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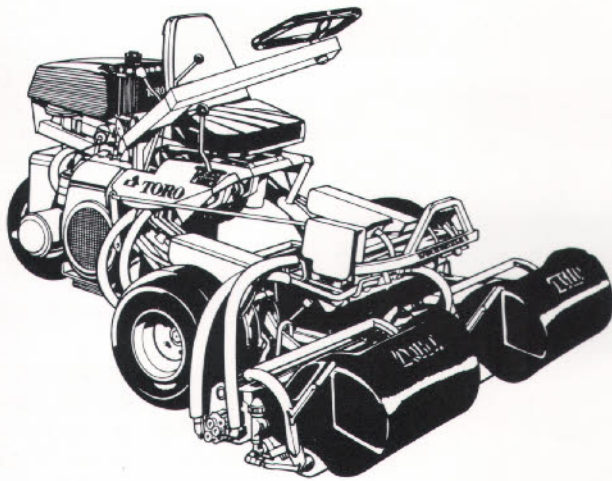
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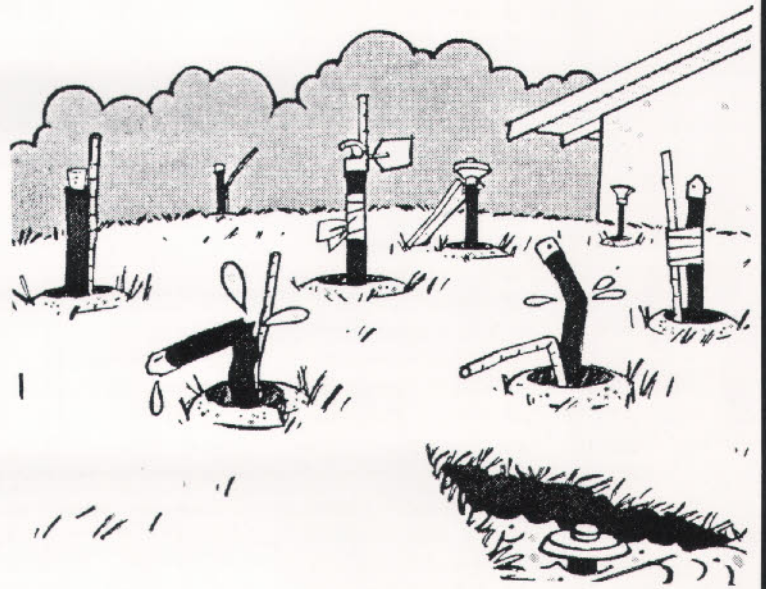
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From the Director's Desk
**OUR SUPERIN-
TENDENTS NEED
NEWER AND
BETTER
EQUIPMENT**

By James M. Latham, Director
USGA Green Section
Great Lakes Region



If Wisconsin golfers are to be pacified by Tour-caliber courses, they should provide the superintendent with the tools he needs to get the job done. I'm not talking about a super irrigation system, new mowing devices or a hump-proof hole cutter, I'm talking about knowledge and the part superintendents play in its generation. Question: Why have only two Wisconsin clubs (to my knowledge) participated in the Baltusrol Plan this year?

The grapevine tells us that some clarification of the GCSAA-USGA Green Section research program is necessary. The joint effort by these organizations is to generate funds for dispersal through the USGA Foundation. A large portion of these funds goes to Basic Research on golf course turfgrasses and their management. Unfortunately, many Great Lakers heard only that the prime involvement was toward minimizing water use in the West and Southwest. We have no shortages here, they say. Well, there's not a thing wrong with using less water here, is there? Pumping isn't free. But there's more to it than water.

Much of the basic research is in understanding **Plant Stress**. We can't cope until we understand. If plant stress were not a problem, why is **Poa annua** tops on the hate list? If stress were not a bluegrass or bentgrass problem how did **Poa annua** become dominant in the first place?

Golf Course management puts ever-increasing stress on all the turfgrass species and cultivars we have today. If some physiological characteristics can be defined in stress tolerant plants, perhaps they could be transferred to or developed in **golf** turf types. Stress here means not only heat/cold or wet/dry, but may include low cut,

trampling, shade etc. etc. All are stress mechanisms.

