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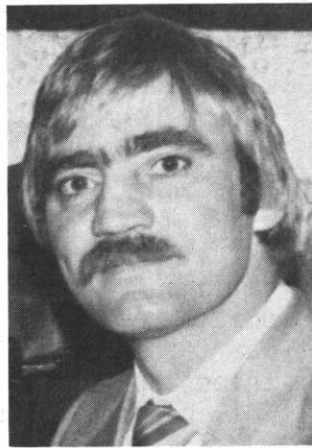
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A RECESSION IS
...WHEN WE'RE FACED WITH STILL ANOTHER
PROBLEM: WHAT WINE GOES WITH NOTHING?



Dick DeSplinter

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Everyone is very "busy"; however, we all need inspiration from time to time. Two months have passed since I asked

you, the members of the M.G.C.S.A., to share some of your practices with fellow superintendents via editorials from the members. I still feel very strongly that to improve our profession and to secure our positions as turf managers, we must aid one another for the betterment of all golf facilities. The reward I offered two months ago in the HOLE NOTES for recognition at our Annual Conference of submitted articles could be very satisfying to you as participants!

Other business at hand which is very important to many of us is all the dead Poa Annua. It seems there are no quick solutions. We can overseed, which I have spent most of the week doing, or wait until June for the Poa Annua to return. Most of my greens are Penncross and in some ways, even though some dead grass is unsightly, it is a good time to overseed Poa Annua infested areas to try to eliminate it.

Ten years ago when I first entered the profession, some wise superintendent told me that every five to ten years you'll have trouble with Poa Annua regardless as to how you treat your golf course. To date that advice has been very correct for me. In 1971 I lost a lot of turf and now, nine years later in 1980, I have lost a lot of turf again. It's embarrassing and unsightly, but this is a year to grin and bear it and be positive in your approach about the problem with your members and other clientele.

Our first monthly meeting under the new luncheon plan was very well attended. While the jury is still out, perhaps this is just what we needed to boost participation. I look forward to seeing you at North Oaks Golf Club on April 5.



INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

BY GEORGE OSTLER

The Industrial Relations Committee was formed in 1979 as a direct communications vehicle to the Executive Committee for the benefit of the Associate Members. The idea behind the formulation of this committee was to get together with several Associate Members along with two or three Superintendent Members at an informal meeting to exchange ideas, make recommendations, discuss any problems that may exist and talk about the affairs of the association in general.

When this committee was formed, it was decided by the board that the committee should be chaired by the ex-officio because of his recent past experience on the Executive Committee. It was decided also that there should be at least one officer of the present Executive Committee on the Industrial Relations Committee along with one other Superintendent Member who has had experience on the board. The two Superintendent Members presently on the committee other than myself are Dick DeSplinter, president, and Keith Scott, past president.

The first committee meeting was held on March 27, 1980 at the Town and Country Club in St. Paul. Eight of the ten members were present at the meeting which proved to be energetic and informative. Some of the highlights of that meeting are as follows:

The M.G.C.S.A. publication, HOLE NOTES, was discussed at some length. The committee feels that the advertising space should not exceed the space used for educational and informational articles which has happened in the past. It is felt that the last two or three issues of HOLE NOTES was greatly improved in that regard. Some suggestions were made that might improve the publication. It was suggested there be a letter to the editor section, include a membership application in at least two issues during the season, encourage Associate Members to send in articles which should not be business oriented, to name a few.

The Associate Members feel the advertising rates should not be increased due to our limited circulation. They feel HOLE NOTES advertising is quite expensive compared to other publications they use with very large circulations. It was suggested we try to increase our circulation by sending issues to other associations such as the Arrowhead Turf Assoc., Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and possibly to the Northern Iowa group.

The committee feels that due to the high cost of mailing and related expense, the HOLE NOTES recipients should be identified in a more precise manner, such as Supt., President, Green-chairman, etc. It is a known fact that a lot of HOLE NOTES issues lay in the clubhouse offices and eventually end up in their waste baskets which is an awful waste.

