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## The turf taxi.



## PURPLE HAWK PERFECT PLACE

The June meeting was held at the Purple Hawk Country Club in Cambridge. Vince McCann, the host superintendent, had everything well organized including the weather. Sixty members were treated to a delicious prime rib or steak dinner. Thanks again, Vince, for a truly delightful day.

At the business meeting the first certified superintendent in the state of Minnesota was presented his recertification plaque. Jerry Murphy has been certified for over five years and the National Association requires you to become recertified every five years. Our association is very proud to have a man of his caliber as a member.

Some of our members have had an agricultural inspector analyze their fertilizer with some very surprising results. If for any reason you feel you have some fertilizer and seed that isn't what it is supposed to be, contact your local agricultural inspector. In Hennepin County contact Don Anderson, 935-3381. He will be more than happy to sample any thing you want and will send you the results of the test.



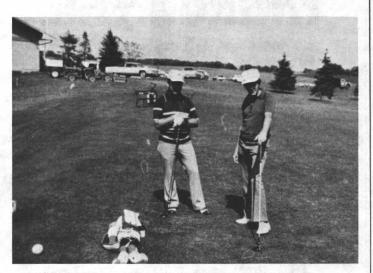
<u>PUZZLED</u>. Milt Wiley, left, cannot figure out why he has to give so many shots to as good a player as Nick Dunn.



PROUD PARENTS. The Clem McCann's have every reason to be smiling as they tour their son's perfectly groomed golf course.



ARBITRATOR. Larry Mueller, center, separates the two main challengers for this year's high score award, John Lightfoot, left, and Arnie Bodhaine



PREPARED. Dick Grundstrom, left, and Gerry Bibbey, right, stand on the first tee ready to face the challenge of the Purple Hawk Golf Course.



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## Another Look at Labor

by HOLMAN M. GRIFFIN, Southern Agronomist, USGA Green Section

It is difficult to understand why there is a problem of unemployment when so many golf courses need employees.

Some clubs have acute labor problems, while other never seem to have any. Though the wage scale at most clubs is still shrouded in secrecy and comparison is difficult, it is doubtful that wages are the only differences between the clubs that have problems and those that do not. Investigation may reveal basic differences in morale, pride and interest. If a club seeks to hire and hold capable employees, it must be interested in the people it is hiring and interest them in the job to be done. The result of interest is pride, which creates high morale. These attitudes encourage an effective and efficient working force.

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Interest must be in force at all levels to make the plan work. To start with, the club must be interested in its key man - the golf course superintendent. Clubs must look on the superintendent as a capable administrator who knows what it takes to get a job done. He is a supervisor and his attitude is usually reflected in many ways by the men he supervises. Interest in the key man usually shows all the way down to the newest man on the force. Just like money in the bank, the interest is compounded.

MOTIVATION IS THE KEY. It is one thing to hire a man for his abilities but quite another to be able to recognize potential. Motivation holds the key to successful labor management and a manager must create the proper attitude in his men or be content with just so many warm bodies to be put through the routine motions. We have all heard the story of the three brick masons. The first, when asked what he was doing, replied, "I am laying brick". The second said he was building a wall. The third said he was helping to build a great cathedral.

The third man obviously had pride in his job and he was happy to be a part of the overall project. He acknowledged that he was part of a team working toward a very meaningful end.

PART-TIME LABOR. On the subject of part-time labor, with the exception of students and retired people who fill a special need in a special way, probably

CONTINUTED ON PAGE 7

## **Good Equipment Maintenance Insures**

Getting A Job Done Efficiently, Cheaply

It takes good equipment to get a job done efficiently. As a golf course superintendent you have the responsibility to purchase, maintain and protect thousands of dollars worth of mowers, tractors and other turf maintenance equipment.

Purchasing equipment is always a difficult and demanding task. Assuming you need a new piece of equipment, how

do you go about obtaining it?

First, define the job you want done. Determine specific job requirements - if it is spraying, will you need a hand

sprayer or a boom sprayer?

Second, compare how long it now takes to do this job with whatever method or machine you are using, to how long it will take with the new piece of equipment.

Third, list the equipment's life expectancy and safety features. Make sure it meets your specifications as well as

legal regulations.

Fourth, give an approximate cost. Most new equipment carries a high initial cost. But the long-term savings — and a better looking course resulting from timely maintenance - will make the purchase worthwhile. Fit a machine to the job and to the economics of your situation.

You can learn about new equipment by attending equipment shows, such as

GCSAA's International Turfgrass Conference and Show, by reading pro-fessional literature and by visiting your local equipment dealers. The latter is more time-consuming but provides you important knowledge of the equipment you are buying and the people selling it to

Always ask for a demonstration. Ask questions to learn about a machine's drawbacks as well as its potentials. Keeping up with the latest equipment is a must for the conscientious super-

Equipment maintenance is a yearround job. It should start the day you buy the piece. At that time, you should make sure you get a service manual that lists all parts and has instructions on how to make repairs. You also need to know what services will be performed by the seller and the details of your guarantee.

When you buy a piece of equipment, it is a good idea to make a 3-inch by 5-inch index card on which you can record the equipment's identification number, date and location of purchase, cost and maintenance performed on the machine in later months. This card can be a valuable ready reference for the superintendent, especially as it applies to insurance and depreciation schedules.

