



How About A Tee Time?

By Rob Schultz

Air traffic controllers complain that they have the most stressful job in the world. They get arguments from stock-brokers, doctors, nurses, dentists and just about every profession known to man. Even sportswriters.

But there aren't any lobbyists around who can put in a good word for the golf course superintendents. A stressful job? You bet.

Golf course superintendents hear it from everybody who has ever picked up a golf club. They even hear it from those who don't golf.

The rough is too long, the rough isn't long enough; the greens are too slow, the greens are too fast. Where'd that weed come from on the 14th fairway? Isn't there something you can do about that? During a summer drought, they ask why the course is drying out. During the monsoons, they ask if you've watered too much. Then there's the Environmental Protection Agency knocking on your door every time you fertilize. The list goes on and on.

And now, I'm going to add one more to the list. Sorry guys, but some of you don't golf and I think that's a mistake.

I can understand why some golf course superintendents don't golf. After all, you spend 14 hours, seven days a week, working at the place and you don't want to spend any more time there playing a game you probably don't enjoy. There are families to attend to, a car that needs washing and, God forbid, your own lawn that needs work.

But whenever possible, I think it's a good idea to pick up some clubs and tour the facility you work so hard to maintain. It gives you a different perspective on just what needs to be done.

It also will make you seem more knowledgeable in discussions with club members who complain about something on the course. You can talk in agronomical terms until you're blue in the face, but that's just greek to most pros and members. When you can talk their own language and relate to their

problems, that's when it's easier to get your point across.

Not long ago, I mentioned something in a column in my newspaper about how poorly the cups were cut and replaced at a public golf course I sometimes play. Unfortunately, it ruffled the feathers of the course's golf course superintendent. It certainly wasn't all his fault. The course is one of the busiest in the state and gets abused like no other.

Still, if he had played the course once in awhile, he might have been more sympathetic to the cause. There are few things more frustrating than to watch a putt head straight for the hole, but then veer off after it bounces over an old, badly replaced cup. I only wrote the column because I had received several letters and phone calls from golfers complaining about it.

Golf course superintendents can argue that they don't have to play golf to understand how to cut a cup, cut the greens, grow roughs, etc. That's true, but golf is a game of subtleties and some of those subtleties can be picked up only when you golf.

Another argument can be made that picking up the subtleties is the job of the club pro. He then can discuss them with the superintendent. That's true, too. But I can't think of a better way to get along with your club pro than to play a round of golf with him once in awhile.

Throughout the round, you can go over the course hole-by-hole and mutually decide what needs to be worked on or left alone. The end result will make the pro happy; it will make you happy. I talked to one Madison pro who said the key to a successful relationship between a pro and superintendent of greens is communication. I can't think of a better way to communicate than to play golf with him. Plus, you'll probably get some needed tips on how to improve your game.

The only trouble with my argument

is when the golf pro at your club doesn't play golf. It's an all-too-common occurrence. When that happens, then I think it's a must for the golf course superintendent to play.

Whether a golf course superintendent should play golf is an argument that will probably go on forever. It's not much different than the argument pro athletes get into with sportswriters.

"Didn't you ever play pro football?" many football players ask.

"Nope," says the sportswriter.

"Then how can you possibly write about what we're doing?" they reply.

It doesn't take full knowledge of all the X's and O's to understand what they're doing, but athletes still have a point. And so do those who ask golf course superintendents to golf.

It may not help — especially if you have a 24 handicap — but it certainly won't hurt.

Now, if you can only find the time.

**BE SURE TO
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WGCSA
MEETING
AND
HEAR OUR
GUEST
SPEAKER,
ROB SCHULTZ.**

**September 14, 1987
Mascoutin Country Club
Berlin, Wisconsin**



THE FORGOTTEN HOLIDAYS: *Labor Day*

By Monroe S. Miller

Finally! Labor Day is almost here. We are close to the time when Golf Course Superintendents can begin living a more normal life and do some relaxing as others have done all summer long. The days are shorter, the nights are cooler and the countryside is full of signs of an abundant fall harvest. Labor Day lifts the spirits of all of us, I'm certain.

