

PART II

Maintenance in Today's Economy - J. R. Watson

Labor and crew relationships play a vital role in attacking the largest single budgetary item - labor; hence, offer an opportunity to attain maximum results with reduced expenditures. It is estimated that labor represents approximately 70 percent of the maintenance budgets on most golf course and other turf facilities. These labor costs have been at this percentage level for some thirty to forty years! The number of people employed has dropped from twenty-five to thirty to ten or twelve. Yet, today turf facilities have a better quality turf than at any time in the past - and they are used more heavily and more intensively.

Improved maintenance equipment has certainly been one of the reasons. Knowledge gleaned from research and from experience and disseminated by many individuals and organizations has contributed substantially. Turfgrass conferences as well as regional and national get-togethers have also resulted in substantial improvement in turf quality.

But if we are to maintain and improve the quality levels of our turf areas in the face of the current economic environment, it seems to me there is a need to carefully review all aspects of turfgrass care and management not only from a current operating standpoint but also from a very basic standpoint. In this respect I will briefly outline the basic cultural practices associated with turfgrass management.

Turfgrass production has been defined as the product of three major factors:

1. The grass adapted to the prevailing climate and environment and suitable for the play and use conditions for which the turf area is grown.
2. A soil to support the growth requirements of the grass and modified to meet the requirements of play and use. Modification of physical properties is desirable only on intensively used sites whereas chemical properties must be modified on all sites to balance the nutrient requirements of the grass against the inherent nutrient supplies of the soil.
3. Cultural practices.

CULTURAL PRACTICES

The cultural practices applied to turfgrass are the same irrespective of the type of turf area or its location. In point of fact from a basic standpoint they are the same as those applied to forage and pasture areas. They vary in the degree of intensity with which they are applied and in the timing of their application. For example, a putting green requires more frequent watering, mowing, fertilization and pest control measures than does a fairway, a park area or a cemetery plot; yet, all these cultural practices are necessary on each area. Similarly the timing of these cultural techniques on cool and warm season grass areas varies in accordance with the temperature response of each group of grass.

The cultural practices are presented in outline form with minimum comment.

1. Watering: How much, when and how applied.
2. Fertilization: Base application of phosphorous and potash needs on soil test, adjust pH, select and apply nitrogen based on the form (soluble or organic) and in accordance with growth and color needs.
3. Cultivation: Cultivate (cover, aerify, spike) to alleviate compacted or crusted soil condition, to improve water penetration and avoid runoff.

4. Mowing: Height of cut suitable for type of play and other use conditions, frequency - a function of height of cut in that the area should be mowed often enough so that no more than one third of leaf surface is removed at any one cutting. In today's economy, height of cut should be raised to maximum tolerated by players or users. Use sharp well adjusted equipment and study the sequence or routes of travel between cutting areas to arrive at maximum efficiency. Select large capacity equipment whenever possible.

5. Programs to control pests, thatch and soil compaction.

Pests

- a. Disease. Recognize that disease producing organisms are universally present, that turfgrass is a host for the organism and that where environmental conditions (particularly temperature and moisture) are optimum for growth of the organisms, disease will result. Identify the disease and select the appropriate fungicide.

- b. Insects. Identify nature of feeding habit - root or a leaf feeder. Know life cycle, choose the appropriate insecticide and apply it in accordance with the feeding habit of the insect.

- c. Weeds. Broadleaf versus grassy types. Choose the appropriate herbicide and apply it in accordance with manufacturers recommendations. Select pre or post emergence material based on type of weed, type of turf and time of year.

Thatch

Develop thatch prevention programs then eliminate the condition and control it by (a) mechanical means (verti-cutting lightly, combing, and good mowing practices), (b) chemical means (adjust fertilization practices) and (c) biological means (topdressing).

Soil Compaction

Cultivate when the grass is growing most actively, modify soil when possible - use material of a textural size that prevents compaction (sand), adjust traffic patterns, or, if a school ground or campus, place sidewalks of adequate capacity where students have developed paths.

SUMMARY

Maintenance of turfgrass in today's economy demands a careful review of all managerial responsibilities. Especially crucial are those items relating to budget control, personnel matters and turfgrass cultural practices. No organization should miss the opportunity to review and study these phases of their operation and all turfgrass managers should accept the challenge of producing comparable or better turfgrass in spite of today's economic difficulties.

