

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

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PRESIDENT' MESSAGE
SPEED — SPEED — SPEED

The past couple of years the Golf Superintendent has been drugged full of Speed. The speed is not actually a drug, but the physical reaction to the Golf Superintendent is much greater. Club members, national tournament golfers, other associations in the turfgrass industry, and even some of our own professional superintendents feel that it is very important to mow our putting greens short enough in order to see the crown of the grass plants. Some superintendents have gone out of their way to change the physical characteristics of a manufacturer's piece of equipment to achieve shorter cutting heights (around 1/8") trying to please other professional turfgrass organizations.

Watching tournaments on television and visiting some golf courses locally makes me wonder whose job it is to make conditions ideal for all golfers. Our clubs have to be made to understand that they are not to cater to the golfer who plays their course for just one week out of the year but are to make conditions desirable for their regular members who are there year 'round, year after year. The golfer today cannot enjoy playing on soil, brown grass or sand (for the purpose of smoothing out the roughness of the turfgrass) because for many years putting quality has been excellent on lush green putting surfaces.

We preach over and over again that during the hot humid stress periods for growing turfgrass that you do not lower the height of cut but instead you might have to raise it a little. It seems like every year there are more and more individuals that all of a sudden become the experts for turfgrass management. We are the Golf Course Superintendents and we already know how to grow grass. When we grow turfgrass, it is not just for one week. Our turfgrass management programs are designed for the best interest of our golfers year 'round.

If you are concerned about this problem, as I am, then write the G.C.S.A.A. (President Mike). Public Relations could be increased to stop putting the greatest priority on Speed. Communications has to get out to the golfers and the turf industry that the Golf Course Superintendent makes his decision based on the interest of the turfgrass. I do not see the trend to continue playing golf on soil or brown grass.

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT POSITION OPEN

Idlewild Country Club 18 hole golf course, 6 tennis courts, landscape maintenance, automatic irrigation system, Bent & POA turfgrass and responsible to the Green Chairman. Available to start October 1, 1981 or sooner. Send Resume to: Idlewild Country Club
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IS WINTER SALT KILLING YOUR LAWNS AND PLANTS?

Research Project Finds Gypsum Neutralizes Effect of Road Salt

A two-year research project financed by the State Highway Commission and carried out by Dr. Frederick Hutchinson, Chairman of the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Maine, finds that gypsum when applied to roadsides subject to winter road salt, effectively reduces the sodium level of the soil.

The study was aimed at the sodium in the road salt because sodium ions tend to become trapped in soils, are toxic and plants in high concentrations and cause "cementing" of the soil: Chloride ions, on the other hand, quickly disperse in water and are carried away with no significant build up.

The research was carried out on three plots of ground adjacent to highways in the state. The gypsum was applied in different amounts to a maximum rate of 14 tones per acre. Soil samples were taken for analysis before and after treatment; samples as well were taken from untreated plots of ground.

In each instance, reports Dr. Hutchinson, there was a significant reduction in the sodium level during the period of the test where gypsum was applied.

Gypsum, a traditional soil amendment, remains in place because of its low solubility therefore its effect should be long lasting.

Limestone was tested as well as gypsum during the test, but it was found to have no significant effect on the sodium level of the soil.

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I am pleased to report that Don Pakkala, Golf Course Superintendent at Medinah Country Club, is a new Green Section Committeeman this year. The functions of a Green Section Committeeman are many, ranging from administrative details such as inviting new clubs to utilize the services of the USGA in general and the Green Section in particular ... to simply wave the USGA flag anywhere they go. These committeemen serve as volunteers and receive no other payment other than knowing that they are serving the game of golf.

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Offer clear directions so that employees know what to aim for, rather than forcing them to guess and perhaps make poor decisions. If they know that personal attention is being given to their work, they will take more pride in it.

Show by example what you consider important because your workers will emulate your work patterns. If you come to work late every day, how can you expect your employees to report on time?

