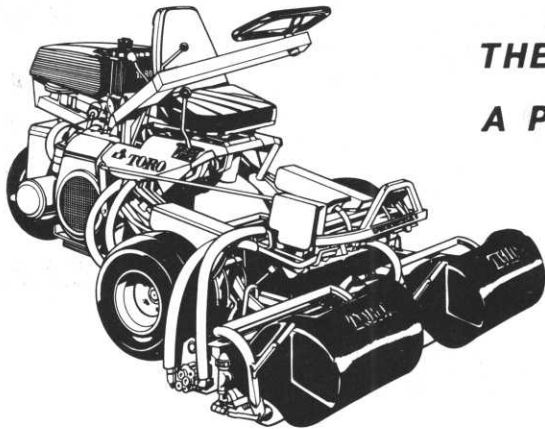


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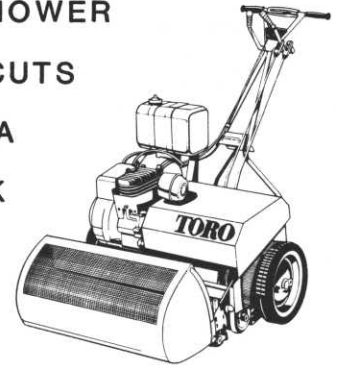
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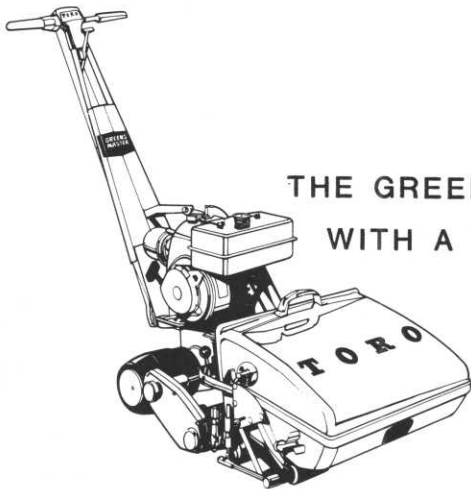
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

KERRY GLADER

How often do you play the course you work so hard on to make perfect for the members? Most of us, I would guess, don't do it enough. When we have some time available we want to get away from our work place and relax....get it out of mind for awhile. But playing is an important part of a superintendent's education. When you play your golf course, you see things from the standpoint of a player. Remember that is the view that all of your members get. All of a sudden you have to putt at a hole position that is perhaps a bit unfair. Doesn't seem like a big thing until you have to do it. All of a sudden you have to decide if your ball is in or out of bounds and there is a white stake missing. You meant to get at that last week..now it's real important.

Playing 18-Holes gives you a better feel for your greens speed, texture and holding qualities than all the testing in the world. Trying to play out of a bunker with a thin sand base that causes the club to bounce rather than continue on through, brings home the fact you had better get that sand loosened up and redistributed.

Playing with club officers and committee heads and even occasionally with the club professional is an easy way to learn things in casual conversation. It is also an excellent place to suggest programs you have in mind. You can test the waters, so to speak.

The skill at which you play the game is strictly up to your time and interest. An average game, about 18 to 20 handicap, is quite acceptable. In fact, it might be about perfect because you will see the course as most of your players see it. Why not look at your June calendar right now and pick out two or three afternoons to play with the members. It will never get done if you don't make definite plans.

LIGHTWEIGHT FAIRWAY MOWING AT MANKATO G. C.

by BOOTS FULLER
Superintendent Mankato Golf Club

The concept of lightweight fairway mowing is certainly not a new scheme. For many, the practice has been used for some years now. But for us in Mankato, the dream became a little more realistic during the summer of 1985 when I approached Jerry Odash of Kaye Corporation here in Mankato with the suggestion that he leave three mowers with us for demonstration purposes. He did this with no delay and virtually no questions asked. The target date was our annual Loren Krugel Invitational Golf Tournament in July.

That tourney is played the first weekend after July 4 holidays. It's a three-day affair, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and annually attracts many of the outstanding amateur golfers from Minnesota and other surrounding states. This certainly was an opportune moment to showcase our course and its reception to the lightweight fairway mowing concept.

