

FIRST NATIONAL TURF MANAGEMENT CLINIC

The first National Turf Management Clinic and Tradeshow will be held July 25-26, 1977 at the O'Hare Inn, just west of Chicago, on the Interstate and near O'Hare Airport. It is sponsored by PARK MAINTENANCE magazine and will bring together in one conference, many types of turf managers.

Expected to attend are delegates from campuses, parks, institutions, cemeteries, industrial campuses, amusement parks, government areas, professional sports areas, private developments and others with large turf areas to operate.

The program is designed to take turf managers away from their operations for only two days for a

comprehensive updating on all phases of turf care, at a time when they know their current problems and equipment deficiencies, and can get answers at the Clinic. Among program topics are: Today's Turfgrass Manager, Selection of Varieties, Establishment of Turfgrasses, Economical Use of Maintenance Equipment, Developing a Fertilizer Program, Cultural Maintenance, Turfgrass Maintenance Ideas and Tips, Irrigation Systems, Diseases and Control, Soil Factors, Insects and Control, Weed Control, Renovation, Problem Solving.

Some of the speakers are: Dr. Robert Shearman, Carl Schwartzkopf (USGA Green Section), William Hoopes, Dr. William Knoop, Stanley Rachesky, and Dr. James Watson.

A large exhibit of products and equipment for turf management will be on display with many resource people manning booths. Many turf researchers will attend and will hold a concurrent meeting to exchange views on current problems.

The Clinic is designed to provide the latest in turf information to those working with turf. Speakers will present topics from a practical viewpoint and be on hand to provide individual help for delegate's problems. The Clinic will supplement local and area turf field days and by bringing together many types of turf managers, will enable delegates to meet each other and discuss common problems. The Clinic has been centrally located to minimize travel time and expense.

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BOOK REVIEW

INSECTS THAT FEED ON TREES AND SHRUBS

by Warren T. Johnson and Howard H. Lyon

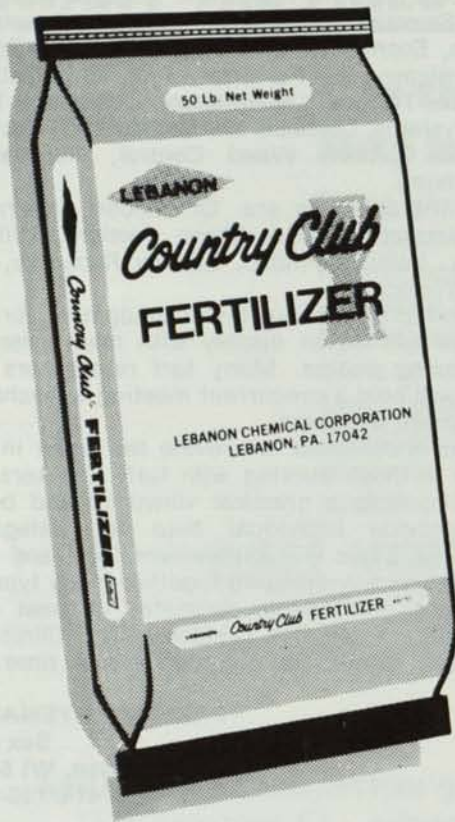
[Cornell University Press - \$35.00]

At first glance thirty-five dollars seems like a lot of money to squander on a book. Rest assured that this is the best thirty-five dollars you (your club) will ever spend on a book for your office library. This comprehensive illustrated large book with 212 full-color composite pictures provides pertinent information about more than 600 species of insects that can injure trees and shrubs in North America. Believe me, you'll have no difficulty diagnosing your plant disorders any more. It didn't take me more than a few seconds to discover the leaf minor responsible for blotches on our famous *Crataegus crus-galli* hedge at Briarwood or to locate *Euonymus* scale, a real problem on the North shore for homeowners. It was most interesting to see these devastating pests in various stages of their life cycle and typical injuries to the host plant. The facing text describes the characteristics of plant damage, the geographical distribution of the pests, and the animal's basic biology.

Since I have received this extraordinary book from Cornell University I have had almost a dozen visitors who after viewing the book in my office and admiring the text and the clear color pictures immediately ordered the book at their local book store. Why not do likewise?

