



THE SOUTH FLORIDA GREEN

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ON OUR COVER

18th Green at J.D.M. Country Club, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

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President's Message



It is great to be a golf course superintendent in South Florida.

We operate with an eight-month growing season and growing conditions so good that when we plant grass we literally, "put it in the ground and jump out of the way". It sounds good . . . and it is. The trick is to keep it growing and "up to standards."

One of the principal reasons we are able to perform "the trick" is the "know how" that has been provided our industry by turf grass research scientists. Most golf course superintendents in Florida know that the standard of living he enjoys today is primarily the result of work done at the research facilities of government and private industry.

As great as the research contributions have been, I believe their accomplishments will be overshadowed by those of the future. Push-button fertilizing operations, biological control of insects, weed control by temperature variation and so on . . . these are some of the many exciting prospects of the future.

In the South Florida area we are blessed with having the Agriculture Research Center located at Fort Lauderdale, Florida. This is one of the finest facilities of its type with a staff second to none. Programmed research projects at this facility can be geared for our special problems with data provided already adaptable to our very unique growing conditions. I believe it is important for every golf course superintendent in our area to keep himself informed on their research projects and be ready to assist when he can. Just as important, I believe each superintendent should make sure he is receiving research information and be ready, mentally, to implement their recommendations when it is made available.

Mike Burger

New Director at the Agricultural Research Center



Starting a second career is Dr. William B. Ennis, pictured here, as Professor and Director, University of Florida Agriculture Research Center at Fort Lauderdale. The program at the Fort Lauderdale Station includes research on management and pest control in ornamental plants and turf, aquatic weed control and a special project on Lethal Yellowing. Dr. Ennis' position will be to provide coordination and leadership for the overall program. He will head a staff of fifteen scientists at the Center.

Ennis is a graduate of the Universities of Tennessee, Maine and Wisconsin. He served in the Navy in the South Pacific during World War II. Subsequently he was Head of the Department of Plant Pathology and Physiology for the Mississippi Experimental Station. From 1954-56 he was Re-

gional Coordinator of Weed Investigations and served as Head of Weed Investigations until 1957. He then served as Chief of the Crops Protection Branch of the ARS, where he directed the national program of crops protection research. Following the 1972 ARS reorganization, he moved to his position on the national program staff.

Ennis is recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in crop protection research. He served as President of SWSS in 1954 and as President of the WSSA for 1956-58. He was one of the first Honorary Members selected by WSSA. In 1969 he was awarded the USDA Superior Service Award. Over the years he has co-authored about 80 publications and currently is coordinating the preparation of a textbook on crop protection for the Crop Science Society.

The editorial staff of this publication feels that golf course superintendents in South Florida are most fortunate in having Dr. Ennis as Director at the Agriculture Research Center. We extend a hearty welcome to him and wish him every success.

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The Editor takes great pride in printing the following letter announcing to our Associate Editor that he is to receive the highest honor the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America can bestow:

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

1617 ST. ANDREWS DRIVE/LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044 (913) 841-2240



December 1, 1975

Mr. Thomas C. Mascaro
2210 N. E. 124th Street
Keystone Point
North Miami, Florida 33161

Dear Tom:

As President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, it is an extreme pleasure for me to inform you that you have been selected to be the recipient of a GCSAA Distinguished Service Award in 1976.

This award is given to those individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of our profession and is the highest honor that our Association can bestow.

We are hopeful that you will honor us with your acceptance of this award which is presented by myself at the Opening Session of our Annual Conference.

Mr. Leo Feser and Dr. Joseph Duich are also recipients this year.

Please accept our sincere personal congratulations on being a recipient of this award. We look forward to your acceptance and hope that you will be able to join with us in Minneapolis.

Sincerely,

Palmer Maples, Jr., CGCS
President

PM: mc

EXPERIENCE IS THE BEST TEACHER

—By David Bailey

The following article is a question and answer interview with three turfgrass specialists. Their combined experience represents exactly one hundred years of turfgrass knowledge, fulfillment and hardships.

Now, as active golf course superintendents, we need to take time to thank those ahead of us. It was their efforts that have elevated us to our current status.

Question—When did you become a golf course superintendent?

Hans Schmeisser—1929.

James Blackledge—1930.