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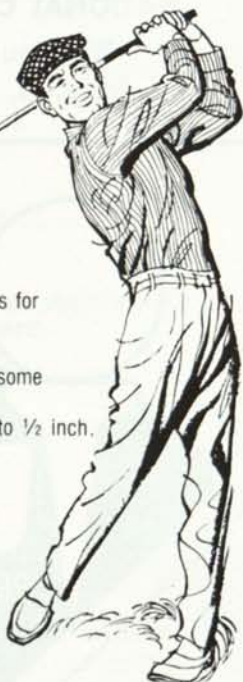
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ON THE RESEARCH FRONT

The USGA has a long history of involvement in turfgrass research, dating back to 1920. In its early years, the Green Section was engaged solely in basic research on problems related to golf course maintenance.

In 1953, the Green Section changed its emphasis from direct research to direct service to USGA member clubs and courses through personal visits by the Green Section staff, who would offer advice on turfgrass problems.

Although the Green Section's primary direction was changed, the USGA never lost sight of the importance of research. The USGA Green Section Research and Education Fund, Inc., had already been established to support the turfgrass research of others working diligently at universities throughout the United States. Since 1945, the Fund has contributed more than \$750,000 to meaningful research projects. In 1980, for example, \$43,450 was allocated to researchers at 13 universities working on 18 separate turfgrass problems related to golf.

The current projects of three or more years duration involve selection and breeding programs aimed at improving turfgrass varieties, better methods of turf establishment, disease control, weed control, root-nematode investigation, effects of management practices on speed of putting greens, testing putting green soil mixtures, traffic wear investigation on warm-season grasses, allelopathic interaction of three turf species, chemical protection of cool-season grasses to water stress, water requirements of grasses under different environmental stress, and the influence of fungicides on non-target organisms.

Although the USGA's research effort has been directed towards golf, benefits often accrue to other turfgrass interests such as lawns, athletic fields, airfields, parks, playgrounds, etc., and therefore have universal applications.

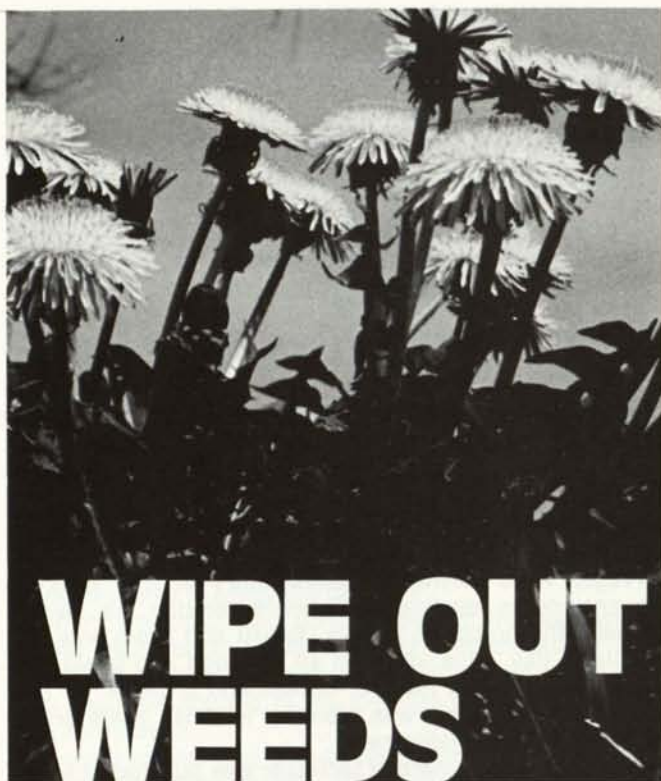
The research support of the Fund is also instrumental in training leaders in the field of turfgrass management. The list of the prominent leaders who have received graduate-level financial support from the Fund includes three past recipients of the USGA Green Section Award: Fred V. Grau, Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson, and Dr. James R. Watson.

