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Editor —

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President's Message

Welcome to 1989. Fiscal Year, that is.

We started our new year with one of the best attendance records ever for an Annual Meeting. This is something the past boards' have been striving to accomplish for many a year.

Credit for this achievement should be given to the scheduling of the Midwest Clinic on the same day, a function that should be continued.

I would like to thank all who attended both the Clinic and the Annual meeting for their vote of confidence in electing me as their President for the coming year. It was most gratifying to give my acceptance speech to 130+ colleagues. For those not present, you missed a very fine clinic and meeting.

Thank you's are in order for two men retiring from the board — Jim Evans, President Emeritus and Dave Louttit, Director. A welcome is given to new directors Mike Bavier and Tim Kelly. I am fortunate to have a very fine executive board and directors that are going to make my job easier.

At this time my job is to appoint committees and organize the board. I hope to incorporate members outside the board to serve on these committees, tapping the resources of Past Presidents knowledge and experiences. Future reports will carry our progress.

I hope to see you at the NCTC held at Pheasant Run December 6, 7, 8, 1988.

Editor's Note:

Dave has served the MAGCS as Secretary/Treasurer as long as many of you can remember. Dave has kept his outside interests pretty busy over the years with the following: Past President of the DuPage County Fair, Director of Illinois Association of Agriculture Fairs, Past President of Benet Academy Alumni, and Past President of Benet Dad's Club. Dave's hobbies and interests include farming and fairs. Dave and Penny, our Executive Secretary, have four children, Brian age 23, Heather age 19, Austin age 10 and a real bundle of energy, Kara age 6.

Director's Column



ASSOCIATION INVOLVEMENT

By Bruce R. Williams, CGCS

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents has a membership of close to 500 members. Our month-to-month operations and long-range planning are carried out by your Board of Directors, which is comprised of 10 members of the Association. While the Board is only made up of 2% of the entire membership, it makes the decisions for the whole Association. Our Board gives freely of its time to serve the Association to the best of its abilities.

Each year it becomes increasingly difficult to select individuals for nomination to our Board of Directors. One of the reasons for this is the lack of participation by our members on the various committees of the MAGCS. Many of our committees could use a helping hand from our members-at-large. Getting involved on the committee level will serve several purposes. We need the input of a broader base of individuals to provide the program that our members want. Committee involvement will also give individuals insight into the operation of the MAGCS and give our Association a larger number of individuals prepared to seek nomination to the MAGCS Board. Please give this some consideration as new committees are formed after the elections in November.

Improvement of programs is the goal of any association. This can be accomplished with some constructive criticism through the proper channels. Our Board is certainly open to any comments and suggestions from our members. Do you have an idea for a speaker or topic? Would you like to host a meeting in 1989? Is there a specific golf event that you would recommend for one of our meetings? If so, then let us know. Complaining about the Association, over cocktails, doesn't do any good. Address the appropriate committee chairman or the Board of Directors, preferably in writing, with your views. We definitely value your input.

Have You Heard?

A normal blood pressure reading is 120/80. If the top number (systolic) consistently exceeds 140, or if the bottom number (diastolic) consistently exceeds 90, you should be working with a physician to get your blood pressure back to normal.

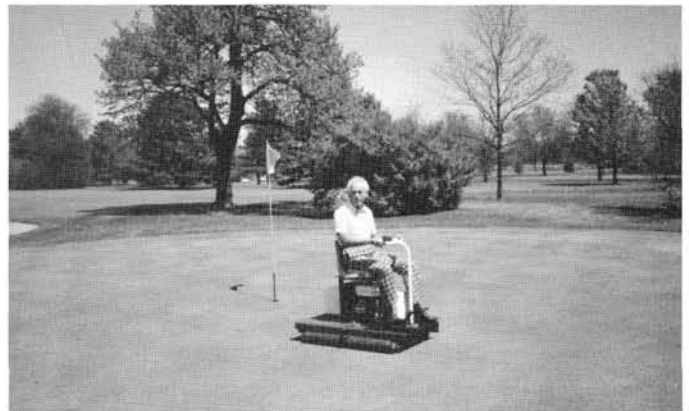
"A Belated Update on the Tool From Down Under"

by Fred Opperman, CGCS

Back in June I wrote about a roller that I had received from Australia that was built to roll golf greens. At that time I had promised to write a follow up article since I didn't have much time to use the machine and get any data on it before the June issue went to press.