Joe Konwinski—1946.

Question—What motivated you into this profession?

Hans Schmeisser — “I studied Landscape Architecture in Hohenheim, Germany.”

James Blackledge—“What attracted me to this particular job was the opportunity it presented of being involved in the development of an entirely new facility from the raw ground to the finished product.”

Joe Konwinski—“My neighbor was the Pro, Superintendent, and manager of a municipal club here in Palm Beach County. I started working on the course, as the starter, and graduated to the then known position of “greenskeeper”. My college minor was in agriculture.”

Question — What is the biggest change you have seen over the years?

Hans Schmeisser “The change from the old type of grasses to the hybrids and the new equipment. The equipment changes are in aerifiers, verticuts, vacuum sweepers and especially the modern automatic water systems.”

James Blackledge — “Changes in chemicals, equipment and budgets were never dreamed of by the “greenskeeper” of the '30's. The most important change has been the quality of men now practicing the art and science of golf course maintenance.

Joe Konwinski — “The biggest change over the years — has been the sophistication of equipment and materials. And good common horse sense is still one of the prime factors of a successful turf grass manager.”

Question — What has been your greatest pleasure as a Superintendent?

Hans Schmeisser — “In 1941, I was approached by the Beltsville, Maryland Experimental Station to test a material, which was called 2-4-D. Much of the hybrid bermuda grasses were started at LaGorce and Bayshore while I was there. And another great pleasure was working with

Continued on Page 7

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CAN YOU TOP THIS? . . .



A Golf Course In Florida

Answer on Page 8

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LIGHTNING

Lightning occurs when the difference between the positive and negative charges "the electrical potential" becomes great enough to overcome the resistance of the insulating air and to force a conductive path for current to flow between the two charges. Potential in these cases can be as much as 100 million volts.

Lightning is a bigger killer than either tornadoes or hurricanes. Your chance of being struck by lightning is greater than you think. It is estimated that some 1800 thunderstorms are in progress over the earth's surface at any given moment, and that lightning strikes the earth 100 times each second.

According to data assembled by the National Center For Health Statistics, lightning kills about 150 Americans per year and injures about 250.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce has listed the following safety rules which will help you save your life when lightning threatens.

1. Stay indoors, and don't venture outside, unless absolutely necessary.
2. Stay away from open doors and windows, fireplaces, radiators, stoves, metal pipes, sinks, and plug-in electrical appliances.
3. Don't use plug-in electrical equipment such as hair dryers, electric toothbrushes, or electric razors during the storm.
4. Don't use the telephone during the storm . . . lightning may strike telephone lines outside.
5. Don't work on fences, telephone or power lines, pipelines or structural steel fabrication.
6. Don't take laundry off the clothesline.
7. Don't use metal objects like fishing rods and golf clubs. Golfers wearing cleated shoes are particularly good lightning rods.
8. Don't handle flammable materials in open containers.
9. Stop tractor work, especially when the tractor is pulling any metal equipment, and dismount. Tractors and other implements

in metallic contact with the ground are very often struck by lightning.

10. Get out of the water and off small boats.

11. Stay in your automobile if you are traveling. Automobiles offer excellent lightning protection.

12. Seek shelter in buildings. If no buildings are available, your best protection is a cave, ditch, canyon or also under head-high clumps of trees in open forest glades.

13. When there is no shelter, avoid the highest objects in the area. If only isolated trees are nearby, your best protection is to crouch in the open, keeping twice as far away from isolated trees as the trees are high.

14. Avoid hill tops, open spaces, wire fences, metal clotheslines, exposed sheds and any electrically conductive elevated objects.

15. When you feel the electrical charge . . . if your hair stands on end or your skin tingles . . . lightning may be about to strike you. Drop to the ground immediately.

Above was compiled from:

U.S. News and World Report,
August 4, 1975

National Center For Health Statistics
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration — September 1975

COMING EVENTS

S.F.G.C.S.A. MEETINGS:

Tuesday, January 20, 1976
Agriculture Research Center
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

February 8-13, 1976
CGSAA 47th Conference & Show
Minneapolis, Minn.

March 1976
Oxbow C. C.
LaBelle, Fla.

April 1976
Riviera C. C.
Coral Gables, Fla.

