

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the MID-WEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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PRESIDENT' MESSAGE
SHARING / CARING

The C-15 Bentgrass decline has made the Superintendent, in the Midwest Region, become closer to feel for each other's problems. When the chips are down, the members of this fine association pull together attempting to put a lid on the problem. Sharing results, triumphs, or downfalls is what it is going to take to determine the future of good turfgrass management. We as Superintendents have to continue to work together and never try to carry the burden of a severe problem on your own shoulders.

Many superintendents have had the opportunity to monitor the work that Peter Leuzinger, at St. Charles C.C., has been doing with the C-15 decline. We all have feeling and care for the concerns of our peers. Dr. Dave Wehner and all the staff at the University of Illinois are only the touch of a phone call away. Dr. Wehner and Mr. Leuzinger have spent a lot of time and effort these past few months, along with many other university staff members across the country, working on this special bentgrass problem.

We must continue to communicate with each other and our club members so as not to allow ourselves as superintendents to be put in a situation of failure over something that was uncontrollable or unavoidable. The members of this association have always cared for personal development of its members and will continue to share in its fellow members setbacks. The C-15 decline will soon be memories of the past but only to make way for another turfgrass problem to tackle.

There is a mutual concern of continuing to provide our golf clubs with fine turfgrass. The members of this association, the national, and the many fine turfgrass associations care for one's success and are present to share in one's downfalls. A special thank-you goes out to all of you who have been a viable part in putting a lid on the C-15 decline.

You know you've reached August when plant pests outnumber the plants.

THE M.A.G.C.S. THANKS THE PARK DISTRICT AND ALSO ARTHUR CLESEN INC. FOR THE REFRESHMENTS FOR SPORTSMAN GOLF CLUB DURING OUR JULY 13 MEETING.

C-15 — SOME THOUGHTS

About a month ago, after a winter passed without dealing with the C-15 dilemma, my thoughts naturally started leaning toward how to deal with the problem this spring. Much has been stated about the "do's and don'ts" of C-15 management - and with the much awaited visit from Dr. Houston Couch, who heads up the GCSAA appointed team to find a solution - Spring is here and gone! Dr. Couch has made a visit to Chicago with some very interesting news a possible solution. However, we superintendents who have this so-called "red leaf" now must still deal with it until the appointed team finalizes its analysis.

Last July at the Medinah Country Club MAGCS meeting, many possible management practices and/or cures were discussed.

Fungicide Application: Many different tank mixtures were discussed from heavy weekly applications of Dacomil and Acti-dionne TGF, to going back to the possible use of mercuries. The possibility of Stripe Smut and heavy rates of 3336 or 1991 drenched in was mentioned as a cure. And finally, cool weather Pythium and the use of DuPont SP was recommended by one individual.

Fertilization: C-15 requires more nitrogen! Anybody knows that! Also Ph could be a factor, sulfur applications, gypsum, and the use of fertilizers with sulfur added. Iron and micro-nutrients added weekly to the spray tank certainly wouldn't hurt. All through this part of the discussion my thoughts keep going back to "some" recommendations that green greens are not necessarily good greens and that low N produces stiffer upright leaves for a smoother and tighter putting surface.

Cultural Practices - C-15 under stress will not survive vigorous cultural control such as verti-cutting, aerification, brushing, or combing. Also, one wise experienced superintendent told me once that C-15 does not like heavy top-dressing. The possibility of overseeding with other bents should be initiated immediately.

Drainage and Irrigation were mentioned and everyone naturally agreed that proper use of both is mandatory.

Now - Dr. Couch has made his report to the Chicago area and has some very encouraging news. To review his findings to date:

1. The dying out of C-15 in the Chicago area was not red leaf spot, cool weather Pythium, nor was the disease incited by parasitic nematodes.

2. The disease is primarily in the roots and possibly crowns of the plants.

3. Soil Ph has a factor on all fertilization practices, but it in itself is not the cause of the dying-out of C-15.

4. There is no relationship between either manufacturer or analysis of fertilizer used and the development of the disease.

5. There is no relationship between types or amounts of pesticides used and the occurrence of the C-15 dying-out.

6. The disease hits C-15, but only C-15 which is growing under certain stress conditions. They are: 1. high soil moisture, 2. low air temperatures, 3. high radiant energy, and 4. low cutting heights. Another factor that seems to contribute to the development is **iron deficiency**.