Although we cannot observe this holiday as most others in our society—celebrating the glory of our work by not working—it is a time when we should take some time to sit back and reflect on how lucky we really are. Our profession is one of those that offers very visible evidence of one's efforts and hard work. I think that is one of the most powerful appeals of golf course management as a career.

One of the finest tributes to those like us who labor for their daily bread can be found in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, "The Village Blacksmith". Most everyone has read these wonderful verses sometime during his school years. The tribute reads:

*"His brow is wet with honest sweat,
He earns what e'er he can,
He looks the whole world in the face,
For he owes not any man."*

My guess is that the last line may not be quite true for most of us (who owns their house, free and clear?!) and we surely are indebted in many ways to those around us. But this old New England poet was right on the mark in expressing how important it is to do the most with our opportunities. Labor Day is a time for us to remind ourselves of this.

Americans probably have a more positive attitude toward work than those in most other countries. Our "Protestant work ethic" (a misnomer because Catholics, Jews and other religious groups have the same attitude) has made work a virtue as well as a necessity for the entire

history of our country. We are indeed a nation of workers. We do not have a significant leisure class nor do we have any nobility. Those who govern our country are chosen from our midst and are expected to put forth the same efforts the rest of us do. In our country it is not so much who has the most important job, but rather how one faces the responsibility, opportunity and discouragement in his chosen work. We feel that work is good for us, that it is more important than entertainment and that able-bodied people should spend most of their time performing some kind of constructive task. John Burroughs, another wise old New Englander, probably said it best when he wrote, "An idle man is a wretched man." A recent survey reported that 70% of us believe it would be a bad thing to "decrease the importance of work in our lives". Most of us seem to agree with Mr. Burroughs.

I sincerely believe that Golf Courses Managers exemplify the American work ethic as well, if not better, than any group in our country. Most of us come from the working middle class, born to parents who subscribe to the lessons that we should give an honest day of labor for an honest day of pay. I know of not one of my colleagues who had his needs handed to him on a silver tray. It seems to me that our profession itself is a perfect one to show the visible fruits of physical and mental labor. Accomplishments can be seen and enjoyed, as are the results of mediocre and half-hearted efforts. We are known for our hard work and innovativeness, and we can count among our own some outstanding entrepreneurs. Our work has most certainly been an important contribution to our society, not only by providing beautiful "patches of green" for citizen enjoyment, but for the lessons taught to new and young employees. Our summertime staffs are most frequently filled with high school and college age people. My experience has been that many arrive at our golf course with something less than a committed work ethic. Most never had the opportunity to learn the lessons of hard labor. Others came from families of considerable means where all of their needs were provided, usually to an excess. Still more were simply too young to have had time to develop a need for the satisfaction hard work gives one. The rewarding feature of surrounding myself with employees like these has been watching them acquire the kind of attitude toward work that we celebrate on Labor Day. It is a pleasure to have them come back, as they've gone down so many different paths of life, and express gratitude for what they learned in an environment that demanded long hours of hard work. They are testimony that



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labor is important for what it does for those who invest their lives in it.

Although people involved in the labor movement in our country would take exception, I strongly believe that Labor Day is a generic celebration of work. I would argue that free trade unions have made important contributions to our society, but they have passed their zenith and are in need of new attitudes and goals. They also need a commitment from the rank and file to free themselves of corruption and racketeering. For them to claim this holiday as theirs is selfish. I cannot hear them.

I've a friend who, surprisingly, says that Labor Day is his favorite holiday. He likes it because it is the only national holiday that doesn't expect anything from him. It's a three day weekend where he can goof off without feeling guilty or offering apologies. He likes it because he doesn't have to be with relatives. He doesn't have to spend any extra money. There are no presents to buy. He doesn't have to get dressed up. It is magnificent to him because of its simplicity—a day that he doesn't have to go to work. I understand where he's coming from, but I still think we should make a little more of it than that!

I'm going to try to enjoy this Labor Day more than I have in the past, doing some snoozing and thinking about autumn. At the same time I'll express thanks that I'm in this profession. I am a happy person who is happy with his work.

How about you?