Paul N. Voykin

EDITOR'S NOTE - Paul is our sometimes book reviewer. So far he has done two reviews for us in 18 years.



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BULL SHEET, History

Norm Johnson conceived the idea of an official publication for the Midwest GCSA. At the time, he was the superintendent at La Grange Country Club and treasurer of the MGCSAA.

The first meetings and the development of the "Bullsheet" took place in Norm's office at La Grange and often ran into the late evening hours. Ray Gerber and Bob Williams were the assistant editors with Paul Burdett acting as our roving reporter.

The "Bullsheet" was originated in 1947 and the same printer has been used for these past 31 years. (in La Grange). The name was suggested by Bob who had used this title for an Army bulletin he edited during World War II.

The first issues were one page mimeos with no advertising. Norm was a good Samaritan and began sending copies all over the country to many local chapters and superintendents. The cost of postage and printing grew rapidly and we finally decided we needed advertising to help defray costs. At first, we only allowed 1 inch ads at \$5.00 each.

Editors for the past 31 years, in order —

Norman C. Johnson, Donald S. Strand, William Stupple, Bert Rost, Ted Woehrle, Doug Jabaay, Tom Burrows, Richard Trevarthan, Roger La Rochelle, Ray H. Gerber.

Paul Burdett eventually became the unknown "Mole" with a monthly column concerning personalities and inside information that kept people guessing for a while as to who the real "Mole" was.

Editor's Note:

Richard Tufts, long a member of the U.S.G.A.'s Rules Committee, stresses what he calls the "two great principles" of the rules of golf; first, play the course as you find it. Second, put the ball in play at the start of the hole, play only your own ball and do not touch it until you lift it from the hole.

"Play the course as you find it", could also be the basic principle of a course in department.

ANSWERS TO HOW'S YOUR TURF IQ.

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4. The organophosphorus pesticides as a rule are the most toxic, they are usually insecticides and contain phosphorus.

5. The symptom for shock would be: Cold, pale, sweaty skin, chilling, fainting or collapse. Treatment should be: a. Keep the patient lying down and quiet, b. Wrap warmly in blankets - do not give alcohol in any form, c. Give artificial respiration if breathing is irregular or has stopped.

THE COYOTE HOWLS
Feb. 1, 1977

Sometimes a guy really doesn't know when he is really well off. This must be especially true when he is retired. This is supposed to be a time to do exactly what he wants to do, whenever the spirit moves him to do it. Of course, his wife, who presumably has retired with him always points out that women (wives) never do get to retire, that there is always washing, eating, dish washing, and house cleaning to keep her busy, and this is true. In fact, to me it seems that the task of feeding the family is even more important during retirement than at any other time. We just tried a three day diet at the various places to eat and I am convinced that another three days of the same would have us all down. Some people last longer than others.



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Of course, the males counter with the explanation that it takes time to rake the rocks and prune the grapes (all two of them) and weed the garden (especially when the weeds are not growing) or pick the radishes, but I guess those jobs are not worth counting. So some time ago I included getting up earlier and making my own bed, which made me seem a little less of a freeloader, as least to me, and I still had time to go to the shop, grind a few rocks and plant a few radishes, but then I got to be treasurer of the Lapidary Club, and for the last three days, leisure, easy times, and even swim time have all vanished and I am hounded by people wanting checks, collecting money, planning expenditures, wondering how to do the sales tax, and in addition I got to be on the Educational committee and now we have a meeting coming up and my program hasn't developed and I sure did not know when I was well off.

Well, the day is beautiful. Sky is blue, there is a mild southeast breeze. I know how I want to prune the peach trees when I get a chance. I think I can organize the jobs and do them and find time to swim, too. Besides, the heat was off in the pool because a motor burned out in Sunday's 1 inch of rain and the pool was cold, and maybe it will have warmed up today.

So from sunny Arizona on a 40 degree winter morning, the Coyote sends forth his friendly howl.