The new meeting format was discussed, particularly in regard to the Associate Members' equipment displays. The general feeling is that the new time will not hurt their equipment exposure but will make it necessary for them to set up their displays on the evening before or on the morning of the meeting day. It was decided by the committee to recommend that no equipment be displayed at the annual picnic or the annual golf tournament. The annual picnic is a day when the superintendents enjoy getting together with their families and families include children of all ages. The committee feels that the possibility exists that a small child could get seriously injured running around or climbing on the equipment. The ever popular annual golf tournament is a special day set aside for the enjoyment of the superintendents and their guests and the committee feels equipment displays should not be a part of that event.

In regards to the operation of the association, the Associate Members feel the M.G.C.S.A.

continued on Page 7

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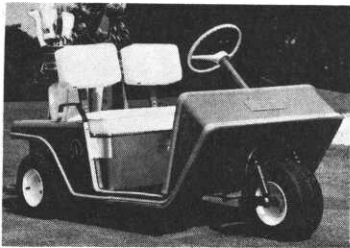
The following is an article written by Charles Erickson in February 1932 as part of a short course Turf Conference at the University of Minnesota.

I listened with pleasure to Emil Picha's talk on the care and upkeep of greens and golf courses during this present day.

Nearly all of us know, especially we older men, that there is always something new to learn, something which we are not familiar with.

To bring out this point I am going to give you an idea of how we boys did things in olden days, that is thirty years ago or better, when I was first greenkeeper. There wasn't very much at that time.

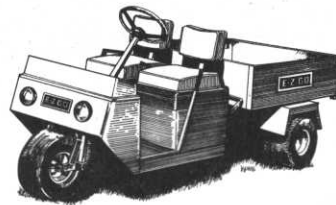
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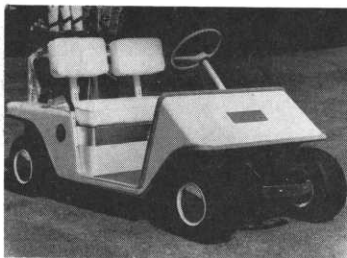
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SALES-SERVICE-LEASING-PARTS

We never tried to remodel our greens as there was nothing to laying out a golf course or do much changing except in cases where there was a lot of timber. On the prairies it came in very handy and that is what we started out with at our good old Minikahda Club. After the greens and the course were made we just cut out the greens with a common lawn mower and then rolled them. We didn't even know enough to top dress them. If they were a little low in places we raised the sod and filled in that way.

If there was grass that wasn't quite so good we went out on the course, took a hand sod cutter and picked up the best we could see and replaced it on our greens. Then we had to roll them. That is the lesson I heard every day, "Charlie, have you rolled the greens?" I made a roller out of cement, it weighed 900 pounds, but the committee told me it wasn't heavy enough. We finally got a heavy fairway roller, which I still use, and that weighs 2800 pounds. I had four men and we had to pull that on the greens. Not so easy, believe me. We had to push and pull. There were a couple of greens that were very sloping so I took a team of horses and a long rope and they gave us a lift, pulling it on the sloping greens and we pulled it back by hand power.

We never thought of top dressing or fertilizing. When the grass was worn out, due to so much rolling, we had to replace it again. This lasted for a little while, but I found out that something else had to be done. I went out in the woods and got some wonderful dirt and started to top dress, which helped me considerably.
(continued on Page 6)

Our water pressure was very low because the piping was in when I came out there and it was only 3/4" piping for 400 yards, so you can readily see what I was up against. We couldn't even get the sprinkler to turn around. We had to water mostly by hand which took a long time and we had to haul water for two greens where we had no pipes.

The greens were as hard as a country road but one thing I must say is that I was never troubled with worm cast at that time, due to the fact that they were so hard.

I used common lawn mixture for grass seed in those days, that is blue grass and redtop, and then we had a mixture of crabgrass and dandelions besides that.

