

USGA Comparison Chart of green speeds considered to be in regular membership play condition, as follows:

**USGA GREEN SPEED TEST
COMPARISON TABLE**

(Regular Membership Play)

FAST	8' 6"
MEDIUM-FAST	7' 6"
MEDIUM	6' 6"
MEDIUM-SLOW	5' 6"
SLOW	4' 6"

A provisional table has also been developed for courses in tournament condition. This chart may require revision at some future date as the data used to develop it is limited and insufficient to be considered totally reliable. However, this is being printed for general information purposes.

**USGA GREEN SPEED TEST
COMPARISON TABLE**

(Tournament Conditions)

FAST	10' 6"
MEDIUM-FAST	9' 6"
MEDIUM	8' 6"
MEDIUM-SLOW	7' 6"
SLOW	6' 6"

The reason for the differences in the two tables is that fast greens are considered to be a better test of one's skills and in general eliminate some of the many variables one experiences on a putting surface. However, to consistently maintain a green in championship or tournament play conditions is an extremely time-consuming and costly project. One would therefore not expect to find greens on a particular course to be in tournament shape throughout the season.

It should be clearly emphasized that this instrument and test procedure is not for use by the golfer, but purely to be used by the course superintendent to assist him in maintaining consistency among the greens on his course and provide him with numerical data against which to compare and measure his greens. The Speedstick is your speedo-

meter! With it, you can set your green speed at any level that your membership desires.

The by-products of having an instrument to measure a green condition may be very far-reaching. Seasonal changes may be observed and the effects of various management programs can be measured. This may also provide an early warning system as to a potential problem arising on a particular green. This continual monitoring may be of great assistance to USGA Green Section agronomists who visit the course.

An obvious benefit from the use of this instrument and accurate record keeping would be in assisting the green superintendent or green committee in their choice of hole location. A hole should be placed in such a position that no matter where the golfer is putting from, assuming continuous putting surface between himself and the hole, it should be possible to stop the ball within approximately two feet of the hole. Thus a hole location which presented a fair challenge when the green speed was approximately six and one half feet may quite possibly be a very bad position when the green speed is eight or nine feet, assuming, as an example, this position to be on or at the bottom of a sloping portion of the green.

