

Reinders

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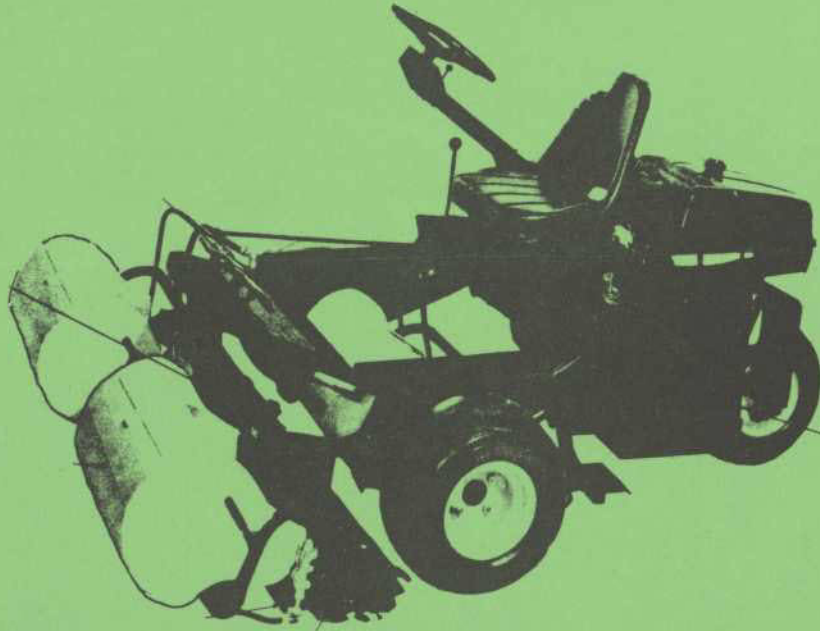
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Once again, the **Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association** is offering Position Information Service registration to all dues paying members.

It will be necessary for all interested members to fill out the attached card and return it to the Secretary-Treasurer in order to receive the information. Persons, registering will then be eligible to receive the details of position openings as they are processed by the Secretary-Treasurer's office.

All replies should be mailed directly to:

Jeff Bottensek, CGCS
Secretary-Treasurer WGCSA
 1330 Ware Street, P.O. Box 274
 Waupaca, WI 54981

Please register me as a participant in the Position Information Service.

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THANKS TO WEST BEND CC - TRIPOLI CC SITE OF
APRIL 23 MEETING

Our thanks to Dennis Willms and the staff of West Bend CC for the outstanding meeting of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association on March 28. Special thanks to Charlie Wilson for moderating a general information. Topics included budgeting, the past winter and the GCSAA show. From all indications Wisconsin was well represented in Atlanta.

Our April 23rd meeting will be held at Tripoli CC, 5032 W. Good Hope Road, Milwaukee where Jim Belfield will serve as our host. Lunch will be available on your own from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. consisting of a soup and sandwich buffet. Golf will begin with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun weather permitting. Beer will be available on the course and the halfway house will be open.

Appetizers will be available at 5:00 p.m. with dinner starting at 6:15 p.m. Dinner will include salad, New York strip steak, potato, vegetable, rolls and beverage. Cost for dinner will be \$15.00 and the price for dinner and golf will be \$22.00.

Our featured speaker will be Dr. Hurto, Professor of Turfgrass Science from the University of Massachusetts.