When I wanted the grass to thicken I always used a little clover because it was quick to germinate and filled in rapidly on the poor places. I certainly have to give the good old U.S.G.A. a lot of credit for the wonderful work they have done for us greenkeepers. They are really the ones who put light on the golf courses today and we have to admit it.

I also want to say something about our fairway. I had four men and four mowers, one man and a horse to each mower. Probably some of you older men will remember that. It took me a whole week to go over and cut my course. It was a slow, tiresome job. The men had to walk behind the mowers and when the greenkeeper wasn't around, they took their time. That is the way things were done years ago. We never saw a clean golf course. The old clippings were laying all over the course from the mowers. Lots of times we had to take the whole crew and clean up.

We had the same trouble in our long grass. Of course we cut this with a hay mower, then we had to go through the same performance, raking and piling it up. The next day you could see the hay all over the country. The members got their golf balls in the hay and you could hear all kinds of language, and we couldn't blame them.

I want to give many thanks to the manufacturing companies who have helped us in so many ways with mowers, tractors and all equipment to serve every item that is needed for our golf courses. We can now satisfy our good club and it is a pleasure to have a well kept course. You enjoy it and they are proud of you by so doing.

I have a word - it is very small - but it is big to me and that is "Love". If you love your club and your chairman I will guarantee you are going to save your good club quite a sum through the season.

I heard one of our good greenkeepers say in New York, "Be on the job". That's worth bearing in mind. It means a lot to you and to your club. Don't put the entire burden on your chairman - take a little responsibility on your own shoulders - satisfy your club and you will be satisfying yourself.

We greenkeepers have to study our problems all the time. We have to know a little of everything. We have to be blacksmiths, tanners, carpenters, bricklayers, stone masons, etc. We have to be able to take care of all these little details that come our way.

We also have to keep on the look out for brown patch, scold worms, ants, in fact all disease of the grasses. In other words, we are doctors of the green.

But all in all, it's fun being a greenkeeper. I have been at it thirty years - but then I have heard people say the first hundred are the hardest, so I still have a long row to hoe.

is operated in a high caliber and business like manner and are happy to be associated with it. It was stated that we have done a good job over the years keeping control of our association. Unfortunately, in some other states big business has moved in and gained control of some associations. Hopefully, this will never happen in the state of Minnesota.

The subject came up in regard to the Associate Members role in the M.G.C.S.A. The Associate Members feel their memberships should not be just for business. The committee feels there is a lot of knowledge and expertise in the Associate group and that the M.G.C.S.A. should take more advantage of their talents than we have in the past. There are a lot of superintendents scattered throughout the five state area who need and want our help but do not know how to go about getting it. The Associate Members could do a lot for the association in that area by carrying membership applications with them as they travel, telling of the benefits the association has to offer, explain the procedure for joining the association, etc. Also, I feel this group could do a lot for the association in the area of public relations.

The subject of education came up briefly. It was noted by some of the Associate Members that a lot of superintendents in out state areas desperately need some basic down to earth education on turf management. The committee thought perhaps this type of education could be offered in a split session or along with the more technical talks at the Annual Conference. It was suggested also that some type of correspondence course could be offered.

It was suggested that the out state members be recognized for their efforts and time spent on the road when they are able to attend a monthly meeting. A mileage perimeter would have to be set up for this purpose around the metro area. Any superintendent coming to a meeting from beyond the perimeter would be recognized as a small token of appreciation by the association.

The next meeting of the Industrial and Public Relations Committee is tentatively set for the latter part of September 1980.