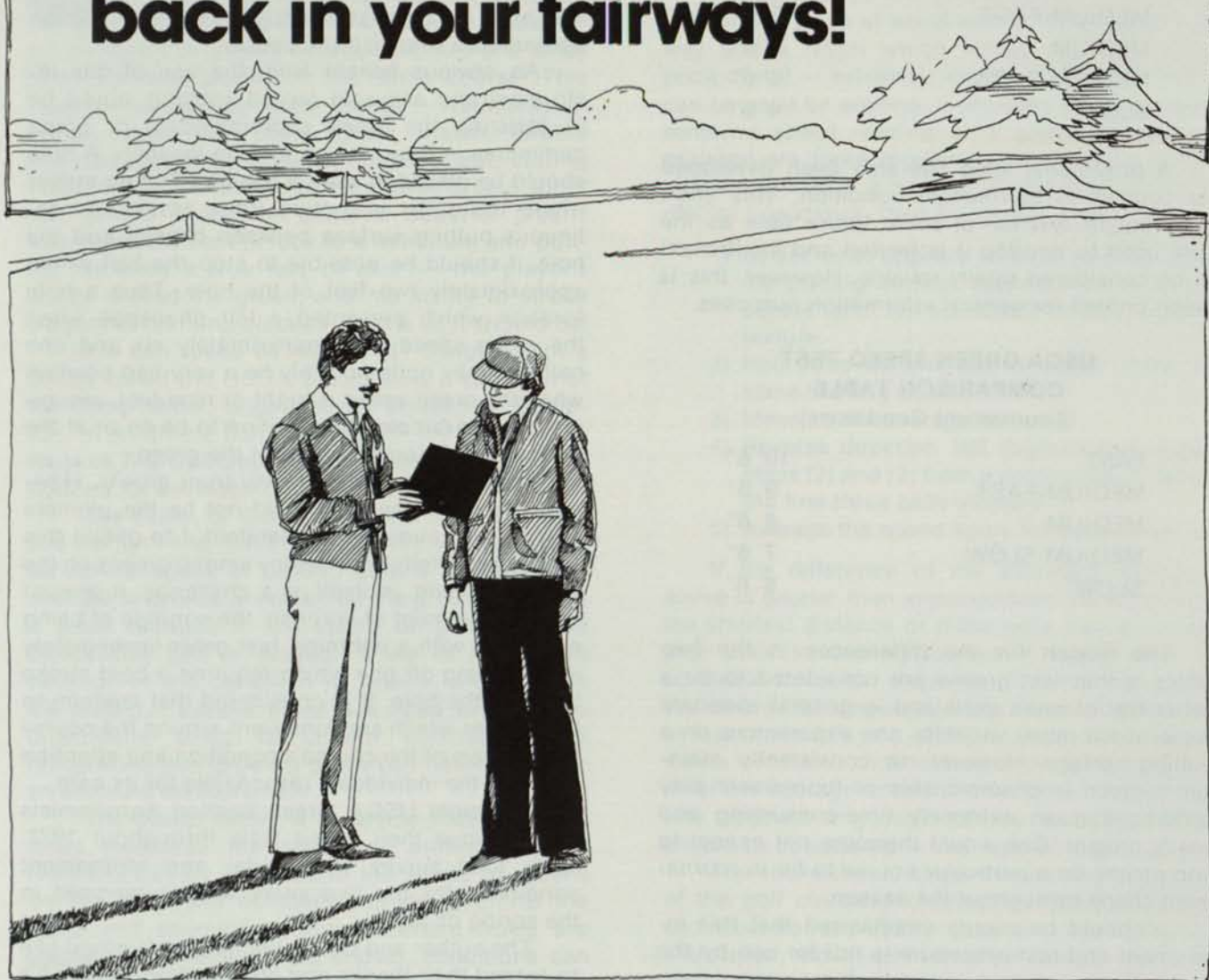
Faster greens are generally truer greens. However, maximum speed should not be the ultimate goal of the course superintendent if to obtain this speed one forfeits consistency among greens on the course. Putting, in itself, is a challenge, it doesn't need the element of surprise; the surprise of being presented with a lightning fast green immediately after coming off one which required a bold stroke to reach the hole. It is considered that medium to fast greens which are consistent around the course is indicative of the course's condition and attention given by the individuals responsible for its care.

The eight USGA Green Section Agronomists will continue their speed tests throughout 1977. Their total survey for regular and tournament conditions for the two years will be reported in the spring of 1978.

The author and Green Section Staff would like to extend their thanks and appreciation to USGA's Technical Director Frank Thomas and to all golf course superintendents and green committee chairmen at USGA Member Clubs who participated in the 1976 tests and development of this program.



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**IT'S BACK TO PLAYING THE BALL
WHERE IT LIES FOR TOUR GOLFER**
New York Times News Service

Harrison - Play it where it lies - a basic tenet of the grand old game of golf - has not been a basic tenet of the Professional Golfers Association in recent years. But it soon will be again.

White chalk lines have been generously used to mark out areas from where the best shotmakers in the world get a free lift to improve their chances at making an even better shot. Golf purists criticize such "ground under repair" lines as ruining their favorite sport. Ben Hogan used to complain that "the cardinal sin of golf was when the first white line was put down on a course".

The PGA has taken steps to cut down the overuse of white chalk lines, particularly outside of the fairways. In a notice to professional golfers when they arrived for the Westchester Classic early last week, the PGA declared its new, stronger policy:

"Effective at Westchester, and thereafter, the white lining of ground under repair will be confined to areas in the fairway.

"Certain areas of ground which are actually in a state of repair, or construction, trenching, and newly sodded areas may occasionally be marked as ground under repair outside the limits of the fairway.