On Tuesday before the tourney, Jerry brought up two Ransomes Motor 180's and one Ransomes 5x3 gas powered five reel mowing unit. The Motor 180's are 3 reel triplexes with baskets and all 3 units are generally regarded as lightweight when compared to the 7 and 9 gang units which were used quite extensively in the 1970's and early 1980's on many courses.

Our plan in 1985 was to mow our fairways crosswise with the Ransomes 5x3 unit because the reels can be lifted and dropped rather quickly. The 5 mowing units took a wider cut and the time factor, although it took longer, compared to our 7 gang unit used previously, was still faster than the triplex 180's. The plan then was to mow twice with the 180's, once at an angle, the other time to mow lengthwise. We used baskets to pick up clippings with the Triplex 180's.

So we proceeded with the plan. We mowed the fairways crosswise on Tuesday and

Wednesday of the tournament week. On Thursday and Friday we mowed on an angle with the 180's and picked up grass clippings. Then on Saturday and Sunday we used the 180's again and picked up clippings; this time mowing lengthwise.

The program was an astounding success. Tourney players and our members were impressed. At first, many of our members insisted that we lowered our height of cut. This was not true. We set the height of cut exactly the same as our old 7 gang unit. The difference was that we were cutting grass we had never cut before because now we could cut four different directions.

Jerry continued to let us use these three units for several weeks after the tournament. Our members became more impressed. I must confess though, that I really "set them up" when about the third week of August I mowed the fairways with our old 7 gang unit. The complaints quickly followed. Tire tracks were visible. The quality of cut was nowhere near what the light weight units gave.

It soon became time to approach the Greens Committee and Board of Directors. Now there are many of you superintendents out there who approach boards with equipment purchases in excess of \$30,000 with some regularity. At Mankato this is the exception, not the rule. I knew I was in for a battle because we hadn't spent \$30,000 for new equipment in the six previous years TOTAL. Now I was going to request \$30,000 in just one big swipe. What a task we were facing!

There was much ground work to be done, and lots of horse trading. But through the intensity of the new Greens Chairman, an avid golfer, and also our Club Champion for 1985, George Chesley, the goal was met. We purchased two Ransomes Motor 180's with baskets and we purchased one Ransomes 5x3 five gang mowing unit.

We are now on a regular mowing schedule and use all 3 units. There is no question that the lightweight mowers take more time plus we need a person to pick up the clippings. The trade-off for time is how the turfgrass looks after the mowing. Many of us went back to walk-mowing greens because the results were more desirable. So it is with the lightweight fairway

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mowing. It'll cost more, but no one can argue the finished product. We are extremely happy with what we've seen so far. The units have performed admirably.

I feel very strongly that at our course the lightweight fairway mowers are here to stay. We will continue to monitor the performance of these units all summer. Jerry Odash has been extremely helpful and visits us frequently to check on the performance of these mowing units. At this point in time I couldn't be happier about how our fairways look. I guess I really never knew what a difference the lightweight mowers could make. But seeing is believing and many of our members have noticed the difference.



IN SEARCH OF GREENER PASTURES

by LEIF ERICKSON, CGCS
 Briarwood Golf Club
 Billings, Montana
 (former MGCSA director)

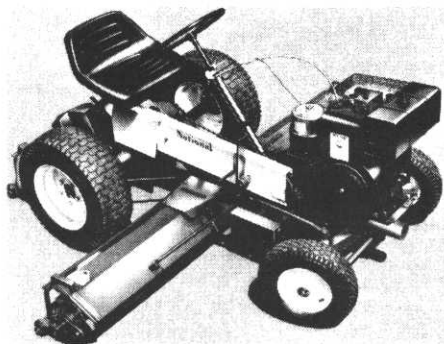
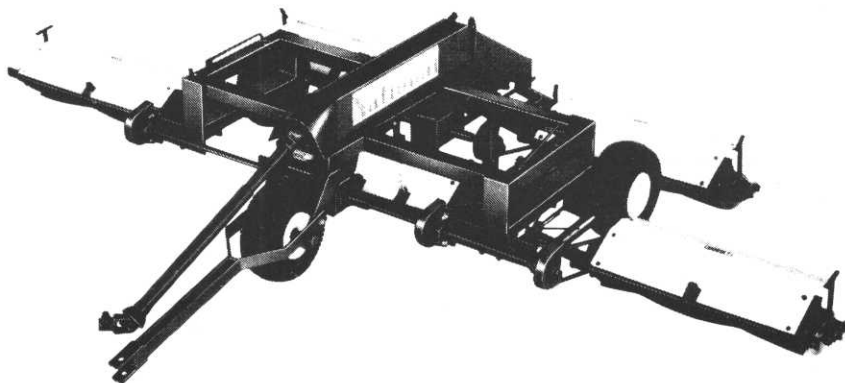
I am sure each of us has been intrigued by other pastures. It is this intrigue of opportunity that shuttles us around the country in search of greener pastures. The grass isn't always greener on the other side of the fence. When we cross a fence or two to satisfy our curiosity, we acquire a better perspective of where we have been.

