

## President's Desk from Page 2

for any soils related service. To contact him, call 624-3478.

Plans for the annual conference in December are well under way. Chris Hague, Scott Hoffmann and Jim Nicol have preparations well in hand, and we look forward to being at the St. Paul Radisson. With our change of facilities, we are going to better serve our spouses by offering some activity for them. A survey was sent out in May, so please see to it that your spouse has the opportunity to respond to this effort.

Our July meeting will be at the Purple Hawk Country Club on July 14. This is a good opportunity for us all to visit the "traveling superintendents" (Fred Anderson, Jr.) golf course to pay homage for all of his use on our own courses.

See you on the course!

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# BROADENING HORIZONS

by FRED V. GRAU  
President  
Musser Int'l. Turfgrass Foundation

The letters "CGCS" after a golf course superintendent's name indicate that this person has attained a level of professionalism far removed from that of the early 1900's image of the "the grass cutter at the barn." Today's professional golf course superintendent often enjoys a comfortable office in a modern maintenance building that is the nerve center of multimillion dollar golf course grounds and associated facilities, including the clubhouse.

Old-time "greenkeepers" typically had crews but no assistant. Quite often, some of the equipment was operated by the head man.

With CGCS following his name, today's golf course manager may have an assistant being trained to become a superintendent himself. In addition, some superintendents have a secretary to handle phone calls, file papers, answer correspondence, process articles and

prepare specifications.

And yet, even with such professional amenities and support, there is still dissatisfaction over the recognition superintendents receive for the work they do to provide near-perfect playing surfaces, beauty and serenity of surroundings.

In their efforts to improve their visibility and garner attention to enhance their image, many superintendents could accomplish those goals by broadening their horizons. Day after day devoted exclusively to the golf course without any outside relief tends to develop "tunnel vision" similar to that of a horse with blinders.

Outside interests are essential to broaden the mind and to share the unique knowledge of growing things that superintendents possess in such abundance.

What are some of these other interests in which the golf course superintendent might become involved so that more people get to know him and his unique abilities?

First, consider the fact that golf courses occupy sites in the midst of people, many of whom do not play golf. Their interests should be considered as one potential starting point.

Garden clubs, for example, frequently seek out speakers who can tell them more and more about how plants grow, how grass grows, what kinds to plant and when to plant. Country clubs, golf clubs and other kinds of golf operations, should be proud to know that their superintendent is public-spirited and is carrying the name of the course wherever he or she goes.

Service clubs also are frequently looking for interesting speakers at noon luncheons. Some superintendents have prepared themselves for this volunteer service by taking Dale Carnegie or GCSAA courses.

Businessmen belonging to various service clubs enjoy hearing about growing grass, shrubs, trees, flowers and other plant materials. This broadens their horizons. As they follow the teachings of the speaker they tend to improve their properties, which adds to their value.

Helping a person to have a better lawn can give satisfaction - and the work spreads.

Another related opportunity may be found among or through service club members whose children are engaged in active contact sports.

Often, sports fields in a community are poorly maintained. Some are replete with broken glass, bottle caps and mud. The progressive superintendent might take one hour a week away from the golf course to help the local high school improve the sports turf. For the most part it will again be volunteer work, unpaid. But the mutual benefits that can be gained by all involved in such an undertaking are incalculable.

There is a well-established professional precedent for successful community involvement on the part of golf course superintendents.

Some of the long-ago greenkeepers made names for themselves doing lawn work for club members. They achieved favorable

publicity even though they lacked the improved modern tools, grasses and fertilizers that we enjoy today.

Who, indeed, does know more about growing fine grass than the golf course superintendent? Some may hesitate to "stick their necks out" for fear of criticism if things don't go quite right, but a true professional knows how to meet potential obstacles even on unfamiliar ground.

Again, consider the opportunities for professional outreach in connection with improvement of sports fields. With the help of county agents and turfgrass extension specialists, golf course superintendents can become leaders in their communities by leading discussion groups (mini-seminars) on "How to Improve Athletic Fields." There is so much that needs to be done in this area and so few are doing it.

Education is the name of the game. Many schools ask an untutored janitor to maintain the sports turf. Given the

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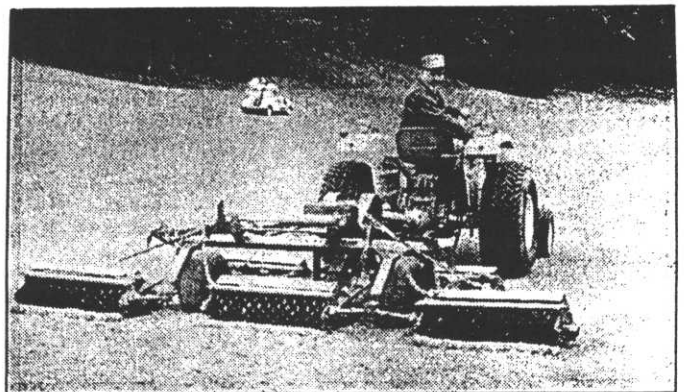


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responsibility, he should be given the know-how. A challenge? Yes, a big one!

"If you would know anything thoroughly, teach it to others." This comes from an unnamed ancient philosopher. The advice is sound today.

Credit: GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT

## MINIKAHDA VANDALIZED

Shortly after midnight on Tuesday, June 24 a car was driven extensively around the wet turf at the Minikahda Club with the intention of damaging the course. It was driven in tight circles on seven greens, nine fairways and two tees. This resulted in the closing of the course on Tuesday. Temporary greens were put in play on Wednesday and will be used until repairs can be made. As a result of a reward and

a tip to St. Louis Park police by the Crimestoppers program on TV Channel 5 the vandals were arrested within two days. The driver was an ex-caddie at Minikahda who knew exactly where to drive to do the most damage and still not get his car stuck in a bunker or water hazard.

It is suggested that other golf courses tighten their security on the chance that other such acts may occur because of the publicity given this vandalism. In an upcoming issue we will have Superintendent Dan Hanson give us details of the damage and what methods he used to repair it.



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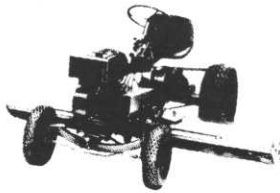
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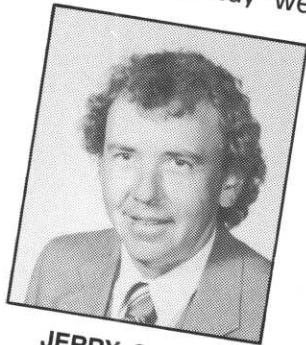
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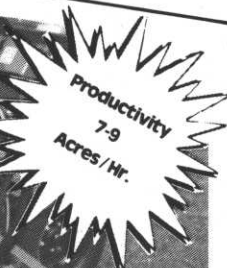
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