"This policy is in keeping with our desire to reward good shots and to be consistent in course markings. We wish to return to the basic rule of golf, which is to play the ball as it lies.

"Our future goal, as course conditions continue to improve, is to eliminate white lines altogether."



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Jack Nicklaus, the best shotmaker of them all over the last 15 years, said, "Golf was never a fair game, and it wasn't meant to be. The white lines have been carried too far. I like this new policy.

"But you must remember, we play many courses at times in the year when they are not in their best condition. But golf must be played on a piece of ground. No two inches of ground are alike."

Nicklaus is not only the premier golfer of his time, he is also extremely aware of golf rules so that he can help himself wherever possible. Yet, if any man can escape from "jail" on a golf course, Nicklaus has the trouble shots to do it.

"We grew up without those white lines when we learned to play golf", Nicklaus said. "The average player never sees a chalk line outside of a fairway on his own course. It's the way to play golf."

Pete Sesso, a PGA official responsible for pin placements and line markings, said, "The idea is not to help the guy who hits a bad shot. Besides, you see great, dramatic golf when the guys hit as it lies. There's nothing greater than to see a man in an impossible shot, you think, and then you hear the swish of the club through tree or bush limbs, see dirt and gravel fly up and the ball come out of it all straight for the pin. That's golf as it should be played."

Sesso said, "These golfers, why they can hit anything. So why should they be given relief when they hit a bad shot?"

Sesso said, "There are two basic rules of golf - play the course as it is and the ball as it lies. Since we handed out this directive there has not been a word of complaint. I'm inclined to believe the players like it."

Nicklaus said, "You don't see many white lines, if any, at the United States and British Opens. You see a lot less white chalk lines in Great Britain than here."

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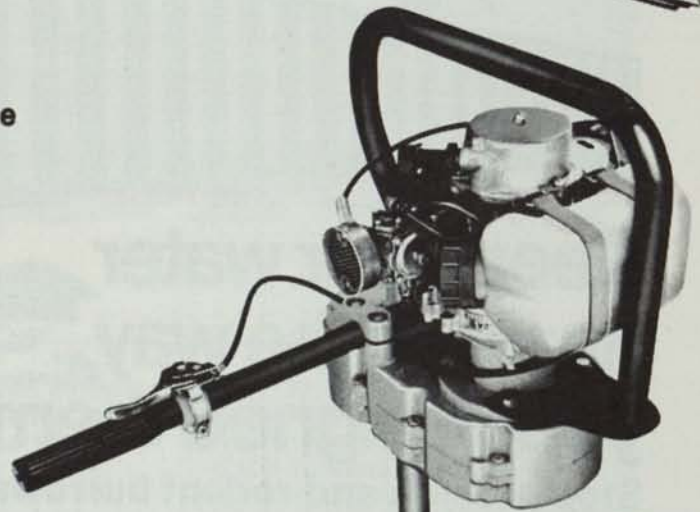
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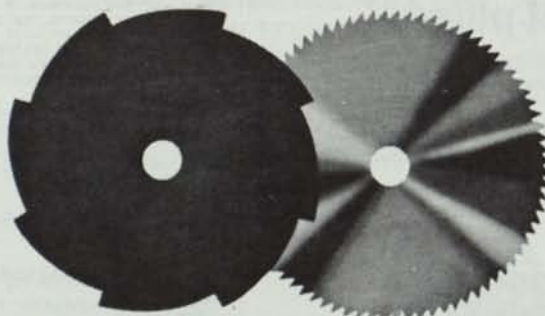
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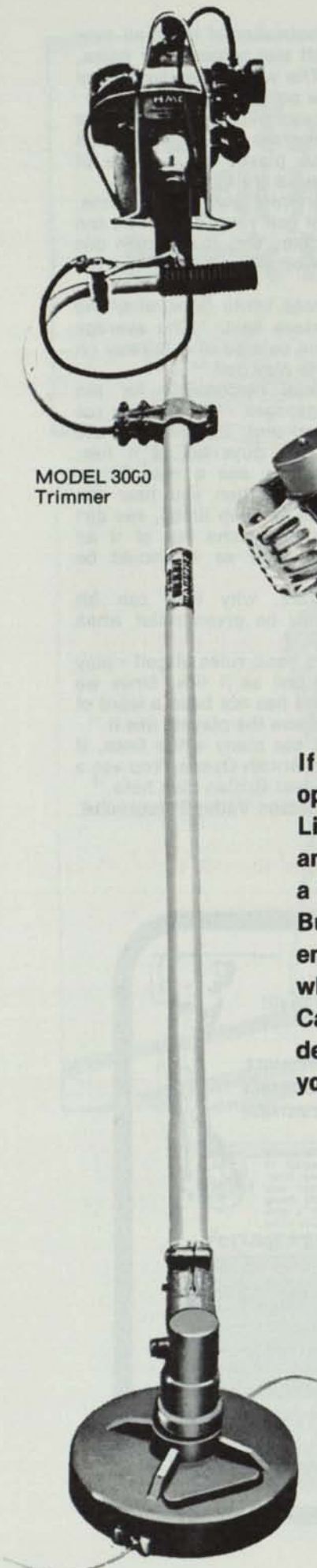