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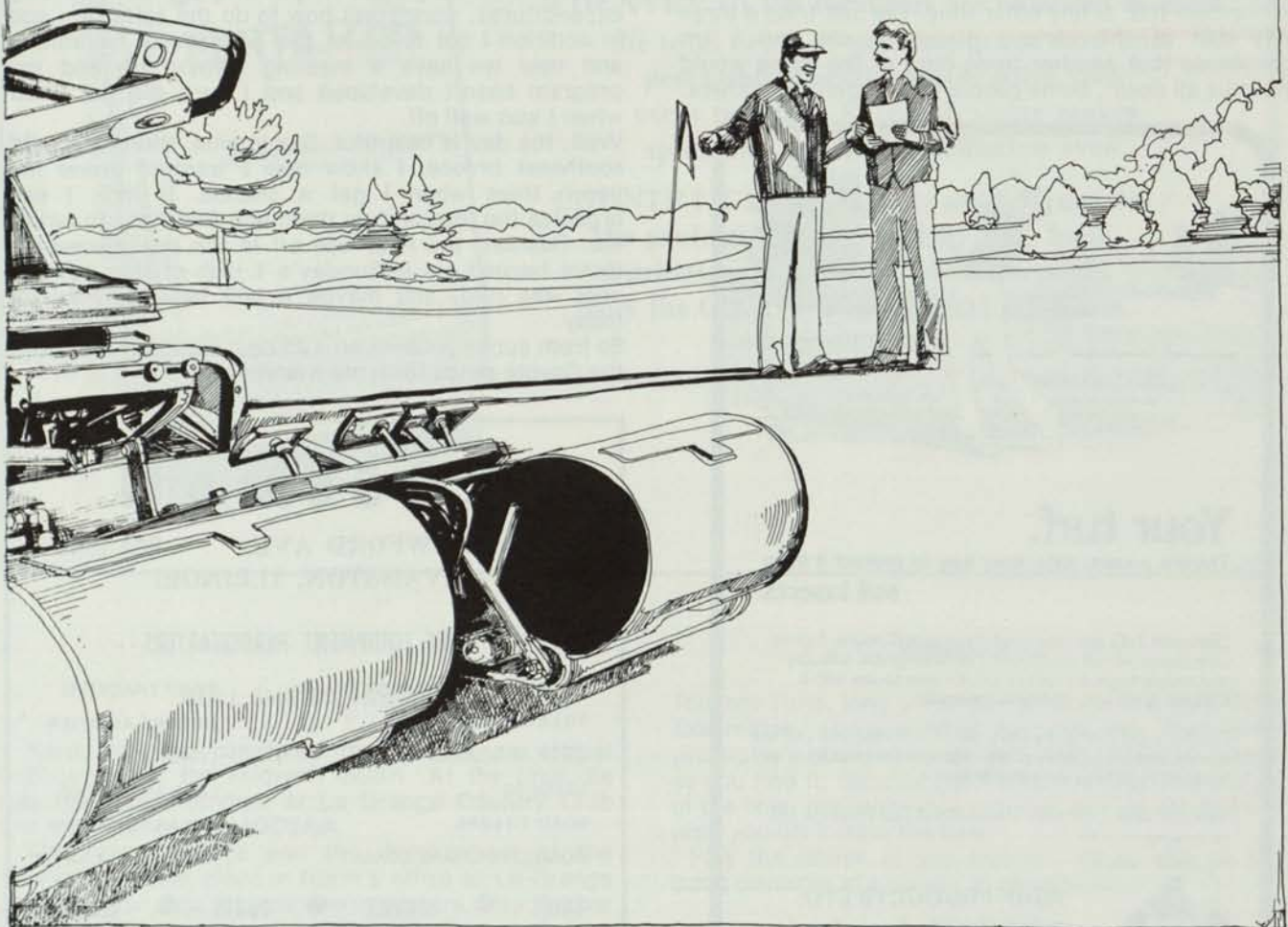
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THE WAY IT WAS