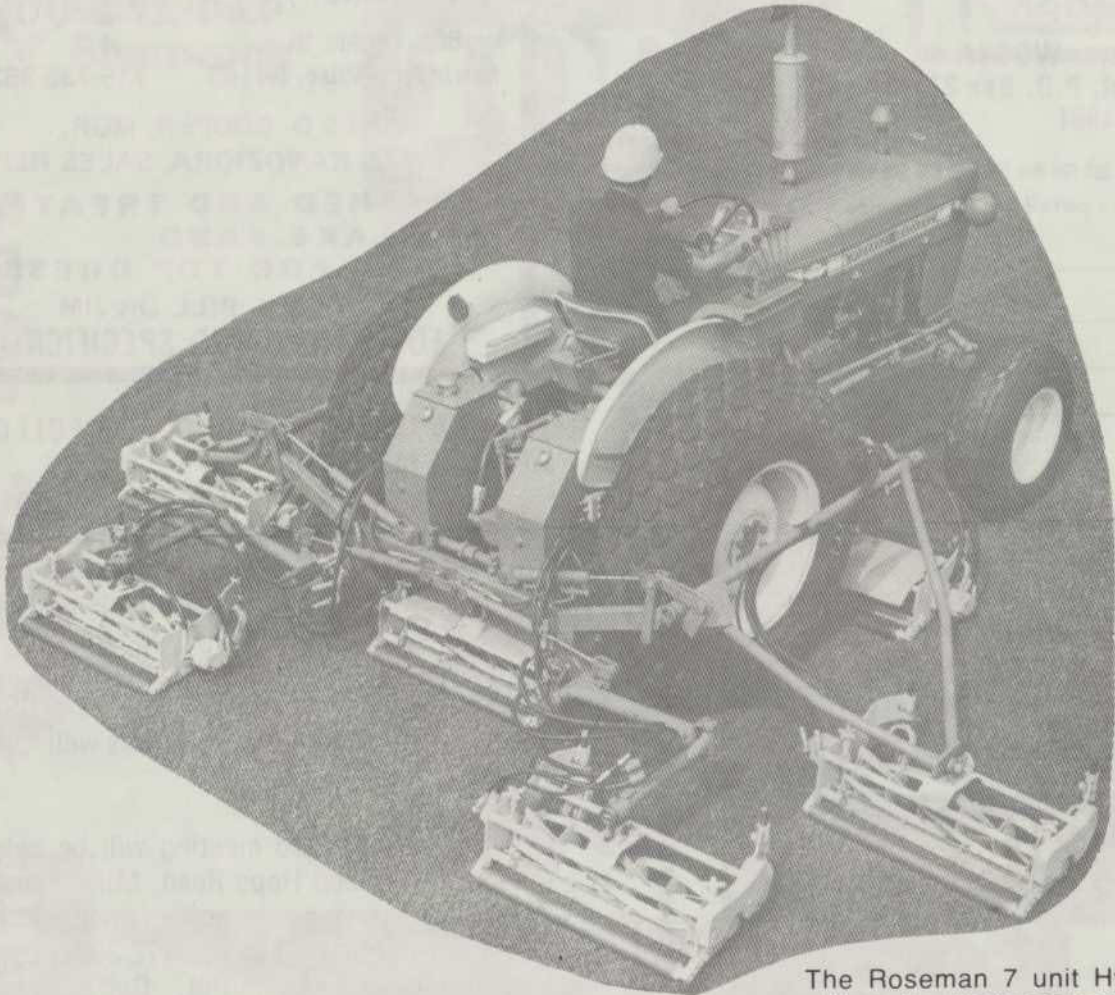
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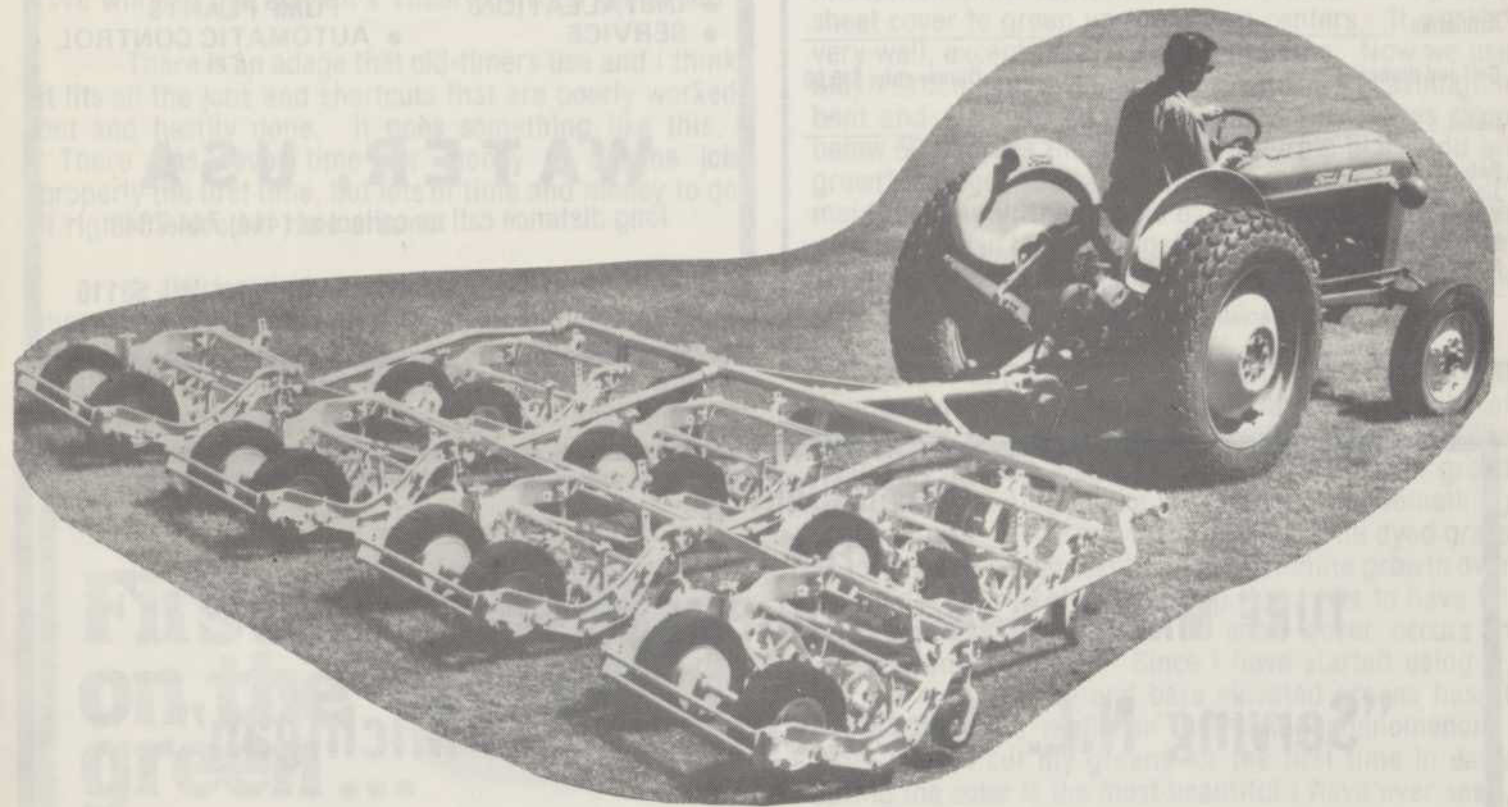
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FERTILIZER CHEMICALS, AND GRASS SEED

