We work at ground level... so you can play on top!



and all at a competitive price!

Registered dealer for: Warren's TerraCover

Polyester Geotextile Ground Blanket: an alternative to annual resodding.

Jeff Harstine President/Vice President

Rodney Davis Secretary/Treasurer

> **Dennis Crews** Sales Manager

Central Florida Turf, Inc.

Specialists in Bermuda Grass 47 Lake Damon Dr., Avon Park, FL 33825 Telephone: (813) 452-2215 800-422-1187

Electronic Bulletin Board for The Turf Industry

LAWRENCE, KANSAS March 18, 1988

T URFBYTE, the first computer accessible bulletin board for the turf industry opened its doors this month for anyone desiring to take part in a new and unique way of communicating. Centrally located in Lawrence, Kansas, it offers the turf manager a way to gain valuable information and insight through the sharing of experiences from across the country for the price of a phone call.

The use of electronic bulletin boards to trade information among persons of similar interest is on the increase nation wide. No longer just for computer experts, telecommunications is now common in all professions, and the use of bulletin boards offer a renewed sense of community in a world which has grown too large to easily assimilate. It is reminiscent of the old time "party line" concept which kept the neighborhood together through a bit of harmless eavesdropping. With bulletin boards, everyone is encouraged to listen in and participate in the discussion, though not necessarily at the same time. Being able to join a discussion at one's convenience is the real value of this type of communication and a reason for its rapid growth.

TURFBYTE evolved from an idea presented in the November, 1987 issue of Golf Course Management on telecommunications by Jon Scott, Valhalla Golf Club, and Bill Spence of The Country Club at Brookline, site of the 1988 US Open. That article interested Duane Patton of the Lawrence (KS) Country Club. With the guidance of Dale Gadd, founder of his own computer bulletin board, TURFBYTE was created. At present, Duane is the system operator, or "Sysop" in computer jargon, and runs the service on his office computer at the club. Duane, and the others using TURFBYTE, welcome all newcomers to the board, and encourage anyone with a computer and telephone modem to sign on and become a regular contributor.

"Connecting to TURFBYTE is as easy as dialing a number," says Scott. "All you need is a computer modem and some type of communications software. When a connection is made with the bulletin board, simple, friendly instructions quickly get you signed up and communicating."

A typical visit takes five to ten minutes once one becomes familiar with the system. First visits are slightly longer, but a few extra minutes reading instructions and bulletins pay off in faster visits. Messages from other users are read on command and replied to or commented on at will.

"The real value of the bulletin board concept depends on the user's participation in a discussion," Patton offers. "One subject may have as many comments or suggestions as there are users," he continues. "Messages to specific individuals can be addressed and sent very much like letters, and can be either private, seen by only the receiver, or public, shared by all. Whole text files and public computer programs, called shareware and public domain, can be sent to the board for all to download and use. Industry announcements are posted in the "Bulletins' section for all to read on sign-on. Messages can be left requesting a return phone call at a specified time eliminating the need to play phone tag.

Patton and Scott feel the uses of the board are varied and many, depending on the expertise and needs of the visitor. "It does not take long to get started," says Scott. "The greatest fear I had was the idea that the phone meter was running, and I'd see a big bill cross my manager's desk. Now I am spending less total time on the phone than before and able to make my call when the rates are lower. That is saving money, and at the same time I am gaining valuable information I might otherwise miss."

TURFBYTE currently supports 300 and 1200 baud modems with parity settings of 8 bits, No parity, 1 stop bit. The phone number is 913-842-0592 and the hours of operation are from 4:30 pm to 7:00 am Central Time daily. Patton is available during business hours for voice communications by dialing the same number. Jon Scott can be reached at 502-245-1715 for further information on accessing TURFBYTE. ■



Introducing SEVIAOL® Brand 4 Carbaryl Insecticide for effective and economical control of mole crickets.

- Unique formulation of carbaryl insecticide plus attractant systems
- Does not require pre-watering
- Does not readily photodegrade
- Environmentally sound and biodegradable
- No odor
- Also controls most other major turf, tree and ornamental insects

SEVIMOL® brand is available from your CHIPCO® distributor.