Dr. Couch seems to think "the disease" is "procar-yote." Procar-yote is a primitive bacteria-like organism. If found to be the pest, we could be spraying with antibiotics. We with the C-15 problem are all anxiously awaiting the final conclusion.

But for now, what maintenance practices should we follow. We can raise the height of cut, add sufficient iron to the spray tank mix, try not to disturb the sick grass by mechanical abuse, and just generally follow sound maintenance practices.

I remember last fall when we were experimenting with one particular green at Hillcrest. We had raised the height of cut, applied additional fertilizer, and quit brushing. A concerned number walked over to me after putting out on the green and asked what we had done to this green. After downheartedly trying to explain the "C-15 red leaf problem", and why the green wasn't as fast and short as the others, he looked at me and said, "Gee, do you think we could make them all like this one?"

Bruce A. Burchfield, CGCS
Hillcrest Country Club

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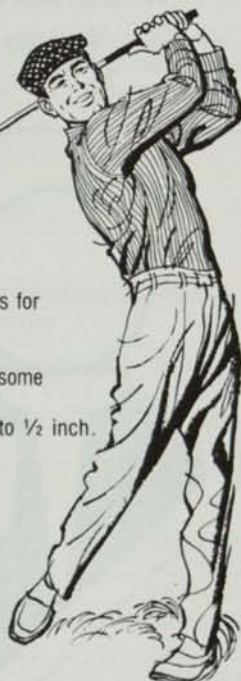
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ILLINOIS TURFGRASS FOUNDATION GOLF OUTING

The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation will host its annual golf outing this year at the Indian Lakes Country Club in Bloomingdale, on Monday, August 24.

The event will include lunch, golf with golf cart, dinner, a drink ticket, and golf prizes. Those not wishing to golf may use the tennis or pool facilities, or may attend the dinner only. A raffle will also be held at the door for those non-golfers hoping to win a great prize.

With your support, a substantial contribution to the research activities of the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation can be achieved, activities that will benefit all of us involved in the golf industry.

Tickets for the entire package may be purchased from any of the following individuals. Those wishing to attend dinner only will be asked to make reservations with Indian Lakes Country Club to insure that an adequate number of meals will be prepared. Dinner will be held at 7:00 p.m.

Albie Staudt Geneva Country Club, 232-0624
Bruce Sering Glen View Club, 267-5566
Dale Habenicht H&E Sod Nursery, 596-7200
Dave Meyer Indian Lakes Country Club, 529-4303
Dave Wehner University Of Illinois
Don Spier Turf Products, Ltd., 668-5537
Greg Oltman Northern Ill. Landscape, 884-7775
Jim Halloran Arthur Clesen, Inc., 537-2177
Jim Reed Chicago Toro, 773-5555
Ken Quandt Rowland's Equip., 381-1084
Len Berg Village Greens of Woodridge, 985-8366
Mike Nass Bryn Mawr C.C., 676-2660
Rick Johnson Ill. Lawn Equipment, 349-8484
Tom Thornton Thorton's Turf Nursery, 742-5030

Gentlemen, golf course superintendent's support of this event has been noticeably lacking. Make it a point to come out and enjoy a good time. Bring a foursome. Support the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation.

P.S. Tee times will be available from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please call the Indian Lakes Country Club Pro shop at 529-0200 to reserve a tee time.

FIRE DESTROYS GOLF COURSE PUMP HOUSE

A 25-year-old wooden pump house and the pump important to the irrigation of the Woodridge municipal golf course were totally involved in flame after 12:10 a.m. on Saturday.

Downers Grove Estates Fire Department personnel had the fire at Village Greens golf course, 1575 W. 75th St., under control in about 10 minutes, but the 14-by-14 foot wood frame structure could not be saved. The department said Tuesday that the fire was classified as "of undetermined origin."

