



President's Message

WHAT GOLF IS ALL ABOUT



By Bill Roberts

Twenty or so Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association members were seated around the television set at Watertown Country Club after golf at our August monthly meeting. Greg Norman and Bob Tway are tied going into the eighteenth hole of the PGA Championship at Inverness Club.

Tway hits his drive into some very deep rough. Norman gets a "bounce" and his drive is in the fairway. Tway's second shot is short and in the bunker in front of the green. Norman hits an approach shot into the green that "backs up" twenty feet into the rough. Bob Tway hits a soft sandwedge onto the green. The ball bounces, settles and rolls into the hole. Bob Tway is jumping up and down in celebration. The television commentators, not normally known for a dramatic sense of silence, are speechless. The Inverness crowd is hysterical. Greg Norman is deflated. And the Golf Course Superintendents, watching the television at Watertown Country Club, are cheering as if we are there.

That shot really was and is part of the personification of what golf is all about. The opportunities taken and the opportunities missed. The preparation. The range of emotions from complete joy to utter defeat. Pressure, excitement, luck, skill. God, it was great.

Another "part" of what golf is all about was the superb condition of the

golf course at Inverness. Superintendent Tom Walker and his staff groomed and nurtured and manicured and managed that great old golf course to a state of perfection and it was reflected in the players scores and in the comments of all those who attended.

Yet another happening that is "part of what golf is all about" also took place at Inverness during the PGA Championship. It was a celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. 60 years ago, a group of very progressive "greenskeepers" joined together to form the National Association of Greenkeepers of America (NAGA). By the end of the first year over 400 individuals had joined the membership ranks. Two years later a trade show was held in conjunction with the NAGA Conference.

Twenty-two years later 800 attendees made their way to Los Angeles for the National Greenkeeping Superintendent Association Conference and Show. By 1951, we were known as the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and over 1,000 attended the Conference and Show in Chicago. Membership grew to 3,000 by 1970. 1971 saw the introduction of the Certification Program. Regional seminars were introduced by 1972. By 1975, 4,000

strong could speak to membership in GCSAA. Today, over 6,000 members. Today, a \$3,000,000.00 a year association which is respected as an integral part of "what golf is all about."

I'm not sure what GCSAA's forefathers envisioned for the Association when they met 60 years ago but I have to believe they would be pleased. Membership continues to grow. Services are offered. Education, always a prime concern, is more available than ever. GCSAA is promoting our profession through the media. The association is maturing at a rapid pace. An individual membership is a worthwhile investment in one's professional growth.

Yes, the whole point is that golf is a tremendous game, a terrific business, a great profession, a fellowship, an avocation and/or a worthwhile endeavor. It is enhanced by membership in our national organization. Membership is a contribution to the collective strength of your peers, and yourself, on a national and state level. Wisconsin GCSA needs that contribution from you and your staff. Your contribution through a new membership in the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America offers an opportunity to be a part of "what the game is all about" and what our profession is all about. Take advantage and "get in the game."

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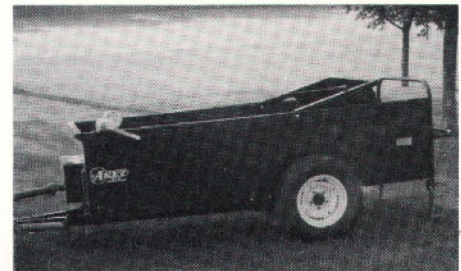
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Summer Notes

By Dr. David U. Cookson

My schedule this summer has taken me as usual to a variety of golf courses in different areas, so I thought this month I would share some of the conclusions I have reached during my travels. Certainly the most memorable experience was spending the week of the U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills. I had never been there before, and thus, despite all the advance publicity and media saturation of details of the course in all aspects, I was utterly surprised and captivated by this super golf course gem. It is the quintessential natural golf course, and yet a magnificent measure of golfing skill and mental testing. The overwhelming realization that occurs on reflecting on the Shinnecock experience is that modern day golf course architecture is too often contrived and artificial; far too much soil moved and revamping of the natural terrain. Shinnecock proves the eternal virtue of simplicity and purity of design, a railroad tie or an artificial waterfall would be an obscenity on such a course. I hope everyone who reads this will one day walk some of the holes at Shinnecock; it is an experience to be savored and anticipated, and rarely to be repeated any place else world wide. The course is absolute untainted pure golf, a masterpiece of all that is best about golf course set up and design.