Wisconsin GCSA Seeks 1988 Monthly Meeting Sites

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association, through its Golf and Arrangements Committee, is in the process of establishing a tentative monthly meeting schedule for the next year, 1988. It is, once again, our goal to arrange a geographically balanced schedule with a variety of golf courses for all WGCSA members to enjoy. If you are interested in offering your time and your club or facility for such an event; complete, clip and return the form below to:

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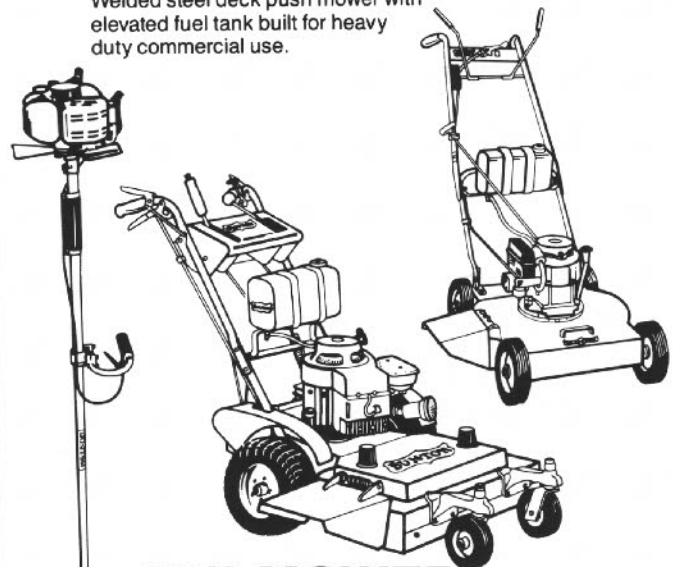
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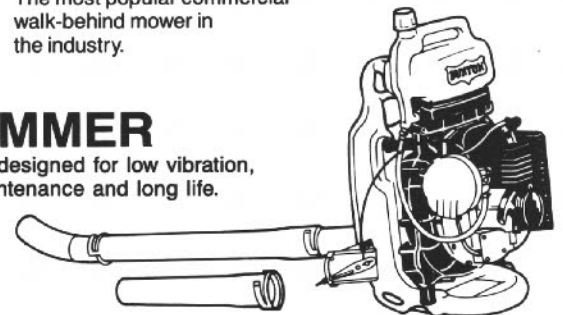
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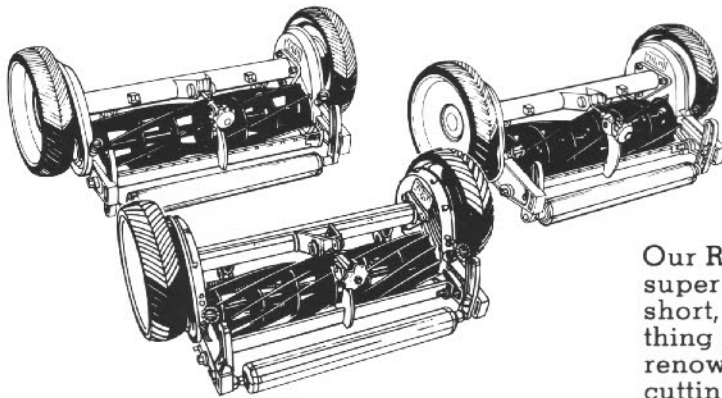
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Jacobsen Hosts 20th Annual College Student Seminar

Thirty-six top turf students from colleges and universities throughout the U.S. and Canada attended the 20th annual College Student Seminar at Jacobsen Division of Textron Inc.'s headquarters in Racine May 31 - June 3. The students participating in the seminar were nominated by their professors.

Highlights of the seminar included a half-day open panel discussion where superintendents from public, private and corporate golf courses fielded students' questions on everything from solutions to specific turf problems to the realities of employment as a golf course superintendent.

Quinton Johnson, superintendent at Brookhaven Country Club in Dallas, spoke to the students about career opportunities and overall operation of corporate golf syndicates.

Dennis "Skip" Wilms, superintendent at Racine Country Club, hosted an equipment field day and tour of the grounds and maintenance area at his course. He discussed the importance of proper equipment maintenance and the need for flexible employee scheduling.