Well, since then I have been able to get some data when I used it to roll the greens at Glen Oak C.C. during the summer. I need to recap, I feel, somewhat on the description of this roller to refresh some people of what it is and what it can do.

The roller was designed first in Australia to roll bowling greens and it was built for that purpose. It was originally 5' long and about 18'' wide, with 2 rollers. But the roller built for rolling golf greens is only 3' long and 2' wide with 3, 4½'' rollers. Weight is about 600 pounds with machine and operator (more depending on weight of the operator of course).



Dr. Bill Daniel trying his skills at rolling a green at Glen Oak C.C.

The machine rolls sideways to roll a green. You sit on it facing the length of the machine and it rolls left or right, depending which foot pedal you depress. It has a handle bar and two foot pedals and a throttle. That's all for controls. It is simple to operate, once one gets the hang of moving sideways. It is also surprising on how fast it travels across a green — 4 to 5 miles per hour I would think.

My thought of getting this machine was to roll the greens occasionally instead of cutting them down next to nothing and putting a great deal of stress on the plants. I found that after rolling a green I could increase the speed plus or minus about 24 inches on most readings. I was also concerned about compaction of the greens, so I borrowed a penetrometer from Jim Latham of the USGA Green Section.

The use of this instrument is all relative. One has to get the feel of it and take many readings over a period of time to see if there is a difference. I found that it increased the compaction by about two numbers after rolling. For example, if the reading was a 7 before rolling, after rolling it showed a 9 or a 10. The next day the reading on the penetrometer was a number or two lower. Also, the stimpmeter reading had fallen off from the high of the day before, but it was still 10 to 12 inches faster than a green that had not been rolled. By the third day after rolling, the speed of the rolled greens were the same as the other greens which had not been rolled. (continued on page 4)

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The uses I foresee of this machine are not just for faster greens. It can also be used during construction of greens or tees. When it comes down to the final rolling, this roller could be used before seeding or sodding and then again after seeding or sodding to roll the seed or sod for better contact with the soil. In the Spring of the year most northern courses roll their greens before cutting to smooth them out. This roller would work fine, for it is fast, doing a 5,000 square foot green in under 10 minutes. Another use would be rolling the greens after core cultivation. This rolling would help smooth the surface of the greens and return some of the speed that was lost due to core cultivation. The roller would work well on tennis courts or croquet courts just as well as it does on a golf or bowling green.

I look at this machine as just another toll in our inventory needed to keep pace with the demands of our jobs. Just as we have coring machines, turf groomers, and top dressers, a roller is another tool to be used to do a critical, required task.



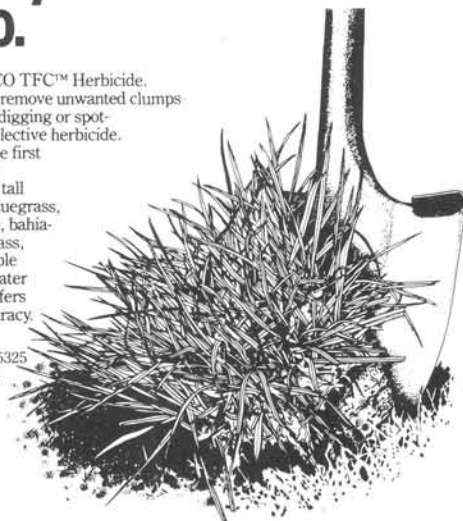
Ismael Estrada rolling new sod at Glen Oak C.C.

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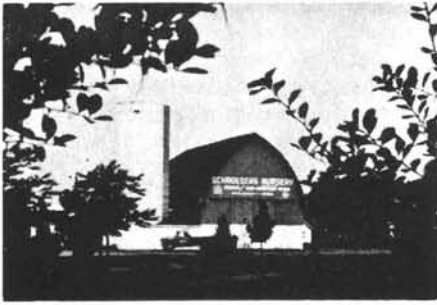
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The Fall Turf Clinic/or Back to the Basics

The Superintendent has been His Own Flag Bearer! Others have elaborated on the Superintendent's basic awareness of His problems, that He brought to light Himself. Most will agree, the Superintendent has been instrumental in eliminating the problem, or controlling it. It was a pleasure to see and hear the Superintendent's conduct Their Own Turf Clinic once again. (To me, that's where it all started). While We are grateful for contributions from concerned avenues of mutual collaboration. It is a Blessing to feel the Comradeship of Superintendent's revealing Their findings, thoughts and solutions, in the realm of intimate revelation.