Unfortunately, another strong impression I formed this summer is that the message about over-watering has not made much headway in a lot of places. I have played on soggy fairways with muddy lies on too long grass, allowing only a fairway shot similar to that usually found only in the rough, far too often, and always with the explanation that the Poa annua is being saved by frequent watering. Fortunately, here in Wisconsin many clubs have recognized the untoward effects of too much water, and their members are playing tight fairway lies on a relatively firm and dry surface throughout the summer; but as one travels eastward it would appear that this message has not yet spread very far in that direction. Even in Wisconsin, some clubs persist in subjecting their members to unplayable fairway conditions with the excuse that they

are only trying to save grass. Any experienced golfer would prefer to play off bare ground than off mud, a choice which need not have to be made since it is evident to me by past experience that we kill more Poa annua by overwatering than is damaged by wilt effect on turf not sufficiently syringed. At our course we use about one third the water now that we used to, and have been fortunate to play on excellent fairways all summer with essentially no turf loss due to stress, and this on fairways predominately Poa annua. I strongly urge that if you are one of the green superintendents skeptical about the beneficial effect of water conservation that you at least test it, and I am sure you will note turf improvement, and a marked decline in membership dissension and dissatisfaction.

Again, I have often noted situations where trees need trimming where branches interfere with fair play of a hole. Most of these places are in spots one would not notice unless one was playing the hole, so I suggest next time you are playing check on this possi-

bility, or get one of your green committee members to play with this in mind. I know from experience that during a summer apparently properly trimmed trees encroach again before one becomes aware of it, and now is the time to locate these areas before the leaves fall.

Lastly, I have been impressed by the general continued improvement in greens around the country, and especially here in our state. At my own club, I just recently have been reminded of the benefits of a light top dressing on green speed, smoothness and consistency. We had become dilatory about doing this often enough, but our experience this summer has reminded us of its value. If your greens are slow, bumpy, or inconsistent, you might also find a light top dressing program to be as helpful as we did.

I have written before that golf course maintenance gets better everywhere each year, but diligence is still required, as well as being alert to new ideas and concepts. As I have observed this summer, this particularly applies to the careful use of water.

Opportunity Knocks: Back Issues of "The Grass Roots" For Sale

In response to numerous requests, a collection of six back issues of "The Grass Roots" are being made available. A folder containing six issues will be for sale starting at the Beloit meeting on September 25th.

Issues Included

Nov./Dec. 1984	Vol. 11, No. 7	Special Heritage Issue
March/April 1985	Vol. 12, No. 2	Trees on the Golf Course
May/June 1985	Vol. 12, No. 3	A Variety of Always Timely Topics
July/Aug. 1985	Vol. 12, No. 4	Soils and Golf Course Management
Nov./Dec. 1985	Vol. 12, No. 6	Andy North Visits Symposium
May/June 1986	Vol. 13, No. 3	Sand Bunkers

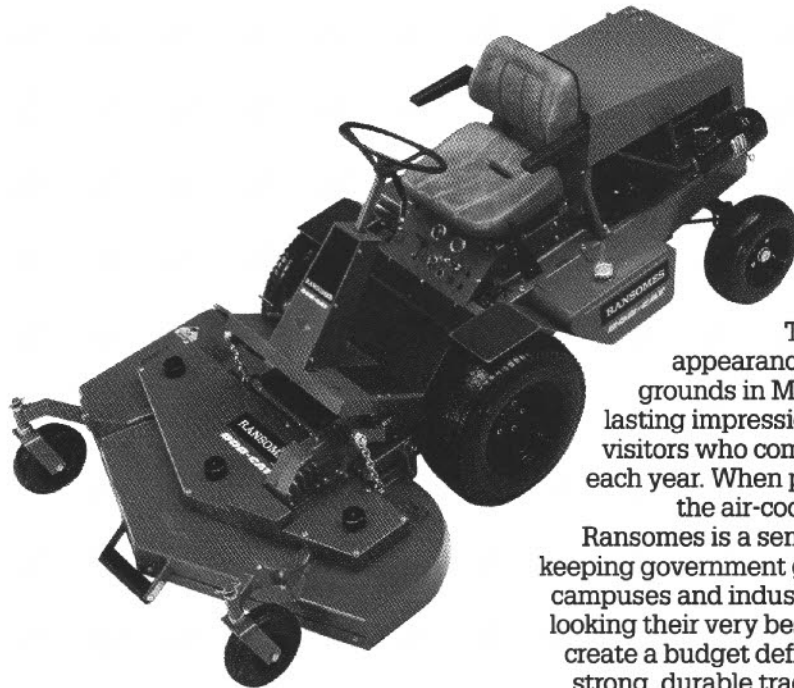
Included in the folder is a cover letter from Bill Roberts, WGCSA President, introducing the award winning newsletter. What better way to enhance your professional image than to purchase a collection with the introductory letter and give it to your greens chairman, club president, or other club official? "The Grass Roots" tells what we are and who we are better than any spoken word. New members: Here's a chance to get issues you may have missed. The package is available from Rod Johnson.