Alexander M. Radko

WOMEN A JINX ON THE LINX

Women's rights (As though they Need em)
I'd never fault or dare impede them
To their right on the Linx, I'll affix my pen
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But faster faster than a crippled mole
O, the ladies, God bless 'em I've no remorse
When with pulchritued, they adorn the course
But said pulchritued, I would behave
They strive to keep it on the move.

— G. D. Salley - Credit The Cactus Patch



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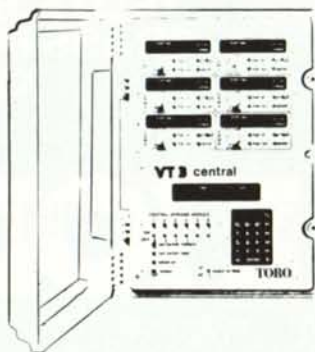
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A REVIEW OF THE PAST — BY THE EDITOR HOW GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE WORK WAS IN THE LATE TEENS

Several things come to my mind. One of the things is, what were the cost of many items several years ago? One could buy a model T Ford car for approximately three hundred dollars. A spare tire was not included. Usually the dealer would give the customer a spare tire and also a set of tire chains. The chains were very necessary for anyone who expected to travel in the country. One could buy gasoline for ten or eleven cents a gallon. No tax those days. Farm labor was thirty dollars per month included board and room. One could buy a pair of work shoes for less than two and a half dollars. There was a shoe store in Minneapolis called the ninety-eight cent shoe store, none higher. There was a time when one could go to Sears Roebuck and buy a hand lawn mower for less than two dollars and fifty cents.

What about various costs on golf courses? I can only go back to 1916, the year I started to work on one. Wages were considered satisfactory at that time — twenty cents per hour, ten hours per day, six days a week, and no coffee breaks. Board and room was one dollar a day. This included all the food one could eat. One could hire a team of horses and a driver for five dollars a day. Help was plentiful in those years and it was good dependable help.

Very little commercial fertilizer was purchased in the teen years. The fertilizer used came from the horse or cattle barns. How many of you ever used real liquid fertilizer? I imagine very few of you know of the method that is required in the processing of this kind of fertilizer. My experience came at the club I was employed at in Minnesota. A large pit was built. The pit was then filled with manure from the stables. Water was poured over it occasionally. After several days the liquid was pumped from the bottom of the pit and put in large containers and taken out on the golf course greens and applied, usually with a sprinkling can. It was almost impossible to get an even distribution, but we always were able to tell if the fertilizer was any good. This is some contrast in regards to applying fertilizer on greens today. But labor was cheap. The material cost nothing.

Red top grass seed was five cents a pound, Kentucky Blue - eight cents a pound.

Prior to the middle 1920's the soil that was used in golf course construction or that was necessary to use in the maintenance of a golf course was moved either by horses and scrapers, or wagons or wheelbarrows. How did the soil get into the wagons? By men and shovels. When making application for a job of this nature the only qualification required was good legs, and a strong back.

In the early years the grass on the greens consisted mostly of Fescue, German mixed bents, clover and weeds. Weeds were either left there or removed by hand digging. I often wondered which was worse - the weeds or the weeders. Greens were mowed about three times a week with a wheel type mower. It took a man around five hours to mow three greens. Watering was usually done when greens began to turn brown from the lack of moisture, not with the idea in mind to help hold a pitched ball, but to keep the grass alive when cut at, the then called, short height of one-half inch. Worm casts were usually so thick in the spring and fall that the greens had the appearance of a green that had just been topdressed - before the top dressing had been worked in. It was always necessary to pole a green with a bamboo pole before mowing. I remember on one green we used a chemical for worm control; when the

worms came to the surface, we raked them up and hauled them away in a wheelbarrow; and the wheelbarrow was almost full. Statements of this kind are hard for some of you to believe, but I know it is the truth, because I was one of the fellows at the end of the rake handle.