There are other valuable research programs underway. Dr. Don White and his group in Minnesota are deeply involved in **Poa annua** breeding work. Funded by both the USGA and the O.J. Noer Foundation, he has isolated several "P.a. types" and is searching for more superior plants. Both conventional (pollen transfer) and tissue culture breeding programs are involved. It is doubtful that the folks in El Paso are ecstatic about this, but Wisconsin folks should be.

Across the Lake, Dr. Paul Rieke at Michigan State University is getting to the bottom of aerifier holes. He is trying to get a handle on the soil compaction that our golf courses experience. This will enable us to better cope with this **stress** problem, but from the soils' standpoint rather than the plants'.

The above are only two of the many Green Section projects now underway throughout the U.S. to reduce the cost of golf while maintaining high quality playing conditions. They can be accomplished only by a **national level** organization which can coordinate the expertise of highly skilled scientists who have access to a lot of expensive instruments and equipment. Turfgrass research has had a piecemeal approach to major problems for much too long.

Now, what happens to all that good information when it finally reaches the status for publication? What has happened to the wealth of useful data we have generated since the 1920's? Nothing — unless it gets into the hands and minds of those who can use it. This is where the computerized database information system under development at Michigan State comes in. At present, I don't know how or when it will operate or just who can or will use it. It is evident, however, that we travelling minstrels of the turf business can find in it a ready reference library

for information we can't remember or put in bookshelves or filing cabinets. Unused or unavailable information is really worse than no information at all. It is a waste.

Little did we know that the books and periodicals collected from the O.J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection would be the historical basis for such a broad, up-to-date information network! We may find that some "new" problem was solved 20 years ago, but only the student or researcher knew about it. All research papers do not reach the pages of the prominent journals or periodicals.

There are other aspects of the USGA Foundation which go beyond research and extension efforts. Just as a golf course superintendent needs an adequate maintenance building, the USGA must have proper housing for their facilities — testing equipment required by the Implements and Ball group — Computers for The Handicap group — space for The Golf Library — all the things necessary to administer as well as serve Our world of golf. These things cost money, too.

The prime sources of revenue for the USGA are the golfers, contacted through their club or association on an **annual** basis. Contacts for research funds can and should be instigated by golf course superintendents. It is their best indirect fringe benefit. If the club so desires it can restrict the use of funds to a specific use.

The Baltusrol Plan, that is, a contribution of \$2 per member per year fell short of needs and some projects had to be scaled down. To maintain the current commitments, the 1985 goal is \$3 per member. This will prevent scaling down the level of research in future years. (The tab for 1985 is \$338,000!) We have a good thing going for the future of everyone in golf — reduced maintenance costs without loss of playing quality; greater ability to cope with environmental stress; new and better golf turfgrasses; and, yes, reduced need for water.

Don't you owe it to yourself, your professional society and to **golf** to support this program? Just be as enthusiastic about this as you would be if it were a piece of equipment you really, really, need. It **really** is.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IN THE GOLF COURSE WORKPLACE

HEARING — THE SENSE THAT DESERVES MORE ATTENTION

By Cheryl Lange

I was very happy when I was invited to write this article for the GRASSROOTS. The subject of hearing loss due to noise exposure is a very timely one for Golf Course Superintendents. My husband, Ric Lange, is the Golf Course Superintendent at Reedsburg Country Club and I have often wondered if the daily noises from golf course machinery that he and his crew are exposed to are loud enough to cause hearing problems. Writing this article gave me the perfect opportunity to get over to his shop and measure just how loud the machines are while they are being used.

Noise is a part of everyone's life. Barely a day goes by that we aren't exposed to loud music, traffic noise, aircraft noise, screaming children and so on. The noises that come from these and other sources are often loud enough to cause temporary hearing loss. It is possible that everyone has, at one time or another, experienced the effects of exposure to loud noises. Those effects often include a ringing in the ears (tinnitus) and some temporary hearing loss (temporary threshold shift — TTS). However, with continual exposure to high noise levels these temporary disturbances may become permanent.