For use in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas.



SEVIMOL and CHIPCO are registered trademarks of Rhone-Poulenc. As with any chemical, always read and follow label instructions. © 1988 Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company

Grooming Reel Guide

by HELMUT ULLRICH The Toro Company

The fore company

1. INTRODUCTION

As you know, grooming is an old technique, but the "groomer" is relatively new. It is associated with the golfer's desire for faster, truer and healthier greens. There has been much discussion among superintendents, and articles have been written in trade publications concerning the actual benefits this tool provides. Because this management practice is so new, there has been little, if any, scientific research conducted to determine the longterm effects of grooming. It is difficult, therefore, to make precise recommendations on the use of a grooming reel. This is further complicated by the many variables which play a major role in achieving desired results. Some of the variables which must be considered are:

- General condition of the green
- Variety of grass on the green
- · Season of the year
- The turf-management program
- Variation in traffic
- Stress periods, especially heat and humidity

All of these vary from golf course to golf course, and usually from green to green on the same course. The use of the grooming reel, therefore, requires a thorough understanding of agronomic aspects of the turf on the green which, in turn, determines the depth of setting and the frequency of use. It is recommended strongly that the superintendent experiment S-L-O-W-L-Y to achieve best results.

It is also recommended that the following tips be used for best results on the playing surface:

• Frequent, close, visual inspection of the green to determine the depth and/or frequency of grooming.

• Vary the degree of grooming in accordance with the need for each green. This will help to ensure constant ball speed on all greens of the golf course.

• During stress periods, it may be necessary to reduce, or even eliminate, use of the groomer.

2. WHAT A GROOMING REEL DOES

• Grooming is performed above the soil level. It cuts runners (stolons) and grass blades at less-aggressive depth settings; but, at more frequent intervals than is done with the traditional methods of verti-cutting.

• Grooming promotes the vertical or upright growth of grass and eliminates grain by cutting horizontally growing grasses and runners.

• Grooming, in essence, removes more leaf area.

• Grooming provides some of the same benefits as verti-cutting. The main difference is that the cutting blades are spaced closer than on traditional verti-cutters, and the grooming reel is used more frequently.

• The more frequent use removes more grass and helps to control thatch buildup, especially during periods of maximum growth. For this reason, care must be exercised during periods when grass growth is reduced — for whatever reason.

• Grooming, in addition to routine turf management techniques, like aerification and topdressing, may permit one to raise the mowing height without sacrificing green speed.

• By maintaining a higher cutting height, the effective rooting depth of the turfgrass is increased and the grass is in a more healthy state. Also, it is better able to withstand wear, as well as environmental stresses.

3. WHAT A GROOMING REEL DOES NOT DO

• Grooming is not verti-cutting in the traditional sense; it is for use above soil level. It is similar to light verti-cutting. It provides for a frequent cutting of those elements that contribute to grain.

• Grooming has the potential to replace verti-cutting, depending on the overall management program.

• Verti-cutting will continue to be used for deeper penetration into the soil, for renovation purposes or preparation of overseeding.

• Grooming does not necessarily

achieve, in all cases, increased ball speed. Ball speed is dependent on other factors, i.e., height of cut, frequency of cut, the number of daily mowings, health of turf, grass variety, etc. Some of these factors may make a bigger impact on ball roll than grooming itself.

• Grooming can cause adverse effects, if used too frequently at aggressive settings (especially during environmental stress periods, i.e., heat, high humidity or traffic).

4. GROOMING REEL ADJUSTMENTS

A word of advice on grooming reel adjustment procedures. When adjusting a grooming reel, the following steps are recommended for optimal results:

First: Set the desired height of cut.

Second: Set one grooming reel in raise/disengage position. Set one flush with the rollers and set one 1/32-inch above the height of cut.

Third: Make several passes, preferably over the practice green or nursery, before using the unit on a regular green.

Fourth: Judge the amount of grass in the basket of number one, two and three, and readjust accordingly.

