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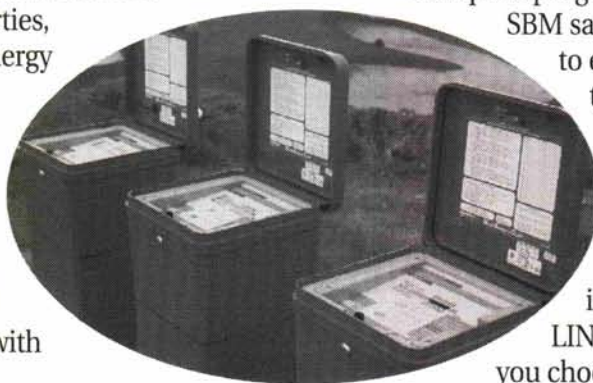
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The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS) is a professional organization founded in 1927 whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance.

We endeavor to increase efficiency and economic performance while improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige of the members.

The MAGCS member is also an environmental steward. We strive to uphold and enhance our surroundings by promoting flora and fauna in every facet in a manner that is beneficial to the general public now and in the future.



The Midwest membership has come through again in 1997. When members pay their dues, they have an option to pay the normal rate or to give towards a fund which goes to research and contributions. This year, \$7,100 was given. Some have thought that this money was used to support *On Course*. This is not true! Through this effort, we have been able to give more to several different groups. To date, the Midwest is given to the GCSAA Platinum Tee Club, the Musser Turf Foundation and the CDGA. Plans include continuing to support two different research projects at the University of Illinois: one for Tom Voight and the other for Dr. Bruce E. Branham. I will let these fine experts explain their projects in later issues of *On Course*.

The new Membership Directory was again in the hands of the membership in record time. A big "thank you" needs to go to not only our Executive Secretary George Minnis but also to his very understanding and helpful wife Karen. The directory would be able to be published even earlier if one thing happened. The information sheet and a dues check would be sent ON TIME! The MAGCS member roll at this point is nearing

600. Thanks to all who paid their dues in 1997 (on time!). I asked George Minnis to write an article for this issue. I am sure you will learn a thing or two from George. He truly continues to do an outstanding job for the Midwest.

For those of you who ventured out to Las Vegas, hopefully, you were able to visit what many felt was the one of the finest hospitality rooms ever. That says a lot due to the fact that many people such as Dave and Penny Meyer, Al Fierst, Albie Staudt and Bob Breen, Sr., did an outstanding job in the past and gave a lot of themselves in doing so. All of the credit for this year's room goes to Brian Bossert. The people who have done this task in the past know what a chore it is and the amount of work that Brian went through. The hard work was Brian's doing, but the financial backing is credited to the many commercial members who once again generously gave to the MAGCS.

THANKS AGAIN TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED THE ROOM!

Interesting items come in the mail every day. A lot of trees are wasted on some of the mail we receive at our clubs and courses. What a shame some people do not think about what they are mailing out or who they might affect. People need to be careful! Some people are wondering what the heck I am talking about. Give me a call, and I will fill you in. I have already wasted enough space on this topic.

"That guy is the consummate superintendent." I have spoken these words many times in the past about Bruce R. Williams. What more can you say about a guy who has done it all in the

ever-challenging world of being a golf course superintendent. Bruce has set the bar high (I stole that term from the GCSAA convention) and has leaped over it! The Midwest is losing a lot of its key people. Bob Maibusch stated that "Bruce will be on the West Coast, and Roger Stewart along with Len Berg will be on the East Coast. By the time they get through, they will have everyone in the middle of the country signed up as a member of the MAGCS!" I told Bruce that a lot of people will be his friend next year when we go out to the convention in Anaheim. Could I get the chance to play at Bruce's new course? Quoting Bruce, "Not a chance, Viking Boy."

All the best to you and your family in California, Bruce. We will truly miss you. Thanks for the many years of service not only to the MAGCS but also to the profession we all love.

Ed Braunsky, CGCS
President, MAGCS

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*George Minnis
Executive Secretary, MAGCS*

As executive secretary for our association, the task that is the most challenging each year is the collection of dues and of information for our yearly directory that, as you know, is published the first part of February. The cutoff date of February 1 was accomplished again this year; and by now, the directory should be in your hands.

