mowing is the necessity to constantly change the direction of the mowing pattern. In so doing, we reduce the possibility of developing graininess. In practice, most superintendents instruct their operators to think of the green as the face of a clock, with the mowing direction shifted to various positions. For example, 6:00 to 12:00, 7:00 to 2:00, 3:00 to 9:00 and 5:00 to 11:00.

In our procedure at Bob O'Link, we teach our greensmen to repair all ball marks on the green before he actually begins to mow. This avoids scalping off any raised areas. Next, we ask our greensmen to remove the flagstick to a spot far enough off the green so as not to run into it while making a turn with the mower. This practice also avoids the dropping of the pole on the green resulting damage to good puttability.

After our man has repaired the ball marks and removed the flagstick, he now proceeds to make his initial cut across the green in the direction appropriate for that particular day. This first cut is also taken somewhere near the center of the green, relative to the direction for that day. This helps him to keep his lines straighter.

In the mechanics of the actual mowing, several points are important to stress. First, we teach our men to make a circular turn at the end of each strip rather than a quick twist of the mower. Twisting or turning the mower on-a-dime so to speak, ends up with damage to the turf on the collar and eventually bare ground as the summer heat and stress arrives.

Another most important aspect of mowing is the cutting of the final edge around the perimeter of the putting area. We have our men make two cuts around the green's outer edge to complete the mowing of the putting surface proper. Here is where some operators have a problem in maintaining the exact outside edgeline. They are inclined to either come in a little bit each day or to go out a little farther each day. By coming in, you soon lose the shape of the green and the greens get smaller and smaller. By going out, you bite into longer grass on the collar which will kill out in the hot weather and look very unsightly. We reshape our greens outlines every spring and this sometimes means resodding with putting green turf rather than to try to lower the height of the collar or bank turf.

Another consideration for high quality greens mowing, is to teach the operators to walk at a moderate to slow speed and to hold onto the mower handle with a palms-up light grip. The operator who goes at high speed with heavy arms tends to bounce the mower with the result of a very undesirable "washboard" affect on the putting surface. This slowing down is difficult where early morning play is heavy, particularly for the public courses.

In our mowing process, we have to establish a procedure for the disposal of the clippings. At Bob O'Link, we spread the clippings in the rough a short distance from the green, trying to change the spot from day to day. Some supers are providing bags or other containers for the grass, which is then picked up as a separate operation. Still others provide each mower with a small vehicle and he collects his clippings as he mows from green to green. The nutrient value derived from the decay and breakdown of the clippings is most beneficial if the operator can learn to properly spread them out so as not to interfere with the lie of a golf ball.

Height of cut for putting greens? This is a subject that can bring about some pretty lively discussions between superintendents. Part of this is true because of the variations in the different makes and types of mowers. They do not all cut alike even though the bed knife setting may be the same. Also, different strains of grass under different management practices will respond differently. Height of cut might also be dictated to a great extent by traffic, budget, labor, climate as a few examples. Consequently, there are so many variables in determining a proper height for mowing that it is hard to find two courses with exactly the same putting surfaces for speed, resilience and general puttability.

Our height of cut remains the same throughout the season. We use a single unit power mower set at 13/64ths of an inch (half way between 3/16ths & 7/32nds). Our membership prefers the greens to be moderately fast without being slippery. This height gives us this response. Combs are left on our mowers

during the entire season, set 3/32nds below the cutting height.

We mow our greens by the sectional system with four men each mowing 5 greens (includes practice and nursery). Each greensman also rakes the footprints from the green traps on days when we are not power raking. Our normal time for mowing and trap care combined runs about 3 hours per man for a total of 12 labor hours, per day.

The current trend towards multiple triplex mowing units for greens opens up a whole new approach. Some courses are using them exclusively, others are using them in part, and still others are watching attentively to see how successful they prove out. At any rate, regardless of the type of machine used, most all of the principles we noted earlier, must still be observed, such as:

- Change of direction of cut.
- Care to maintain the outer edge.
- Ball mark repair before mowing.
- Flag stick removal.
- Brushing or combing.
- Moderate to slow speed.
- Daily mowing.
- Careful attention to gasoline, grease, oil, no spills.

While we are still using the single units for our greens, we are gaining experience with the triplex on our tees and collars. Thus far we are very happy with the results of the triplex as we are using it. The reduction of labor costs with the triplex units will undoubtedly force the use of the multiple units for greens mowing in the future. At the same time the manufacturers seem to be steadily improving the mechanical efficiency of their machines. Personally, I doubt if you will find single unit mowers on greens within five years, and I don't think we will lose any quality in the process. If anything, we will not only save manhours, we will be doing a better job with a better tool for management.

HOW'S YOUR TURF IQ? *ANSWERS*

1. True. The results will be decreased root and shoot growth, reduced chlorophyll content, and reduced succulence.
2. Syringing helps to: Prevent wilt, cools the turf, reduces transpiration, and removes dew, frost, or exudations.
3. The main methods of irrigating are: Overhead irrigation which is the use of sprinklers; Surface irrigation, which is flooding; and Subsurface irrigation which supplies water to the plants beneath the soil without wetting the surface.
4. An acre inch of water equals 27,154 gallons of water.
5. One gallon of water weights 8.33 pounds, there are 7½ gallons in a cubic foot and a cubic foot of water weights 62½ pounds.

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By Stanley Rachesky
University of Illinois

To check for the presence of chinch bugs and other insects, take an old coffee can, cut both ends off and sink it into the turf about an inch, then add two or three teaspoons of household detergent or one tablespoon of Pyrethrum emulsion to a gallon of water and pour it into the can. Chinch bugs, sod webworms, armyworms, cutworms, etc., will rise to the surface if they are present. If not, all you're out is an old coffee can.