Fifth: Visually inspect the results and decide which setting to use for the best job. Make further adjustments if necessary.

Sixth: Set all grooming reels to the same desired depth.

CAUTION: A 1/32-inch depth setting can make a very substantial impact on grass removal and, more importantly, on the variety of grooming.

The user must be aware that the groomer may cause adverse effects if used frequently at an agressive setting. This is especially true during environmental stress periods, i.e., heat, high humidity or heavy traffic.

In summary, the grooming reel may be the best tool available to the superintendent for managing the greens precisely and in accordance with the desire of the golfer. However, timing, frequency of use and depth of setting must be managed properly!



The New Toro Grooming Reel for the Riding Greensmaster[®].



The Most Universal Tool Available for Grooming and Conditioning Your Greens.

Grooming Reel

Model No. 04455

The Grooming Reel is the most universal tool available to the superintendent for managing the greens precisely to the desire of the golfer.

Its application requires thorough understanding of agronomic aspects of the turf on the green, along with correct usage of the grooming device. There are many factors influencing the results, such as depth, frequency of use, growing season, variety of grass, variations in traffic, heat spells, etc. Generally, groomers have been promoted for speeding up greens and healthier looking turf. Those results are undoubtedly desired but may vary from green to green, because of the many factors mentioned above.

Toro has designed a Grooming Reel which allows the superintendent to tailor its application precisely to his individual requirements. The many features offered by Toro makes the Grooming Reel easy to use and adaptable for achieving the best results on your putting green.

The most important feature is the ability to easily monitor and control your grooming frequencies and working depth.

1. "Quick Up" and "Quick Down"

This exclusive Toro feature allows the Grooming Reel to be raised or lowered easily without losing the depth setting, providing you with a choice to use or not to use it, depending on your precise need. You decide when to groom or when not to, and therefore avoid overuse and undue stress on the grass.

2. Easy, No Tool Depth Adjustment

The Toro Grooming Reel lets you make depth adjustments without tools. That means you can tailor your grooming depth day to day, much more easily.



MICRO ADJUSTMENT KNOB

I IFT & TURN

You can take into account changes in the growing season, heat spells or variation in traffic. Each notch lowers or raises the Grooming Reel by .007 inch.

3. Easy, Safe Engage and Disengage

The Toro Grooming Reel has a snubber button which when depressed will hold the belt to allow easy and safe engagement or disengagement of the grooming reel. This means that both hands are required to engage or disengage the grooming reel, safeguarding the operator.

4. Height of Cut Uniformity

The Toro Grooming Reel is part of the free floating cutting unit design with baskets riding independent of



the cutting units. The baskets are filled more quickly and heavier with clippings, debris or sand stirred up by the grooming device. The Toro cutting unit suspension system maintains uniformity of cutting height despite heavier baskets.

5. Optional Grooming Reel with Wider Spacing

Toro offers a choice of blade spacing of .25 inch and .75 inch for greater flexibility and better results tailored to individual customer's needs.

a. The grooming reel with .25 inch blade spacing is recommended for fast growth periods (spring, early summer).

b. The grooming reel with .75 inch blade spacing is recommended for slower growth periods (late summer, fall).

6. Grooming Blades Do Not Interfere with Rollers

The Toro Grooming Reel's blades run independently of the front roller, allowing a full complement of roller options; Wiehle, Swaged and Full Roller. Secondly, should a grooming blade bend it will not damage the roller.

7. Durable Belt Drive for Heavy Loads

The Toro Grooming Reel is driven by an extra wide cog belt specially designed to carry more power than conventional timing belts to handle different depths or work loads, including tough Bermuda and other southern grasses.

8. More Power Availability

The Toro Grooming Reel has more power available thanks to the higher capacity, higher pressure hydraulic system of our Greensmaster traction unit.

9. Grooming Reel Blade has Longer Life

The Toro Grooming blades are slightly thicker for longer wear life and are less likely to bend. The Grooming Reel can be reverse mounted after one side is worn down to extend its use even further.