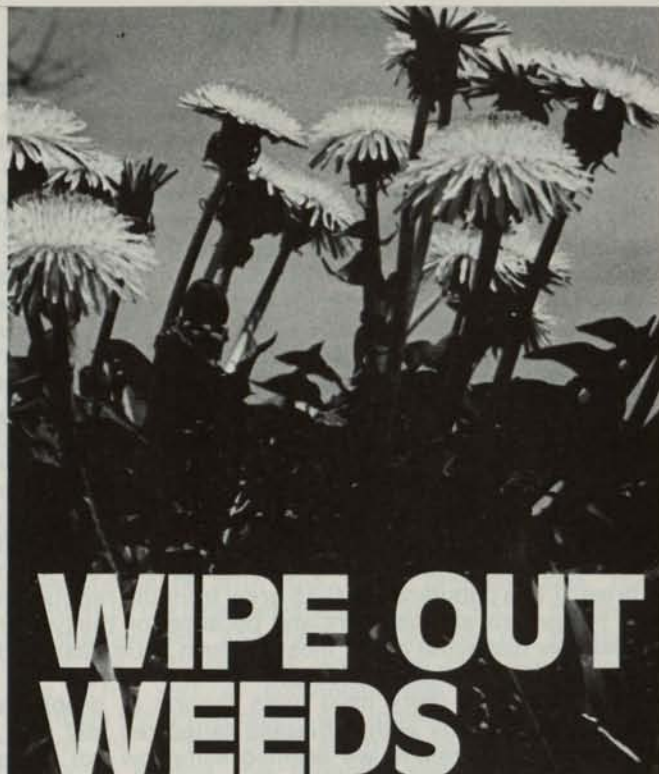
Total value of the pump house and pump was \$15,000, according to Captain Robert Tinucci of the department. The pump was used mainly to water the greens, Tinucci said, and was located in the southeast corner of the property.

The building contained an irrigation pump and an industrial engine, Tinucci said. The apparatus was still running on natural gas but had recently been fitted for future conversion to electrical power.

In addition to damaging the facilities themselves, the blaze, "A fast-burning fire" according to Tinucci, damaged some surrounding trees.

A groundsman had checked all systems one hour prior to the fires, Tinucci said.

By Bob Vladova



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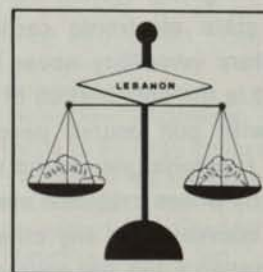
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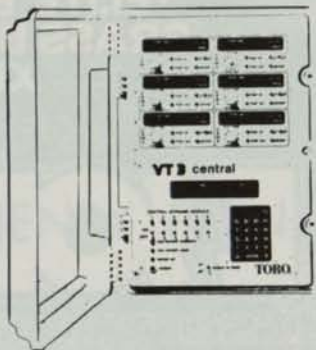
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RESODDING 18 GREENS (System 3)

I would like to begin with a brief history of Toronto creeping bentgrass (C-15) in the Midwest. Westmoreland Country Club was one of the few golf courses across the country to have one of the USGA experimental putting plots, established sometime in the late 30's. These early plots contained twelve varieties of creeping bentgrasses, stolonized into pie-shaped portions on a circular green. In 1943 an evaluation was made, and C-15 was chosen to be the new grass for the greens at Westmoreland. In the fall of 1943 stolons were taken from the experimental plot, and our ninth green became the first C-15 green in the Midwest. That same year stolons were used to establish a sod nursery on the grounds of Westmoreland. This nursery would become the source of the sod used to convert the other seventeen greens to C-15 over the next ten years. Over the years, our ninth green has been the source of much of the C-15 sold in the Midwest. (Ben Warren started C-15 at three different farms with sprigs from our ninth green.) The popularity of C-15 grew from the reputation of the greens at Westmoreland because for thirty-four years we had some of the most uniform, true, fast, and beautiful greens in the Midwest.

Over the years there have been reports of problems with C-15, mostly with a disease called red leaf spot, but at Westmoreland we seemed somehow not to be affected until June 22, 1979. Our problem started on only one green, our 11th. I first diagnosed the disease as Helminthosporium, melting-out type of disease based on the visual symptoms, and accordingly applied a fungicide. Within three days the green seemed to worsen, and the next green mowed with the same mower started showing the same symptoms. I sought help from a friend who felt out problem was red leaf spot and began spraying with Daconil 2787, but, in our case, we received only a three-day control. At least we felt we were getting control because the reddish cast would go away, only to reappear again in four days.

Over the next twelve months I watched more greens become affected after each cool wet period followed by any kind of stress. I discussed the problem with turf specialists and plant pathologists, and made numerous fungicide applications, based on the many theories I received. I had disease samples sent for laboratory analysis, soil tests were taken, nematode assays run, and I continued to experiment with anything that sounded halfway reasonable. I spent many hours on my hands and knees with a pocket knife and hand lens looking for a possible clue. I invited fellow superintendents to give their reasons and to compare records. I went over my records for hours looking for a possible change in management, a cultural change, or a product change that could in any way lead to a solution to the problem. Nevertheless, we eventually had eighteen greens completely denuded by the "C-15 Problem".