As an example, farmers are a typical population for which noise induced hearing loss can occur. A farmer operates his or her machinery on a very regular basis. Tractors usually emit very high noise levels while in use and the operator may be exposed for many hours. At first the farmer may only notice slight tinnitus. However, as the years progress, he or she may become more aware of accompanying hearing loss. Usually, by the time the hearing loss is noticed and interfering with understanding speech, it is no longer reversible.

This is due to the fact that noise induced hearing loss (NIHL) begins very gradually and, at first, affects only the higher pitches or frequencies of human hearing. As exposure continues, more frequencies are affected and more loss is experienced.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) was developed to protect the worker from unsafe working conditions, including unsafe noise levels. OSHA developed maximum allowable noise levels and exposure durations to help protect the worker from NIHL, at least while at the work place. These levels were decided upon the basis that higher noise levels and longer exposure would likely cause temporary or permanent hearing loss. I have listed these levels should you ever have the opportunity to measure the noise levels in your shop and want to make comparisons.

Exposure Length (T) Hours/Day	Loudness Level in dBA (Standard Measure Used)
16.0	85
8.0	90
6.0	92
4.0	95
3.0	97
2.0	100
1.5	102
1.0	105
0.5	110
0.25 or less	115

The following formula also allows you to measure the effects of using one machine with a certain noise level for part of the day and another machine for part of the day:

$$\frac{C_1}{T_1} + \frac{C_2}{T_2} + \dots + \frac{C_n}{T_n} = 1$$

where C = Length of time at a particular measured noise level, and T = Time permitted from above table. If the equation finds a sum of more than 1, there is a strong possibility of causing hearing loss.

I borrowed a sound level meter, the instrument used to measure how loud a sound is, and measured the noise levels from some typical golf course equipment. The results are as follows:

Machine Tested	dBA Loudness*	(Hours/Day) Exposure
1. Jacobsen Greensking GK62221	90	3
2. Jacobsen Greensking GK62219	88	5
3. John Deer 820	94	8
4. Jacobsen F-10	91	6
5. National 84	92	8
6. Toro 70" Professional	91	1
7. Cushman 1979	90	3
8. Smithco Easy-Rider Bunker Rake	89	4
9. McCullough PM 1010 Chain Saw	106	3
10. Lahman Skid-Steer Loader	95	4
	(106 w/ Hydraulics)	
11. Wards Garden Mark Leaf Blower	92	2

*Measured with a Quest 215 Sd Level Meter

**A malfunctioning hydraulic system — even a clogged filter — can emit dangerously high noise levels.

***All measurements were made with machinery running outside. Noise levels may increase when machines are operated inside a shop. Additionally, this is just a sample; your machinery may differ somewhat.

As you can see from the measurements and average exposure times, there are several pieces of golf course equipment used regularly that may cause noise induced hearing loss. A perfect example is the John Deer 820 in this sample test. It commonly is used an average of eight hours per day. This exposure would probably cause tinnitus and temporary hearing loss after only one day of use. Continual use will eventually cause permanent hearing loss.

You've probably been thinking, "Great. I have damaging noise coming from my equipment. Now what?" There are three basic things you can do. One, a most unlikely choice, is to no longer use the piece of machinery emitting the noise. I doubt that this idea is very feasible. Here are two

other more practical ideas. The first is to change the machine in some way — add an improved muffler system, for example — that would decrease the sound levels coming from the machine. This is often difficult to do or even impossible, so the next idea is probably the best solution.

Hearing protection is probably the easiest and most cost effective way to protect the worker from NIHL. There are two basic types of hearing protectors — ear plugs and ear mufflers. Ear plugs are generally made of soft rubber material and can decrease the noise level of sound reaching the ear by up to 25 dB. This would mean that the John Deere 820 could be ridden safely without risking a possible hearing loss. Another more comfortable hearing protector is the ear muff. Ear muffs can reduce noise levels an even greater amount, up to 35 dB. If noise levels are very high, this is above 120 dB, a combination of plugs and muffs can be worn to ensure maximum protection.