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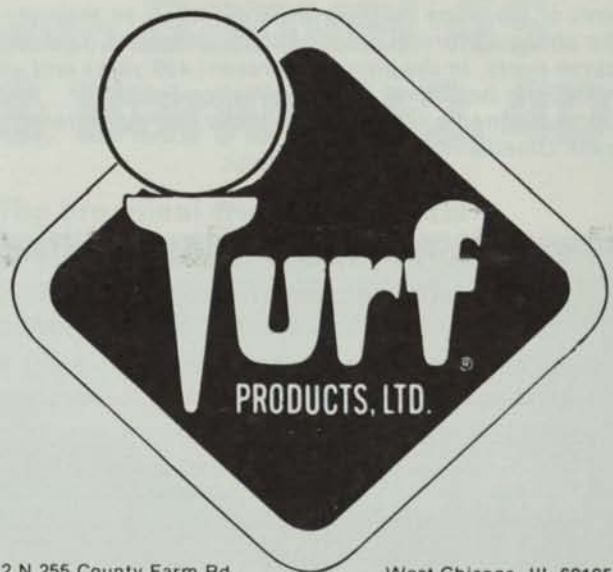
November 30, 1977 - Medinah Country Club

Knowledge Through Testing

- Moderator Carl Schwartzkopf
USGA
- 9:15 Thatch Development Dr. Al Turgeon
U. of I.
- 10:00 Dutch Elm Disease Control... Wolfgang Mueller
Supt. - Onwentsia Club
- 10:20 New Fungicide Combinations Danny Wyatt
Asst. Supt. - Westermoreland C.C.
- 10:40 Break
- 11:00 PBCB - 26019 Test Bruce Williams
Asst. Supt. - Bob O'Link
- 11:20 Cold Weather Pythium Dr. Saladini
E. I. DuPont De Nemours & Co.
- 12:00 Lunch
- Moderator Dr. John Street
U. of I.

- 1:15 Motivation Larry Anibaldi
President - Jr. Chamber of Commerce
- 2:00 Techniques in controlling Poa-annua
during this seasons heat Mike Mass
Supt. - Bryn Mawr C.C.
- 2:20 Treating greens with no
air circulation Jim Johns
Supt. - Northmoor C.C.
- 2:40 Crew Organization Tim Kelly
Supt. - Village Links C.C.
- 3:00 Break
- 3:20 Problems with Oaks Dick Schroeder
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- 3:40 Turf Insect Problems and Controls Panel
- 4:00 Converting Bluegrass fairways
to Bentgrass Pete Leuzinger
Supt. - St. Charles C.C.
- 4:20 A Successful New Concept in Fairway
Turf Renovation -- using Perennial
Ryegrass to Improve Turf Quality... Paul Voykin
Greenkeeper - Briarwood C.C.
- 4:40 Summary & Close Dr. John Street
U. of I.