A presentation on private golf club operation was given by Danny Quast, superintendent at Milwaukee Country Club. He outlined the effective use of gabions to control streambank erosion, and emphasized the importance of budgeting and selecting key personnel.

The seminar included a visit to Milwaukee County Stadium, where grounds supervisor Harry Gill explained his turf management program and how he copes with problems confronting a multi-use stadium. He discussed use of sand slits for drainage, and how he was able to recover quickly from last year's flood that put the entire field under water for two days.

Other sessions during Jacobsen's College Student Seminar covered equipment life value analysis, preventive maintenance, leasing and financing programs, engineering and manufacturing strategies, and a tour of Jacobsen's factory and CAD-CAM area.

Additional guest speakers at the seminar included Monroe Miller, superintendent at Blackhawk Country Club; Domenick Ventura, superintendent of the Kenosha Country park system; and Woody Voight, superintendent of the Saukville County park system.



Monroe Miller, superintendent at Blackhawk Country Club answers a student's question during a half-day open panel discussion that was part of Jacobsen's 20th annual College Student Seminar. Thirty-six top turf students from across the U.S. and Canada attended the seminar.



At an equipment field day during Jacobsen's 20th annual College Student Seminar, Michael Lee, a turf student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, gets a short course on operating a Jacobsen G4x4 four-wheel-drive turf tractor with fine-cut flail from John Oldenburg, Jacobsen's Manager of Customer Relations. Thomas North, a student at the University of Georgia, looks on from the right.

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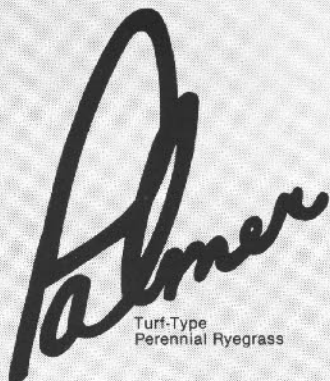
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Manhattan II	5.6	Delray	5.2
Blazer	5.6	Omega	5.1
All Star	5.6	Elka	5.1
Ranger	5.6	Manhattan	5.1
Birdie II	5.5	Citation	5.0
Fiesta	5.5	Linn	3.4
Pennant	5.5		

It's no wonder courses like Bay Hill in Florida, Shinnecock in New York, PGA West in California and Sahara in Nevada are only a few of those that are demanding the excellent performance of Palmer.

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PYTHIUM PACKS A PUNCH

By Dr. Gayle L. Worf

I'm writing this article on the first really cool day we've had in the month of July. Yesterday I heard the weatherman describe in some detail how the patterns had shifted to give us "St. Louis weather" this year. Few of us would disagree! It's no surprise that we are experiencing unusual outbreaks of Pythium on turf this year. Here are a few observations on the subject.

1. Outbreaks have occurred on many golf courses that have never known of it before. I recall riding on a Cushman with a superintendent one hot sultry morning last week, talking about his treatments and precautions. "I've treated my greens and tees with Subdue—it's just a precaution, because I've never seen a case of Pythium here in 20 years". You've probably guessed the next part of the story—before our ride was over, we had encountered several very active new pockets of Pythium getting started in his fairway. And before the next hour was over, the fairways were on their way to a treatment, this time with more urgency!

We've confirmed samples from as far north as Wausau. Probably no part of the state is immune from Pythium possibilities this year.

2. In spite of greater threat, relatively less damage has been reported this year than in our last serious "Pythium

year", which was in 1983. That year several courses suffered serious and lasting damage to greens, tees and fairways. Two reasons probably account for the difference: (1) superintendents are very alert to the threat, and have taken necessary precautions; (2) the new, longer lasting fungicides—Aliette, Banol and Metalaxyl (Subdue and other formulations)—are performing very well! We've not encountered a bona fide report of failure yet with these compounds. Two suspected situations where resistance was thought to have been encountered turned out to be something else. So that is very good news for Wisconsin golfers, probably one that most don't know anything about. But we need to be alert to such possibilities. I'd appreciate knowing of any situations where "resistance" problems are encountered, either with Pythium or other diseases.