One warning is needed here about hearing protection. Since new tiny stereo radios with small earphones have come available in the marketplace, there has been much confusion. Many people feel that by wearing the tiny earphones and listening to music to mask out the machinery noise they are protecting their hearing. **This is absolutely false.** These radios have the capacity to reach levels up to 140 dB and can very easily cause damage to the hearing nerve. Increasing the volume of these radios to mask the machine noise makes the sound level loud enough to cause as much, or more, damage than the machine itself. They are tiny radios — not hearing protection. **Don't use them while operating loud machinery.**

This article was written to provide an overview and some general information regarding noise induced hearing loss on the golf course. I have only written about chronic exposure because this seems to be the biggest problem on the golf course. However, one very loud blast of sound may also be enough to cause permanent hearing loss.

I hope I have convinced you to take a closer look (or listen!) at your golf course equipment. It helps to think about noise and

hearing in this way...we wear gloves to protect our hands, heavy boots to protect our feet and safety glasses to protect our eyes. Our ears deserve the same protection. Since the possibility of NIHL can be lessened, why wait until our hearing is diminished and say, "I should have...it!"

For more information on NIHL and what can be done about it, contact any Audiologist or the Wisconsin Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations.

WARNING: SUNSHINE MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH

By Cheryl Miller, R.N.

The rapid approach of the summer season is a good time to remind ourselves that too much of a good thing, including the sun, may be bad for us. This is particularly true for Golf Course Managers and their employees. They spend many of their working hours in the direct sunlight and should be aware of the danger of skin cancer.

Certain people are more sensitive to skin cancer than others. The person with fair skin, blue eyes, reddish hair and freckles is the most susceptible. Also at great risk for developing skin cancer are those who spend a great deal of time in direct sunlight. In addition to those who work on a golf course, this group includes construction workers, sailors, lifeguards, farmers and habitual sun worshippers. It is believed that the ultraviolet rays of sunlight destroy the ability of the skin cells to replicate adequately and, over a period of years, the cells become cancerous.

Prevention is the best way to deal with skin cancer, but fortunately it is the most curable of all cancers. Basal cell carcinoma, the most common of the skin cancers, has a cure rate of more than 90 percent, **when it is caught early.** The basal cell cancer is characterized by pearly appearing growths. They do not spread to other parts of the body and are, therefore, the most curable. Other forms of skin

cancer include squamous cell carcinomas, which have a scaling appearance and can sometimes spread. They can, however, be cured if detected early.

Malignant melanoma is a form of skin cancer that comes from cancerous moles. It accounts for only about five percent of all skin cancers, but it results in 75 percent of all skin cancer deaths. Always be suspicious of moles that change in size, that have an irregular surface contour, that are irregularly shaped or notched, change to multiple shades of color or become irritated or bleed.

There are relatively painless ways to protect oneself from the risk of skin cancer caused by the sun. My husband has a mower — an HF-5 — that has a canopy on it. Any protection such as that will protect operators from being in the sun hour after hour. Workers that are in the sunlight for extended periods should be encouraged to wear caps to help protect them. Light clothing with long sleeves that breathe, such as those made from cotton, offer protection on especially bright days. I've been told that dress codes for golf course staff members frequently require the wearing of shirts for men and prohibit halter tops for women workers. These kinds of codes are beneficial to them because of the protection afforded. You should never allow yourself to get a sunburn, either. Those with a beautiful tan today may suffer dearly in years to come. People with sensitive skin should consider the use of sun screens — formerly known as suntan lotions.

Protecting yourself from the dangers of skin cancer are relatively easy. Enjoy the sunshine of summertime, but also beware of its potential danger.

Editor's Note: The authors of these two articles focusing on "Health and Safety in the Golf Course Work Place" represent one of the strengths of the WGCSA — spouses of our members. Cheryl Lange is originally from Oak Park, Illinois. She received her Bachelor of Science and Masters of Science degrees in Audiology from the University of Wisconsin — Madison. She currently resides in Reedsburg, Wisconsin where her husband Ric is Golf Course Superintendent at Reedsburg Country Club. Cheryl Miller is also a graduate of the University of Wisconsin—Madison where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the School of Nursing. Her husband Monroe is the Golf Course Superintendent at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison

GOLF AND FLOWERS DO NOT MIX — OR DO THEY?