Another factor to consider when buying or maintaining a piece of equipment is to be aware of who will be operating that equipment. A careless driver on a tractor will decrease its life expectancy and increase maintenance repairs and costs. It should be remembered also that a machine's cost is related to the time that it will be used. You can buy a \$200 mower to trim the grass around a sand trap or you can buy a \$75 mower to do the same job. No matter which mower you buy, the housing will be severely eaten by the sand. It may be wiser to buy the cheaper mower and replace it as it wears out than to buy a more expensive mower that will require a larger initial cash outlay and still need the same maintenance as a cheaper mower. Expensive equipment does not mean it's the best. Shop around to determine what fits your needs and your budget - then determine what is best for you.

An important part of equipment maintenance is proper storage. Your machines should be protected from weather and the destructive effects of cold and heat. Depending on which part of the country you are in, storage may play a bigger part of maintenance repairs and costs than use.

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#### NEW FUNGICIDE FOR DUTCH ELM DISEASE

A new product manufactured by Merck & Co. has been registered for use in Dutch Elm Disease control by the EPA.

"ARBOTECT 20-S" helps prevent the disease and also helps to control the disease in newly-infected trees, i.e. less than five percent crown damage.

"ARBOTECT 20-S" is approximately one-half the price of Lignasan (based on technical material). "ARBOTECT 20-S" is distributed by TURF SUPPLY COMPANY.

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IRRIGATION TECHNICAL SERVICE - PARTS - REPAIRS - DESIGN - SALES - INSTALLATION

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

there is no such thing as a good temporary employee. The main incentive for the temporary employee is a pay check and he will tend to leave when he can make more money elsewhere. When there is a quick dollar to be made on a local landscaping job or some other similar project, the temporary help often calls in sick or just fails to show up.

When they do return, their stories of quick money and their "couldn't care less" attitude demoralizes the permanent crew.

If further proof of the inadequacy of part-time help is required, you have but to ask yourself how much incentive a man can have when he knows his ultimate reward will be to be laid off at the end of the season.

Last, but not of least importance, we come to the pay check. For the marginal worker there is little incentive to work on a golf course when he can make almost as much tax-free money from unemployment as he can for working eight hours a day.

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ADEQUATE WAGES. Unemployment compensation is a fine thing if used honestly by those who need it. However, many clubs presently abuse the system by actually planning unemployment as a part of an employee's total salary. Under this system, a laborer works a few months each summer then draws unemployment during the winter. By allowing this, a club simply perpetuates one of the deep-seated roots of their own labor problem-the ability of potential laborers to get something for nothing.

Many clubs now pride themselves on getting by with paying a legal minimum wage. In effect, they are waiting until someone tells them how much they have to pay rather than setting their own wage scale according to what the job is really worth.

Someday soon these clubs will learn that too high, rather than too low a price will be dictated and that it is too late to do anything about it.

We must realize now that if clubs are to have a good labor force, they must hire competent, full-time employees and pay them a wage comparable to the industries in the area. This makes the difference here and now between the clubs that have labor problems and those that do not.







Hit the fairways this fall with an application of this great new USS Vertagreen fertilizer and you're on your way to fewer turf problems next spring. This quality product is ideal for fall fairway fertilization because it has a high potash analysis ... and that means less winter kill.

A soil test in the late summer or early fall will determine if

your fairways lack this vital nutrient. If they do, USS Vertagreen Fall Fairway Fertilizer is the answer because it's formulated with primary nutrients specifically for your area. See your USS Vertagreen distributor and he'll show you how to winterize your fairways this fall. Next spring you'll be glad you did.

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## MGCSA ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



It is time again to be looking ahead to the Annual Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Tournament. A time to enjoy golf, fellowship and entertain club officials, managers and professionals from your club. The event this year will be held on September 19, 1977 at Oak Ridge Country Club. Keith Scott is the host superintendent.

As this tournament grows in size each year, it becomes more necessary for reservations to be made early. Two shotguns will be held, the first at 8:00 a.m. and the second at 1:00 p.m. Each shotgun will be limited to 30 foursomes. Tee times for the 1:00 p.m. shotgun will be given on a first reservation returned basis and given to Class A and Class B superintendents first, unless they indicate the morning shotgun. Others will be placed in the 8:00 a.m. shotgun.

The cost of the event will be \$21.00 per person which includes prizes and dinner. Carts will be available at a cost of \$7.00 each. One cart per foursome can be reserved with the registration form. Extra carts that are available will be rented the day of the tournament.

For the early arrivals at Oak Ridge coffee and rolls will be available. A buffet lunch will be available for golfers coming off the course from the 8:00 a.m. shotgun and available to persons playing in the 1:00 p.m. shotgun. These luncheons are difficult to plan for so please use the facility. The lunch will cost \$3.25. As usual beer and pop will be available on the course for the players.

#### M.G.C.S.A. TOURNAMENT SEPTEMBER 19, 1977 OAK RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB

Please reserve for	cunt \	for the
(name of sponsoring 8:00 a.m 1:00 p.m. shotgun a spot for (circle one)		
Names of Players		
1.	@ \$21.00	
2.	@ \$21.00	
3.	@ \$21.00	
4.	@ \$21.00	
Please reserve a cart at	\$ 7.00	
Please reserve extra dinners	0 \$16.50	
	Total	

Payment must accompany reservation. Make checks to M.G.C.S.A. Singles making reservations will be paired to make foursomes. Cancellations made prior to Sept. 12, 1977 will receive a full refund. Cancellations after Sept. 12, 1977 will receive no refund. No reservations (except for dinner) will be taken after Sept. 12, 1977. Send reservations to: NATHAN DUNN, 410 ARBORETUM BLVD., CHASKA, MINNESOTA 55318

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