Experience Is The Best Teacher

Continued from Page 4

Arnold Palmer in the completion of the Country Club of Miami."

James Blackledge — "I have two great pleasure areas. I enjoy development of a course from the standpoint of natural beauty and playability and the recognition by members and management. The other area is the association with other superintendents to upgrade the profession and promote education and research."

Joe Konwinski — "To be a golf course superintendent is a pleasure if one is qualified to be a superintendent to enjoy the pleasure."

Question — What advice would you give a young superintendent?

Hans Schmeisser — "Don't worry about the hours you have to work. The course should be a part of your life. In every phase of the operation, you should know more than the people working under you. A superintendent who does a good job does not have to ask for more remuneration; the rewards will be automatic according to your ability."

James Blackledge — "There was one trick that worked well for me. Plan and develop each year some improvement that will be a topic of conversation amongst the members. The most important, is to develop the skill in management — handling people, planning and using your equipment."

Joe Konwinski — "First, learn to listen and do not be afraid to ask questions. There are men with thirty-five years experience attending monthly meetings to see if there are any new materials or changes in the profession."

*The next issue will have an article interviewing the superintendents who run multi-course complexes.



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ON MANAGEMENT

Picture taking can mean many things to many people. A picture records and fixes an event at a certain time in history. Before the modern camera, man drew pictures on what ever medium he could find. It is obvious that he drew these pictures for his immediate pleasure and also for his associates to enjoy. Unknowingly perhaps, he was graphically illustrating a point in time of his impressions of his world.

Throughout the ages, although letters and numbers were developed and used to convey information and concepts of all kinds, the picture has been the most powerful conveyor to serve this function for mankind.

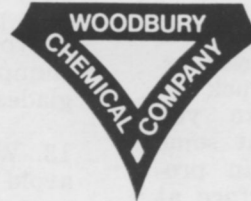
The best picture is, of course, one that needs no words to convey its message. Whether drawn by hand, printed by machine, or etched into film . . . pictures have the greatest meaning.

The brain records through the eye, more rapidly and permanently than it does through the ear.

The Golf Superintendant should consider the camera his most im-

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portant tool. It is capable of recording a point in time. It records major or even subtle changes. It records information for future committees . . . long after the one that employed you originally is gone. It records the before and after.

Pictures, in slide form especially, become an important part of one's personal achievements. It should be obvious that since these records are so personal, then the camera and film should be personal investments too.

Pictures can be used in many ways in addition to becoming a personal record.

One can share his experiences and achievements with fellow superintendents. They can be used for In-Service training of the work force. They can be used for membership meetings, for their enjoyment and edification, the list is almost endless.

A golf course is not static, like a building or a bridge. A golf course is dynamic. It is constantly undergoing change. Recording these changes with the camera is a vital part of the evolution . . . the giant sculpture . . . we call a golf course.



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Answer. (Can You Top This?)

Although it looks just like a chemical burn, this problem was caused by lightning. The unusual thing about this is that lightning usually strikes the flag pole and spreads from its base. Here the lightning struck a considerable distance away from the pin. Our thanks to Dan Hall, Director of Golf Maintenance, at Countryside Country Club, Clearwater, Florida.

The "SUPERFISH"

The weed-choked lakes of the two golf courses were the biggest problem facing me when I arrived at Aventura Country Club, June 15, 1975. That, now seems like a million years ago. In just four short months, our lakes went from eye sores to aesthetic gems on the golf courses.

To combat the problem, I got in touch with Dr. David Sutton of the Fort Lauderdale Agricultural Research Center to discuss the possibility of stocking our lakes for research purposes with the White Amur which are prodigious eaters of aquatic vegetation. I had experienced tremendous results with these fish during the past 5 years in Puerto Rico.

The following week Dr. Sutton came down to Aventura and did a thorough study as to lake sizes, quality and quantity of water, and type of aquatic weeds. It was decided the lakes at Aventura were ideal to further the study of the White Amur (*ctenopharyngodon idella*), also known as the Chinese Carp, grass carp, and better known in Puerto Rico as the "Superfish".

The Amur was introduced into the United States in the 1930's. The state of Arkansas has effectively used the fish for aquatic weed control for many years. Arkansas leads all other states in appreciating the use and potential of the Amur; from the farmer to the state officials.