GREEN CLIPPINGS

Some things have happened since the July "Hole Notes" that we are very sorry to report. One of our Life Members, Frank B. Anderson, is in the Veterans Hospital in Minneapolis, where he had one of his legs amputated. We learned the sad news from one of our Honorary Members, C. L. (Jim) Graham, who now resides in Sun City, Arizona. Jim flew in to visit Frank and while here got in touch with another Life Member, Carl E. Anderson. It would be nice if you would drop Frank a card, or better yet, go out and see him. Mail will reach him by addressing it to Frank B. Anderson, Veterans Hospital, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417.

Another case that we are sorry to have to report is that Irwin Fuller, Superintendent at the Mankato Golf Course was hospitalized for a couple of weeks, in Mankato, and then some additional time in Rochester. We don't know at this time just where Irv is but a card addressed to his home would reach him. That address is 902 Woodland Avenue, Mankato, Minnesota 56001. Brother John said he would keep us advised of Irv's condition and where he is. So, if we hear anything new before we go to press we will get it in this issue. John did say that Irv would like to complete this year at the Mankato Club and then retire. Irv's son "Boots," who has been working with Irv for several years, will replace Irv. When that time comes we will wish Irv the best and a happy and long retirement, and welcome Boots aboard.

There were several more pictures taken at the July outing but space in this issue would not permit printing them. However, they will be in the September issue. Please be on the lookout for them (cont'd on p.8)

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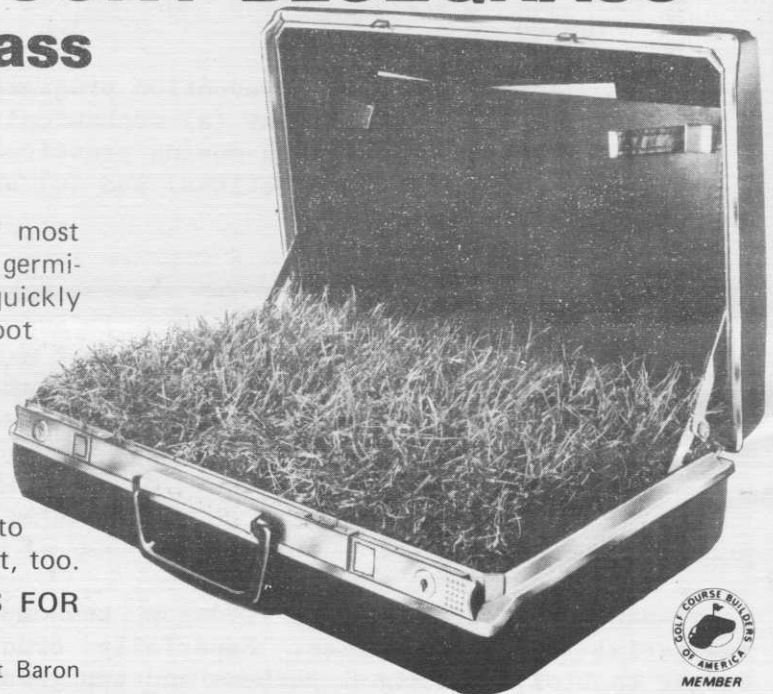
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Meetings

Monday, July 14 was MGCSA family day at the Minimum Security Unit of the Minnesota State Prison, Stillwater, Minnesota. It was a beautiful cool, sunshiny day and in excess of 75 superintendents and their wives and children attended and joined the 50 to 60 residents, their wives and children in a day of fun with a picnic atmosphere. There were races with prizes for the children, yes, and some of the mothers joined in, particularly in the wheelbarrow race when one or two of the children did not have a brother or sister to do the driving. There was golf for those that wished to play and a tour of the course for those that did not bring their clubs. The course now consists of 7 or 8 holes which, of course, does not compare with the average golf course, as they do not have any kind of a watering system and must depend on nature for the watering of the course (rain) but it is a start and affords the residents a place to relax and enjoy themselves at times when they are not working. There are other forms of activities such as horseshoe, baseball, volleyball etc.

