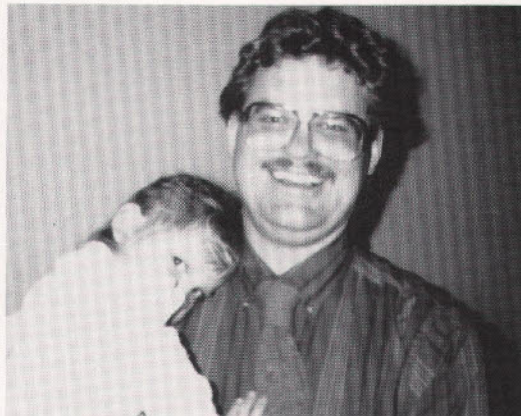


GCSAA PUTS ON ANOTHER GREAT SHOW!

By Monroe S. Miller



Scholarship winner Jeff Bahr and proud parents Betty and Joe.



Holly Handrich (and her dad, Mike).



Our friends from Columbia were flying high!

GCSAA Conferences and Shows remind me of the old saying about sex, the one that goes "there isn't such a thing as bad sex; some times are just better than others." All of the GCSAA shows are great learning opportunities; the 1989 version was exceptional.

The opening session again this year had a distinctive Wisconsin flavor. Jeff Bahr was on the dais as a GCSAA scholarship winner. WGCSA past president Bill Roberts was there with other directors and officers. The *GRASS ROOTS* was recognized as a chapter newsletter award winner.

The educational sessions have been tightened up. The subject matter this year seemed to be more focused. The Friday morning and afternoon lectures on governmental relations, environment issues, and legal considerations were extremely valuable given circumstances in our society today. In a way, it seems a shame to be dealing with topics like those instead of agronomic subjects.

For many of us in the north central region of the U.S., where *Poa annua* is so prevalent, the lectures on that plant that covered an entire day were extremely valuable.

As usual, some of the finest educators and investigators in our business were there. Jim Beard received the USGA Green Section Award this year in recognition of his achievements.

There was a lot of complaining about the weather, however. The participants in the golf tournament suffered a sand storm, rain, wind, snow and ice. Many missed the first day of two-day seminars because travel between Palm Springs and Anaheim was impossible due to the bad weather. One day set a record for the date — L.A. had its lowest high temperature for the day in history. There was snow in the air at Malibu, the Ventura freeway looked like an interstate in Wisconsin and nearly half the days had rain (which they needed desperately).

The show matched its billing as "biggest" yet as four

halls were filled with the latest in equipment, fertilizers, pesticides and the host of other products used to keep America's golf courses in good playing condition. Hot items this year included the new five gang lightweight mowers. A new triplex riding greensmower was introduced. Plant growth regulators are drawing increasingly serious attention from golf course superintendents. High tech and biotech products were everywhere.

The WGCSA co-hosted a hospitality room with MMSD, and many of the Wisconsin superintendents in Anaheim were there on Saturday night. Jacobsen Division of Textron had a great idea on Saturday night — they held a reunion for all past students from the annual College Student Seminar. This editor especially enjoyed it after learning I am an alumnus of the first class, the Class of 1968. A lot of Wisconsin superintendents were there as alumni, too.

Other educational offerings of the 1989 conference were outstanding — major speaker sessions, one and two-day seminars. The USGA Green Section Conference, planned largely by our own Jim Latham, was terrific. The program presented by the American Society of Golf Course Architects gave superintendents a chance to listen to and question the finest of today's golf course designers.

Tradition has it the conference ends with the annual banquet. Chi Chi Rodriguez was presented the Old Tom Morris Award, and was yet another deserving recipient. Frank Hannigan was given special recognition by the GCSAA as he leaves the USGA for other opportunities in golf. And Bobby Vinton, heartthrob of the 1960s, gave an entertaining show.

Despite the unadvertised weather, smog, traffic and raft of social problems unfamiliar to most Wisconsin people in Anaheim, it was a great conference and show. I think I could say everyone would go back again.

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John Deere introduced a new triplex greens mower in Anaheim.



A new five-plex was introduced at the show, along with . . .



. . . a new seven-plex! Both are on light-weight tractors.



Many WGCSA members stayed at the Marriott. The palm trees are misleading—the weather was NOT tropical!

Which Show WAS The Best?

This question was put to as many of the conference attendees as this pollster could remember to ask. The results are “unofficial” (whatever that means). There were no specific criteria to be applied to the question. Nearly everyone answered quickly, making it clear that most did have a favorite.

A favorite choice was usually due to the city hosting the conference. Many chose their first one because it is such an overwhelming experience.

It is also interesting and important to note that no one disliked any of the GCSAA events. Some were just better than others. The headquarters staff has always done a superb job of making arrangements for these conventions, regardless of the site. So the preferences do come down to the personality of the cities.

Although I’m not a betting man, my guess is that next year’s meeting in Orlando will be extremely popular and heavily attended by GCSAA members and their families.