I suppose Randall Nelson will put some heading on this letter, so some of you will recognize the name. But, after three years absence from your ranks, I am sure there are some youngsters I have not yet

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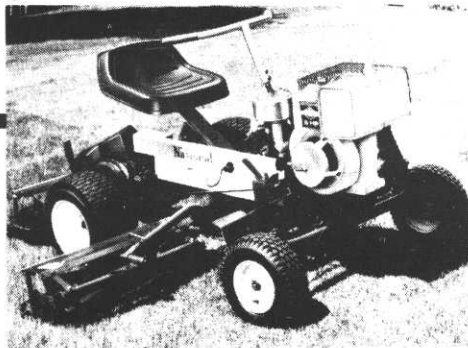
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Rotation Speed (60 PSI)	1:30 minutes	3:07 minutes	3:07 minutes	Faster rotation speeds—less time to syringe
Pop-Stroke	3"	1 3/8"	7/8"	Higher pop-up height—less matting around head
Arc—Adjustable	Yes 30-360 degrees	No	No 90-180-360 degrees	Adjustable arc is more versatile Model #95DR is full or part circle
Valve Type	Diaphragm	Piston	Piston	Diaphragm valve—less flow loss, cuts pumping cost, less sticking, cuts maintenance cost. Longer life 10X piston.
Internal Porting	Yes Bleeds water into sprinkler inlet	No Bleeds water into case	No Bleeds water into case	Internal bleed—does away with wet spots around head Case does not fill up with water
Drive Mechanism	Brass impact	Plastic gears	Plastic gears	Impact drive—has 2 moving parts—less expensive to service & repair. Less pressure loss.
Pressure Regulation	Field adjustment	Factory set	Factory set	Field adjustment—allows individual head regulation for more even distribution
Maximum Working Pressure	150 PSI	150 PSI	150 PSI	
Energy Efficiency	85%-95%	70%-80%	70%-80%	Impact drive more efficient—less pressure loss thru head, cuts pumping costs
Pressure Loss Thru Head	< 15.0	>23.0	>20.0	Saves pumping/power costs
Positive Retract Spring	Yes	Yes	Yes	
High Strength Plastic Case	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Cover	Aluminum	Plastic	Plastic	Aluminum less susceptible to striking damage from equipment, golf clubs etc.
Manual Override	Yes	Yes	Yes	Can still operate if power is not available
Nozzles	2	3	2	
Nozzle Interchangeable	Yes	Yes Must change stator	Yes Must change stator	Impact drive—allows nozzle to be changed without replacing a costly part
Screen Accessibility From the Top	Yes	No	No	Impact drive—allows screen to be removed thru top so head does not have to be removed from riser
Self Flushing Valve Seat	Yes	No	No	Diaphragm valve—has less hang-ups and sticking, cuts maintenance cost
Solenoid Grit Filter	Yes	No	No	Grit filter—filters water to valve ports, less hang-up problems, cuts maintenance costs
Solenoid	24V-2W	24V	24V	24V-2W Solenoid requires less power—allows longer runs on smaller wire
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met.

To introduce myself, I am a native Minnesotan from Austin. I went to the University of Minnesota for Turf Management. I persevered under Dr. Donald White. I was given the opportunity to care for my home golf course. After ten years, I thought I was dead and buried at the Austin Country Club. But, I arose again and found new life in a new challenge, in a new pasture in Montana called The Briarwood. Before I end this metaphor, you should know that the pasture is still the same. There is just a new head bull.

