

ASSOCIATES' CORNER

JUST THE RIGHT MIX

by MIKE LEITNER
Leitner Company

What a conference in Las Vegas! Attendance was over 8,000, surpassing the old record by more than 1,000. All educational sessions were well attended and in fact difficult to get into in some cases. The show too was spectacular. I walked more miles there than I would during even my worst rounds of golf. Lots to see! How about the night life? It must take all the electrical power Hoover Dam can produce to light up that town after dark. It was a spectacle! The annual banquet too was very enjoyable. It was a great honor for GCSAA to have Bob Hope attend the banquet and accept the "Old Tom Morris" award from last year's recipient Arnold Palmer. Hope was exceptionally witty and greatly appreciated by the 1,800 in attendance.

Thanks to our HOLE NOTES contributors last month, Bernie Zimmer of Whitefish G.C., Dan DeMars of Dellwood, and Bob Listberger of Bergerson-Caswell. Your time and talent is greatly appreciated. Thanks, fellas.

Keith Scott and Jim Wodash have all the arrangements made for the March Mini-Seminar at Majestic Oaks. The slate of speakers includes Dr. Stienstra, Dr. White, Larry Vetter of Northrup King, John Wiley of Landscape and Turf Supply and Dr. Jim Watson. Sounds like a great line-up. Look for the special mailing.

Arrangements Chairman Russ Adams has our 1984 monthly meeting sites pretty well lined up as well. We'll be heading south on April 16 to Owatonna C.C. with host superintendent Randy Nelson. Then its on to Hastings C.C. with Steve Schumacher on May 14, Forest Hills G.C. and Lyle Olson on June 11, followed by our annual picnic in July. August 13 will take us to Rochester Golf and Country Club with host Kurt Erdman, September 17 to Indian Hills with Dick Grundstrom, October 19 to Golden Valley and new superintendent Mike Olson and finally, it's back to the Hanson House on November 2. Another great job, Russ!

It's about time to get geared up for the coming season once again. Make your suppliers smile, order early. Have a great March and see you at Majestic Oaks.

"I suppose your new baby brother is king around your house."

"No, just Prince of Wails."

In the mid 1890's Frank Leitner began a teaming business in St. Paul. Today this business is Leitner Company. From the beginning the main concern of our business has been hauling bulk material....first with horse and wagon and today with trucks. Many of the large St. Paul excavation sites of the early 1900's such as St. Catherine's College, the downtown department stores and office buildings were worked on by Leitner teams and wagons.

During the 1930's George Leitner, Frank's youngest son, was employed by Ramsey County, working at Keller Golf Course. Construction was being done by the county with Len Lubins as engineer and Harold Stodola as foreman and superintendent. At this time it became obvious to George that golf courses would need a reliable source for mixed soils to build and maintain tees and greens. Shortly thereafter, George left the county and became involved with the family business. Southview, Somerset and Town and Country Club, all in the St. Paul area, were three of our first steady customers.

After World War II Arnie Leitner, George's son, joined the company. During the 40's, 50's and early 60's the business continued, consisting of contract trucking along with soil mixing. During the late 1960's and early 70's the golf course business greatly expanded. Under Arnie's direction the need for more technical soil mixes and soils of greater consistency and quality was met.

Today, Leitner Company serves nearly 200 golf courses in Minnesota, Wisconsin and North and South Dakota. Mike Leitner, Arnie's son, handles sales and scheduling with Arnie heading production. As you can see, our association with the golf course industry has been a long one. We plan to continue this relationship by supplying superintendents with the soils they want and with reliable service they've come to expect.

SAFE MOWER OPERATION MAY REDUCE INJURIES

The greatest danger while mowing a lawn is from accidental contact with the rotating blade.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that 64 per-cent of all walk-behind mower injuries are caused by contacting the blade. This can occur when the operator is clearing the discharge chute of grass clippings while the blade is rotating.

Other blade-contact accidents occur when the operator adjusts the cutting height of the mower with the engine running and when the operator's foot slips under the mower housing.

Three per cent of all blade injuries result in amputations of the toes or fingers.

Fifteen per cent of blade-contact injuries produce fractures or dislocations. Seventy per cent result in lacerations.

CPSC estimates that there are more than 120,000 power lawn mower accidents each year. In 1979, reports submitted to CPSC by hospitals across the nation indicate that over 65,000 persons were treated in hospital emergency rooms for rotary lawn mower injuries.

CPSC offers these safety tips to reduce chances of a mower injury:

■ **Before mowing:** Pick up all debris (stones, wire, toys, etc.) on the lawn. Check for objects near shrubs, trees and fences. Adjust the cutting height of the mower at this time.

If the lawn is wet, wait until it dries. Make sure you know where the obstacles exist (pipes, etc.) on the lawn. Fill the gas tank before starting the mower.

■ **While mowing:** Never point the discharge chute at anyone. Shut engine off when going over gravel, rocks or immovable objects. Mow forward as much as possible so you know where you're going. With a walk-behind mower, mow across the slope. With a riding mower, mow up and down the slope. Keep extension cords of electric mowers far away from the cutting path. Turn off engine if you leave the machine— even for a moment.