10. Grooming Reel Retrofits Older Cutting Units

The Toro Grooming Reel fits the whole range of Greensmaster cutting units (8 and 11 blade) from the late '70's...including our single point cutting units.

Notice: Due to the general perception that Groomers are the ultimate device to achieve faster and healthier turf, we recommend that superintendents experiment with the application of the Grooming Reel to achieve the best results on their green. Gradual usage in frequency and depth are recommended to achieve desired results. This procedure will allow the superintendent to fine tune the application to his turf conditions for best results.

Grooming Reel Specifications*





Optional .75" Grooming Reel

Grooming Reel Belt Drive

MODEL 04455 (Set of Three)	
BLADE SPACING STANDARD	.25 inch (6.35 mm) (76 blades/reel)
(OPTIONAL) P/N 65-9440 (Set of Three)	.75 inch (19.05 mm) (26 blades/reel)
BLADE THICKNESS	.028 inch (.71 mm)
BLADE DIAMETER	2.125 inch (53.9 mm)
BLADE MATERIAL	Heat treated spring steel
REEL SHAFT DIAMETER	.875 inch (22.2 mm)
REEL INSTALLATION	Reversible
REEL PENETRATION (MAX.)	.18 inch (4.57 mm) below setting of cutting unit
COG BELT DRIVE	1.18 inch (29.9 mm) width (76 Teeth)
BELT DRIVE HOUSING	Cast aluminum
RPM	3200 rpm
QUICK UP — QUICK DOWN FEATURE	Allows cutting unit use without grooming reel
QUICK UP POSITION	Raises grooming reel .25 inch (6.35 mm)
MICRO DEPTH ADJUSTMENT	.007 inch (.18 mm) increment/notch
DRIVE CLUTCH	Cam actuated, spring loaded, pin type, engages and disengages grooming reel
DRIVE CLUTCH ENGAGEMENT KNOB	Round, smooth
SNUBBER BUTTON	Easy, safe clutch engagement

*Specifications and design subject to change without notice. "Toro" and "Greensmaster" are registered trademarks of The Toro Company, 8111 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55420.

COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS



The Pressure of The Job

by BRUCE SHANK Reprinted from Sportsturf

S a young golfer, I always pictured the Superintendent's life as serene. The superintendent of the course I used to play lived in a small house on the grounds, went home for lunch and could be reached easily by his wife or kids if they needed him. The course was home to his family, not a remote workplace that they had to compete for his attention. It seemed like the superintendent and his family had a nearly perfect existence.

As I grew up and had to pick a career of my own, I started to realize the flaws of my image of a superintendent's life. He faces the same pressure to change as, everyone else. In a society driven by progress, the thought of staying in one comfortable spot for an entire career is unrealistic. Upward mobility requires moves to bigger and more prestigious courses. To gain independence and a competitive salary, the superintendent is doing what he has to do, move off the course so he can market his skills to the highest bidder. It's hard to negotiate with a club when it owns the house you live in.

Moving off the course has apparently worked. Salaries have risen to the point that a career as a superintendent is more attractive. Some of the brightest college students are choosing golf course maintenance as a career.

The modern superintendent applies the latest turf management techniques to achieve standards previously considered unrealistic—with crews smaller than ever before. As a result, competition among superintendents for the high-paying jobs has become pretty fierce.

Superintendents, striving to compete for positions at elite courses, are working seven-day weeks during much of the year. It's not unusual for a Superintendent to become so preoccupied with is job that he loses touch with his family. Unfortunately, when some superintendents reach their cherished goal as a well-paid superintendent at a premier course, thay have lost their families along the way. It's a personal price paid by some top superintendents that is often overlooked.

I am concerned about the number of successful superintendents who are separated from their families. One of them recently kidded me that an abbreviation should be established to follow the names of superintendents who are divorced. Instead of C.G.C.S. (certified golf course superintendent), their initials would be D.G.C.S. (divorced golf course superintendent). Being a superintendent will never be as simple as it used to be. The job has gotten bigger and more complicated. As the cost of constructing golf courses pushed through the \$10 million level, the owners require superintendents with more expertise. High tech has come to the golf course ... and with high tech has come high pressure. Competition for the plum jobs has increased.