As you might have noticed, this year the directory was modified to recognize all of our past presidents and clarify information about our members. The list of past presidents was changed to include those that we have information on along with the year they served. A few of our members let us know that they have pagers, and so we added the word "pager" for an additional contact number. We also gave recognition to all of our superintendents who are certified with the GCSAA by stating so next to their class designation. Being certified is quite an accomplishment and will no longer go unrecognized.

Good news. The membership is growing. In the past year, we have added 83 new members; and even though some have cho-

sen not to renew for one reason or another, the count is up by 24. If you know of someone who is interested in joining, please have them get in touch with Fred Behnke over at Mount Prospect Golf Club. Fred is in charge of membership applications this year and will be happy to send the information to anyone that requests it. He can be reached days at (847) 632-9331.

Another area that has grown is our Employment Referral Service. Last year, we sent out 21 referrals; and this year is already showing signs of an increase. For more information on our referral service, please contact Vice President Kevin Czerkies over at Sportsman's Country Club. He has the forms and the information you need in preparing a notice. He can be reached days at (847) 291-2352, Ext.132.

Finally, a few words about our monthly meetings. Pre-registration and prepayment, as each notice states, is required. The host for each event goes to a great deal of trouble to see that everyone attending is taken care of properly and relies on the registration list for that purpose. So, when attending, please preregister. Your host will appreciate it.

Questions, concerns, etc., please give me a call. MAGCS voice mail is (630) 406-5356. I'll do my best to find the answer. ■