WGCSA members planning to attend the April 23 Tripoli CC meeting please note that all reply slips must be returned to Jim Belfield, 5032 W. Good Hope Road, Milwaukee, WI 53223 no later than April 21, 1979. PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE. It seems we had 70 reservations for the West Bend meeting but only 39 members had enough courtesy to show up and pay for their meals. Hence, in order to preclude any further discourtesy, those attending will be required to enclose pre-payment with the reply slip. Enough said.

I will attend the April 21 Tripoli CC meeting.

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Golf and dinner: \$22.00 Dinner only: \$15.00

Guest _____

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"Service is Not Our Motto, It's Our Business"

The following article was originally delivered before the Massachusetts Turfgrass Conference at the University of Massachusetts by Mr. Paul Voykin. Mr. Voykin is Golf Course Superintendent at Briarwood Country Club in Deerfield, Illinois. In addition to his innovative ideas in turfgrass management, Mr. Voykin is responsible for numerous articles appearing in national and local publications. Additionally, Mr. Voykin is the author of a book entitled ASK THE LAWN EXPERT. He has also played an active part in the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

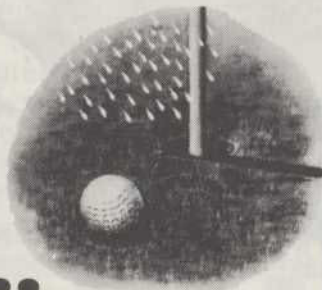
Shortcuts in Management

Shortcuts in management is really preventive management. In other words, you must have preventive management in order to have shortcuts. (We will call that Voykin's Theory of Total Collapse.)

There is an adage that old-timers use and I think it fits all the jobs and shortcuts that are poorly worked out and hastily done. It goes something like this. "There was never time nor money to do the job properly the first time, but lots of time and money to do it right the second time around."

