



WHO'S GOT ONE?

By Monroe S. Miller

It has hardly been a secret that Marc Davison is a smart and capable young man. A tour of the Blackwolf Run courses will confirm that.

Last January, lots of people recognized just how sharp Marc is during his lecture at the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Winter Conference. His subject was neither grass nor golf.

He talked about computers. The lecture was really well received and impressed nearly everybody lucky enough to hear it.

So good was it, in fact, that the reviews it received made it easy for me to convince him to write an article for *THE GRASS ROOTS*. It appeared in the last issue.

Marc's article got me to thinking and wondering how many Wisconsin golf course superintendents were making use of a computer in their work.

I have to, in a sense, because that is how our golf course gets a drink of water when it needs it. A few other uses have

come about as a result of my access to a machine.

This issue's SURVEY question was presented to as many members as I could get to at the April (Evergreen C.C.) meeting and at the May (C.C. of Beloit) meeting of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association.

The questions were simple: "Do you have a computer for work?" and "If you do, is it for your irrigation system or for other purposes?"

To the first question, twelve WGCSA members indicated they use a computer in golf course management. Six used their machines to operate the course irrigation system and the other six used their machines for "other" purposes.

Twenty-two WGCSA members did not have a computer at work. Most of those expressed little interest in obtaining one, either.

That might change, however, now that they've read Marc's article!



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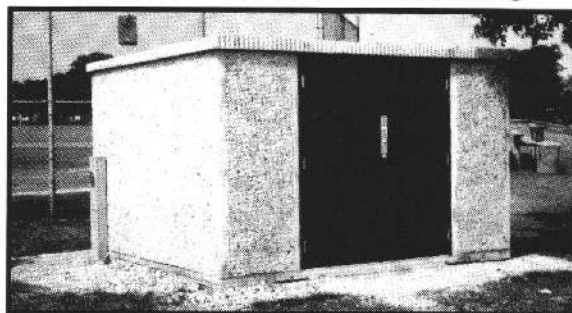
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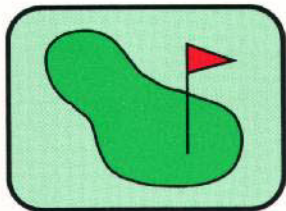
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BEWARE OF THE SUN

By Chad Eberhardt



Somewhere along the line it was decreed that a tanned Caucasian face is a healthy face.

But now we know that's not true.

Tanned skin is an abnormal condition, the body's defense against the sun's harmful ultraviolet light.

Yet we still ignore the painful messages the body attempts to send us.

Excessive exposure to sun radiation is a cancer risk of major degree.

You don't have to be an official sunbather to be at risk. By working long hours, year after year, out on the golf course, we rank near the top of high risk groups.

Since our occupation doesn't allow us to completely avoid direct sun exposure, the regular use of sunscreens or sunshades is a necessary step to counteract the adverse effect of sun damage.

You must constantly remind yourself that you are at risk to develop some form of skin cancer.

Early detection and removal is extremely important.

There are three types of sun related skin cancer. They are: Squamous cell carcinoma; Basal cell carcinoma; and Malignant melanoma.

Squamous cell carcinoma usually occurs on exposed parts in fair-skinned individuals who sunburn easily and tan poorly.

They tend to develop slowly in the course of a few months. A firm, fleshy, hard-surfaced lump develops. In some cases, it looks like a wart. In others, it looks like an ulcer.

The lower lip, the ears, and the hands are common sites.

Go to your physician immediately if you develop a lump that does not heal in two weeks.

Basal cell carcinoma is the most common of the three types of skin cancer.

These lesions grow slowly, attaining a size of 1-2cm in diameter only after a year's growth. Unlike the other two skin cancers, it does not spread to other parts of the body until it has been present for a long time.

A small, flesh-colored, or sometimes pearly-looking lump appears on the skin. A common site is the face. The lump grows steadily and within about six weeks becomes an ulcer which may bleed. Scabs may form, but the ulcer does not heal.

Malignant melanoma is the most serious of the three types.

It is the leading cause of death from skin disease. Melanoma is ranked as the ninth most common cancer.

Deaths from malignant melanoma are increasing at a faster rate than death from any other malignant tumor disease except lung cancer. There is a trend toward a younger age of incidence each year.

Unlike the other two, malignant melanomas quite often spread throughout the body.

The most common symptom is a change in appearance of an existing mole or development of a new mole.

There are four mole features to look for in recognizing malignant melanoma: 1. Asymmetric growth; 2. Black border that "spills" out beyond the edges; 3. Variations in color consisting of browns, blacks, blues, reds, and whites; 4. Size of the melanoma tends to be greater than 6mm before it is recognized.

Because malignant melanoma may spread quickly, early recognition, diagnosis, and treatment is essential. The longer melanoma goes untreated, the lower the survival rate.

The three sun related skin cancers have become relatively common. Not too long ago they were considered very deadly.

Today, as a result of increased public awareness of early detection, most skin cancers can be cured surgically.

Nonetheless, statistics still show skin cancer is on the rise. Since we are likely candidates, we cannot ignore even the slightest abnormality.

Make it a point to relay the importance of vigorous personal surveillance to all your employees.

You cannot paint an ugly enough picture!

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