There are other products that are still worthwhile to remember—chloroneb, ethazol and mancozeb. Resistance isn't as likely to occur with these, but of course they don't last for more than two or three days without another application. In most years, I suspect these are as useful to us as the first group, because we don't have such sustained periods of Pythium weather. But not this year!

3. Several have asked whether the

systemics are as effective as the "contacts" for stopping an active infection. While we've tried for several years to examine this question, we still don't have personal experience with it on Pythium. But I would expect them to work equally well. Most systemics also have very good "contact activity" and, contrary to some thinking, they don't have to get into the plant in order to do their job.

4. Symptoms caused by Pythium can be somewhat variable. Often called "cottony blight", the disease nevertheless often strikes without any evidence of a cobwebbing surface growth, or "shaking its rattle", like a rattlesnake. And though it's much more likely to occur in lower areas and taller turf first, it doesn't always "run", or trail along mower wheels or drainage channels. It can even mimic "patch diseases" on occasion, causing distinct rings or circles of dead turf, with the center more or less unaffected. The most dependable early symptoms I've seen include (1) sudden and severe attack on the foliage; (2) roots relatively unaffected, at least early in the attack; (3) affected tissue is water-soaked and dark and leaves tend to mat or stick when rubbed together. These symptoms could fit for Rhizoctonia brown patch, too, and on two occasions this year we've confirmed both diseases present and active at the same time. But usually brown patch is less damaging to all of the turf in the attacking area, that is, it tends to run under the more upright blades of grass, and becomes more damaging as it grows outward.

From what I've seen on some television turf this summer, other areas have not fared as well, or managed as properly, as Wisconsin courses in 1987. Let's keep it that way!

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40	0.42	3.4
50	0.30	28.0
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LIFE IN THE "PAST" LANE

Do you recognize these two former WGCSA members?

This photo, circa 1965, was taken at a University of Wisconsin-Madison Turf Conference held at the Wisconsin Center in Madison. If you don't recognize these young men, here are some clues:

1. The man on the left is a former WGCSA president; the man on the right was editor of a GRASS ROOTS forerunner "SUPER TALK" and a former WGCSA director.

2. Both were students of Prof. Jim Love.

3. While in Wisconsin, the man on the left was GCS at Maple Bluff Country Club; the man on the right was GCS at the Hayward Golf Club, the Lawsonia Golf Club and the Nakoma Golf Club (not all at once).

4. The man on the left moved from Wisconsin to Pebble Beach (and other Del Monte courses); the man on the right moved from Wisconsin to the Firestone Country Club.

Still don't know who they are? Roger Larson is on the left, Peter Miller is on the right.

TWENTY YEARS AGO. . .

Bits and pieces from "Notes" column, *WGCSA Super Talk* September and October 1967, Vol. 2, No. 6 and 7:

"Played a very interesting game and course at the August meeting. I have always enjoyed West Bend Country Club, but this is the first time I've been able to play it. A lot of hills and a tough course to walk, but a real pleasure to play.

Harry Gill, the host superintendent, had the course in excellent condition. We had a fine dinner and meeting following the golf game. Eighty played golf and 112 stayed for the dinner and meeting.

The business meeting was very short. Jim Latham, the chairman of the education committee would like to have the site information for the following year so he could better plan the program and inform the speakers. William

Here's Half of a Hat Collection!

I've been collecting things for as long as I can recall. Of possible meager interest to other Superintendents is a collection started 15 years ago (January 9, 1973 to be exact). It is a collection of hats.

Any collector must establish guidelines for his hobby of collecting. My self-imposed rules are simple:

1. All hats I collect are from equipment and product manufacturers (and distributors) involved in golf turf or agriculture.

2. They cannot be purchased. Many, many kind people have kept my collection in mind and made donations to it.

3. Trading is not only OK, it adds to the fun. This is a good way to use any duplicate items to broaden a collection.

My hat collection currently numbers between 400 and 500 hats (I only count them once a year). They are all new and in mint condition. Here are some of the facts:

1. The best hats are made by the Imperial Hat Company.

2. I have every hat Jacobsen has given at the GCSAA conferences since 1973 in Boston.

3. The 1973 Boston Jacobsen hat was the first one in my collection.

4. The most attractive hat is a LORSBAN for apples hat. It's a deep blue corduroy fabric with a bright red apple embroidered on it.