Special Treatments given to try to solve C-15 problem:

A. Cultural Practices

1. Isolate problem greens; mow problem greens with separate greensmower
2. Removal of dew before mowing
3. Raise height of cut
4. Skip green mowings
5. Aerify, topdress, overseed
6. Syringe

B. Chemical Applications per 1,000 square feet

1. Daconil 2787 Flowable, 12 app., 8-12 oz., often 3 to 4 days apart
2. Mercury treatments, CaloClor or PMAS, 2 to 1 oz., 10 app.

3. Chipco 26019, 2 app., fall-spring, red leaf spot preventative, 3-4 oz.
4. Tersan 1991, 1, 8 oz. Stripe Smut app.

C. Fertility Applications

1. Experiments with high phosphorus fertilizers
2. Experiments with higher nitrogen rates
3. Experiments with 92% wettable sulfur to lower pH

D. Laboratory Analyses

1. Soil test
2. Plant disease culture test
3. Nematode assay

I can't overemphasize the importance of keeping the club officials and membership aware of one's plight with such a problem. I kept them informed by means of a monthly grounds and greens report, by attending board of directors meetings, and by being available in the locker room or on the first tee to answer the many questions of the concerned membership. Probably one of the most helpful items to many of the Chicago area superintendents with the C-15 problem was the publicity in the local newspapers. Since Butler National had the problem, and they were to host the Western Open, the C-15 problem was most certainly a news item. This sort of convinced the individual club members that the problem was indeed widespread.

I think the turning point as to when we would stop trying to control the problem and seriously start planning for a permanent solution was reached in July of 1980. After a meeting at Butler National with several superintendents and experts in the turfgrass field, and the Midwest AGCS meeting a few weeks later, it became quite evident that a solution to the problem was months, possibly years, away. The Westmoreland Pro, Vern Fraser, and I were asked to attend the board of directors meeting on July 2; the major topic, What are we going to do about our declining greens?

Our experience at Westmoreland had indicated that whatever the problem, it seemed to affect only C-15 creeping bentgrass, Westmoreland strain. I had enlarged two of our greens in 1972, and for some reason had used C-15 from H & E Sod Nursery. These enlarged portions of the greens showed no signs of the problem. Also, other varieties of bentgrass in our greens, and *Poa annua*, except for a purple cast, seemed to be unaffected. From this observation we concluded that the problem was more involved with the grass than the soil, and leaned towards a new grass, rather than to completely rebuilding greens.

Several of our board members had played the eighth green at Bob O'Link the only Penneagle green in our area, and liked it. We discussed seeding vs. sodding. I felt that seeded greens would provide a more even putting surface sooner, but we had a factor of time of establishment to consider. To seed meant that we would have to have the seed in the ground no later than mid-September in order to assure a playable putting surface by the next May. This meant going to temporary greens in mid-August. With club championship golf events, scheduled outside events, and a certain reduction in income for both the club and the Pro, there is no way we could start the project in August. Resodding the greens was our way out. I had in back of my mind a plan to resurface six to nine greens a year in a two or three year program, and even to completely rebuild up to fourteen greens because the grounds and green committee had in mind major recontouring.

The unanimous opinion was to resod all eighteen greens starting on September 18, 1980. I was told to reserve sod and to arrange a meeting with a golf course

architect regarding recontouring several of our greens. Eventually the plan to recontour greens was dropped with the exception of enlarging the collars on two greens.

During July and August I had further soil tests taken and worked on the procedure for our fall project. Soil fumigation was an absolute must and would start us out with the cleanest possible slate next to completely rebuilding the greens with new soil. We started on September 18 with our worst six greens, and completed them on September 30, 1980. The remaining twelve greens were completed on October 27.

