

(Continued from page 35)

But what about the future growth of municipal golf facilities, with taxpayers becoming increasingly concerned about taxes and government spending, will growth continue? In Florida, with more and more retired people moving here each year, small towns are quickly becoming cities. Despite the tax consequences, these newly emerging cities want to provide their citizens with as good, if not better, facilities than where they came from. This aides in the growth of the cities by attracting new people as well as industry to the community. As cities become large, there are increasing environmental concerns, such as preserving natural habitats. A golf course becomes an ideal solution by providing green space, and at the same time if efficiently operated, provides revenue to the city. Finally, there is the human factor that affects the growth of municipal golf courses no matter how large the city. As long as you have government officials who like to play golf, you will probably always have a continued growth of municipal golf facilities.■



Ransomes Expands Into Florida

Responding to the requirements of the growing market, Ransomes, Inc. has established a wholly owned Distributorship, Ransomes Florida, Inc., to address the commercial lawnmower market in Florida. Heading a very experienced and qualified staff will be Lou Oxnevad, a Florida Golf Course Superintendent for the past 16 years. Lou will serve as General Manager for the West Palm Beach based operation.

Ransomes Florida, Inc. will address the needs of the golf course and municipal market offering the wide range of commercial rotary and reel mowers manufactured by Ransomes, Inc. and Ransomes Sim and Jeffries.■

Now, You Can Control The Weather

"We can send a man to the moon and back, but we cannot do anything about the weather." That phrase used to be the case, but now there is something that you can do about it. You cannot control mother nature, but you can work with her. With the advent of cable TV and super stations such as the National Weather Channel, it is possible in some regions to tell what is going on with the weather and you can feel like a meteorologist.

Such is the case at Boca Greens, where I have been blessed to be in a region where Cable TV is accessible to my office. Via the local cable network, I have access to the National Weather Channel, a station which observes the weather, on a national basis, 24 hours a day. If local storms exist, a segment during the color radar program will reveal: where the rain is falling, they will observe the direction of movement, discuss the cloud tops to reveal the intensity and advise on weather bulletins should severe weather be imminent.

If this is not enough, sometimes your local cable network will be hooked into the U.S. Weather Bureau Radar System, such as in my case. I have a direct hook-up to the Miami Radar with a sweep of a 100 mile radius. I can observe from the Bahamas, to the Keys, to Fort Meyers, to Vero and anywhere else in between. I can actually sit in my office and predict when it might rain in Boca. By observing the movement of a front, I often have observed fronts to intensify, disipate, or even become stationary.

An important item to consider, if you actually pursue cable, is to buy a color TV. At first my boss said "why not buy just a black & white" - however the color of radar denotes its intensity, so a color TV is a must! A small unit can be purchased for approximately \$200. I can absorb that cost a hundred times over by a reduction in the cost of effective chemical applications, the knowledge of when to keep the crew on payroll, or to concede to a rain day and send the crew home.

Quite often a maintenance building complex is located in a remote corner of a project. If this is the case, then consider an installation into a more accessible cable area such as the clubhouse. A cable TV with color would be a hit in the lounge or the locker rooms and if severe weather should occur, the channel can always be changed to the radar weather channel.

I must admit, I am so impressed with the luxury of this management tool, I have become spoiled. To predict the weather in South Florida is nearly impossible. I pity our local meterologist. They are forced to predict the unpredictable.

Obviously, there is very little that I can do about the weather, but I can be made aware of what is going on within my world. Any by the way, there is one big benefit to such a convenience, "I can always catch a good movie during my lunch break."■