■ **Periodic checking:** Disconnect the ignition wire from the spark plug if you are doing maintenance on the mower. Keep the mower lubricated, the oil level checked, and the discharge chute cleaned after using the mower. Store gasoline in container made for gasoline storage and away from any ignition sources . . . Remember, gasoline is an explosive and treat it accordingly.

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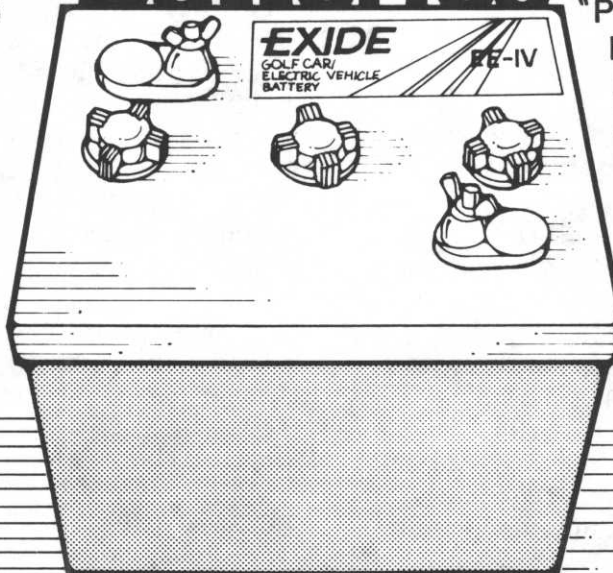
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AWARDS TO GOULD CO.

St. Paul's R. L. Gould Co. has recently been the recipient of several highly coveted turf industry awards.

One of our area's most active distributors of turf equipment and supplies, Gould's, was chosen by Jacobsen/Textron as one of six distributors to receive the title of "Distributor of the Year". There are approximately ninety Jacobsen distributors and selection is made on the basis of a variety of criteria such as per cent increase in total line sales, service and customer relations.

The Jacobsen Co. lavished some additional honor on Gould's when they chose one of its salesmen, Dan Miller, as "Salesman of the Year". Dan joined the Gould Co. in 1978 and represents a third generation of Millers active in their turf department. He is a graduate of Wisconsin State University majoring in business management and industrial engineering. Sales performance and product mix put him at the top of approximately 300 other salesmen.

The Smithco Co. of Pennsylvania praised Gould's for a most outstanding first year and conferred its "White Hat Award" on the company's salesmen. Smithco manufactures a complete line of rotary mowers and sand trap grooming equipment.

Three awards in one year is quite a bit of laurel to confer on any one distributor within a given year. It is pleasing to see one of our local companies receiving so much national recognition.

EDUCATION

Turf Management, Hort. 3072, will be offered as an Extension Class this Spring Quarter. It will meet in room 415 Alderman Hall (St. Paul Campus) Tuesdays from 6:10 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. starting March 27. People with the prerequisites may register for 4 college credits (\$162.00). Others may register for no credit (\$81.00).

Over the years many people have taken the course for no credit and have learned what they started out to learn and have added to the course by their participation. All are welcome so don't be bashful.

For registration information call (612)373-3195 Mondays through Thursdays from 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. and from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. on Fridays.

TORO SCHEDULES SCHOOL

Minnesota Toro has announced a series of three Service Schools. March 15-16 Greensmaster 3 and Reel Type Mowers includes reel drive systems, reel adjustments, engine maintenance, hydraulics and sharpening. March 19-20 Groundsmaster 52/62 and attachments includes electrical service and traction drive. March 26-30 Groundsmaster 72 and attachments includes hydraulics, traction maintenance and safety interlock. The schools will run from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Minnesota Toro Training Center. Tuition is \$20.00 per person per school. Reservations may be made by calling 612/475-2200.

NEW NATIONAL OFFICERS

Las Vegas. James W. Timmerman, CGCS, of Orchard Lake Country Club, Bloomfield, Mich., was elected here Thursday (February 2, 1984) as president of the 5,500 member Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). He succeeds Robert W. Osterman of Easton, Conn.

Eugene D. Baston, CGCS, golf course superintendent for the Country Club of Birmingham, Alabama, was elected vice-president.

Elected to the Executive Committee were James W. Taylor, Sr., CGCS, superintendent of golf courses and grounds for the Kanawka County, West Virginia, Parks and Recreation Commission; John E. Laake, CGCS, of Columbus, Ohio; and Riley L. Stottern, CGCS, of Park City, Utah.

CGCS stands for certified golf course superintendent, a certification awarded by GCSAA.

The elections were held in conjunction with the 55th Annual International Turfgrass Conference and Show sponsored here by GCSAA. Some 9,000 persons from around the world attended.

GCSAA's president and vice-president serve one year terms; directors serve two year terms; and the immediate past president remains as a director on the Executive Committee for a year.

TURF SUPPLY COMPANY

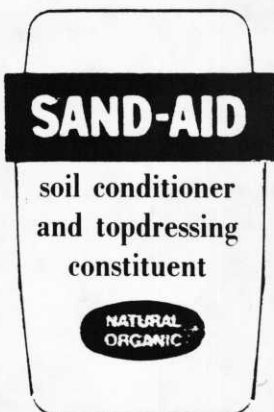
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