It's easy for greens committees who meet a few times each month or club managers who work normal hours to make demands on the superintendent. How often do they say, "The superintendent should do this right away," without truly understanding the amount of planning and work involved? It is precisely this kind of pressure that demands additional time and turns superintendents' hair white.

I admire and respect the superintendent who has a total commitment to his profession and his job. Maybe greens committees and club management could have a little more compassion for his private life.

Jim Watson Receives Fred V. Grau Award for Turfgrass Science

J AMES R. WATSON, vice president and agronomist for the Toro Co., and adjunct professor in the University of Minnesota's Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, has received the Fred V. Grau Turfgrass Science Award. The award, presented for significant career contributions in turf science, was made at the annual meeting of the Crop Science Society of America, Nov. 29-Dec. 4 in

Atlanta. The principal criteria are the significance and originality of research, teaching effectiveness, implementation of programs in extension and/or industry, administrative effectiveness, and total impact on turfgrass science.

Throughout his career, Dr. Watson has lectured and consulted both internationally and domestically on turfgrass care and management, and has made significant contributions to the development of equipment used in maintenance of all turfgrass facilities. His fellowship for graduate study was placed at Pennsylvania State University by Dr. Fred V. Grau, who was director of the U.S. Golf Assn. Green Section at the time. It was the first fellowship specifically designated for support of an advanced degree in turfgrass science. ■

The Golf Course Superintendent

by MAUREEN KOOYER

S wives of golf course superintendents I'm sure most of us know the pleasures and pains of the profession. One of the biggest pleasures for me is to see Don enjoy his work the way he does. It is not a job-it is an integrated part of his-and our-lives.

Most superintendents I have met and have come to know are the most satisfied career people I have ever met. True, they have many aggravations-what job doesn't?-but they seem to be truly happy with their lives.

To me that is amazing! Being up at the crack of dawn, digging in muddy ditches, fighting insects, and mowing continuously just doesn't sound like a thrilling time. And that says nothing of trying to please tens of thousands of golfers every year. I think that most superintendents must have an amazing sense of humor. To put up with such outrageous demands in the workplace certainly takes a unique personality.

Job changes are another factor to deal with in the superintendents profession. I believe that I've heard superintendents change jobs on the average of once every 3 years. While this is a national average and definitely not true of all of us, it does show a field full of range.

When job changes involve a new city or state, I truly believe the superintendent's family has the toughest end of the deal. The superintendent has a job to slide right into. Wives have to job-hunt, register kids in new schools, find doctors, dentists, babysitters-the list is endless. And all of this must be accomplished solo as the husband is busy orientating himself at the new course. Meanwhile, you have kids who are unhappy with leaving their friends and familiarity behind, and it seems as though all the pressure is put on you. I've found that with time, patience and perseverence, all works out well. It is a challenge to me now-to find a house, schools, a new job. But I also find the older I get, the more I would like to be settled somewhere. I wonder if that is possible in this profession?

Along with all of this comes the constant need for the superintendent to stay on top of his career through education. The profession is rapidly becoming a competitive market. Twenty years ago a superintendent was much more likely to have on-the-job training. The trend these days is college. No longer is it true that

Continued on p. 48



BLACKROCK PAVING CORP. a Haverland Company Golf Course

Paving Specialists!

NEW CART PATHS PATCHING - OVERLAYS Clubhouse Parking Lots Sealed & Stripped



NEW! 3 Step Asphalt Surface Treatment to Enhance the Appearance & Prolong the Life of Your Pavement

> 305-736-4081 Boynton Beach, Florida

THE GRASS GAME.



We at Woodbury Chemical Company take no chances with your grass. We have the technical know-how to ensure green, healthy turf year round. We can provide horticultural programs and all the products you'll need: pesticides, fertilizers, adjuvants, seed, and more.