A good many years ago, I don't exactly remember how many, but it must have been about thirty, I was inspecting the course on the first of July and noticed that areas of bent on the fairways were wilting, in fact, dying although the course had been watered. I thought a thorough job had been done, but upon examination, I found that water had barely penetrated into the tremendous thatch and mat in the bent. Actual measurement showed that it was all the way from an inch to over an inch and a half. As far as I could see, there was nothing else to do but open up the turf to let water in. We had on hand at Exmoor a Kentucky drill seeder which to me seemed to be the ideal tool to do the job. The drill has disks set three inches apart and slightly dished to turn the soil slightly to allow seed to get into the ground. We filed these disks to a sharp edge, but without any weight they would not penetrate through the mat into the soil below. Finally, after adding 700 pounds of sand and a man's weight, we were ready to go. The machine did a fine job with the disks penetrating two to two and a half inches. Of course this tore up the fairways to a more or less degree. Some of the players that day were horrified at what I was doing to the fairways just before the Fourth. However, a heavy roller followed the disk and laid the turf back down again. I don't believe it was necessary to play winter rules. The cuts healed nicely and before long all evidence of the operation disappeared except that water now penetrated and the bent came back in fine shape.

This discing has become a routine fall job and I can say that every year less and less weight was needed until today, no weight whatsoever is used. Over the years the mat has disappeared until today there is practically none in fairway bent.

I remember reading some years ago about a course in the east where a number of fairways had to be torn out because of the same condition described here. It is possible that these fairways could have been saved if treated in time. Of course, this is just conjecture, but that's the way it was.

Bill Stuppel, Retired Supt.

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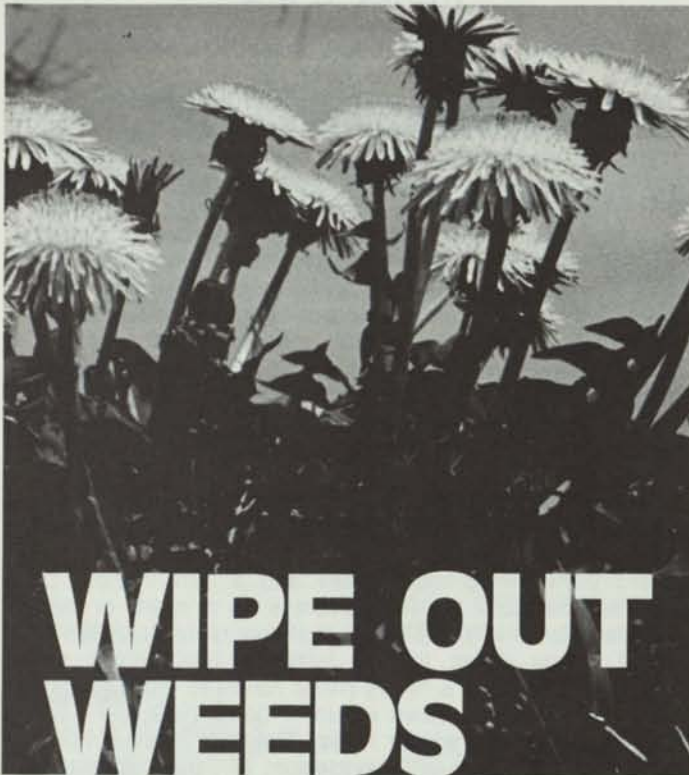
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**By Stanley Rachesky
Entomologist - University of Illinois**

Here's an organic insect control method too good to be true. Try spraying your ornamentals this summer with bug juice to protect them against insect pests. This method of insect control is being tested in various areas of the country. As of now, no one really knows whether the method will work against all types of insect pests, but it **appears** to have worked against some insect species.

A farmer in Archer, Florida, using conventional insecticides to protect his crops of peanuts and soybeans recently tried a simple method of dealing with his insect enemies. The method is this — the farmer goes into his fields and collects a cup or two of the insects that are damaging his crops. He puts them in a blender with some water, strains the results, dilutes it, and sprays it on his fields. He claims that this method has been so successful for the past two years that he didn't even have to spray his crops the third year.

There are three possible reasons why organic gardeners say that this method will work:

- 1) Pathogen-activation. Disease pathogens (germs) present in natural insect populations are possibly activated when placed in solution. When spraying your plants these pathogens somehow start a disease epidemic within the insect population.
- 2) Another reason could be that the odor of ground-up bugs attract the insects or parasites that will feed on the harmful insects.
- 3) The third reason could be that the insects distress pheromones (substances that trigger specific behavior patterns in insects) are released when the pest insects are liquified in the blender. These pheromones act as a repellent to drive away the pests.