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RANSOMES

The grass machine.



WE'LL MISS YOU, JIM

By Michael Lee

Over a period of many years, a common and well established chain has linked numerous Wisconsin golf course superintendents. Through many years of hard work and dedication James R. Love, professor of soil science at the UW—Madison, has served to hardened and extend the links of the chain. For those who know him, it is easy to judge that Dr. Love is a man who exhibits a strong character, excellence in teaching and dedication to helping students.

Dr. Love is a man of principles, a man who believes in working hard at what ever you do. He strongly values strict discipline and fairness. With this, he uniquely blends compassion and friendliness. Dr. Love always makes an effort to know anyone he meets. He is very modest, certainly not the type of professor who holds a halo over his head. Most will agree Dr. Love is also a realistic person. In his office, taped to his filing cabinet reads the following:

PRESS ON

Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; Nothing is more common than unsuccessful men without talent. A genius will not; Unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education alone will not; The world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.

It is fortunate that a person with so much character, also teaches. Dr. Love has been teaching the same course for over thirty years. Yet, he never lectures like a redundant, well-worn record. Instead, he has finely tuned his lectures. He has the ability to describe every point, concept or theory several different ways. Dr. Love has the capacity to take a potentially boring subject and turn it into an interesting and useful fifty minute lecture. Dr. Love works hard at teaching. He covers three lectures a week plus lab and discussion sections. As hard

as Dr. Love works, he expects his students to work twice as hard. For those students who are intimidated by the enormous work load he imposes, it is ironic that this man's last name is Love. For the other students, it is not ironic. They see him as a man who loves to teach. Dr. Love does not limit himself to excellent teaching.

Dr. Love's devotion to helping students outside of class is not only unbelievable, it is matchless. What other professor has the ability to find employment for nearly all of his advisees over the past 25 years? What other professor has the ability to find scholarships for nearly all of his students? What other professor would drive out on his personal time to where one of his students works to academically advise him? In class, Dr. Love's personalization is no different. He has the uncanny ability to remember just how well each of his students is doing in class. Receiving a low grade on an exam is your ticket to a very personal and lengthy conference. On the other hand, at times when his students want to hear it the

most he says, "You know, they have never correlated grade point with success in life."

Dr. Love exhibits a pronounced character, professionalism in teaching, and personalization with students. Long after Dr. Love has retired, his chains of students will continue to deeply appreciate the education and personal devotion he has given each of them.

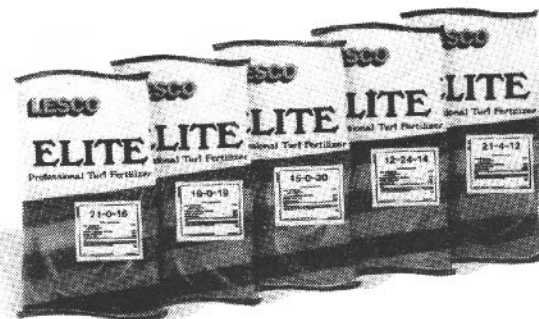
Editor's Note: The above remarks were presented at Jim Love's retirement banquet on May 18, 1986 by Michael Lee. Michael is a senior at the University of Wisconsin—Madison majoring in Soil Science with a specialization in Turf and Grounds Management. His work experience started in 1980 at Blackhawk Country Club and lasted until 1985 when he worked at Cherokee Country Club. He is currently working as a Field Technician for Dr. Gayle Worf of the Plant Pathology Department at the UW—Madison.