Why gamble? A call to Woodbury eliminates guesswork. After all, in the grass game you can't afford to play guessing games. Let Woodbury Chemical Company make you a winner.

Princeton, Florida (305) 258-0421 Fla. Wats 800-432-3411

Boynton Beach, Florida (305) 734-4441 Delray: (305) 449-4900 Deerfield: (305) 421-2393 **Mt. Dora, Florida** (904) 383-2146 Fla. Wats 800-342-9234

Tampa, Florida (813) 247-3621 Pinellas County: (813) 832-0017 Fla. Wats 800-282-2719





WOODBUR

PROFESSIONALS

AT WORK FOR YOU

THE MORE SATISFIED HE IS AT WORK—THE MORE SATISFIED HE IS AT HOME. I CAN TELL BY HIS MOODS WHETHER HE HAS HAD A GOOD OR BAD DAY AT WORK.

sons follow their fathers by learning on the course. Boys who wish to follow their dad's footsteps now attend college with many more earning degrees every year.

Being a certified superintendent is another feather in the cap of a superintendent. Along with the most difficult certification test, to remain certified means following up on it constantly. There are conventions to attend, with classes held at the conventions. All of this is an important part of being a superintendent. That is not to say that those who are not certified are any less professional. That is simply not true! It is up to each individual to decide the importance of the certification for themselves. It was important to Don to be certified, and it has done well for him. He knows many more superintendents that are not certified than are and all are doing equally well with their careers.

I don't always understand the intensity with which Don approaches his livelihood-he sometimes seems possessed by golf courses-but I do try to encourage and understand. The more satisfied he is with work—the more satisfied he is at home. I can tell by his moods whether he has had a good or bad day at work. Many times at night or on the weekend he's gone out to the course to "check something out". All a part of life as a superintendent!

I have noticed an interesting thing with superintendents. We attended the annual N.F.G.C.S.A. Christmas party at Ponce de Leon Lodge in December. It was more formal than the usual parties and the men were in suits and ties. Most of them looked uncomfortable in their suits-outdoor men just don't dress up! I'm sure there were many sighs of relief when the ties came off!

Life is never dull as a golf course superintendent-as the wives and families all know. But it is an interesting and changeable life that keeps us all happy!

For anyone considering this profession as a career, it seems to me to be a rewarding one. Just bring along your knowledge and patience! You'll be happy with it I think.

Year-round Sunglasses Use Urged

In preparation for summer, sun worshippers usually update their beach-going equipment, including buying a new pair of sunglasses when necessary.

Experts in the eyewear field advise us that sunglasses should be part of our outdoor life year-round, not just during the bright and sunny summer months.

"The basic reason (to wear sunglasses) is for the protection of the eyes against burn or cataracts and to make you more comfortable (by reducing the amount of light reaching the eye)," said Phillip L. Kaufman, vice president of the Illinois Optometric Association and a practicing optometrist.

The spectrum of light consists of different wave lengths ranging from ultraviolet at one end to infrared at the other, with a visible range in the middle, Kaufman said.

"The two types of light that do damage to your eyes are the ultraviolet and the infrared. What most (non-prescription) sunglasses will filter out is the visible spectrum, but not the infrared and ultraviolet. In order to get both the infrared and ultraviolet, one has to wear optically manufactured lenses with special dyes for tints that block out the harmful rays."

Another problem with buying over-the-counter sunglasses at the local drug or variety store is that many of the lenses are distorted.

"Hold up a pair of real cheap sunglasses, about a foot away and see for yourself," said Kaufman. "If the line of the lens is not perfectly straight from top to bottom and right to left (or the edge distorts, sways, curves or moves), that lens has some distortion in it and can make you uncomfortable. However, the human visual system is so miserably adaptable that patients learn to adapt to them."

Sunglasses have become very fashionable, Kaufman said.

"And they (consumers) are exposing themselves to conditions for fashion's sake and getting away from the protective value of sunglasses, and that is not good."