Want to try it this summer? Here's what to do. Check your shrubs, turf, etc., and assess the damage. If it appears that the insects will destroy your planting, it's time to act. About 12 ounces will cover one hundred acres. Protect them carefully so they don't die before blending. Place them in the blender and cover the insects with a cup or two of water. The ratio should be about 1/3 insects and 2/3 water. Run the blender on high speed until the solution is liquified. Strain the solution through cheesecloth or a fine sieve. This will prevent your sprayer from becoming clogged. Freeze (not refrigerate) the remaining solution in small amounts for future use. Next, dilute the solution at the rate of 1 cc. of solution (1 drop) to 5 gallons of water. Spray your crops thoroughly including both sides of the leaves, stems, etc. If it rains soon after, repeat the spraying.

Editorial "Sex..." - continued from page 3...
manager with experience in the recreational field. These individuals would serve three year terms and receive a salary for attending board meetings and working on various management projects. These groups would benefit club operations from two stand-points, first they would bring professionalism to situations where prior the loudest voice carried the floor and second would act as a buffer between management and the Board with the unique capability of being helpful to both fractions since they are basically dis-interested third parties. We have now eliminated the so-called need (cause) of the General Manager (and also his salary) by improving the management function of both the Board of Directors and the communication and evaluation with Department Managers.

COPING WITH A WATER SHORTAGE

Maintenance practices on golf courses and other large turf areas may need to be altered during periods of water shortages and, in some circumstances, drastic changes may be necessary. If the facility depends for irrigation on municipal water and that supply is terminated or restricted, or if water available from other sources is severely limited, steps should be taken to:

- * Reduce the need for moisture.
- * Make certain all available moisture, including dew and rainfall, is utilized with maximum benefit and with maximum efficiency.
- * Improve moisture retention of the soil.
- * Find new sources of water, such as treated sewage effluent, brackish or other marginal quality water.

Here is an eight-point program that will help to conserve water and reduce the need for irrigation, while the search is made for alternate sources.

1. **Establish watering priorities.** Give the highest priority to the most intensively managed areas; for example, on a golf course, the greens, the most valuable part of the course and where the most critical play takes place. The greens also are the most difficult to revive following periods of extreme moisture stress, especially if the stress causes dormancy or turf loss. On a golf course, give lesser importance, in descending order, to tees, fairways, clubhouse grounds, rough. If there are specimen plantings or trees or plants that have special significance, e.g. those imported at high cost or a gift, give them the same special attention as the greens.

2. **Alter irrigation practices.** (This is much easier to do if the course has an automatic irrigation system). Use only enough water to sustain life, not to stimulate growth. Irrigate when there is the best combination of little wind, low temperature and high humidity. In any 24-hour period, that combination most often exists just before dawn.

When there is dew on the ground, use a surfactant ("wetting agent"), or drag a hose across the grass to break the surface tension of the dew and send as much moisture as possible to the root systems. When watering trees and shrubs, use probes so the water will penetrate deeply.

3. **Reduce, or avoid where possible, other causes of stress.** Be alert to salt build-up, especially in arid or semi-arid regions. Make certain there is adequate drainage. On golf courses, alter locations of tees and flags, and restrict golf cart use to paths and trails, keeping them off turf areas.

4. **Alter mowing and cultivation practices.** Initially, test the soil to ensure adequate fertility, especially for phosphorus, which encourages root system growth -- deeper roots, thus expanding the area from which the turfgrasses can draw nutrients and moisture. Use calcium if there is a deficiency, to bring pH to a range of 6.5 - 7.2. Maintain a constant and uniform supply of nitrogen at a low to medium level to avoid unnecessary leaf growth. Consider slow-release materials; otherwise apply soluble materials at low rates frequently, rather than at higher rates infrequently. The latter will stimulate excessive leaf growth.

Raise the height of cut for all areas. Although this enlarges the surface area through which moisture is transpired, and under normal moisture conditions may result in stepped-up activity for disease-producing organisms, the benefits gained -- mainly root ex-

tension -- are most important. Raising the height of cut on a golf course green as little as 1/32 of an inch can have a significant effect on the ability of the green to tolerate stress from lack of moisture.