Greens were fertilized usually with ammonium sulphate which was applied with a barrel type sprayer. It consisted of a fifty gallon barrel with two large steel wheels, one on each side, and a handle attached to the front. A one inch pipe about four feet long with several holes drilled into the pipe attached to the back end acted as a spray-boom. A shut-off valve was installed between the pipe and the barrel. Two men pulled the barrel and one walked along the side using a paddle to keep the solution agitated. You can imagine the damage that was done to the putting surface by the barrow wheels and the men's shoes pulling this heavy barrel up the contours. How does this compare to the present day of applying liquid fertilizer to turf? Now a six thousand square foot green requires approximately seven minutes to apply the fertilizer.

There was practically no chemical for disease control in the teen years. Today there is a chemical for the control of almost any disease; in fact, maybe every one and it can be applied to the average green in three to four minutes.

It used to take one and a half hours to mow a green with a wheel type mower. When a roller type mower was manufactured, mowing time was reduced considerably. Then the power mower came on the market; first a single unit, then a two and three unit mower was used. This looked like we had it made. Now we have a three unit power riding mower which requires approximately ten minutes to cut an average green.

Fairways in the early years consisted of native grass and weeds. Fertilizing was almost unheard of with the exception of a little barnyard manure used on certain areas. The mowing was done with horses - one cutting unit for each horse. The next improvement was one horse to three cutting units. As time went on we used two horses and five cutting units. And remember, we always had to put leather boots on the horses' feet before we could go on the fairway and start mowing. Fairways were cut at 1½ inches. You can imagine the height of the grass during the fast growing season between mowings because it took many days to get over the whole course. It was not unusual to lose a ball in a fairway. As years went by the manufacturers came out with a tractor to either pull or push five mowers. This replaced the horses that were used for that purpose. The result of this improvement meant the fairways could be mowed twice a week!

When the depression came along, the manufacturers built a tractor with greater speed and more power. We then used seven or nine units instead of five, and were able to mow all the fairways in about six hours or less. The increased speed that was required to mow them in this length of time soon showed faulty results, fairways began to get like a washboard. I am sure that many of you have noticed the damage done by high speed mowing and had to correct the damage of cross mowing.

Some of you will remember the weed problem on fairways - dandelions, plantain, buck-horn, and many other weeds. In many cases there were more weeds than grass. In the spring when dandelions were blooming and were in their seeding stage, it was almost impossible to find a golf ball. But thanks to the great research work accomplished by some of our chemical companies, today weeds and clover on fairways and in the rough are very rare. A few years back it required

about two days to fertilize an eighteen hole golf course. Today, it can be done in five hours or less. This shows a tremendous progress in fairway maintenance.

Tees - Up until the latter years tees were built far too small. There was just enough room for a foursome and three caddies, the fourth one was usually down the fairway watching where the balls went. No care was given to them during the year except an occasional mowing. When the grass was all worn away, the tee was resodded. Today, the secret of good tees is large tees. Most tees that are being built today are around six to eight thousand square feet and maintained almost like greens with the exception of the cutting height. Divots are filled with seed and soil or plugged and watered regularly.

Rough - I would like, at this time, to say a few words about the rough which I think most of us get into occasionally when playing golf. I wonder how many of you know when roughs were really rough.

All of the rough was cut with a sickle type farm hay mower at the course I was at in 1916-19. With the exception of about twenty feet next to the fairway, the rest of it was mowed twice a year, and the hay was used to feed our horses. When a ball got into this kind of rough, it was usually give up as a lost ball. Sometimes the player and his caddy would look for it on their hands and knees, or by rolling over and over, but it was usually useless. Today one can hardly call it rough. It is cut too short, and too often.

Many times I think of the advancement there has been in the past 65 years. Greens mowed at one-half inches three times a week. Today they are like a carpet mowed at 3/16" or less, free from weeds, the finest strains of grass that can be grown in your particular area and mowed six or seven times a week during the growing season.