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AND THE GRASSES SHALL ABOUND

By Edwin Wollenberg, Retired Superintendent

The summer was hot and dry. Moisture was scarce to moderate, and very spotty. Forty six days of 90 degrees plus, including seven days of 100 degrees or over. We tied a record set 33 years ago, with plenty of time left on the calendar to break that record. Lawns looked dead and took on the appearance of a stubbled field of grain after harvest.

It is with selfish satisfaction that I retired a few years ago, and do not have to worry about Nature's wrath. But, I do worry, for I have a son and many other superintendent friends, who, although they know the grass will make a "comeback" and green up, do not know if the "locker room and pro shop" superintendents can wait that long, and are anxious to make a change. We, the superintendents, know that the grass will be green again and survive, but sometimes we have to be patient with temporary and lack of cooperation from Mother Nature.

The golf course superintendent must wear many hats, and that's why they gave us the pretty title of Golf Course Superintendent a few years ago, a replacement for the common tieless, blue jean and grubby moniker of Greenskeeper in the past.

But I am sure that most golf course superintendents when they think of what their most important obligation is, automatically thinks of grass, that which surrounds their responsible domain. Grass grows almost everywhere except in the deepest woodland and on the very parched deserts — and with modern technology in grass survival and growth, we are now conquering many portions of that area, once thought as wasteland. Where trees struggle or can't gain a foothold, grass flourishes and possesses the earth. Wherever there is soil, moisture and some period of warmth, grass will grow.

Man is more dependent on grass than any other species of plant life. We could do without trees, though we would suffer some for want of shade, lumber, and in early history for fuel. We could do without flowers, though we would be deprived of color, beauty, fragrance and certain items of food and fiber. But without grass we would surely starve. The cereal grains are all grasses — corn, wheat, rye, barley, oats, rice, etc. The pastures for our meat animals is grass. Grass anchors the soil against erosion. Grass cools the earth and constantly renews the oxygen in the atmosphere. Grass is necessary for life as we know it.

It has been estimated that there are 7000 species of grass, including the tall giant bamboo that was used on golf courses in yesteryears as whipping poles for dew, worm casts, and leaves or debris on the lush greens or tees. Few of the so-called ordinary grasses grow more than three feet high, and most of the grasses that blanket our plain states or midwest flatlands are even shorter. Yet it is so demanding, so vigorous in growth, so skilled in reproduction, that it out-produces all other plants. Maybe someone, or the unique computer instruments of today, have counted the number of individual grass plants in an acre of fairway, but I have never seen the figures. They must run well into the millions.

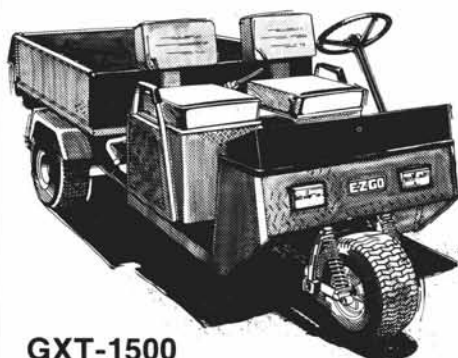
Grasses, as plants go, are really very simple. Most grasses have fibrous roots, their stems jointed, leaves long and slender, and flowers simple. The seeds carry the germ at one end, and the remainder of the seed consisting of so-called concentrated food; it is this food concentrate that makes the cereal grains so valuable to us. And because grasses have an unusual capacity for replacing the lost stems and leaves, it makes pasture grasses and forage crops so valuable to farmers and ranchers because a meadow, range or hayfield tends to replenish itself.

The fibrous roots of wild grass lace the soil so completely that they form a turf and sod. When I was a young boy in the middle 1920s, I had an uncle who went to see his uncle in Montana — still a very wild and untamed area of our nation then. He said his uncle cut sod and laid it up like bricks to build the house, barn, and even corral walls to confine the livestock. The sod of the pioneer days on the plains substituted as building material for the logs of the forest lands. He also remarked that the sod was so thick and tough that it required four horses to pull a plow turning a single furrow through it.