Step by step procedure:

1. Aerify over the existing sod. To double aerify open soil disturbed the contour.
2. Use our newly purchased 18-inch sod cutter to cut the old sod and thatch layer.
3. Pick up the old sod and clean surface. All hand work.
4. Aerify the bare soil.
5. Fumigate with methyl bromide - chloropicrin mixture. Greens were covered with plastic before fumigation, edges sealed with sand from a nearby dump. Covers left on for 48 to 72 hours because of colder fall temperatures.
6. Covers removed. Air for 72 hours.
7. 1/4 inch of 1-1-1 topdressing added.
8. Topdressing double verticut into soil.
9. 13-25-12 starter fertilizer added, 8 pounds fertilizer per 1000 square feet.
10. Leveled with Sand Pro and dragmat.
11. Surface rolled with power tennis court roller.
12. New Penneagle sod laid.
13. Sod fertilizer with 13-25-12 starter fertilizer, 4 pounds fertilizer per 1000 square feet.
14. Sod watered heavily, soaked.
15. While greens were in soaked condition they were rolled with the tennis court roller filled with water, over 3/4 inch plywood.
16. Cleary's Turf-Gro, a liquid humus concentrate applied. One gallon per 1000 square feet rate used, watered in, to aid rooting.
17. Sod kept wet until rooted.
18. After two weeks rolled with walking greensmower with wheels in basket.
19. First mowing of new sod - 2 inch cut used.
20. Topdressed twice before soil froze in late November.
21. We expect to open about May 1.

Expenditures for resodding 18 greens:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Topsoil - 165 cu. yards to enlarge collars | \$1,225 |
| Rooting material - 50 gal. Cleary's Turf-Gro | 300 |
| Fertilizer - 1 ton of 13-25-12 | 420 |
| Topdressing - 56 cu. yds. 1-1-1, Frenzer | 980 |
| Soil fumigation - Hendrix & Dail, Inc. | 5,500 |
| Sod - 8,450 sq. yds. Penneagle, Warren's | 18,000 |
| Plywood - 18 sheets, 3/4 inch, 4 x 8 ft., CDX | 330 |
| Bluegrass sod - 375 sq. yds. for banks | 400 |
| Labor - 11 men, 1,228 man hours | 6,000 |
| Total | \$33,155 |

\$436. per 1000 square feet — \$4.00 per square yard
Julius Albaugh, Supt.
Westmoreland Country Club, Wilmette, IL

Rule One — The boss is always right.
 Rule Two — When the boss is wrong, rule number one applies.

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**BON VIVANT — GOLF OUTING
RESULTS — JUNE 8**

A long, challenging test of golf. Common complaints were: "I hit 2 woods to the par 4's as hard as I could and still had to use an iron." and "Whoever heard of hundred foot putts?"

It was a great course. Spirits were dampened, however; when Mike couldn't find the valve key to turn off the big sprinkler.

Ninety-three started but only thirty-seven got to see all of the course.

WINNERS

Blind Bogey - 82

Mike Harvoth
Al Travis
Bill Mallet

Calloway

Phil Talor - 71
Roger Stewart - 72
Gary Dorsh - 72

Long Knockers

Seniors: George Norland
Regular: Gary Dorsh

Straight and to the pin

Seniors: Tony Meyers
Regular: Fred Hall

**By John Stephenson, Supt.
Pottawatomie G.C.**

Paul N. Voykin had a top notch landscape article in the April issue of Kiwanis International magazine. The magazine has a readership of over a million and is read in a dozen countries. Paul again, as he does in all his articles, gives good P.R. to the golf course superintendent. Call Paul if you wish a copy for your office library.

DOWNERS GROVE FIELD DAY

Home gardeners can get answers to their questions about pesticides at the Downers Grove annual Field Day on August 8, 1981. The Field Day will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. University of Illinois specialists and Cooperative Extension Service advisers from nearby counties will be on hand at the University of Illinois Pharmacognosy and Horticulture Field Station.

Tree fruits, small fruits, medicinal plants, annual flowers, vegetable plots and new flowers, and vegetable varieties will be on display. A new feature this year--research plots where controls of vine borer, bacterial leaf spot on peppers, etc. is being carried out. The Field Day is free and will be held rain or shine. The Field Station is located off Finley Road in Downers Grove, between Ogden Avenue (U.S. Highway 34) and Butterfield Road (Illinois 56) just southeast of the Morton Arboretum. Signs posted at the Intersections of Butterfield and Finley Roads and at Ogden and Belmont Avenues will direct visitors.

The M.A.G.C.S. Fall Clinic will be held at Medinah C.C. on November 17-18, 1981. The first day will be devoted to the Midwest Assoc. The second day the U.S.G.A. Green Section will host the educational part. This sounds like a great meeting and everyone should make every effort to attend. The site and facilities are excellent. Keep these dates open. Be sure to mark your calendar, you cannot afford to be absent.