How could any fish receive the distinction of superfish? To understand and appreciate this truly remarkable fish, we must go back

to its origin in the Amur River of China. The Chinese have cultivated these fish for hundreds of years for both weed control and a high protein food source. The Amur will eat 3 to 5 times it's weight daily in aquatic weeds and gain approximately one pound a month, reaching an average weight of 80 to 100 pounds with the largest on record being 400 pounds.

There is no possibility they will reproduce naturally in the United States. The only places where they do reproduce naturally (one river in China and one in Japan), have very stringent requirements: A water flow of about 40 - 50 feet per second; a temperature of 79° F. to 86° F., and a rapidly rising water level of 4 feet within a 12 hour period.

Now that we know what the "Superfish" is, how can it help us to eliminate the aquatic vegetation that is choking our lakes? To help you appreciate this truly remarkable creation of mother nature, we will now look at what the "Superfish" accomplished in the lakes of Aventura Country Club in 120 days.

The lakes were 25% covered with marine naiad (*najas marina* L.) and hydrilla (*verticillata royle*). Generous amounts of filamentous algae (division chlorophyta) seem to act as a cohesive agent holding the other aquatic vegetation in formation. The lake banks were covered with torpedo grass (*panicum repens* L.) extending out into the lakes 6 to 10 feet. The canals were completely covered.

The fish first attacked the algae and devoured it within a week. Next, they took on the marine naiad hydrilla. Complete annihilation took 45 days because of the vast quantities of marine naiad.

Then, the real test came: "Torpedo Grass". There are no known records of the fish attacking (eating) this grass. Could they? . . . Would they? . . . DID THEY! At the end of four months, 60% of the torpedo grass was eliminated along with the maidencane (*panicum hemitomom schult*). And it's disappearing faster each day. And don't forget, the Amur eats three times its body weight each day in aquatic vegetation and grows at the rate of one pound a month.

The lakes should be completely clean by mid January, and we will have to start feeding the Amur clippings from the greens and tees. This was a common practice in Puerto Rico at the end of six months, and it completely eliminated the need of carting the clippings off the golf course.

This amazing fish is illegal in the state of Florida and it is very questionable at this time as to when, if ever, the state will release this fish for stocking. I can't blame state officials if they are a little gun shy at this time after embarrassing experiences with the walking catfish, love bug, talapia fish, snails, and so on. It only saddens me that after all these failures, when something good does come along, (such as the outstanding qualifications of the White Amur), our state officials are unwilling to back it.



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GOLF 1975

—By David Bailey

Attendance at the monthly meetings has grown to record numbers. Ninety to one hundred persons per meetings is common with half that number playing golf in the afternoon. Let's reflect on some of the golf highlights this past year.

The national tournament at Pensacola, Florida saw one of our own in the lead at the halfway mark. Vinnie Spano, Mayacoo Lakes Country Club, West Palm Beach, was the leader. He finished fourth overall net. This year we will be ready for the tournament to be played in September at Toledo, Ohio. We expect to field a strong four man team for national honors.

We won the infamous Poa Annual Classic Trophy again in 1975. We are looking forward to another triumphant return to the Oxbow Country Club in LaBelle and a great meeting with the host Everglades chapter.

The President's Cup for Class A Superintendents was won by the 1971 champ, Carl McKinney, JDM Country Club, Palm Beach Gardens. Carl fired a net 67 at Lost Tree Golf Club in July. The Class B trophy was won by Vinnie Spano with a net 68. Scratch golfer was Sonny Smith of Superior Fertilizer and Chemical Company who won the commercial trophy with a 70.

Our membership is proud of the clubs we played this year. We wish to thank the superintendent, golf professional, club manager, and most of all, the members of the following clubs: Johns Island Golf Club, Vero Beach; Riviera Country Club, Coral Gables; Lost Tree Golf Club, North Palm Beach; Bonaventure Country Club, Ft. Lauderdale; Boca West Country Club, Boca Raton; Pine Tree Golf Club,

Delray Beach; Doral Country Club, Miami; and the J. D. M. Country Club, Palm Beach Gardens.