1980 MEETING SCHEDULE

MAY 5	NORTH OAKS GOLF CLUB	SEPTEMBER	ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
JUNE 9	TOWN AND COUNTRY CLUB	OCTOBER 13	HASTINGS COUNTRY CLUB
JULY 14	BRAEMAR GOLF CLUB (FAMILY PICNIC)	NOVEMBER 10	HANSON HOUSE, LONG LAKE
AUGUST 11	LAKE CITY COUNTRY CLUB	DECEMBER	M.G.C.S.A. ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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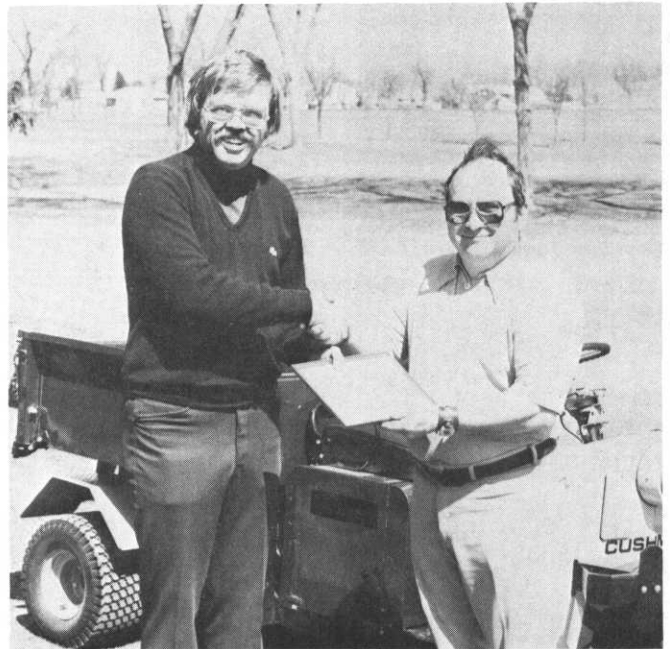
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IMMOBILE. New members, left to right, Bob Weston, Rick Smith and John Ganske did not dare take out clubs in this area.



OFFICIAL. Jim Lindblad, left, presents certificate of membership to Dick Traver of Glencoe Country Club.

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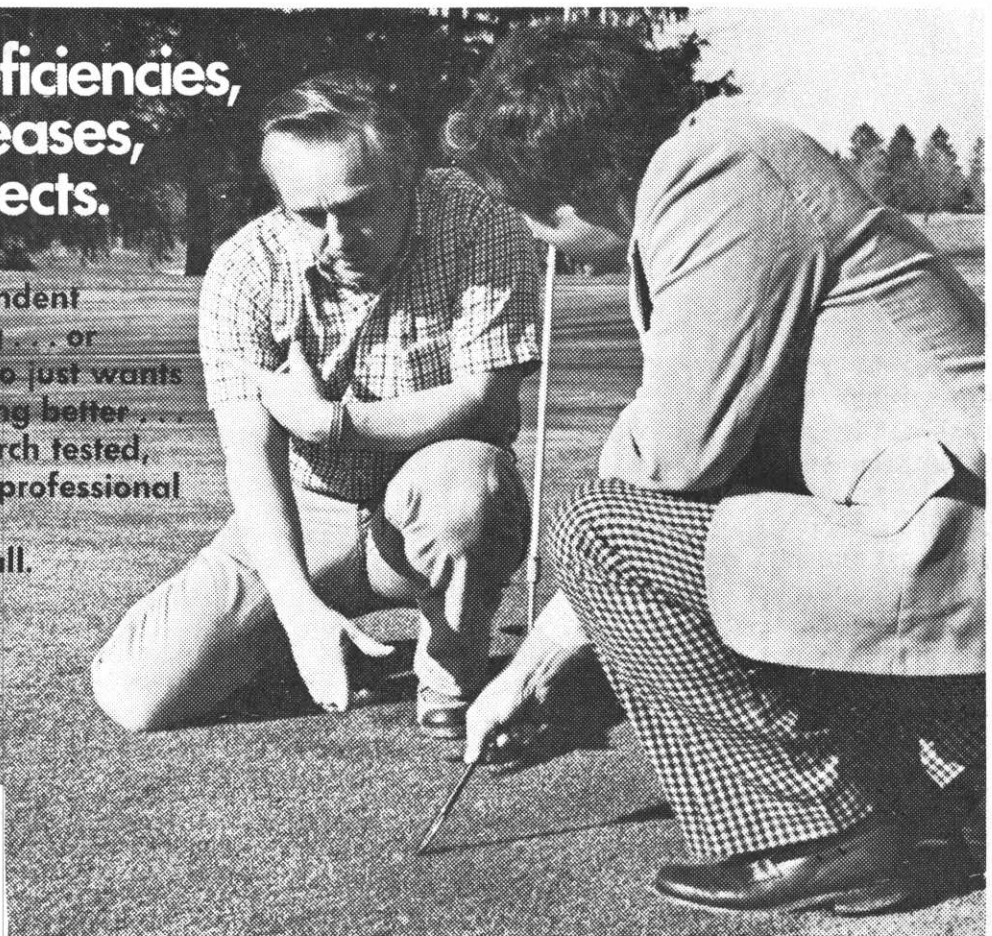
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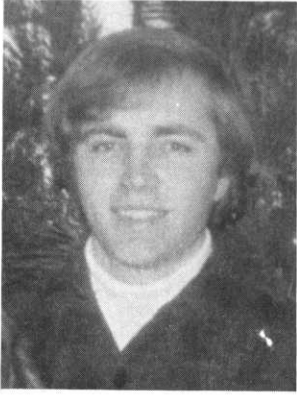