Banquet Speaker - Bob Parson, Chicago Bears



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The following pictures were taken during the annual golf tournament at Calumet C.C.



Birds of the same feathers flock together, so they say. The above picture is proof of this statement. The golf course supts. in the picture represent 496 years and all are able to be active. l. to r. - Walter Fuchs, Sr., Ben Kronn, Domenic Grotti, Ray Gerber, C. A. Petersen, Frank Dinelli, Robert Williams.



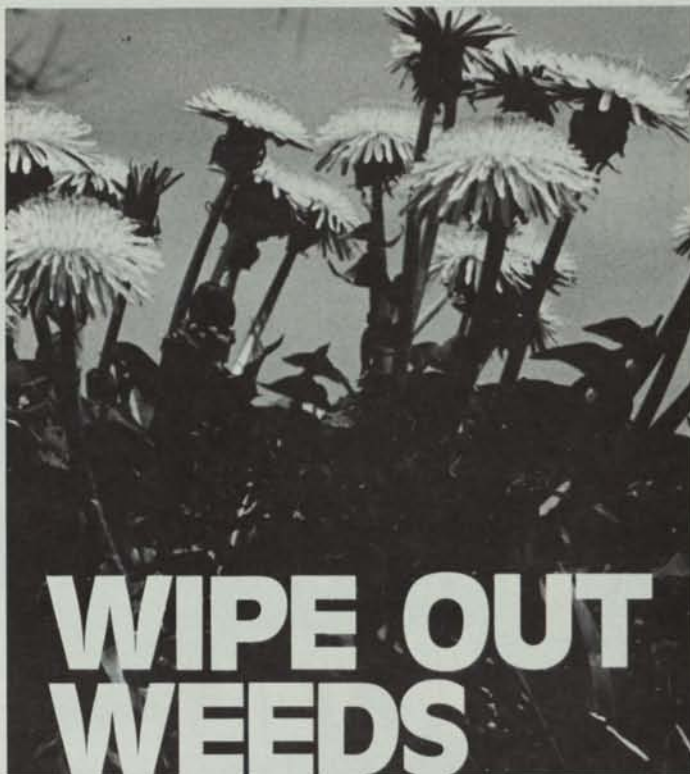
A game of cards is always in order when these seniors get together. l. to r. - Kronn, Grotti, Petersen [who keeps them honest], Dinelli, Williams.



You guessed it - the same seniors on the golf course.



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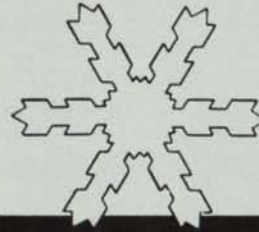
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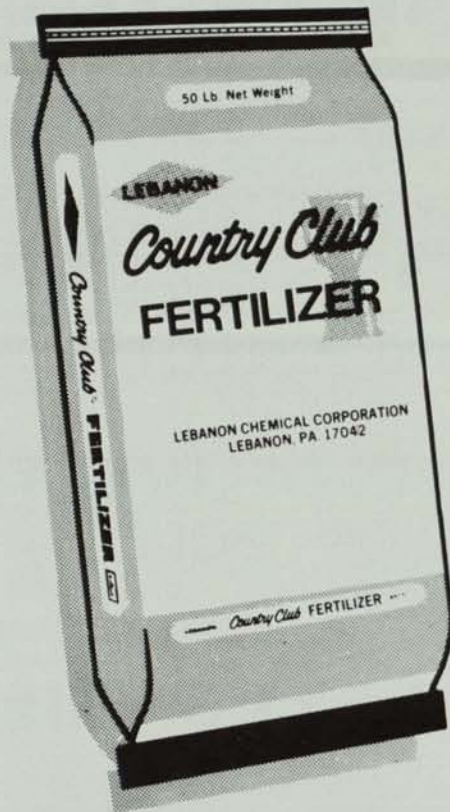
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