By Bill Roberts

Golf and flowers do not mix. Flowers are not conducive to the actual, basic, physical playing of the game in the truest sense. A mis-hit shot should end up in long grass, or in a sand bunker or behind a tree possibly. A mis-hit shot should not end up in a flower bed. Comments from players who have had the misfortune of landing in an area planted with marigolds lend credence to this initial premise. Golf and flowers do not mix.

However, flowers do add to what can be described as the "experience" of golf. While it is a game requiring physical skills and mental discipline, it also affords, in most cases, an enjoyable respite from tension, stress and simple everyday pressures. The experience provides an environment in which the senses are affected, particularly sight. Flowers, therefore, can enhance that experience.

Wallace Staats wrote in an article in "GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT" magazine in October, 1982 that you have to "devote time, money and energy to flowers if you are to succeed. This perspective is valid from soil preparation to full bloom. A standard growing medium is desirable. Experience and observation have shown a 70% sand, 20% peat, 10% vermiculite material, settled to a full eight inch depth to be a manageable root zone which provides excellent drainage and adequate moisture and nutrient retention capabilities. "Good old black dirt" can create more problems than necessary over the long term.

This soil medium can be tilled each year prior to planting to relieve the thin layer of surface compaction that can result from rainfall and irrigation. This tilling operation also provides an opportunity to incorporate nutrients into the root zone. A familiar 6-2-0 material is appropriate at pre-planting time. Light applications of a 10-10-10 material can then be used throughout the season as needed.

Planning and budget flexibility can affect irrigation, an essential aspect of any flower operation, as well. "Spray type" irrigation, with control independent of large area turf sprinklers, will minimize light surface compaction thereby insuring sufficient oxygen-carbon dioxide exchange from and into the root zone. Large volume, high pressure irrigation heads can result in plant breakage, will maximize disease pressure and are virtually useless for frost control in addition to wasting significant amounts of water.

With proper field preparation completed, literally thousands of varieties of flowering plants are available and selection will depend on such factors as:

- 1.) length of growing season — tulips, pansies, dianthus and chrysanthemums can be used to lengthen a relatively short growing season,
- 2.) climatic factors — average rainfall, average temperature, humidity,
- 3.) effect desired — mass color, intensity of color, blends, contrasts,
- 4.) budget — how extensive the planting, newer hybrid varieties versus older types,
- 5.) personal choice — up to the individual club or facility but final specific decisions are most appropriately left to the Golf Course Superintendent because he is most in touch with the golf course. That is, in terms of conditions for growing, what areas planted will affect play and so on. The Golf Course Superintendent sees the golf course from all angles, is versed through education and/or experience in landscape management and has the greatest vested interest.

As mentioned, a variety of species including numerous varieties of annual flowers are available. Materials that should be considered are allysum, pansies, snapdragons, celosia, verbena, vinca, zinnia, geranium, impatiens, marigold, canna lily, salvia and

petunia. These annual plants provide a flexibility that would be unattainable with perennials or flowering ornamentals. Designs can be changed from one season to the next using different materials.

Additionally, design may vary from very defined, formal patterns to the more "free-flowing" types. Contrasts, such as reds and yellows, reds and whites and golds and silvers, are particularly effective in drawing or pulling attention while blends, such as reds, pinks and salmon are more subtle. However, formal or free-flowing, contrast or blend, all enhance the "experience" on the golf course.

Flowers in pots, with foliage such as spikes or vinca vine, can be used for a variety of needs including tee markers for special golf events or as a subtle type of traffic control around buildings or lawn areas. Hanging baskets are particularly effective in "toning down" or softening structures.

Once again, the uses of annual flowers are numerous and include highlighting of out of play areas, backdropping or accenting of greens, bordering for definition and traffic control and, in general, simply adding to the visual stimulation and "experience" of a golfer as he makes his way around the golf course. With forethought and proper execution, flowers, which, again, do not mix with the actual playing of the game of golf, can, at least, add to the enjoyment of that venture and serve some practical functions as well.