Two of the problems in our profession are the lack of opportunities for upward mobility within our club and the stagnation of our minds, abilities and training due to conservative restraints imposed by budgets. I believe it is this unsatiated desire for challenge and recognition that drives a person to new pastures.

There is a recourse open to all Golf Course Superintendents. That is the

professional recognition and challenge available to you as a member of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association and even beyond that the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America. These organizations offer you an outlet for your professional skills, recognition among your peers, a new perception within your club, and upward mobility as an office holder of these associations. When I was elected to the MGCSA Board of Directors, I was extremely proud and gratified, that among my peers, I was judged responsible enough to hold office. This esteem promotes a new confidence, purpose, and maturity. This initial acknowledgement and recognition by my colleagues is singularly the highlight of my professional career. However circumstantial, I truly regretted leaving the Board of Directors and your fine association. It was the confidence that I had gained from the association that actually motivated my decision to accept a new challenge.

My move to Billings and The Briarwood proved to be a tremendous learning experience and tested every professional skill I possess. I joined the Wy-Mont Golf Course Superintendents Association and have recently been elected to the Board of Directors. It is a great thrill to be recognized this way. In 1985, I was selected to the Public Relations Committee of the GCSAA. I find a great fulfillment in these involvements.

Sometimes a professional change is necessary for your own well being. But, the intrigue of other pastures should not be the cause of disruption in your career and the dissatisfaction with ones self. You have great opportunities within the comraderie of your professional associations. You can realize your desire for professional recognition by becoming involved right within your own pasture. The hue of greener grass really depends on your perspective.

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EDITOR'S CORNER

RANDY NELSON

I am not sure if all of you superintendents are glad that May is over, but I for one sure am. My crew and I have been working in water or wet grass for so long that I noticed a few of them developing webbed feet. We were also developing a great rain tan. You know the kind of tan where the more wrinkles you have the better you look. I also feel our equipment manufacturers should develop reel mowers that are capable of floating on a cushion of air for just such soggy spring conditions. Seriously, this spring was so cloudy and rainy for so long that when we did see the sun we thought we had done something evil.

The only day I can remember in May that was really warm and dry was our MGCSA meeting at Hastings Country Club. Warm yes, but windy. Even windy doesn't describe it properly. It was so windy that Brad Klein, superintendent at Detroit Lakes, started out for work that day but the wind started buffeting his pickup so bad that by the time he got it under control he was in Hastings. The fifty members who attended the meeting and played golf were fiercely challenged by the wind and Steve Schumacher's great golf course. Steve and his crew did an outstanding job preparing for our arrival. Jerry Commers and Co., (Cushman Motors) had their reliable line of Cushman, sprayers, and walk behind mowers on display until midafternoon. The supper buffet which was excellent was topped off by an interesting presentation by Larry Vetter from the Northrup King Co., concerning seed availability. Larry informed us that because of poor weather conditions seed growers inventories of certain bluegrasses and bentgrasses will be extremely short again. In addition, another wrinkle has been added to the Penncross bentgrass shortage as well. Southern courses have started to add Penncross bentgrass in with their ryegrass

overseeding to develop better putting surfaces. I guess we can't blame our fellow superintendents from trying to improve the quality of their greens. However, it just means we as managers must plan well in advance for our seed needs.

Looking ahead this month, we have the opportunity again to rub elbows with our constituents in the allied associations. What I am referring to is the annual Minnesota Green Industries Expo at Anoka's VTI campus. I feel this event is a good one to invite a few of my key crew members to attend. They enjoy scrutinizing the equipment and salesmen, and to just get away from the routine to relax.

Remember also our MGCSA meeting on June 16 at Detroit Lakes Country Club. Turf Supply Company will be sponsoring Dr. Clinton Hodges as our guest speaker for the meeting. If you haven't spent any time around a resort community before, give it a try. Call Brad and he will try to arrange lodging for you. If you can't spend the weekend at least come for our meeting and a chance to play at the home of the annual Pine-to-Palm Tournament. See you there.

MINNESOTA'S GOLFING HERITAGE SHATTUCK GOLF COURSE

by Rick Christianson
Superintendent Shattuck Golf Course

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