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FIELD DEMONSTRATION

YOU'RE GOING TO LIKE THIS MACHINE!

By Monroe S. Miller

Ever since I returned from the GCSAA Conference in San Francisco I've hounded Ed Devinger and Steve Barritt for a demonstration of Toro's Greens Aerator. The company was cautious in their release of it — I watched them being built in Tomah in early May — to be certain it was ready for the field. Well, we got our chance in June and it was well worth the wait.

I should point out that I've no intention of using it on putting greens. The Ryan Greensaire remains, for me, the machine for that application. The Toro, however, is what I've been waiting for to use on tees and fairways. What do I like about it, after a field demonstration? Principally, it offers the following advantages for me:

1. Speed. Stand back or it will run you over. The machine moves at a relatively brisk pace. Toro personnel talk about an operating speed twice that of a Greensaire. They do not exaggerate. We started the Toro on the south side of our 7th fairway at the same exact time the Ryan started. We stopped the Ryan at the instant the Toro reached the north side. In the time the Toro travelled the 98 feet of width of the fairway the Ryan (a 1985 model) had covered 55 feet — close enough to twice to suit me.

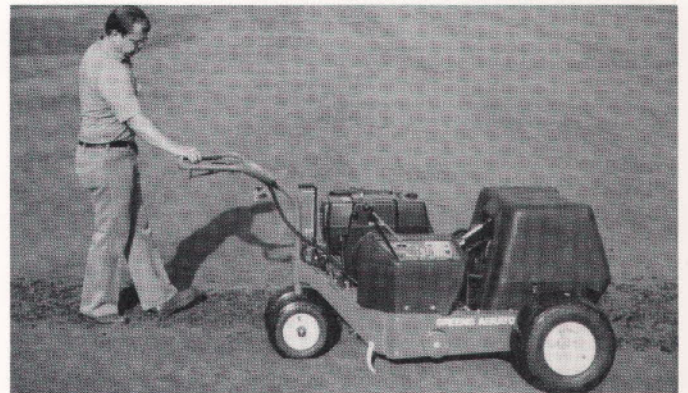
2. Soil quantity removed. Both machines were fitted with 5/8" tines. We measured off 4 square feet behind each machine, harvested the cores and weighed them. Although it is a crude experiment, there is value in the result. The weight of the cores pulled by the Ryan was four pounds, that of the Toro harvest was three pounds. Steve Barritt informed me that a 3/4" tine will soon be available for the Toro and my hunch is that they will bring up a quantity of soil equal to that of the Ryan with 5/8" tines. By the way, if you decide to buy a Toro, make sure they give you hardened tines — we broke a few in the hour or so we ran the machine.

3. Simplicity. The machine has a lot of features that make it simple for a mechanic to work on and simple for an operator to use. The tines are quick and easy to change. The entire coring head can be removed in less than ten minutes (actually closer to five minutes). It has an electric starter. All operator controls are close together and easy to get at. A really excellent feature, in my mind, is a reverse gear. The power plant is a 16 horsepower Kohler cast iron block engine.

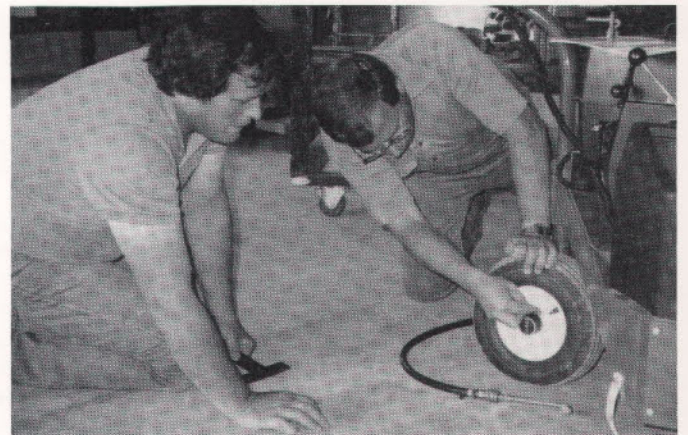
A lot of the conversations I've been in since seeing the unit in San Francisco centered on the elliptical hole versus a perfect circle coring hole, especially for putting green application. In our trial the hole was somewhat elliptical but not greatly so. It could be that the higher height of cut on fairway turf disguised this somewhat, so no judgement can be made. We did, however, measure coring depths dozens of times, and the Toro depth of penetration was almost always an inch or slightly more deep than the Greensaire.



