

# Of elephants and other job-easing potpourri

By TERRY BUCHEN

Here's a potpourri of useful information all superintendents can use in their daily lives, both on and off the golf course, to improve efficiency.

Most mechanics' work benches are 36 to 38 inches in height. Consider raising them or building new ones to a height of 40 or, preferably, 42 inches.

This makes for a much better posture and helps eliminate aching back muscles from the many hours spent bending over. Many supers have put a metal surface on top of the wooden bench for obvious reasons, with a quarter-inch thickness that lasts for years.

## BLUE AND BLUER

Sit down for this one. Copper surfaces that are used decoratively at the clubhouse for the roof or gutters and down spouts, or for other areas on the course can turn an unsightly brown color where traditional copper/brass cleaners tend to only temporarily clean the surface. Turning copper to a brilliant blue/turquoise color, similar to the Statue of Liberty, is best achieved by going down to the closest zoo and acquiring some urine from an elephant. Simply wipe one or two coats of elephant urine onto the surface of the copper using as much elbow grease as possible. This provides a thorough cleaning which helps in the oxidation process providing brilliant blue hues.

## MEMORANDUMS

Written correspondence between course officials and employees who serve as department managers has been the norm for years. Another proven, accepted practice is using telephone memos, which has been used by attorneys with great success. They show — at a future date — that verbal communication has transpired. The date, time of day, to/from, subject matter and further details are the typical subject headings on memo pads, usually printed on golf course stationary. Use them when you talk with subcontractors, bureaucrats, utility companies and purveyors and any instance where documentation is needed. File them just in case they are ever needed.

## SOCIAL SECURITY

A thorough way to determine if your Social Security (FICA) deductions from your paycheck have, in fact, been paid to the Social Security Administration is to get Form SSA-7060 from the post office or local Social Security office. They will provide your yearly total earnings that go into your retirement fund, not including the names and addresses of former or current employees. Another option is to get more detailed earning information including self-employment or employment with the names and addresses of current and former employers. For a fee for each year requested, they will furnish total earnings deducted

from your paycheck. For an extra \$15 they will certify the information.

Another Social Security document is the Request for Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement, Form SSA-7004, which will provide you the approximate benefit earnings you will receive once you retire, regardless of when or at what age you retire. There is no fee for this information and it takes about six weeks to receive the statement.

## LIGHTNING

Lightning safety is a major concern of superintendents for their employees. The U.S. Golf Association is a leader in promoting lightning safety through posters and handout materials for golfers and employees. Technology has been increasing on lightning awareness with The Weather Channel on Cable-TV and the new computer/satellite dish subscription weather services.

The latest technology is the

hand-held lightning/storm detector. It is powered by two nine-volt batteries which last about 40 to 70 hours.

Some interesting statistics: an average lightning strike is six miles long; the average thunderstorm is six to 10 miles wide, traveling at 25 miles per hour; when the leading edge of a thunderstorm approaches to within 10 miles, a person is at immediate risk due to the possibility of lightning strikes coming from the over-

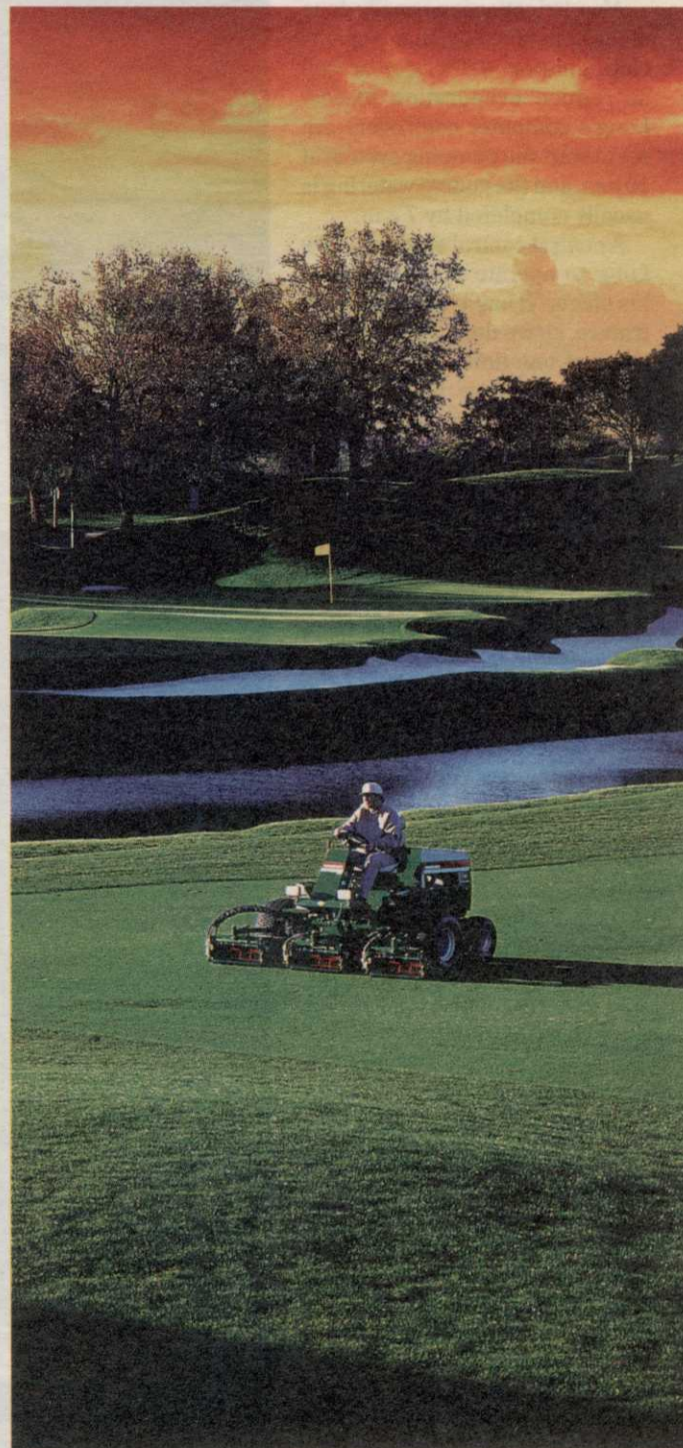


hanging anvil clouds which can cause death and injury occurring when clear skies are directly overhead. Thunder can only be heard over a distance of three to four miles, depending on humidity, terrain and other obvious factors. The portable detector sells for less than \$200.



You've had to change  
the way you maintain  
your fairways to reflect  
new, higher standards  
of quality. We know  
your equipment needs to  
be up to the challenge.

Ransomes®  
Fairway Mowers.



Today's fairways demand a level of quality that was formerly reserved for greens. To meet these higher standards, superintendents have found a reliable, productive ally in the Ransomes® family of fairway mowers. The T-Plex 185 is perfect for highly visible tees and collars. The 250, 305 and 7-plex 405 are the industry's only "right" weight mowers. The 405 features a wide 156" cutting swath while the new 3500 is a production powerhouse. Ransomes mowers have been designed to maintain the same perfect finish from one side of the fairway to the other. When you start with Ransomes reel mowers, you finish with the best.

Call 1-800-228-4444 for a free demo or the name of the dealer nearest you.



**RANSOMES**  
**CUSHMAN**  
**RYAN**

For The Best Results