South Florida is blessed with five clubs rated in the top forty in the nation as ranked by Golf Digest Magazine. We were able to play three clubs in this select group . . . Pine Tree, Doral, and J. D. M. This is a level of golf unmatched by any local association in the nation. The October results at Pine Tree were for a blind partner team total event. There was a tie at three over par between two teams. John Bagley, guest, and Scott Sinerbeau of Palm - Aire; Lloyd Gray of Woodbury Chemical and Lammel. Third place went to Allan Hanchey from French Creek Golf Club with partner Holcombe at one stroke behind.

The November meeting was at the beautiful Doral Country Club. The blue monster lived up to advanced billing as the majority did not finish due to darkness. The prizes were carried over to the next meeting.

The site of the 1971 P. G. A. Championship, the J. D. M. Country Club closed out our golfing year. The East Course was closed just for our play. The shotgun start enabled everybody to finish in about four hours. Winners in the individual stroke play event were: Dan Jones, Aventura Golf Club, net 66; Kevin Downing, Oxbow C.C., net 67; Clint Smallridge, LaGorce C.C., net 69; Dave Bailey, J.D.M. C.C., net 70; and O'Rouke, net 74.

Monthly one hundred dollars in gifts are split between the winners. This is one small way to encourage you, the superintendent to play golf. But that's not the real reason to play golf. When you fail to visit the course, you miss the leading educational session of the day and that's what associations are all about. Its' not just

a coincidence that the best maintained courses are those of golfing superintendents. Remember the only time you see your course as the members do is when YOU play. Next month give your members a break . . . PLAY GOLF.

STRAIGHT SHOTS

One of Hawaii's most valuable assets, it's unique plant life, may be in danger of disappearing. The reason? There are no plant eating animals native to the Hawaiian Islands, and the plants have never evolved botanical defenses such as prickles, unpleasant taste and poisonous properties. The demon? Imported grazing animals and plants . . . plus construction.

Of the 800 million or so illiterate adults in the world, almost two-thirds are females. The number of women who cannot read or write has risen steadily in the past 10 years.

Lung cancer will kill 200,000 men in 1976. Up 5.2% in seven months. Cigarette sales are also up. Coincidence?

Pay toilets take in 30 million dollars a year in the U.S.

HOOKS AND SLICES

The salesman mentioned that he'd got three orders so far that day: "Get out. Stay out. And don't come back."

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“Energy II Solid Waste” Produced by the President’s Citizens Advisory Committee on Environmental Quality, it spells out the amount of energy in trash and other materials that is now being wasted. It informs the reader of the magnitude of this problem and what we can do about it.

No. 55D Price \$1.25, 40 Pages, Illustrated

“The Green Scene” Deals with the care and maintenance of common household and office plants. It contains much useful information. When members ask questions about their plants you can recommend this book.

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“Recreational Buildings” Contains illustrated descriptions of 43 building plans for cabins, greenhouses, horsebarns, equipment, outdoor fireplaces, and other recreational facilities.

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FROM THE NATIONAL . . .

S & R FUND GRANTS \$18,000 FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships totaling \$18,000 will be distributed to 36 turfgrass students this year, according to the GCSAA Scholarship and Research Fund Committee. Each student will receive \$500 upon verifying his return and enrollment to school.

Unlike previous years, scholarships were scheduled for distribution at the beginning of the academic year, thereby better assisting the students. Previously, awards were made at the beginning of the second semester.

Applications for research funds are now being accepted, with determinations to be made at the pre-conference meeting of the S & R Committee. A total exceeding \$18,000 is expected to be distributed to various turfgrass research projects.

SUPT. HIRING GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE FROM HDQTS.

“Guidelines for Selecting a Superintendent,” the Association’s newest publication, is now available to golf course officials seeking a qualified golf course superintendent. As a sequel to GCSAA’s ear-

lier publication, “How to find a new position,” for golf course superintendents, it should be of valuable assistance when an opening does occur.

Editorial Committee Chairman Ted Woehrlé said the new, 20-page booklet would be available to member superintendents, all golf associations and individual courses. He emphasized that it vividly

points out the need for a highly qualified individual and suggests various means by which the potential employer can look for quality, while understanding the needs of the golf course superintendent.

GCSAA members who want a copy of this publication should request it from the Headquarters office in Lawrence, Kansas.