Dave Noltner, Mechanical Assistant at Blackhawk Country Club, was impressed by the ease of operation and speed of the Toro Greens Aerator.



Steve Barritt, veteran sales engineer for Reinders, demonstrated the Toro Greens Aerator on Blackhawk C.C.'s 7th fairway.

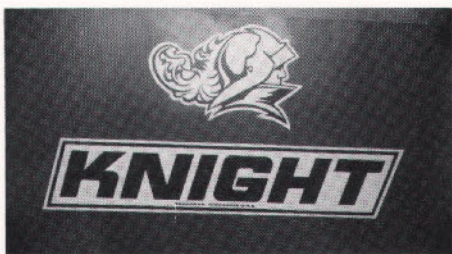


Dave Noltner and Steve Barritt leveling the aerator by adjusting the tire pressure.

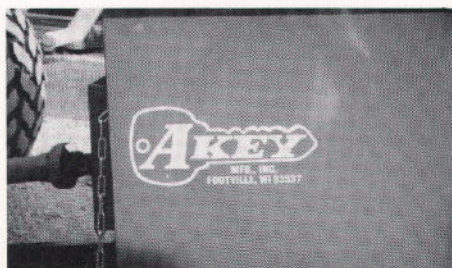
I like the machine a great deal and think it would be an extremely valuable addition(s) when aerifying our fairways and tees. The price of the Toro Greens Aerator is about \$8500.

I hope our Board of Directors approves the purchase of a pair. We could use them.

RATIONS — 1986



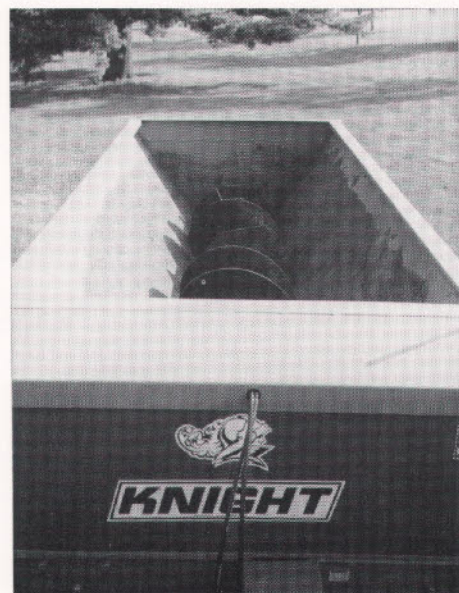
The Knight slinger spreader and . . .



the Akey spreader are both manufactured here in Wisconsin!



The Knight spreader is an extremely well-built and heavy duty machine. The flail bars you see at the delivery chute each weighs 10 pounds.



The feed auger on the Knight spread is made from 1/4" steel!

GETTING RID OF FAIRWAY CLIPPINGS: NEW APPLICATION OF AN OLD CONCEPT

By Randy Smith

My reason for writing this article is twofold. First, I would like to acknowledge several firms who assisted us during a recent American Junior Golf Association tournament at Nakoma Golf Club. Four days of junior competition representing 20 states along with our membership following them each day left almost no daylight hours for our maintenance staff to complete our work. We, therefore, made plans to accomplish the necessary tasks with many additional units. Five generous staff members from Blackhawk Country Club agreed to supplement our own staff in the operation of the extra equipment.

Those companies offering equipment were Hanley's of Sun Prairie with Ransomes, Farmers Implement Store of Madison with John Deere, Reinders Brothers of Elm Grove with Toro, and Wisconsin Turf of Janesville with Jacobsen. Thanks to them for making these seemingly insurmountable tasks easier.