A shortcut is justified only if it saves time and money, and if it produces a better golf course for your members. A good and efficient shortcut really means intelligent planning and follow-through. That will be my objective, and I'll try to cover all situations, starting with the greens.

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GREENS

On open bare elevated greens with Poa annua infestation in the center we formerly used 4-mil plastic sheet cover to green up the brown centers. It worked very well, except that it took a lot of time. Now we use Stayz-Green dye, instead. Our greens are Washington bent and, as soon as the autumn temperatures drop below 50 degrees the greens turn purple-black and all growth ceases. So when we spray greens for snow mold, usually in the middle of November, I throw one gallon of dye in to the 200-gallon spray tank mixture for snow mold. The 200 gallons cover approximately five greens. (My greens are small.)

This application with green dye does several things. One, it greens up the drab purple-black color of the greens for our ardent late-autumn golfers. The members like the idea because it gives them a green target to shoot at, just like in summer. But something else happens-- a thermal factor occurs. The dyed grass absorbs heat, which results in some minute growth over the winter, a desirable extra nap that I like to have for its protection just in case no snow cover occurs in January and February. Since I have started using it, the Poa on the open and bare elevated greens hasn't dessicated. It's really an interesting phenomenon. Also, when I cut my greens for the first time in early spring the color is the most beautiful I have ever seen, no matter how severe the winter has been.

We have early ladies' play at Briarwood and not just on Tuesday morning, but every day, except for weekends when they play in the afternoon. Our male golfers have complained to me for years about spike marks and the dragging of feet by some of the women around the cup area. Of course, some of the men can be blamed. It's not always the woman who are the culprits. But I could see their point. Nobody likes to come out after lunch by himself or with guests and find the greens all beat up. I solved this problem by mowing over the cup area and by making 2 or 3 passes on each side right after lunch and just before the male golfers stepped out on the course.

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This strategy met with great approval by our men golfers, especially the real low handicappers. For them, the fresh putting surface was much smoother, truer, and faster. But let's face it. I was wasting two men to cut greens, or portions of them, once in the morning and once again in the afternoon.

There had to be an easier way. There had to be a shortcut. And really, with just 4 swipes over each green in the afternoon, the area away from the cup was sometimes shaggy because it was longer than the mowed area. So I quit cutting altogether in the mornings. I reduced my maintenance by mowing only in the afternoon, or by starting just before noon when the ladies were beginning to get off the course or were on the last few holes of each nine.

This brought even more compliments from the men, who remarked on how consistent the greens were this year. They asked what I did. Did I lower the greens mowers? Or what? The men were putting so smoothly -- just like on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Frankly, the ladies never noticed the greens not being cut. They are more worried about the watering in mornings. We would whip the dew off the first three or four quickly in the morning and that was it. I had observed that between the afternoon cutting and the one next morning there wasn't that much growth, because in the afternoon mowing the turf grass on the

greens is dry and not heavy with dew and perhaps moisture from the previous night's irrigation. The grass is more upright and the mowers give the greens a much closer shave, which makes some of the male golfers think that I lowered the greens mowers (which I have always kept at a tight 3/16 of an inch).

There are other advantages to mowing in the afternoon, from a greens keeping point of view. One is appearance: since the clippings aren't as wet as when mowing in the morning, they are easily dispersed when you throw them into the rough. The result is very good: no more messy piles and unsightly clumps all over the place. Another advantage is that during humid and hot nights the greens in the afternoon are less puffy than in the morning, and there is no scalping unless you're using a lot of nitrogen. I am also convinced that afternoon mowing reduces thatch and grain, because dry surface allows the mowers to get a better bite. This results in less disease, also, not only because of reduced thatch but because the possibility is eliminated of spreading the disease with the mowing equipment early in the morning when the grass is wet.

CHANGING CUPS

We all change cups before golfers get out, but sometimes on Wednesdays, when heavy play is expected in the afternoon, I will change cups just before noon or right after the women finish playing. This

continued on next page

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gives the men a brand-new cup while the ladies are playing the old cup that was changed for them on Tuesday and which most of them like to see in the same place on Wednesday. Besides, the cups are not nearly as beat up by the men as they are by the women. This is a fact, because of high handicap the women take more putts than men do. But even if it wasn't true, remember that the surface is firmer in the afternoon, thus handling abuse better. Overnight there is some recuperation.