I'm sure we all remember from our school days and early American history, the vast pasture land that existed with grasses so plentiful that for generations it supported herds of buffalo estimated at 100 million or more. For hundreds of years those grassy lands fed those herds and the grass was never noticeably diminished. Then man came with his cattle and sheep and, though some areas were overgrazed, the grass persisted until men with plows ripped up the sod to plant wheat — another grass, by the way, but a nurtured, civilized grass without the staying power of buffalo grass and all the other wild species. Drought (like this year) hampered the wheat crops and wind blew the dust.

(continued on page 8)

HOW TO HANDLE THE TOUGHEST TURF ON EARTH



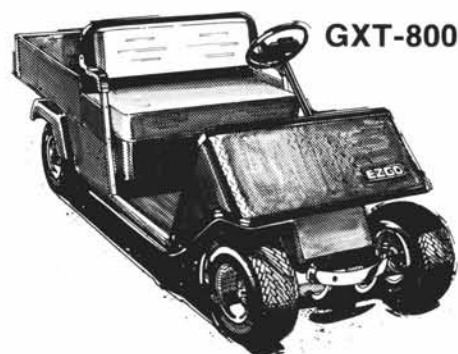
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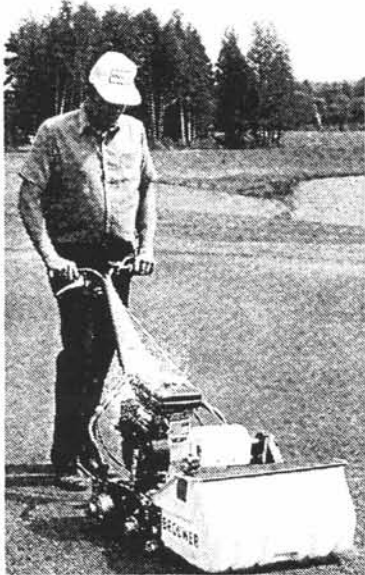


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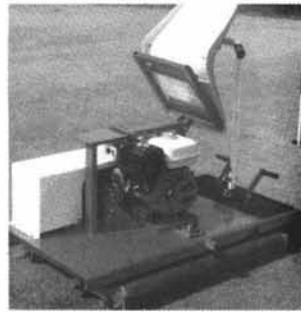
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“A New Tool From Down Under”

by Fred D. Opperman, CGCS
Glen Oak C.C.



A year ago when I was visiting Australia and stopped at a golf course, I saw an interesting tool that I thought might have a use here on our putting greens. The machine was a roller that was being used at the time on a bowling green. The bowling green that I watched this machine roll was Penncross cut as low as any of

our golf greens. This machine was/is used daily after each mowing to help “iron” the surface. The bowlers are as fussy as our golfers on the quality of their bowling greens and the speed of their bowls.

After returning to the states, I wrote to the company asking if their machine was used on putting greens and if anyone in the states handled this machine. It wasn't too many days, that one evening I received a long distance phone call from John Ellul of the Golf & Bowling Machinery PTY. LTD. John was enthusiastic over my inquiry and questioned me more on how the machine could or would be used in the states on putting greens. Well, this discussion and interest in this type of a roller led to many more phone calls and letters over the past 8 months.

In early May a roller was air freighted (cost of \$2,000) to O'Hare and in a week, John Ellul followed up and came here to show the machine to me. I had John talk to Ron Jones, from Chicago Turf & Irrigation who agreed to help demo the unit this coming year and see what kind of response it may have in this area.

I was really surprised and pleased to see how well it did function on rolling our greens. The machine is different in that you sit on it facing one end and it rolls left and right. The speed of the roller is really surprising for it travels at about 4-5 miles per hour with a qualified operator at the controls. It takes about 10-12 minutes to roll a 5,000 square foot green. It would be a perfect machine for rolling the greens in the spring. The machine measures 3 feet by 2 feet and has three 4½” rollers, with one roller being the drive roller. The machine weighs just over 600 pounds (or about 43 stones, as John would say) with the weight of the operator. This machine was made special for golf putting greens by being only 3 feet long instead of the normal 5 feet used for bowling greens. I foresee the use of this machine for the final rolling of tees and greens just before seeding or sodding. Then using it after the seed is spread or after the sod has knitted and needs rolling before mowing. My main purpose was to be able to roll a green and then not cut it as low as some people are now doing. At the present, I have not had the time to check it with a stimp meter since the deadline of “The Bull Sheet” is a month before you receive it in the mail. By the time you are reading this, I will have some test data and will write another article to bring you up to date.