Mow less frequently. The combination of reduced irrigation and fertilization, higher height of cut and less frequent mowing can induce "hardening" of the turfgrasses.

Increase frequency of spiking or cultivate -- if temperatures are not extreme -- to trap moisture and hold it longer in the vicinity of the root system.

5. **Expand use of mulch.** Apply heavy layers of mulch -- any organic debris that's available -- around the base of trees, shrubs and flower beds, to hold in moisture.

6. **Erect wind barriers, especially where there are large expanses of open spaces.** Less than 3 percent of the water absorbed by a turfgrass plant is utilized by the plant. Most of it -- the other 97 percent is lost into the atmosphere by transpiration. And the rate of transpiration will rise with an increase in wind speed, radiation or temperature and by reduction in humidity. (Some of the same practices used to trap snow in the northern regions can be applied to reduce wind velocity.)

7. **Aggressively seek additional sources of water.** Among the several possibilities are wells and ponds, collections of marginal water and -- the most abundant and most often wasted supply -- treated sewage effluent. There are many golf courses throughout the country successfully using recycled wastewater for irrigation.

8. **Experiment with anti-transpirants.** Although techniques for inhibiting transpiration have had mixed results, some reduction in moisture loss through transpiration might be accomplished with the use of chemicals, emulsions or films.

Water, as it does for all living things, performs many vital functions necessary to the life of turfgrass. It is the transport medium that carries nutrients to the plant. It plays an essential role in the photosynthetic process, metabolic process, in hydrolysis and in thatch decomposition. Seeds cannot germinate without it.

Denied water indefinitely turfgrass, trees -- all vegetation -- ultimately will die. But under sound management practices geared to water conservation, the life of plants on a golf course and other large turf areas can be extended, perhaps even sustained, until it rains, the water shortage subsides or water is delivered from alternate sources.

If turf must be replaced and it appears likely water will be in short supply indefinitely, replace with more drought resistant turfgrasses. James Beard, in his book **Turfgrass Science and Culture**, gives the relative drought resistance of 22 turfgrasses. He rates Buffalograss, Bermudagrass, Zoysiagrass and Bahiagrass as "excellent" and crested wheatgrass, hard fescue, sheep fescue, tall fescue and red fescue as "good". Less drought resistant -- in the poor-to-medium range -- are the bluegrasses, ryegrasses and bentgrasses.

by Dr. James R. Watson
Vice President - Agronomist
The Toro Company

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**From Jim Bertoni
La Jolla Country Club
La Jolla California**

Now that I have stationed myself here in Southern California for over 3 years now, I guess I could be an authority of the differences between golf course management from the Midwest to the Southwest. The definition of an authority is "anyone who lives more than five miles away", and I qualify.

Although one would think that the agronomics of turf culture would be a stumbling block for a move from "cool season" to "warm season" or vice-versa, I have found this to be the least of my worries. We, as Superintendents, are professionals in the art of growing grass, regardless of variety or species. Bermuda grass is no more different than Bentgrass or than Bluegrass is. What I have tried to do is to understand the nature of the grasses that I have to work with, and design my programs accordingly. Soils out here are a great deal different than Chicago. In fact, what I have here at La Jolla C.C. for topsoil would not even be adequate for sub-soil at Knollwood. Out here, the soil is very heavy with an over abundance of rocks ranging in diameter from 2" to 2'. About 8-12" below this "topsoil" is a material called caliche - "a layer strongly cemented by secondary carbonates of calcium or magnesium precipitated from the soil solution. It may occur as: (1) a soft, thin soil horizon; (2) a hard thick bed just beneath the solum; (3) a surface layer exposed by erosion." Caliche at La Jolla C.C. falls into the categories 1 and 2 above. In some areas it is so thick, that it has taken 48 labor hours just to dig a hole for one tree! Many golf courses and landscape areas have found it necessary to use dynamite to penetrate caliche. The heavy, shallow soil creates numerous problems when determining the watering program during the night. Being as close to the Pacific Ocean as we are, 40% of our days are overcast. Thus, if we irrigate to allow for a sunny condition and it does not exist the following day, we are extremely wet (the water has no place to go, it is held at the surface as the caliche will not allow it to penetrate it's strata). If on the other hand we irrigate expecting an overcast day and it is sunny, we are bone

dry and the grass is subject to stress (the thin topsoil layer dries very quickly above the caliche). Since weather conditions normally move from West to East, predictions are very inaccurate at best as the ocean is to our west and it is difficult to predict weather over the vast area accurately.