AERIFYING

What can you say about aerifying greens that hasn't already been said? Well, I have something to state, even though I am sure some of you here won't agree with me. It's been my observation that aerifying greens in the fall is the best possible time to carry out this maintenance procedure. It is a shortcut to better maintenance for the following good reason.

No matter what great and modern aerifying equipment you are using, your equipment will leave wheel marks in the spring when the surface is softer. This condition lasts for weeks, however minute and invisible it might be, and this is detrimental to good putting on swift, low-mowed greens. But in the fall, when the soil is much firmer, there is less depression abuse by the equipment. And even if there was, it's disappeared by the time spring play begins.

The popular belief of some, that *Poa annua* comes up in the holes if you aerify in the fall, is a lot of hogwash as far as I am concerned. If your other cultural practices, such as fertilizing, watering, top dressing, seeding, and spraying are done with common sense, you won't get more *Poa* infestation in the fall than you would in the spring or summer.

FERTILIZING

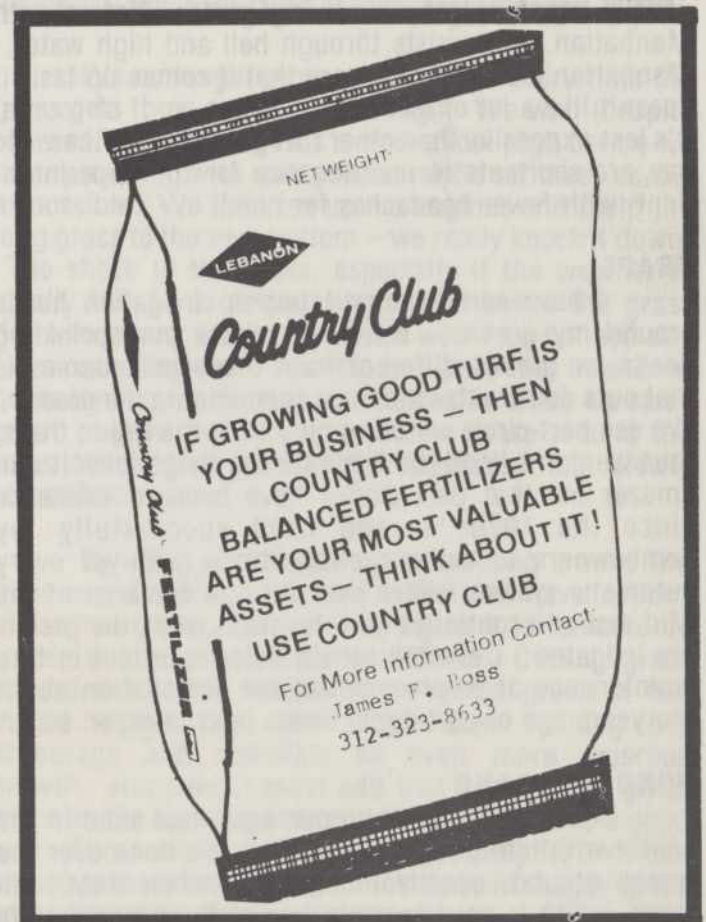
Now what about fertilizing? I think one of the worst things that we do sometimes in our greenkeeping profession is to overfertilize our turf, especially when it comes to greens. I believe the time has come to shut our ears to some of the turf scientists who still advocate high nitrogen levels to maintain good turf.

The shortest cut I know, to reduce maintenance on greens and to provide terrific putting for your golfers (and fewer headaches for yourself), is to reduce your application of fertilizer on greens. I fertilize twice, once in May and once in early fall, using only nitrogen and potash and absolutely no phosphorus -- which I think is just asking for *Poa annua* problems. In between, I use very small amounts of a soluble slow-release fertilizer. Rather than go out and make separate applications, I shortcut this technical cultural maintenance program by mixing a small amount of soluble fertilizer in the tank with my disease-control fungicide tank mix. This way, I don't lose valuable time and labor. The fertilizer product that I use is compatible with almost everything, because I use so little of it.