Fairways are better than the greens used to be. Tees are in a condition that any turf-loving person should hate to take a divot from.

Many wood clubs are used in the rough today. In the old days this sort of thing was seldom heard of. In the teens and twenties the banks of the greens and tees and the fairway bunkers were cut with a scythe. The men mowing with the scythe usually did no other work during the season. They used to wear the wood on the scythe handles with their fingers down to the rod running through the handle. How many men are there today that know how to use a scythe?

Years ago it used to require five nights to irrigate the tees, greens and fairways on an eighteen hole golf course. Today the modern automatic system will do the job in one night. The old systems were lucky to have thirty five to forty lbs. of pressure. Today they operate with one hundred and thirty or more lbs.

Golf course maintenance is at a higher standard today than ever in the history of golf, but there are some players who still complain about the condition of the course. Sometimes I wonder if they come out to enjoy a game of golf, or just look for something to criticize. I am sure if they kept their minds more on their game, there would be lower scores.

Ray Gerber

A HEAVY LOAD

One person who carries other peoples' problems on his shoulders is the caddie.

— Homer Phillips

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WHERE THERE'S SMOKE — STAY LOW AND KEEP COOL!

When you check into a large hotel, as you may during GCSAA's 53rd International Turfgrass Conference and Show in New Orleans Jan. 31-Feb. 5, one small precaution may save your life. When you enter your room, take a moment to glance down the hallway and note the location of the stairwells. It will only take a second and you may not get another chance.

Fires in large hotels have become frightening familiar news stories lately, especially with two disastrous fires in Las Vegas hotels in a relatively short time. Unfortunately, most people think disasters of that type are something that only happens to other people. With more than 5,000 hotel fires in a year, the odds may catch up with you.

In a hotel fire, the flames are not the killers. Smoke, usually coupled with panic, is. That's why you should memorize the location of the stairwells as well as the layout of the room. You may not be able to see them very well later.

If you do smell smoke in the middle of the night, don't be in a hurry to flee. Call the hotel desk and report it to the fire department. They may have everything under control and if they don't at least someone will know where you are.

If you do leave your room, stay low and stay calm. Crawl to the stairwell and make your way down, keeping a firm grip on the handrail. Not everyone may be as calm as you, and you could be trampled. Don't try to take the elevator down and unless you're on the lower three floors, don't try to jump.

If you run into a dense area of smoke be sure to prop the door open so you won't be locked out.

Many people have remained unharmed in their rooms while others died trying to escape. It's a judgment call, but if you decide to stay in your room, several precautions can increase your chances of survival.

First, turn on the bathroom vent. Fill the tub with water for firefighting purposes. Stuff wet towels under the door. If the door and walls are hot, keep throwing water on them. Keep everything wet, and don't worry about the mess.

If your room has a window or sliding door, open it, but keep an eye on it. There may be more smoke outside than inside. If there is fire outside the window, get rid of the draperies and anything nearby that might be combustible. Keep pouring water around the window.

If you swing a wet towel around the room, it will help clear the smoke. Another wet towel tied around your nose and mouth will filter the air you breathe.

SMILE

"It happens in a flash, but the memory of it lasts forever, it cannot be begged, borrowed or stolen, but it is of no earthly good to anyone until it is given away. So if in your hurry you meet someone who is too weary to smile, leave one of yours, for no one needs a smile quite as much as he who has none to give!"

"It takes only 17 muscles to smile ... 43 muscles to frown. Conserve energy."



MIDWEST BREEZES

On July 20 the editor visited with **Peter Leuzinger**, Supt. at St. Charles C.C. I was interested in the C15 strain of bentgrass problem and how much he had accomplished to overcome this problem. It sure looks like Pete may be on the right track. He has tried many different chemicals and types of operations. At this date he is not at liberty to make any statements as to the chemicals that were used. There is definite evidence that his efforts and perseverance, and many long days, may contribute significantly to the solution of "C15 decline".