GROUND PEARLS — Actually, they're not worth a dime, so don't think you're rich if you find them. They're the immature or nymphal stage of a soil inhabiting scale insect. The nymphs are encysted in hard, globular shells that closely resemble tiny pearls about one eighth of an inch in diameter. The young nymphs feed on the fine, little grass rootlets by sucking out the plant juices (sounds like a vampire insect — da-a-ahling). When ground pearl infestations are heavy the grass turns brown and dies in irregular spots. Good maintenance practices, especially fertilization and irrigation help to minimize ground pearl damage.

ANTS — Ants are probably the worlds number one pest. They're found almost everywhere. Most of the ant species, especially those classified as turf headaches, build their nests in the ground forming little hills near the nest openings. The ant hills and small mounds are ugly and very often smother the surrounding grass. Ants have the capabilities of damaging grass roots by nesting in and about them and by also destroying the seed in the ground, thus preventing a good stand of grass.

MOLE CRICKETS — Shovel-like feet and stout forelegs give this burrowing little insect its very apropos name. Mole crickets love to chomp into the roots of grass. Their presence in the turf is also felt by their uprooting of the grass plant itself causing the soil to quickly dry out. One little mole cricket can run havoc through a square yard of turf in a single night.

slugs and snails — These can be one of the most troublesome pests you may encounter because of the difficulty in obtaining control. Slugs and snails are related to oysters and clams. The full grown slug is about 1-2 inches long. They are one of the first pests in the spring. They can become particularly abundant when dense foliage is close to the ground.

There have been a number of remedies and combinations of ingredients tried to control these pests. For example, bran milled from wheat and mixed with Paris green, wine, vinegar, ethyl alcohol, beer (fresh and stale) and grape juice in combinations with calcium arsenate, metaldehyde, corn cobs, water, etc.

The standard consumer slug baits available to homeowners from your local garden center are metaldehyde pellets. This successful chemical used in slug and snail control was discovered in Africa by just plain chance. The story goes that a woman who used meta to boil water for tea at a picnic later observed that many slugs were attracted to crumbs of meta-fuel brushed from her car. So the discovery that powdered metaldehyde in bran was toxic to slugs and snails was a chance observation rather than any scientific experiment.

A home gardener in Connecticut who placed shallow containers of beer in her garden as a joke found that the next morning many slugs had crawled into the liquid and drowned. So once again chance, not scientific experimentation, prevailed.

Recently, tests were designed to compare the results of beer and other attractants with metaldehyde and other toxic substances to snails and slugs for control.

Slugs and snails were collected and three tests conducted. The tests were replicated two to six times. In four tests, beer as a standard was highly attractive to the slugs and snails whether it was fresh or had been opened for a few days. Unfermented grape juice also attracted large numbers when it was fresh but lost it's effectiveness after a couple of days. Wine, vinegar, and ethyl alcohol were unattractive.

MILLIPEDES AND CENTIPEDES — These little creatures are not insects, but are worm-like, little animals with many body segments and legs. The difference between the two is that centipedes have one pair of legs (2 legs) per each body segment while millipedes have two pair of legs (4 legs) per each body segment. Both species curl up into a coil when they're disturbed. They usually do not do any damage to lawns as they feed mainly on decaying matter. After a heavy rain they often times congregate in great numbers. Many times one will see them crawling through the grass either in the spring or fall of the year in vast multitudes. For some reason or other, they appear to migrate at that time of the year. If your house happens to be in the migration path, watch out! They crawl into houses, garages, swimming pools, etc.

SOWBUGS AND PILLBUGS — These little creatures are not insects either. They closely resemble in appearance an Armadillo. However, one lady once described them as looking exactly like a Volkswagon. A perfect comparison. Sowbugs differ from pillbugs by not being able to coil up into a little ball or pill when disturbed. Both species feed on organic matter in the soil and once in a blue moon, on grass and other plants. They have been known to run amuck in green houses, however, they seldom cause injury to turf. They mainly are a nuisance pest in and around the yard and are occasionally found migrating into your house.

CLOVER MITES — Very tiny, tiny animals about the size of the head of a pin. They feed on a clover, grasses, shrubs and a variety of other plants, but do not usually cause damage. They may occur in tremendous numbers. Actually, they're the greatest problem when they enter buildings in the fall or early spring. **Control** - Apply dicofol (Kelthane) as a broadcast spray over the turf areas adjacent to the building.

LEAFHOPPERS — Just as their name implies, they take short flights or "hops" from plant to plant. Leafhoppers are about one fourth of an inch long and can be either mottled or speckled green-yellow or brownish-gray in color.

Leafhoppers are plant sucking insects. They enjoy sucking the life out of the leaves and stems of grass or shrubs. Sometimes, feeding is so intense and populations so large that entire lawns must be reseeded. Characteristic of leafhopper damage to established lawns is the appearance of whitened patches. Leafhopper damage must be carefully diagnosed, for its damage is often mistaken due to dry weather or disease.

EARTHWORMS — A few species of earthworms can cause turf damage by throwing up substantial amounts of soil resulting in the smothering of the grass. Basically, earthworms are beneficial by aerating heavy soils. The presence of earthworms is easily distinguished at night after a rain or noting the presence of small holes in the turf surrounded by pellets. **Control** - No control recommended.



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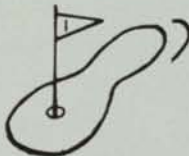
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