My second reason for writing is to again thank Farmers Implement and Hanley's for working with us on what we feel can be a satisfactory alternative to the disposal of clippings from 15 to 30 acres of fairway turf.

Clippings have been collected for years on our greens and tees and the employees were instructed to hand "sling" those clippings into the rough. As play increased in the late '70's, we began triplex mowing our Par 3 fairways with a greens mower to supple-

ment the 9-gang fairway mower. At times we collected the clippings, particularly when the grass was wet with dew. Since the volume of the clippings was too great to disperse in the roughs, we hauled them back to our shop area. This procedure would come to an abrupt halt by mid-summer due to the strong aroma which became unbearable to all of us and which promoted accusations from our golfers that we are operating a "slaughter house!"

As we began to cut more and more of our fairways with triplexes and collect clippings regularly from 1/3 to 1/2 of our fairway area, we found it necessary to rent large 20 or 30 cubic yard dumpsters every three weeks at a cost of more than \$200 each time. After each three weeks of grass decay, the tractor operator and sanitation service driver were nearly overcome with fumes. About 2 1/2 years ago we tried to solve this problem by checking into the use of manure spreaders for this problem. By this season we had several units to observe over a period of time with the comments and observations of several persons on my staff.

Our observations were as follows:

1. The cost range of the various spreaders was from the mid-\$2,000 up to \$6,000. All units were P.T.O. drive.

2. The "A" machine is a fairly small unit and delivers grass in a narrow swath, approximately the width of the spreader. A pan modification under the beaters appears to be useful to lessen clumps from occurring behind the spreader. We found that pulling a

KEY	UNIT	MANUFACTURER	DISTRIBUTOR	CAPACITY	
				Bu.	Cu. Ft.
A	Model 50	Akey	Farmers Implement of Madison	50	62.5
B	Model 90	Akey	Farmers Implement of Madison	90	112.5
C	Model 213	New Holland	Hanley's of Sun Prairie	100	122
D	Model 912	Knight	Hanley's of Sun Prairie	190	238

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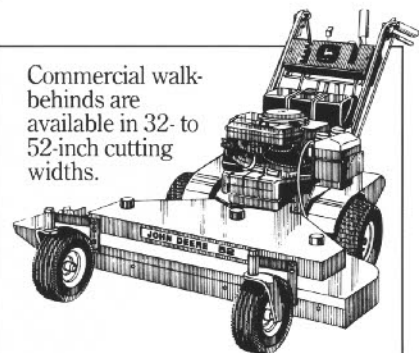


Backpack power blowers can clean leaves off a green in minutes.

Trim trees or clean up storm damage with a smooth-running John Deere chain saw.

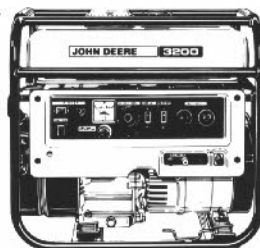


Commercial walk-behinds are available in 32- to 52-inch cutting widths.

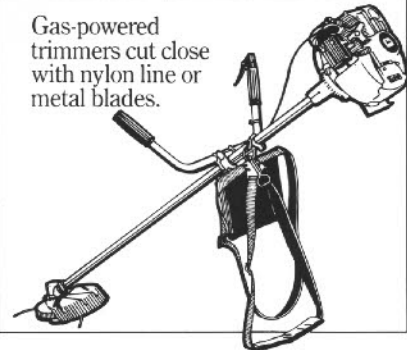


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(Continued from page 7)

heavy log chain hooked across the rear of the spreader helped disperse the short fairway clippings to a very tolerable and playable level.

3. The "B" unit is slightly larger, but still could have higher side walls installed to increase its capacity even more. We found that the log chain was also useful with this unit as was the pan modification under the beaters.

4. Both "A" and "B" machines have a baffle or controllable endgate to help regulate the outflow of heaped clippings as they near the beaters. A hydraulic modification may be desirable to control the baffle, but it is acceptable as it presently exists.