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are busy days for
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MIDWEST BREEZES

Recently this editor was given a tour of the Bob O'Link Golf Club. The golf course was in excellent condition. Many improvements have been made during the past couple of years. Some sand traps have been changed; more water has come into play on several holes; tees were enlarged. Several acres of property on the south boundary of the club were sold to the park district. The park dug a lake on this property. Approximately seventy-five thousand cubic yards of soil was delivered to the golf club and was used to build several large mounds that resemble rolling terrain - a wonderful improvement. The practice tee covers an area of 30,000 sq. ft.; room for five sets of tee markers and all can be used at one time and at different yardage to the practice pitch green.

Our condolences to the Jim Johns family due to the death of Jim's father the first part of June. Jim is the golf course superintendent at Northmoor C.C.

On Wednesday, May 20th the Mount Prospect Golf Club had a special celebration for Ken Goodman, their long time Supt. to show their appreciation. A dinner in his honor was attended by more than 100 people. He was presented with a gold card - this means he is a lifetime member at Mount Prospect G.C. His wife, Carolyn, is one of the more active golfers at the club and has a weekly **Sunday** starting time at 9:30 a.m.

The attendance at the last M.A.G.C.S. board meeting held at Nordic G.C. was not good. Six directors were present. They consisted of **Len Berg**, President; **Dave Meyer**, Secretary; Directors, **Ed Fischer**, **Don Hoffman**, **Roger Stewart**, and **Carl Landgrebe**. Certainly it is hoped that those that did not attend had a very good reason.

The M.A.G.C.S. July 13 meeting held at Sportsman Golf Club was a most enjoyable one. This was the meeting that the retired senior members were guests of the Association. On behalf of all the seniors, we thank the M.A.G.C.S. and hope they remember us again next year. We all thank **Dr. Paul Alexander** for his contribution that helped take care of the extra cost.

98 attended and all enjoyed a dinner that was beyond expectation and all one could eat — with plenty of barbecue pork chops and chicken.

58 played golf on a super-condition course, made possible under the watchful eye of Superintendent **Tim Miles**.

The Western Golf Association golf tournament held at Butler National G.C. is now past history. It was played on a course in super condition. Oscar Miles, Supt., is to be congratulated. I am sure he burned a lot of midnight oil to get it in this great condition in this short period of time. The greens, tees, and fairways were seeded the middle of August, 1980. This gave the grass plant approximately five months of growing time in the Chicago area. When Oscar took over as Supt. many who were acquainted with him said that if anyone can do it, Oscar can. This he proved! This editor watched the televised tournament each time it was telecast. At no time did I hear the announcer give credit to the Supt. Maybe they think a good golf course is something that just happens by itself. This editor attended the pro-am day. The attendance was the largest ever on this day. The weather was perfect. The tournament employees were all courteous with the exception of a couple that were working at the main entrance at York Rd. I am sure that they never heard of the word courteous.

A word of warning. Before using any insecticides or fungicides, read the directions on the label. This goes for many things used on golf courses including equipment manuals. The manufacturers have spent large sums of money testing their products, so take advantage of them.

The old saying was, that when poa annua had a heavy crop of seed in the springtime, it will be a hot summer. It has proven itself many times. This year is no exception. It provides an abundance of seed to take the place for the mother plant that will die during the hot weather. We are having over 90 degree temperature this first part of July. Goodbye poa annua, we will see you this fall.

Welcome! A baby girl, Kara Meyer came to live with her mother and father Dave and Penny Meyer on July 7, 1981. She weighed in at 5 lbs. 10 ozs.

VILLAGE GREENS OF WOODRIDGE HOSTS M.A.G.C.S. - MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 1981

Len Berg, Host Supt.

The president of the M.A.G.C.S. extends a warm welcome to all members of this fine association and wish that all members will find time in their busy schedule to enjoy a day of golf and a fine dinner.

Tee times will be every seven minutes between 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Please call the pro shop for a tee time reservation at 985-3610.

Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. sharp with the dining room opened at 5:00 p.m. for cocktails. You do not want to miss this educational session. The education committee has a special speaker who has a special message to pass on to all of us.

Consult your road map for directions.

POSITION OPEN

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Agency: | Foss Park District Golf Course |
| Position: | Superintendent of Grounds |
| Salary: | Open, approximate range \$16,000.00 - \$22,000.00 |

Responsible for the daily maintenance of an 18-hole golf course. The course is completely irrigated and was opened in 1973.

Submit resumes to: Marc Brogan, Director of Parks & Recreation, F 35 Park District, 1730 S. Lewis Ave., North Chicago, IL 60064. Phone 312-689-8100.

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