TEES

I know of one superintendent who had very small tees on his public golf course. He conscientiously moved them at least three times a day. This man ran a busy golf course with fifty thousand rounds per season. His boss finally budgeted some money and allowed the superintendent to expand all the tees, tripling their size. The young superintendent was now able to spread the tee traffic over much more turf area, thus reducing the tremendous waste of time reseeding the only tiny tees every week and moving the markers three times a day. Happily, he was also providing the golfers with better teeing conditions, as well as with a more challenging golf course.

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His mowing now was done with a new triplex unit, thus saving time. His fertilizing was done quickly with the old fairway spreader going over the large tees in a fraction of the time it took before. Most of all, he was making better use of his water. Now he was irrigating his large tee areas, rather than mostly rough and but a small portion of the tee areas. The construction of the larger tees opened up the dense forest area that had been shadowing the previous tees, thus providing better air, water, and light -- a ventilation providing better photosynthesis and a reduction of turf disease. This story is an example of improvement that took lots of money, time and work, but one which provided a very satisfactory shortcut in maintenance in the end.

FAIRWAYS

Like almost everyone here, I too, have a problem with *Poa annua*. Of all the good shortcuts in maintenance at Briarwood, none has been more effective than the use of perennial rye grass to improve our fairways. I tried Kentucky bluegrass, bent grass, and *Poa trivialis* without much success until I tried drill seeding Manhattan perennial rye grass into our predominantly *Poa annua* fairways.

It has been my observation that the taproot system of perennial rye grass penetrates right through any thatch, and then survives, best of all grasses, any intrusion of *Poa*. With other turf grasses the seedlings come up, then limply wilt out and disappear in the hot weather. In the fall the strong surge of *Poa annua* usually wipes out any surviving grass. Not so with Manhattan. It persists through hell and high water. Manhattan's other plusses are that it comes up fast, it doesn't like a lot of fertilizer or water, and, of course, it's less expensive than other turf grasses. All these, to me, are shortcuts to maintenance for the superintendent, with fewer headaches for him.

TRAPS

I have semiautomatic pop-up irrigation heads around my greens. But what makes our sprinkling heads for greens different from most golf courses is that ours don't water the traps surrounding the greens. We use part-circle watering only near the green traps; thus we don't flood the traps during irrigation. It still amazes me that part circles have been in existence since the 1920s -- and used successfully by homeowners to water their lawns -- and yet every automatic system I have ever seen in our area of the Midwest still continues to water traps when the greens are irrigated. Definitely, the greatest shortcut in trap maintenance at Briarwood was the installation about ten years ago of part-circle heads next to green traps.

WIND AND SAND

Most golf courses in our area haul sand in the winter with ten-ton or semi-trucks. It's done over the frozen ground, usually in January, when they refill traps, which is usually every two or three years. We

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stopped doing that at Briarwood last year. Instead, we refilled the traps in November -- for these shortcut reasons. We learned that much of the sand that is hauled in winter and piled high in the traps for spring spreading gets blown out of the traps by either cold winter or by early spring winds before the crew gets to level them. Ten to twenty percent of the sand is lost, depending on the trap locations.

Another reason to spread sand in the spring is that there are just too many problems -- and frustrations -- with other important spring jobs that need to be done before the surge of golfers during the first warm week. Such as, perhaps, broken irrigation pipes, cleaning all sticks and branches from the whole course, and contention with weather idiosyncrasies. As well as labor crews who don't show up on time.

Another drawback with winter sand hauling and spring spreading is that golfers in the spring tend to get fried-egg lies that are buried in the fresh new sand. However, new sand that is spread way back in November will settle nicely by spring, and fewer golf balls are imbedded. So last fall I asked two of my amigos, who usually leave at the end of October, to stay the next month and spread out and level the sand, before winter set in. They spread -- and I got sand and extra labor money in my new budget to keep them until the job was finished. I consider this an important shortcut in maintenance -- and in "wasted" sand.

RAKES

There seems to be a controversy with the U.S.G.A. and with some of the golf pros in the Midwest in regard to whether the trap rakes should stay in or out of the sand traps. The U.S.G.A., I believe, recommends that the trap rakes be left beside the trap, all the way out. I know of many pros and superintendents who think that the rakes should be inside the trap -- all the way in. I like to keep half in and half out. However, we sometimes use both recommendations to suit our purposes. Let me tell you the reasons.