The M.A.G.C.S. August 3rd meeting was held at Village Greens of Woodridge. President **Len Berg** was our host Supt. This was one of our better meetings. Sixty-four played golf on a golf course in excellent condition. Many of those that played participated in prizes. The attendance for dinner was 108 and all enjoyed a wonderful dinner and good service. Our good friend **Cecil Kerr** topped off the evening with words and pictures on public relations which proved to be an outstanding presentation. No one could do it better than **Cecil**.

Our September meeting will be held at the Playboy Club at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin on Sept. 14.

Our October meeting will be held at St. Andrews Golf Club on Monday the 12th. **John Lapp**, C.G.C.S., will be our host.

Bryan and Heather Meyer have been busy showing their livestock this summer. Their record so far is: Grand and Reserve Champion market barrows at DuPage Co. Fair; Reserve Champion Beef at DuPage Co.; Reserve Champion Beef at section V111 F.F.A. (Future Farmers of America) fair at Peotone, Ill.; as well as Grand Champion Barrow at the same fair. **Heather** sold her champion hog for \$4.00 per lb. **Bryan and Heather** showed their animals at the Illinois State Fair on August 8 and 9 in Springfield, Illinois. **Bryan and Heather** are the son and daughter of **Dave and Penny Meyer**.

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Dear Ray;

When you consider what we do this Fall as well as next Spring, reflecting into next Summer's success, it's difficult to determine just when the season starts.

"SEPTEMBER"

With the dog days of Summer,
Soon to be a part of the past.
September promising to put an end,
To Summer's final blast.
Another Golf Season has drifted,
To it's last stages.
On a scale of 1 to 10,
How would you grade the pages?

Superintendently,
Kenneth R. Zanzig
Green Garden C.C.

On Monday, August 3, 1981, 69 MAGCS members enjoyed a fine day of golf at Village Greens of Woodridge. Our host and president had the course in super shape for us. However the big sprinkler in the sky created its problems.

PRIZE WINNERS

LOW GROSS - Chip Wichmanowski—71
CLOSEST TO PIN #4 - J. Clark, (Senior) Bill Miller
CLOSEST TO PIN #13 - J. Stevenson, (Senior) G. Nordland

LONG DRIVE - Don Hoffman, (Senior) Dick Kensinger
HIGH GROSS - Mark Grundman

LOW NETS

Rich Kensinger - 68, Ray Schmitz - 69, Ray Schei - 69,
Pete Leuzinger - 69, Brad Johnson - 70, Don Spier - 70

BLIND BOGEY

Walley Fuchs Jr., Bill Nadler, Gene Thompson, Jeff Smith, Dan Murphy, Gary Dorsch, Mike Nass, Tim Kelly, Bob Breen.

John Stevenson

8 WAYS TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY

You can make better use of your time by following these eight suggestions offered by consultant Stephanie Winston, the author of **Getting Organized: The Easy Way to Put Your Life in Order**.

1. **Barter**. If you're facing a job you hate, see if someone else will do it in exchange for a service from you.

2. **Double up on time** by doing two things at once. Exercise while watching television or organize your desktop while you're talking on the phone.

3. **Use professionals**. Travel agents, answering services, cleanup crews and messenger services know their jobs better than you. They can free you to take on more important tasks.

4. **Make every minute count**. If you have to kill five minutes, use it to draft a quick personal letter or make a call.

5. **Plan ahead**. All other things being equal, a chore might as well be done a week ahead of time instead of at the last minute.

6. **Consolidate**. If you have several phone calls to make, do them all at one sitting. Combine errands when possible.

7. **Pool resources**. Experiment with cooperative arrangements, such as carpooling.

8. **Take advantage of labor-saving devices**. Do your long division on a pocket calculator, for example.

They say women are wearing their dresses longer this fall but won't tell us whether fashion or inflation is the reason.

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