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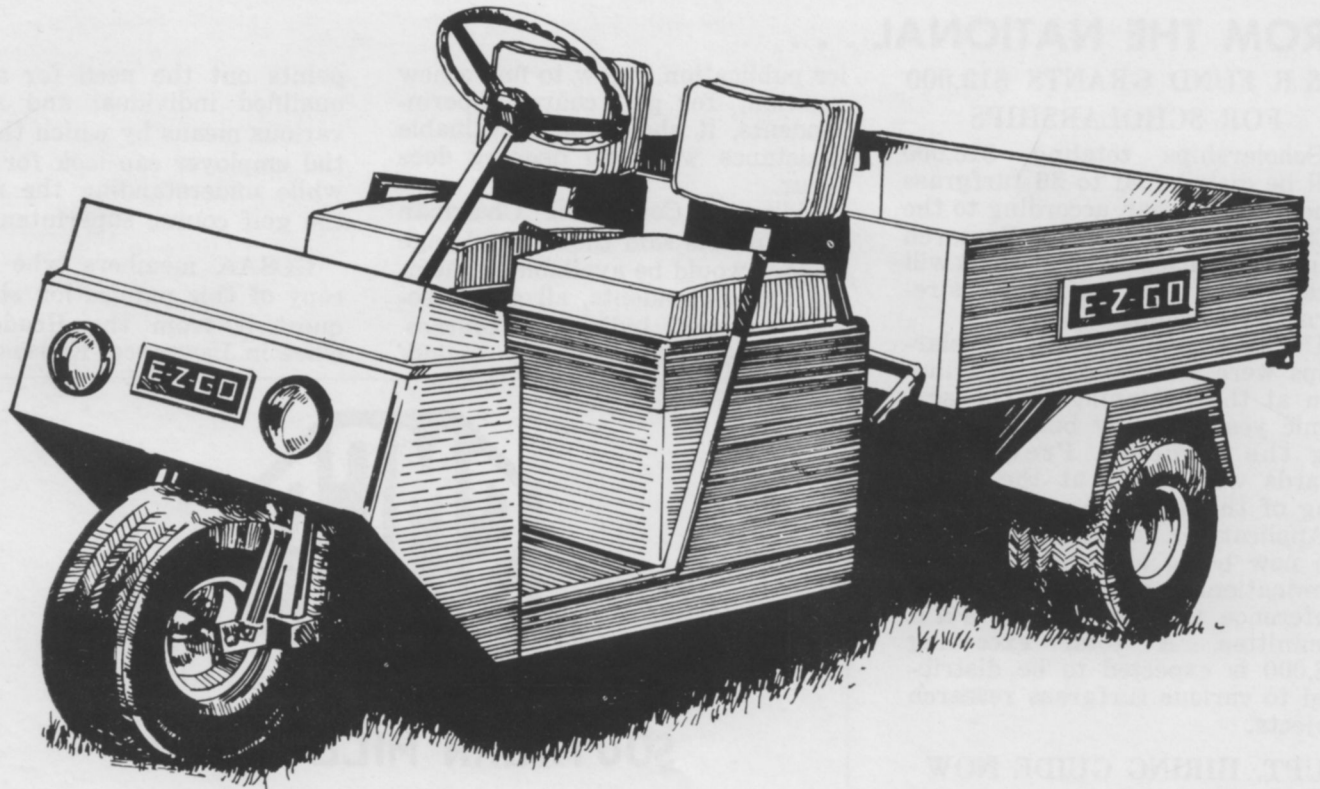
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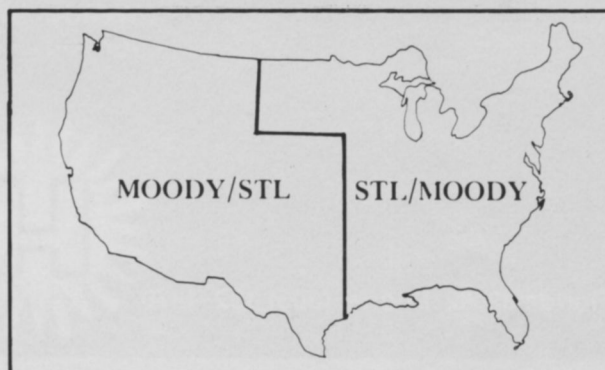
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