If anyone is interested in seeing this machine in operation you need to talk to your local sales representative from CT&I. Any other questions you may also call me.

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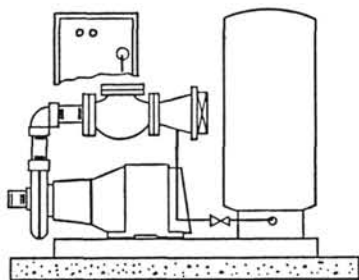
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John McGuire, President Mechanics Association explaining the purpose of his association

**St. Charles, Illinois
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The Biology of Turfgrass Soils
January 3, 1989

Golf Course Safety, Security and
Risk Management
January 4, 1989

Dr. Eliot Roberts, Executive Director of The Lawn Institute, reviews the principles of soil microbiology, describes the favorable and unfavorable functions of micro- and macro-organisms and discusses common practices that promote or restrict desirable soil biological activity, all as they relate to turfgrass management. Technical information on the safe use of pesticides to enhance soil biological processes will provide a tool for public relations in the current controversy regarding chemical usage.

Dr. Michael J. Hurdzan, noted golf course architect, presents risk management techniques, including the identification of hazards to golfers and non-golfers, the potential for accidents and types of negligence and liability. Safety procedures to minimize risk will be described and adequate and appropriate insurance coverage discussed. This course is designed not to provide legal advice but to expose superintendents to potential litigious situations as encountered in the personal experience of a golf course architect.

Co-hosts:

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

One Continuing Education Unit (CEU) is attached to each one-day seminar. Luncheons are included in registration fees as are take-home reference materials. A certificate of achievement will be awarded to participants who successfully complete the seminar(s) by passing the examination at the conclusion of the program.

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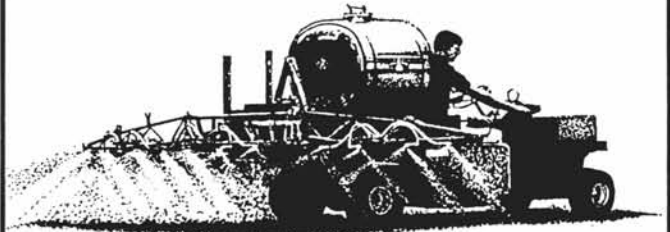
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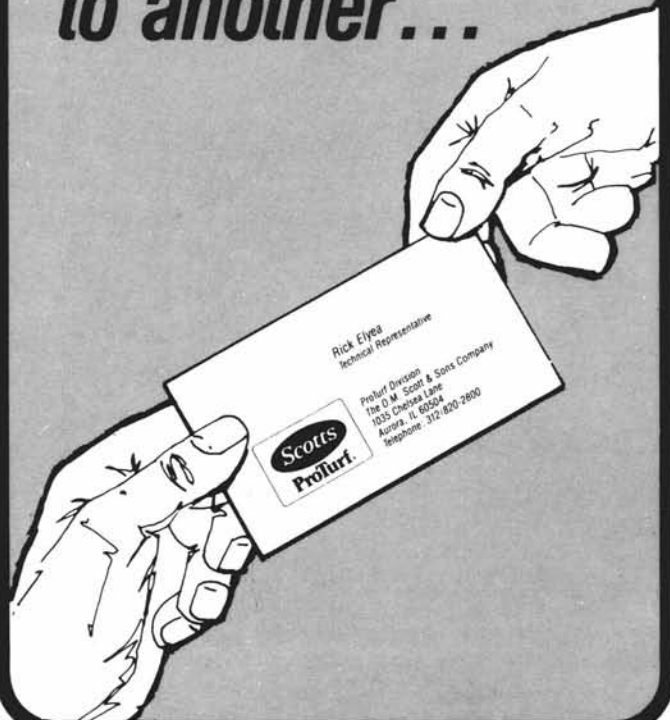
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