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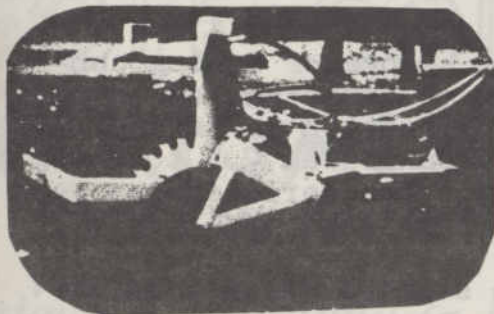
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PROBLEMS OF A NEW JOB

By Harry Schuemann
Racine Country Club

In 1972 the Racine Country Club decided upon a master improvement plan of the golf course, which included building of six complete new golf holes, six water hazards, and automatic irrigation (on the new holes). Packard Inc., of LaGrange, Illinois was called upon for the design.

The spring of 1973 construction was started. The greens were constructed from 70% sand, 10% best available topsoil from the site, and 20% of approved peat. The tees were constructed the same. Fairways are clay, topsoil was brought in but was lost due to river flooding. C-15 stolons were obtained from Warren's Nursery for the greens. The tees were seeded to Penncross, fairways were



200 TERRA AERATOR

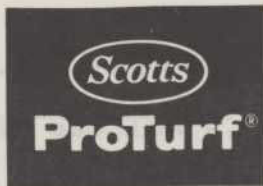
- * Airify green in 15 minutes
- * 200 tines - 36" wide
- * Uniform depth
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seeded to Highland and Astoria Bent. The roughs were seeded to a mixture of Common, Park, Fylking Kentucky Bluegrass, and Pennlawn Red Fescue.

The irrigation system installed was Toro Hydraulic, normally open.

Toward the end of the construction things were being rushed, the reason was that the contractor was going bankrupt, thus leaving the new area in an undesirable state. The maintenance staff had to maintain the existing golf course plus repair and finish what was left in the aftermath, without increasing the staff. The new area was not open for play until the spring of 1976. This new development sat for one year after completion hoping for maturing and more rough edges to be smoothed out.

I arrived in April, 1976, to sick greens, heavily thatched tees and thin fairways, also in time to open new holes May 15th.

A soil test had not been taken before or during construction. This was the first step my assistant and I did. The tests came back revealing the information we needed. Soil ph on the greens were 7.9, tee range was 7.5 to 7.9, the fairways ranged from 7.2 to 7.5. The deficiencies were P, K, Mn, and Mg.

To amend our problems we have started these programs:

To bring the ph down to our desired level we have applied Sulfur - 5 lbs. to a 1000 sq.ft. spring and fall and fairways 200 lbs. to the acre once in the spring.

P. - 1 lb. of P_2O_5 to 1000 sq.ft. once a year and 200 lbs. to the acre for fairways in the spring.

K. - 5 lbs. of K_2SO_4 to 1000 sq.ft. spring and fall on greens and 100 lbs. to the acre for fairways.

Mg. - Spring 2 applications of $MgSO_4$ 2.5 lbs. same application in the fall for greens.

Mn. - 4 applications of Nitrogen Plue for correction, May, June, August and September at 1.5 lbs. to 1000 sq.ft. each application.

We will continue to take soil tests every year until we have obtained the balance I feel is correct. Then tests will be taken as needed.

In one full growing season and half of this one, our programs are working very successfully. With continued regular maintenance programs we are heading in the right direction for pleasurable conditions for our membership.

* * * * *

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