The Minimum Security Unit (MSU) is a fairly large brick building where the residents live and is outside of the prison walls and has no bars on the windows or doors and no guards patrolling the area. The residents are, of course, men who have made a mistake and are assigned to the MSU to pay their debt to society and prepare themselves for life in the outside world when they are released. Adjacent to the living quarters is a large area with swings and teeter-totters for the small children of the residents and other visitors, a volley-ball court and a couple of horseshoe pitching facilities for the older children and adults, which of course, are also used by the residents. In this same area is a large piece of land with several shade trees suitable for just plain relaxing in the cool breeze or for a picnic grounds. Directly across the street is a baseball diamond and the golf course. Our family day outing and picnic was held at the afore-mentioned location and the picnic meal was prepared by the residents and it was delicious, with barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs and with all the other things that make up a picnic dinner. John Towige, Director of Minimum Security Activities was the host and did an outstanding job. Late in the afternoon or early evening we had the pleasure of Warden McMannis' and Assistant Warden John McLagen's company and we were honored to have them. We also had an opportunity to talk and visit with several of the residents and found them to be a very interesting and congenial group. We had a very enjoyable afternoon and evening and we wish to express the sincere thanks and gratitude of the officers and members of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents and hope that we will be invited back again, and, if we are, I urge every member of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association to make every effort to attend, with his wife and family; you will be very appreciative of the fact that you took advantage of the opportunity.

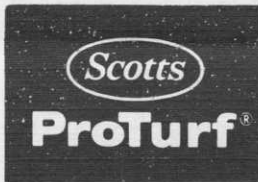
MEETING SCHEDULE FOR BALANCE OF 1975

The Information Regarding the August Meeting is Important

August 11 - Daytona Golf Course. This is a change from the schedule as shown in the July issue of Hole Notes. That schedule showed August 4th at the White Bear Yacht Club. That was an error and we apologize for it. Remember, the next meeting (August) is August 11 at Daytona Golf Course. Golf at 1st tee 12 noon to 2 p.m. followed by the regular meeting, social hour and dinner. Cost of the dinner is \$5.00 including tax and gratuities. To get to the Daytona Course from the Twin Cities take Hwy 494 to Rogers, exit right on 101 for one mile, turn right and follow signs to the course. From the North go 6 miles west to Champlin on County Road 12 to course. Jerry McCann, our host for the day, advises that carts will be available. They also have indoor tennis and racquet-ball courts for additional recreation for those not playing golf. (continued on page 6)

Schedule of Meetings (cont'd from page 5)

- September 22 - Annual Tournament at the Interlachen Country Club. See entry form in this issue. If you have not already sent in your entry to Dick Ulrick, Lafayette Club, 2800 Northview Road, Minnetonka Beach, Minnesota 55361, do so at once. Remember there is a lot of work preparing for an event like this, so please cooperate. Late entries will not be accepted.
- October 13 - White Bear Yacht Club, White Bear, Minn.
- November 10 - Hanson House, Long Lake, Minnesota.
- December 4 - Normandy Motor Inn, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Thursday, Annual MGCSA Conference. This conference changed for this year (1975) to one day account of the GCSAA Annual Conference in Minneapolis in February 1976.



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GREEN CLIPPINGS (cont'd from p. 4)
August 4 is the date of the Gould Annual Tournament at the Forest Hills Country Club, Forest Lake, Minnesota, and there is an open invitation to the members of the MGCSA and other customers of Goulds. There will be golf, prizes, dinner and refreshments. Any member of the MGCSA wishing to play in this event should contact Chuck Helps at Goulds, phone (612) 484-8411 for further details including entry fee which includes all.