5. The most generous contributor over the years has been Harold Hilliard.

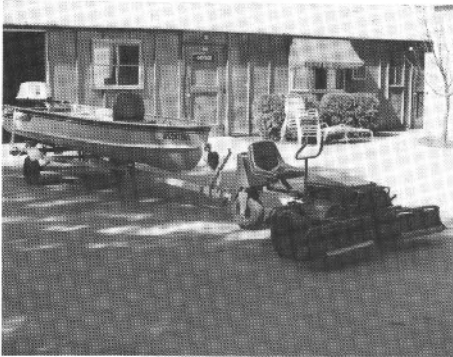
6. The most difficult hats to come by have been "Milorganite" and "Scotts". It was like pulling teeth to get one. Now Rod Johnson tells me Jim Spindler is handing out Milorganite hats by the gross.

7. There has been a general decline in the quality of hats over time. Nowadays too many are made from too much foam rubber, logos are screened instead of embroidered and fabric quality has declined. Also, too many are now coming from oriental countries.

This hobby has given me untold hours of fun and, in a way, it has tracked some of the changes in our business. My sincerest thanks to all of those who have generously contributed to this collection.



This is a photo of approximately one-half of M. Miller's golf turf and ag hat collection!



The Versatile Motor 180!

In a constant quest to maximize equipment use on our golf courses, one WGCSA Superintendent has found a new use for his Ransomes Motor 180. The problem of moving his boat to the lake adjacent to his golf course was solved by hitching it to a mower. Must be a sight to see a boat being towed across the golf course. How are the fish biting, T.H.?



The Bigger The Boy, The Bigger The Toy!

Tom Harrison loves equipment, including that which he buys for personal use. Finding no one on the streets of Madison he could out-drag, he stopped in at Blackhawk Country Club's maintenance shop looking for a victim for his bright red (is it a Toro?) Firebird. All he could find was an old Toro Series IV Tractor!

Sell reported that the bylaw booklets if approved could be sent out with the membership cards of next year.

Jim Holmes, the Midwest Agronomist for the USGA, was the speaker at our meeting and had interesting tidbits to say on a number of subjects. Jim felt that surface drainage, often overlooked, was very important, many times leading to winterkill and often failure during the summer. Cart paths are going to be a necessity for the simple reason carts and grass do not mix. Calcium arsenate will work as a Poa control but be sure and use it on well-drained areas. Jim thinks that some day slit trenches will replace tile in green construction.

We had at this meeting a distinguished guest. He is an old friend of ours, Roger Larson. Roger is in California and left two years ago to take over the new Robert Trent Jones designed course, Spyglass Hill. Since that time he has been promoted to manager of golf course operations for the Del Monte Corporation which owns Spyglass Hill, Pebble Beach, Peter Hay and Del Monte Country Club. Congratulations to a former Wisconsinite.

We have a joint meeting coming up with the Illinois group on the 8th of September, a Friday, before our meeting at Nakoma Golf Club. The joint meeting is at the Knollwood Country Club, which is between Waukegan and Chicago.

Our regular September meeting is at the Nakoma Golf Course in Madison, on the 11th of September. This will be a special type of meeting. The golf course will be closed to the members from 8:00 to 12:00 to allow free play by members of the WGCSA and their guests. At 12:00 we would like to open the course to our members and not have to mix in WGCSA people.

At 1:30 a tour will begin by way of tractor and trailer of the Nakoma golf course with commentary by the superintendent. At 3:00 we will board chartered buses and leave for the City of Madison's new 36-hole golf course. Here Irv Graf will handle the commentary on the golf course. Dinner will be served at the Nakoma Golf Course at 6:30 p.m. The educational program will consist of a picture tour of golf courses in the Madison area and commentary by their superintendents.

And from the October issue of that year:

"This will be very quick this month as it seems as though aerifying, a ridiculous growth of grass, pump problems, etc. have finally caught up with me.