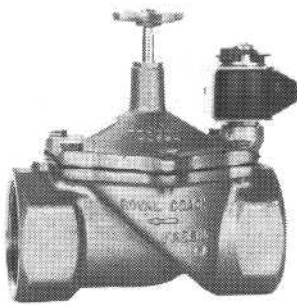
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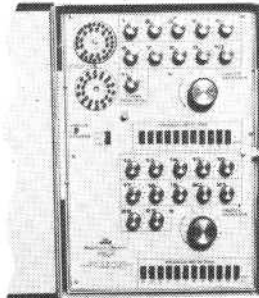
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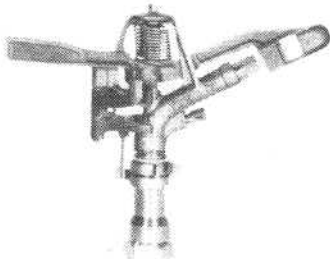
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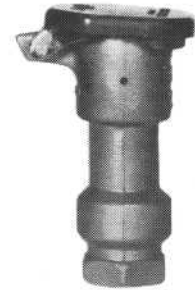
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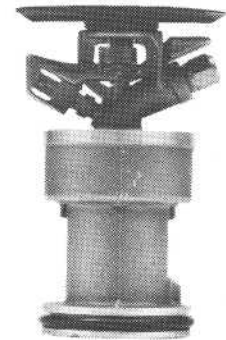
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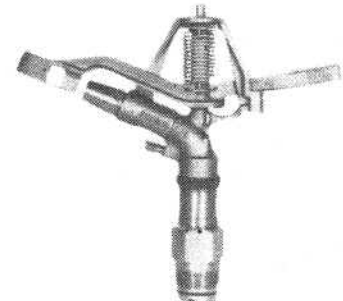
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March 20, 1985

Mr. Monroe Miller
% Blackhawk Country Club
P. O. Box 5129
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Dear Monroe:

Once again, I have the pleasure of extending the sincere appreciation of the O. J. Noer Research Foundation for the recent donation from our number one contributor, the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association. Dan Quast presented the check from the Symposium at the meeting of Foundation members at the GCSAA conference in Washington, D.C. The members were quite impressed and we are grateful.

As you know, grants from the Foundation have been made to many universities throughout the United States, including the University of Wisconsin. Through 1984, over \$240,000 have been contributed towards research since the Foundation's inception.

Without the support of interest organizations such as WGCSA, many of the accomplishments of the Foundation would not have been possible.

Very truly yours,

Robert J. Welch
Secretary-Treasurer

RJW:sb

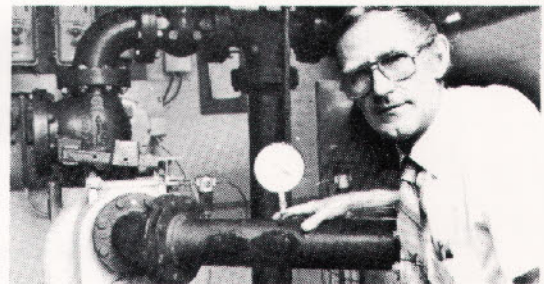
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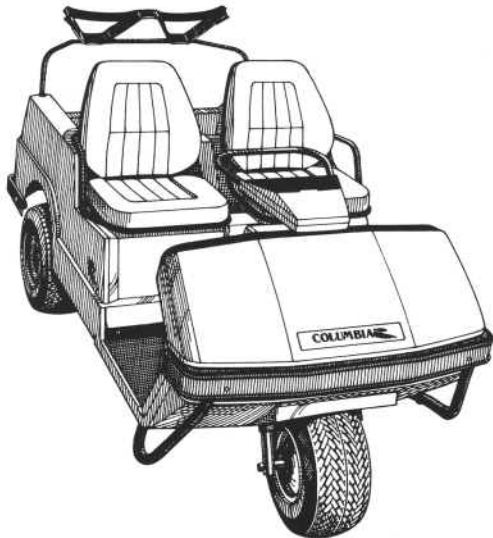
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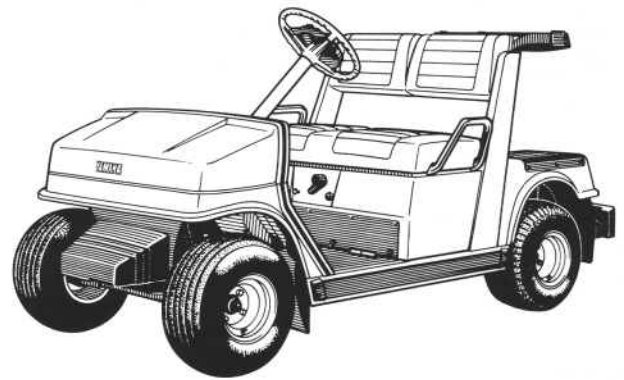
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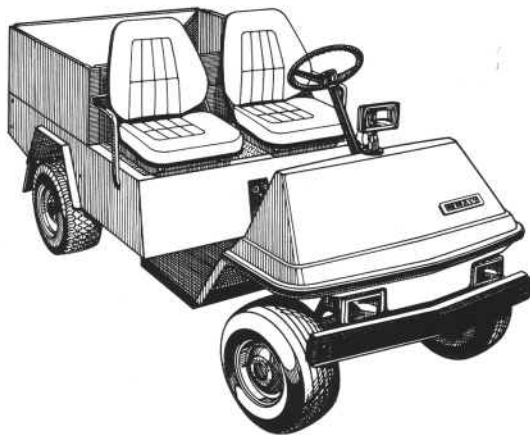
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WHY IS MIKE LEES SMILING?