The following list does not include all Wisconsin people in Anaheim for the 1989 conference. Inclusion was by accident and omissions were innocent.

Bob Erdahl — 5 total; San Francisco was an easy first.

Jerry Kershasky — 15th consecutive; Las Vegas was 1st because free parking and no hassles with car; easy to get around.

Tom Schwab — 8th conference; Washington D.C. favorite; San Francisco close 2nd; wouldn’t go to Houston again.

Pat Norton — 1989 his 8th conference; he missed only one since 1981. Liked San Francisco best because of the city.

Tom Parent — 5th GCSAA conference. Washington, D.C. easily his favorite although he loved San Francisco.

Mike Semler — Anaheim was his 6th in a row; his favorite was Phoenix, primarily due to the great weather and Dr. Love’s GCSAA DSA presentation.

Mike Handrich — 5th in a row; Phoenix an easy winner because of weather! Also liked Anaheim in 1989.



Many WGCSA members flew in and out of Orange County’s John Wayne airport. They thought they were in some far outpost—the facilities were very limited.

Don Ferger — 4th national convention and San Francisco was a first place winner. He says it's a "neat" city. He also loved Phoenix's warm weather.

Randy Witt — 14th trip in 1989. He also places San Francisco 1st and gives 2nd to Las Vegas (a great place to get around in).

Joe Bahr — Joe's been to 5 nationals and liked Atlanta best.

Curt Larson — A veteran at this business, Curt has attended 17 straight conferences. His favorite was Las Vegas because it was a good city for working such a show.

Mark Kienert — He's gone to 10 shows although not consecutively. Liked Anaheim (1981) best, Washington, D.C. comes next.

Rod Johnson — 10th consecutive conference. He gives Phoenix a first place (great weather) and Las Vegas second.

Bob Reinders — Sit down when you read this: Bob's been attending GCSAA conferences since 1958! He says Las Vegas is best, followed by Anaheim.

Ray Knapp — Ray's another veteran. His first was in Miami (a last place finish). His favorite was New Orleans, due to great food. Ray's wife Carol gave Portland its only first place vote.

Bob Belfield — 1st choice was easy — 1989 Anaheim because it's his first one!

Bill Roberts — the former WGCSA president (and future GCSAA president) has made 12 of the last 13 conferences. His favorite? San Francisco. Why? The election!

Scott Schaller — 2nd consecutive trip. Anaheim is an easy win over Houston.

Dan Quast — This veteran of 25 shows gives his vote for first place to Las Vegas. His first conference was in Philadelphia in 1964.

Jim Belfield — 16th consecutive show for JB. San Francisco was the best for him.

Chad Ball — No hesitation here — San Francisco. "Great city." He was equally quick to put Atlanta last.

Roger Bell — His 1st one was the best of the 15 he's attended — New Orleans. Houston and San Antonio tied for last, by the way.

Pat Shaw — 2nd trip to the national makes guessing his favorite easy. You are right — Anaheim won over Houston.

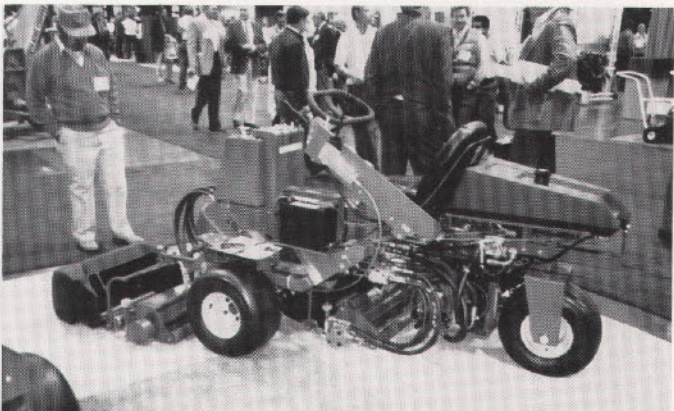
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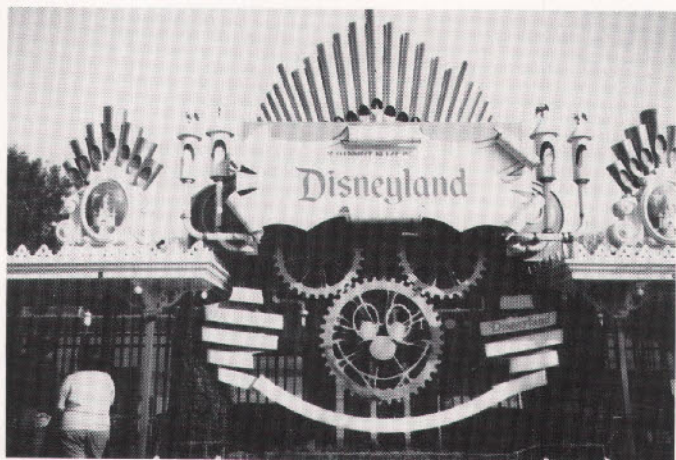
A couple of former Racine residents. Do you remember their names?! They were attending the Jacobsen College Student Seminar Alumni Meeting.