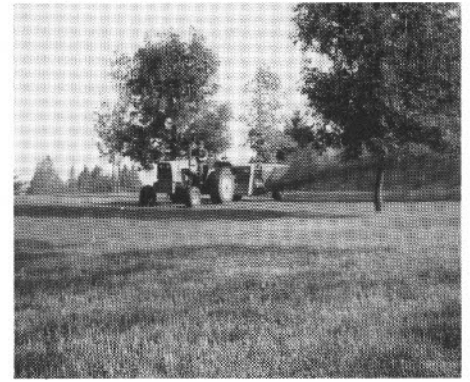
5. The "C" unit is in the middle of the price range with a little more capacity. It empties more rapidly than either "A" or "B". The chain drag was also found to be useful. A wider swath of clippings from the beaters was a plus, but the lack of a baffle to help even the flow of heaped clippings leaves room for modification. A different beater is apparently available for an even wider dispersion. A pan under the beaters was useful in lessening clumps.

6. The "D" machine is by far the most expensive of those we used, but it is also a very heavy duty unit. It has a side delivery of clippings rather than the rear delivery of the other units we looked at. We found the dispersion of clippings some 40' wide and quite uniform. They were unnoticeable in the 2" — 3" bluegrass rough, even without the use of a drag. The safety of this unit is questionable and requires close supervision around people and buildings due to its method of dispersion. Additional benefits of this unit may include using it for a shredder of such materials as sand trap edgings, old sod, soil without stones, and so on. It has been suggested by one Superintendent that it may be a candidate for topdressing fairways although we did not try it for that purpose. A hydraulic valve on the tractor is necessary to operate this unit, and this may be a problem with many turf tractors.

7. In using all of these machines we have not discovered noticeable paths of thatch or loose clipping buildup nor the fertility striping that we thought we might see. Units "A" and "B" may have to be used somewhat like we use drop spreaders to prevent striping, especially if the nutrient content of the clippings is fairly high. A slight hint of this striping was observed in an unfertilized rough where only a couple of



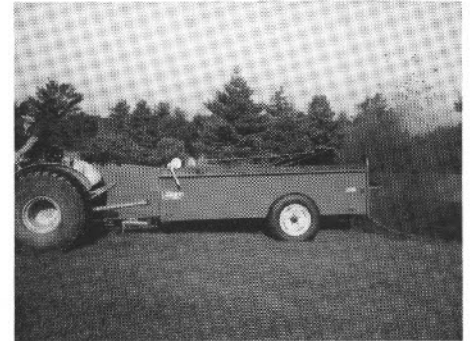
Close-up view of clipping distribution of the Knight slinger.



The distribution pattern of the Knight spreader is quite even.



The Akey models both do a very acceptable job of dispersing fairway clippings.



Notice the long chain drag behind the Akey Model 90.

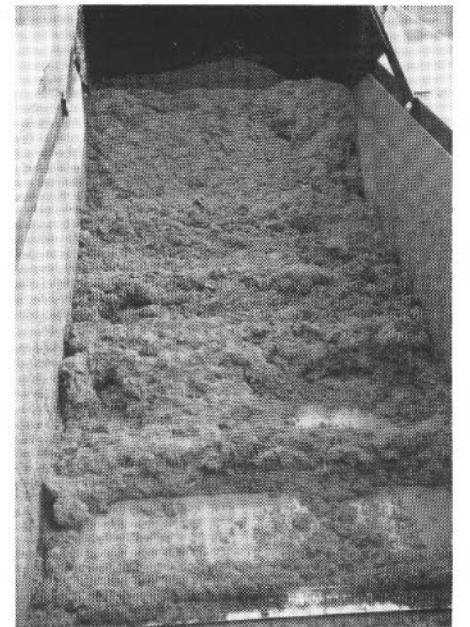
passes were made several feet apart and only one time this summer.

8. On roughs receiving clippings regularly (close to the shop, in our case) we have noticed thicker and greener turfgrass throughout the summer in comparison to roughs not receiving clippings. In this respect, we feel that we can provide a healthier rough by utilizing some of our own by-products. The 2" — 3" roughs should provide good competition to *Poa annua*. Also, it has been pointed to me by several people that the immature seeds that we are collecting from our fairways do not germinate anyway.

9. Loading procedures for all machines appear to be desirable from a loading dock, allowing direct dumping from a Toro Rac-O-Vac in our case. Much hand labor with silage forks and shovels is eliminated and the time that the clippings are piled in the rough is much less with the mechanical pickup. The crew likes the mechanical method much better!