Club Car's Full Line Of Electric & Gasoline Utility Vehicles

CARRYALL-II

Carryall I. The Multi-Purpose Vehicle

Out Performs - The Carryall I is available in Gasoline or Electric power - the Gasoline 4 cycle/341cc Engine* is the largest in the industry. The Electric powered Carryall I has components especially manufactured for Club Car, and they provide 25% greater efficiency than the competitors.

Out Maneuvers - The Carryall I has the tightest clearance circle in the industry - 17'6''. The True Rack & Pinion Steering* provides a "power steering feel".

Out Toughs - The Carryall I Electric and Gasoline each have exclusive Rust-Free Aluminum Pickup Bed & Frame* making them virtually maintenance free. A heavy duty front bumper and side rub rails give added body protection.

Carryall II. The Heavy Duty Leader

CARRYALL

Out Hauls - With the Largest Pickup Bed* (50''x50''x11''/16½ cubic feet) and biggest gross payload (one-half ton) in the industry, the Carryall II becomes the most functional, practical and economical vehicle around.

Out Pulls - Club Car's 4 Cycle/341 cc Gasoline Engine*, the largest in the industry, gives the Carryall II the power to haul one-half ton loads all day long without refueling.

Out Lasts- The Carryall II exclusive Rust-
Free Aluminum Pickup Bed & Frame* are
virtually maintenance free, and
the Double Wall Pickup Bed
Construction* of light-weight
aluminum allows for a longer
more productive life span.
* Club Car Exclusive Features.

Club Car, Inc./P.O. Box 4658 Augusta, Georgia 30907-0658 U.S.A./404-863-3000

Starting and Stopping

by DON KOOYER, C.G.C.S.

Willow Lakes Golf Club Baymeadows Country Club

OULD it happen to you? Nobody really thinks it will happen to themselves. Fortunately, I can let my friends know how much it meant to me that you helped when it was important. There was no slogan when I was a teenager "just say no to drugs and alcohol". I remember standing around in the pool hall smoking a Lucky and drinking a Hamms beer just "being cool". Now, I just didn't stand around and drink, I was set up boy. Not only did I get fifty cents an hour but good tips and a good rack of 9 ball would get a pack of smokes from the winner, and sometimes a beer. Believe it or not, the first greens I worked on were on the 8 greens in the hall with leather holes on each side and ends. The better the grooming of the greens, the better the reward. Each night after brushing and grooming the green covered slate, Leon, the owner, would let us hustle our own game for free and reward our good job with a few free beers until the smoke settled in the joint and we had to close. On the way out we could buy a sixer to go, the laws not being too strict. I guess they were long necks too. While riding around in my brother's '58 Ford convertible listening to Chuck Berry, Elvis, and Gene Vincent rocking and rolling, my friends and I and our chicks were out of booze. Now our town wasn't the smallest in America but we did have what most American small towns had in the 50's; five churches and 16 bars-at least it seemed like it! I pulled around in back of the Spot, opened the back door and looked through the smoked filled card room. The sweet odor of tobacco, snuff and beer drifted throughout the bar-a smell I will never forget.

Willie is stacking the poker decks and emptying the spitoons. I wave and he nods and comes out back and talks to us. Willie is a graduate of the pool hall at maybe 22 years of age. We haven't made it to his stature yet. The girls seem to think he's the greatest. Willie is our supply line for more refreshments. For \$1.19 each we can get as many six packs of Budweiser as we can drink plus 50¢ each to the supplier. All of the guys in school saw Willie throughout our senior school years. Willie is probably still dealing cards at the Spot, charging \$5.50 per six pack, waiting for a wave from the back door.

As I sat in the barracks at Fort Leonardwood, Missouri, drinking a Budweiser some years later, I didn't need a backdoor man, just had to have a quarter to drop in the converted coke machine and a G.I. could drink his whole pay check if he wanted to. Getting back to the barracks and sitting on my bunk reading a letter from my brother back home with a news clip (six die in car wreck) speeding and booze take lives of, well, you know, my friends. I thanked God I was where I was and had a beer for my departed friends. It didn't dawn on me that I had the same bomb in my hand. When do you stop? Continued on p. 52