Because he was the lucky winner of the drawing that awarded one year's free use of an E-Z-Go utility vehicle, that's why! The GX-800 was donated by E-Z-Go Golf Cars and the proceeds of the drawing were donated to the WGCSA Scholarship and Research Fund. Mike won the vehicle last fall at the WGCSA November meeting held at Tumblebrook Country Club. Mike, of Tyranena Golf Club in Lake Mills, assures us that the car will be put to good use on his golf course during the 1985 season. Congratulations to Mike and sincere thanks to Gary Monfre for the generous gift!



Gary Monfre, right, presents keys for an E-Z-Go GX-800 utility vehicle to WGCSA member Mike Lees.

WGCSA SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Rod Johnson

As follows is a report to the membership on Board actions in recent meetings. As W.G.C.S.A. Secretary I will be reporting to you similarly in each issue of the "GRASS ROOTS" in an effort to keep all members informed on the actions and the policy setting of this board. Each issue will contain a report of highlights and should not be misconstrued as all inclusive. Time and space limitations would make for an impossibility.

During the winter months the Board has been busy as a complete board and at a committee level. Membership reclassifications, membership directory, golf and arrangements, social weekend etc. have taken the time of respective members.

The following new members have been approved since the November 1984 business meeting:

Thomas Parent	Class D
David Butz	Class D
Brayton Chemicals	Class E
Tom Schmitt	Class B
Mark Landgraf	Class D
Mike Seaton	Class D
Bliffert Lumber	Class E
Rhome-Poulenc	Class E
Welcome to all new members.	

Our chapter project, that being Bill Roberts' Candidacy for G.C.S.A.A. Executive Committee, continues to warrant this boards attention and for that matter the entire membership. New means for financing this endeavor have been planned for, and will surface soon at our regular monthly meetings.

My first six months as Chapter Secretary have been very rewarding and very eye opening. Until involved at this level one does not realize the time and effort put forth by all board members. Rest assured the affairs of the W.G.C.S.A. are in good hands with the people you have elected to serve.

My personal thanks for the lovely plant I received for National Secretary's Week. The anonymous donor was very thoughtful and shall be uncovered and justly rewarded.

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ARNOLD PALMER TO VISIT SENTRYWORLD

Bill Roberts' golf course in Stevens Point, SENTRYWORLD, will be the site of an 18-hole, best-ball tournament on August 27 that will feature a number of well known players, including Arnold Palmer, Miller Barber, Bob Toski, Dave Marr, Jan Stephenson and

Betsy King. The tournament is designed to help test the ability of the golf course to survive the footwork of thousands of spectators at a major tournament. Sentry Insurance Company chairman John Joanis, speaker at the WGCSA August 1984 meeting, said that the event will be accompanied by a golf clinic, and will help everyone evaluate the golf course under major tournament conditions.