10. In all cases, it appears to be desirable to spread the clippings the same day that they are collected, assuming odor and clumping are of concern.

We are excited about the potential that this method of clipping disposal



The chute on the Akey spreaders can be opened or closed as required to even flow of grass to the beaters.

has as long as we are going to continue the process on this many acres. Although our members have been inquisitive, we have had no negative comments from them thus far regarding the equipment for the quality and appearance of the roughs.



THE SUPERINTENDENT'S LIBRARY: The Third Shelf

By Michael Semler



In my first two articles concerning the Superintendent's Library, I listed what I felt were some of the most important and some of the better books written concerning golf course and turf management. I hope in this third and final article to give you some pertinent books to the world of golf, but at the same time give some which may read more like novels than textbooks.

To be certain, the first two lists of books were the most important in a technical sense. However, like any other profession, we must have an understanding of more than just the technical aspects. An understanding of some of the ideas and the history of the game is sometimes helpful, if not entertaining.

Where to begin, or end, as the case may be, is difficult. It would appear that many of those who have ever picked up a golf club or walked on a golf course have written about it. What follows may be some of the better ones written.

One of the first books I felt should be included on the third shelf was:

The Golf Course
Authors, Cornish and Whitten
1981 Cost \$35.00

It is one of the best books giving golf course design its due. This book goes through the history and evolution of the golf course and gives some of the great, or better known, courses and shows how they were designed and constructed. There are many color, and black and white photographs which makes this book extremely interesting.

Another book which deals with some of the more well known and well designed courses is:

The World Atlas of Golf
Authors, Ward-Thomas et. al.
1980 Cost \$15.00

This book also lists some of the best courses around and gives the layout and strategies for playing them.

A book which the GCSAA put out in a limited edition and is a biography of one of golfs' wiser and more experienced golf superintendents is:

The Life of Old Tom Morris
Author, W. W. Tulloch
Cost \$50.00

A biography of one of golfs' past leaders with some good historical information on St. Andrews and some of the celebrities who have played there. A worthy addition to our library and should provide us with some entertaining reading.

The next book was written by one of the best golfers (in this author's opinion) in the history of the game. The book:

Golf My Way
Author, Jack Niclaus
1976 Cost \$10.00

could prove to be valuable to your golf game, providing

you want to improve. The book goes into great detail about instructions for a good golf swing, as well as some good points on golf strategy.

The following two books were also written by well known golfers. However, these are on a very light hearted note and should read like novels. They are:

Confessions of a Hooker
Author, Bob Hope
1985 Cost \$18.00

Snake in the Sandtrap
Authors, Lee Trevino & Sam Blair
1985 Cost \$14.00

They provide some good detail on their lifetime love affair with golf and some of the more humorous situations and personalities they have dealt with.

Along the same lines as the previous two books, the following one:

Following Through
Author, Herbert Warren-Wind
1985 Cost \$20.00

is a compilation of his previously published newspaper columns. This book includes some of his best articles and editorials, and provides some enlightenment into the nature of the game, its players and the golf course they play on. I found it to be quite interesting and at times, critical of the golf world.

In a past article of mine, I gave the book "The Rules of Golf" by the USGA, as a priority. It is obviously essential to us, however, it is quite dry and short on detail. The following book:

The New Rules of Golf
Authors, Tom Watson & Frank Hannigan
1984 Cost \$15.00

is also an excellent manual of rules. But this one gives in-depth interpretations, some good pictures and does an overall better job of explaining and discussing golf rules. It therefore may be a preference to you and is worthy of further consideration.

The United Kingdom is claimed to be the birthplace of golf. The game itself and the golf courses are certainly a bit different from the American style golf. Therefore, I would also include the book:

Golf In Britain
Author, Geoffrey Cousins
1975 Cost \$18.00

for our further education on the British perspective of golf. This one gives some insights into the nature of golf, insights into the game and a bit of history. It is certainly a worthy companion for our library.

The final book which I will recommend for our library is:
Soils of Wisconsin
Author, Francis Hole
1976 \$40.00

The only way to describe this book is to say, whatever you