The major problems I encountered were membership confidence. They felt, at first, that an individual from another area of the country could not acclimate himself to the different turfgrasses to sufficiently do the job. After those first few months, however, they began to accept my "radical" programs, and now 3 years later, they swear by these same programs that they once criticized. As an example, never before has anyone syringed the greens during the day, especially when the sun was out. The belief of the membership was that this program would "burn" the greens. Since they used to average a loss of 3-5 greens per year before my arrival, and haven't lost one since my arrival, they firmly support this management. No one has ever left the aerifying hole "open" until my arrival, thinking the sun would bake the soil and kill the grass, topdressing was always very heavy and infrequent, and no one ever wasted time by cutting fairways in a cross direction. These programs, originally criticized are now well received. The first 6 months were almost unbearable, but the last 2½ years have been the most secure of my life.

Like every other Golf Course Superintendent, I also have people problems. Mine, however, are just a little bit different than yours. Basically, our membership is comprised of many very wealthy retired people who have decided to finish out their lives in the most beautiful climate in the world — La Jolla, California. Their desire is for a fun, simple game of golf. The remaining 40%, however, are young aggressive management people who desire a tough, demanding challenging game of golf. They are also influenced by our touring professional members who grew up on this golf course, and actually learned the game here at La Jolla Country Club. They include Chuck Courtney (winner of 3 tournaments in the 1960's), John Schroeder (won the PGA match play tournament), Craig Staddler (1974 National Amateur Champion, just turned professional), and the last two, who need no explanation — Paul Runyon and Gene Littler. These men spend all their time away from the tour here at La Jolla C.C. When they arrive here, they expect the course to be in the same condition as the course they just played in Chicago, New York or any other course they have just returned from on the tour. Of course, these courses have prepared and directed all efforts to that one week they were there for years in advance. They cannot understand that no course can take that management for an extended period of time. If we could, then the 60% retired people would scream "bloody murder". Oh, there is never a dull moment here at La Jolla.

There are many things I miss about Chicago, but then, California has something to combat it. I miss the winters with their white fluffy snow, but I don't miss the slush, the slippery highways, the cold mornings scraping ice off the windshield and warming up the car. I miss the leisurely winters, but I don't miss the 20 hour days of the summer. With my year 'round 13 man crew, all are professionals in their daily tasks, I am truly an 8 hour a day manager. I miss the beauty of spring and the wonders nature performs, but I don't miss the mosquitoes, training a completely new crew or the battle with the members who want to play golf

during thaw conditions. I miss the welcomed summer rains, (it never rains here from February until December - no kidding!) but I don't miss the downpours that create erosion of sand traps, and other areas, nor trying to tell the membership that they can't play **their** course. I miss the fresh sunny, lazy days of July and August, but I don't miss not being able to enjoy them as I prepare the sprayer for preventative Pythium spray, sleeping with the night watchman to make sure they aren't sleeping, and I enjoy spending these summer afternoons with my wife and children. I miss the beauty of autumn, the trees turning their magnificent colors, but I don't miss blowing out the irrigation system, and then not being able to sleep all winter because that one valve on the 16th fairway wouldn't cooperate, and I wonder if its going to "pop" during the winter. I don't miss telling the members that we have frost and they have to wait until its gone. But most importantly, I do miss all my friends, and Superintendent associates, but...there is nothing in California that can ever balance the scale on that.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jim Bertoni was a former Golf Course Supt. in the Chicago area. The following article was mailed to the Verdure. That is where the credit goes. I imagine Jim could not trust himself to spell the word **Bull Sheet**.



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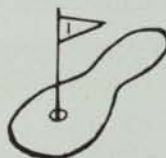
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LETTER TO JOE GRENKO

Dear Joe,

Thank you so much for honoring me again with membership in MAGCS. I appreciate this more than I can say and always enjoy working with the Superintendents.

Sincerely yours,

Carol McCue
Chicago District Golf Association