The October 9 meeting is the annual meeting with the election of officers. Be sure and attend, as I am sure Walt's course (Wausau Country Club) will be in its usual beautiful shape, in a beautiful fall setting.

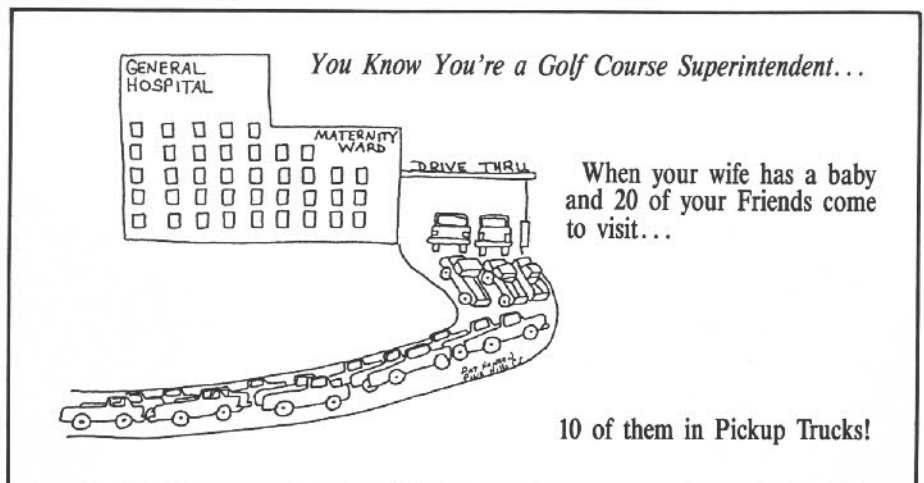
The December Symposium is coming up, December 13 and 14 at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee; subject: soil mixes. This is a must so mark the date on your calendar.

We had two good outings, one at Knollwood with the Chicago group and another at Nakoma. There were about 28 Wisconsin people at the Knollwood meeting with a total of 91 for golf and 131 for dinner. A very nice course and beautiful day. We also had a very good day at Nakoma, although the crowd was considerably less, 31 for golf and 61 for dinner.

I know that I have forgotten something, but it will just have to wait until next month. See you at Wausau."

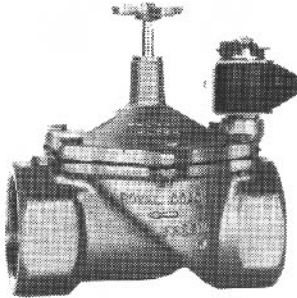
Peter F. Miller
Editor, WGCSA Super Talk

THE FUNNIES!

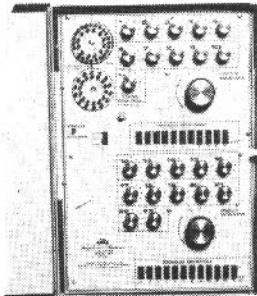


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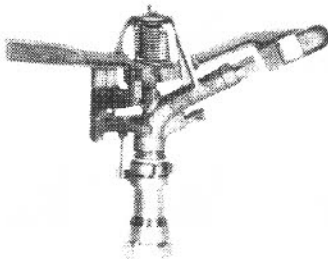
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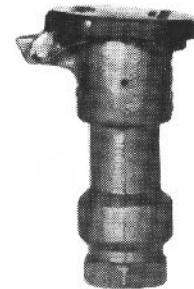
A large, stylized outline of a Royal Coach bucket, serving as a background for the central text.

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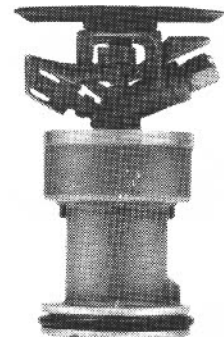
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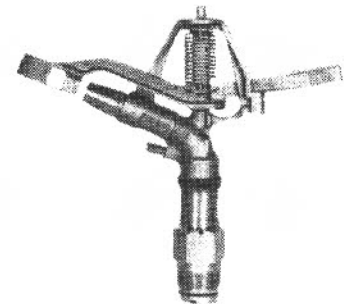
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