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The Use of Perennial Ryegrass on Golf Tees

By John Hopko, Turfgrass Specialist
Northrup King Company

We all agree that the teeing areas on golf courses are most times subjected to a great deal of punishment throughout the golfing season. The tee is the starting point as well as the resting point for each golfer who plays the course. These areas, which are many times too small, are exposed to heavy traffic. Compaction, shade, thatch development around the outer edges and general wear on the turf are just a few of the superintendents' problems.

Somewhere along the line of a superintendent's career, he is usually faced with one of three alternatives: 1) Upgrading the existing turf by overseeding; 2) Renovation or reconstruction of an old tee; 3) Totally new construction of a teeing area.

After deciding which approach will be taken and the stamp of approval has been placed on it by the Greens Committee and/or Board, the superintendent is faced with many decisions. A major decision is which turfgrass will he use? It is at this point I offer a candidate for consideration: the fine leafed perennial ryegrasses.

Over the past twenty years the improvements made on the perennial ryegrasses have been numerous and dramatic. Many of these improvements, such as finer textured leaves, improved mowing quality, winter hardiness with certain varieties and a deeper green color, make this species an attractive choice today as opposed to twenty years ago.

The following qualities of the perennial ryegrasses make them attractive to a golf tee situation: 1) They tolerate traffic better than any other species; 2) They have a deep root system which enables ryegrass to withstand drought or dry conditions better, This means watering less and being able to keep the tee more firm which is favorable to the golfer. The tee also is damaged less from wear and tear. 3) The roots will penetrate compacted soils better than other species; 4) Ryegrasses have excellent disease resistance which also saves money on fungicides as well as the labor to apply them; 5) They develop very little thatch, if any; 6) Germinate rapidly and establish quickly. Germination can occur within three to ten days; 7) The mowing qualities are clean and the leaf texture is fine, making it an excellent companion when seeded with the improved bluegrasses; 8) Will tolerate mowing heights of 1/2" with proper management practices; 9) Delray, NK200 and Goalie are three varieties on the market today which offer excellent winter hardiness; 10) The fact that you can't buy ryegrass sod or sod with ryegrass in it makes it necessary to seed. Seeding has definite agronomic benefits, not to mention substantial economic benefits.

Speaking from experience as a golf course superintendent, a mixture of 50% perennial ryegrass and 50% elite Kentucky bluegrasses seeded on two newly constructed tees gave me an exceptional stand of tough, durable and attractive turf. If the teeing area is exceptionally small and suffers from extreme traffic, you may want to consider increasing the percentage of ryegrass. On an established tee that you are overseeding, a 100% perennial ryegrass overseeding may be appropriate where you are trying to incorporate the benefits of the ryegrass into the existing turf.

Timing, of course, is very important in any seeding or overseeding operation. The best time would be a late summer or an early fall seeding. My second choice would be an early spring seeding and my third choice would be a dormant seeding in the late fall.

(continued on Page 13)



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