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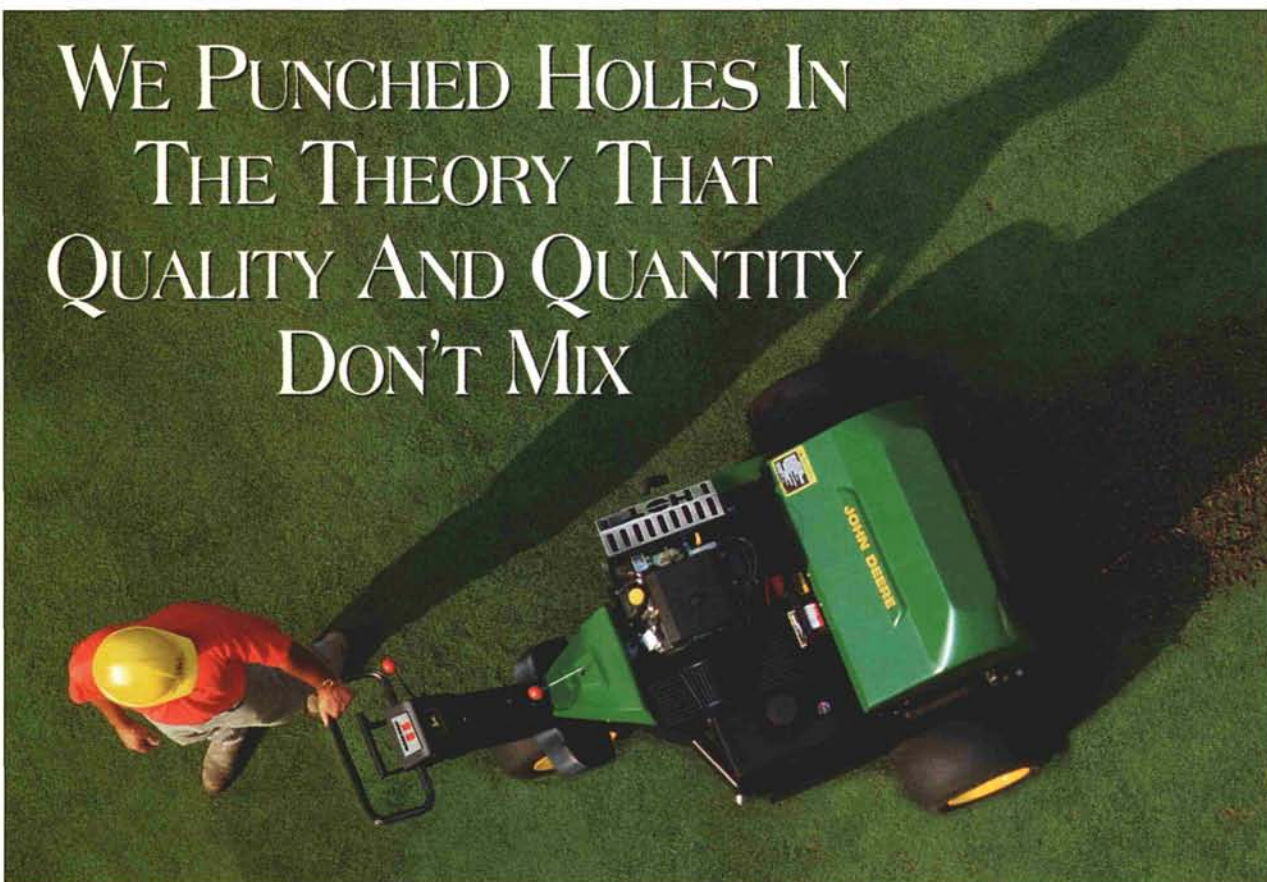
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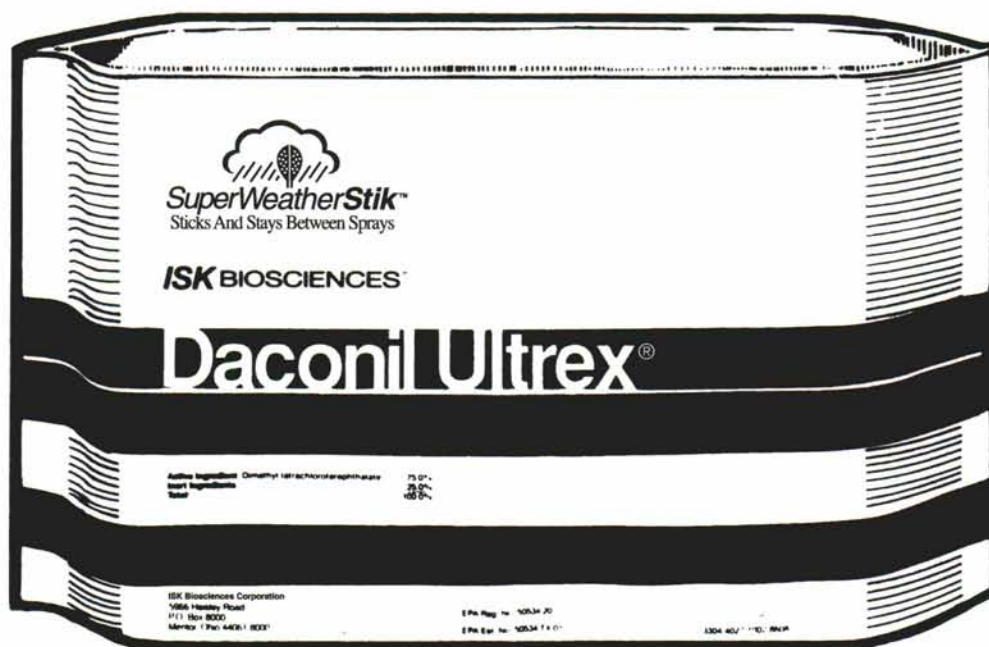
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Fred Behnke -N- Mt. Prospect Golf Club

*Jim McNair
Orchard Valley G.C.*

When we tee it up this month at Mt. Prospect Golf Club, we'll be doing it on 18 new bentgrass tees. Our host will be the newest MAGCS Board member, Fred Behnke. Fred has been very generous to the MAGCS, hosting several meetings in the last few years; and his course is always a pleasure to play. Fred has been a very busy individual lately. In addition to the new bent tees, Fred earned the Merit Award in the national Environmental Steward competition and is actively involved with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary program.

The busy Mt. Prospect Golf Club (55,000 rounds annually) was built in 1920, so long ago that the



architect is unknown. The club was rumored to have had ties to the Capone mob during the '30s, who reportedly buried a large sum of money on the property. An escape tunnel leads from the former club-

house to the creek. The Mt. Prospect Park District bought the course in 1962.