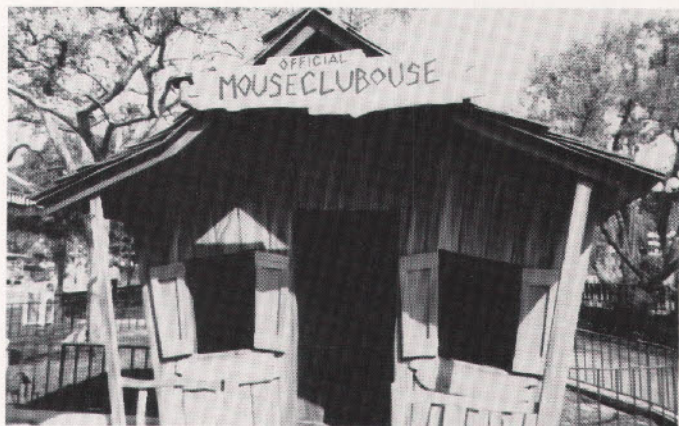
A new low profile sprayer for sale in 1989.



One of the six riding greensmower brands available at the show.



The "happiest place on earth" was a short walk across the street for most.



If this is their clubhouse, what must the golf course look like?

Continued from page 23

Wayne Otto — Another veteran here; Wayne has only missed 3 GCSAA conferences since his first one in 1964. He liked San Antonio the best (Mexican food).

Carl Grassl — Another man who says, "The first one was the best." That was at the Fontainebleau Hotel in 1969 in Miami Beach, Florida.

Bruce Worzella — Started going in 1979, has only missed one. Loved the 1984 Las Vegas convention.

Red Roskopf — After 7 conferences, his favorite is Anaheim.

Steve Blendell — 5th show for Steve. Washington, D.C. is his favorite. Steve would like to see a northern site more often. Amen.

Jim Shaw — After four GCSAA trips, Las Vegas was his favorite.

Bob Welch — This veteran goes back to the 1962 Miami Beach meeting. He liked New Orleans best but Portland's a close 2nd. He only missed Kansas City in 1966 — great record.

Randy Smith — 15th meeting. Liked the Atlanta site best because he took his kids with him and went on to Florida.

John Krutilla — 17th conference. His favorite was the 1981 Anaheim meeting; he was able to bring his wife and kids along on that trip.

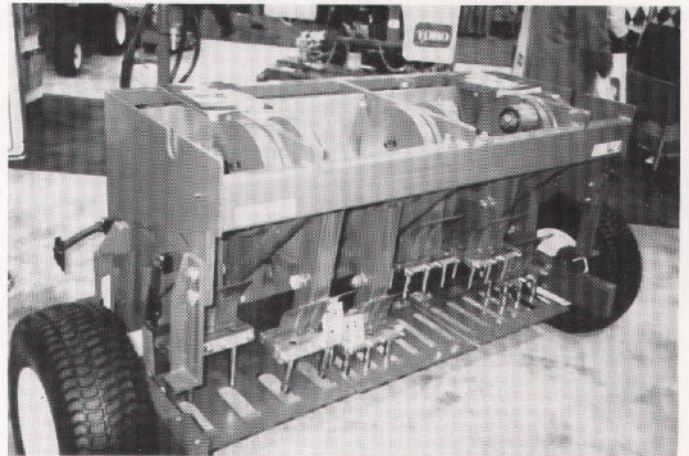
Jim Latham — Another man who liked his first GCSAA conference in Louisville, in . . . 1957! Since then Jim has only missed Houston in 1960 and Toronto in 1961. Great job, powerful dedication. Jim has the record of the Wisconsin crowd for GCSAA conference longevity.

Dave Beno — 7th consecutive for Dave; he liked Atlanta best.

Monroe S. Miller — 17th consecutive. Subscribes to "1st is best." Boston in 1973. Another reason—Boston is America's greatest historical city.

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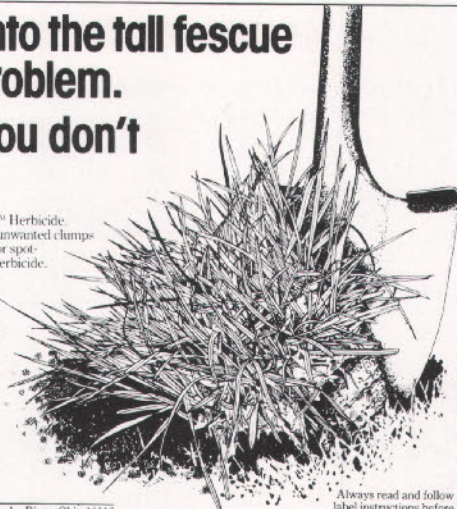
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