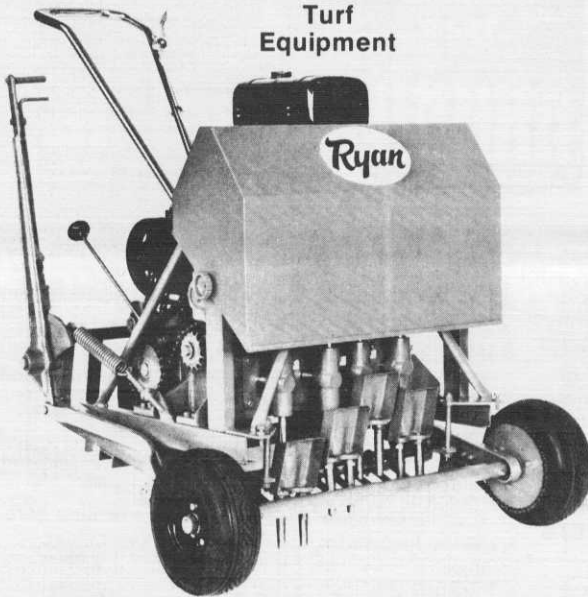
In the report of the outing at the Minimum Security Unit, which was so enjoyable and appreciated by every-

one that attended, some things were said that might be interpreted by some that the MSU is being operated on somewhat of a Country Club program. That is not true. The men assigned to the MSU have earned the privilege. They have all been in the prison proper and have been assigned to the MSU after hard work, good behavior, cooperation and because in most cases their offense was comparatively minor and they are on their way out. The MSU program is a program to rehabilitate the people in the program so that when they are released and go out into the outside world they will fit into society as respected citizens. It is felt that sports activities is only one way to help accomplish this mission. The Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association is only one of many organizations that is offering their help. There are other sport groups, educational groups, religious groups and industry all with one thought in mind - to help these people who have made a mistake

(continued on page 9)



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GREEN CLIPPINGS (cont'd from p. 8)

get back into society as respected citizens. While these men are in the MSU program they work hard all day and are only permitted to use the golf and other recreation facilities after they have completed their assigned duties. We wish them well!

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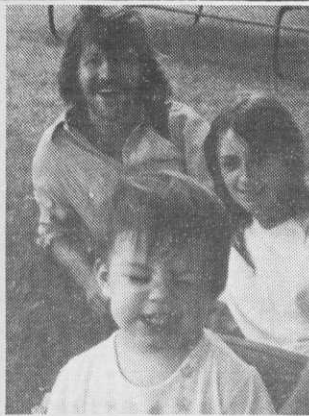
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I strongly encourage everyone who has received Kromad in the past Spring and Summer to contact:

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Don't forget the dates of February 8-13, 1976, the dates of the GCSAA 47th International Turfgrass Conference and Show, Minneapolis Auditorium and Convention Hall, Minneapolis, Minnesota. We will keep you advised of additional information as we receive it.



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MGCSA Annual Tournament

Interlachen Country Club
Edina, Minn.
Monday, September 22, 1975

Registration must be received by Dick Ulrick, Lafayette Club, 2800 Northview Road, Minnetonka Beach, Minn. 55361 by Monday, September 15, 1975. (Late entries cannot be accepted). The same deadline applies for dinner only. Dinner only reservations must be made at the same place.

Starting time is from 10 am. to 2 pm. Superintendents will have preference for starting times. If the time you request cannot be granted, you will be notified in advance.

Only one foursome per club will be accepted. If assistant is not included in the Superintendent's foursome, he will be assigned a starting time and foursome. He cannot bring guests. Associate members may not bring guests. (Exception) All members may bring guests to dinner but must make reservations with Dick Ulrick by Monday, September 15 as outline in the first paragraph.

The entry fee is \$16.00 per person and will include golf, dinner with tax and gratuities included. Add \$1.00 for each person wishing to play in the Blind Bogey

Prizes will be awarded at the dinner.

Lunch will be available at the Interlachen Country Club. The cost of the lunch is not included in the entry fee.

I will be unable to play golf but will be there for dinner and will have _____ guests.

If you have not already sent your entry to Dick Ulrick and intend to play, please use the form below and mail it at once. Also if you are only going to be there for dinner, make your reservation at once together with the number of guests.

MGCSA Member Name _____ Title _____ Hdcp _____

Name of Guest _____ Title _____ Hdcp _____

Name of Guest _____ Title _____ Hdcp _____

Name of Guest _____ Title _____ Hdcp _____

Number of carts preferred _____ Number of carts you must have _____

Number that will have lunch at Interlachen C. C. _____ Number to play in Blind Bogey _____

Starting time preferred 10am. to 2pm. _____ Check in the amount of \$ _____ enc.