Fred received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Carthage College in 1974. He began working at MPGC in 1981 and became superintendent in 1987. Fred credits his mentors, Bob and Bruce Williams and Mike Bavier, with giving him a well-rounded turf background. Fred also holds a certificate from Harper College in Parks and Grounds Management.

When Fred can find the time to get away from the course, he wants to spend it with his wife Nancy, son Daniel, and daughter Marilu. Fred's hobby is the new house, and he still finds time to serve on his local school board and sing in his church choir. Fred

(continued on page 28)



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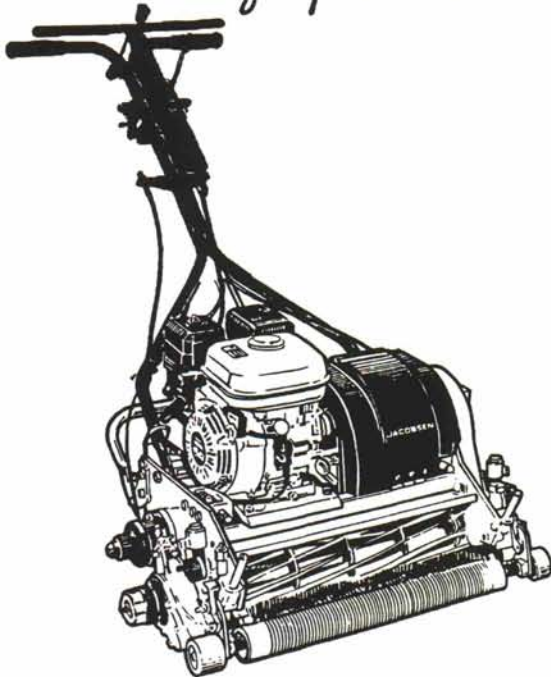
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Dave Weber

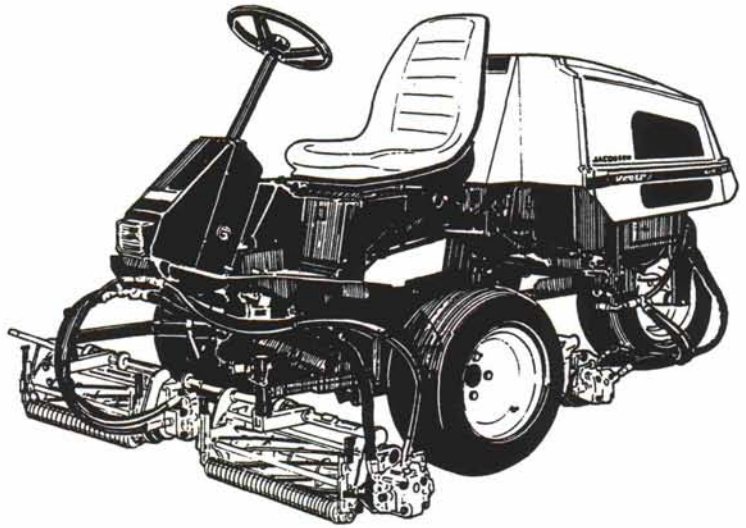
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The snow is melting, and the forecast is filled with warmer temperatures. The mechanic is putting the finishing touches on the last few pieces of equipment and wants to know when you're going to aerify. Ernesto is convinced the only thing he hasn't painted is Javier. He can't wait to get outside. As the superintendent, you've spent the last three (five?) months inside at your computer. You have tweaked the fertilizer program, budgeted for the latest biological cure-all, seen things you shouldn't on the Internet and rewritten your employee manual. It appears

that everything is in place for the upcoming season.

Then it happens; you've been left alone for months, but

*When are
the greens going
to be open?
Are the greens
going to be
faster this year?*

now the phone starts ringing. When are the greens going to be open? Are the greens going to be

faster this year? I played in Florida all winter, and the greens were perfect! Why don't we grow that kind of grass here? The first time it hits 50°, the players want a golf cart. Or maybe you're not as ready for the season as you would like to be. Perhaps you and the staff are scrambling around trying to do a month of work in ten days. Your fuse gets short, and you realize that winter is never long enough.

Did you take the time to get yourself reconditioned this winter? Are the same old people and the same old problems going to get under your skin again this season? I'm not talking about a vacation. We all take those. The point is, did you

(continued on page 12)

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