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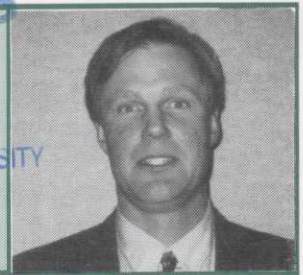
SERIALS

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

AUG 07 1995

Pace Yourself For the Dog Days Of Summer

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Day turns into night. One hockey game runs into the next. Different day, different city. One loses track of time. It becomes difficult to remember all of the good times during the long season. A tip from a wily, old veteran player is to pace yourself for the long haul and don't make too much out of the highs and lows.

We have now turned to the "dog days of summer." One day leads to the next without direction. Sometimes we seem to get lost in our own world, while others seem to get caught up in a fast-paced tempo of living. Both of these occurrences of our jobs can be detrimental to our health, family and jobs.

I have to admit that my summer has been traveling at warp speed. It is hard to maintain any sanity. Periodic weather delays have been welcome. Still, deadlines at work are being met, but my articles to Scott at the MGCSA have been getting to him later as each month passes. I believe past presidents understand what I am talking about.

If I had more time to write this column, I could dwell on a few more points, but I'll save them for later articles.

* * * *

A splendid day was great to hold our Annual Garske Scramble Golf Tournament. Dick Grundstrom at Indian Hills G.C. and Marlin Murphy at Stillwater C.C. had their respective courses in great shape to share with our members and their staffs. By the results of the tournament, it looks to me that their must be a player's ability test given at a few courses before they are hired. Congratulations to all the winners. The MGCSA thanks all participants who contributed to make the outing very successful.

* * * *

Make plans to attend the MGCSA Player's Championship at Baker National Golf Course in August. Please sign up early and plan to attend the dinner at the Medina Entertainment Center. We will be entertained by Patrick Reusse of the Minneapolis Star Tribune and KSTP Radio. Also, we have some new MGCSA Logo apparel and merchandise for sale. They will be at the registration desk. Plan on purchasing some items and promote our profession as well as our association.

* * * *

It is never too early to plan on attending our Annual Conference & Show in December. It will be bigger and better than ever.

* * * *

I hope you plan to attend the MTGF Summer Expo at Resurrection Cemetery in August. Do your part to support the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation. The Foundation is headed in a great direction!

See you next month.

— Kevin Clunis, CGCS
President

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Okay, one more time...

Seed It Right, the First Time!

By Joe Churchill
North Star Turf, Inc

If you've taken the time during your busy summertime schedule to peek at a calendar, you'll notice that Fall is right around the corner. By the time this article hits the press you'll no doubt be looking forward to fall and a change of weather. But wait just a minute! There's seedin' work to be done! Let's not get so wrapped up in our summer's end daily schedule that we blow right through the famous "Minnesota seeding window."

My guess is that almost all of you have a few seeding projects to take care of this summer. Perhaps you are reseeded a few tees, repairing wear areas at the end of a few cart paths or undergoing a major fairway renovation. It doesn't matter what the job is, how big or how small, it's best to do it now.

Perhaps you have heard or read enough about putting seed in the ground and have had plenty of success in the past. It's this "seed jockey's" opinion, however, that an occasional refresher course never hurts. I grant you, sowing grass seed isn't rocket science, yet too many times it is done incorrectly, yielding disappointing results. So, just as a quick refresher, let's touch on a few important points to increase your chances of doing it right the first time...

Assess and Correct

Before going to the expense and trouble of reseeding an area, assess the site for conditions that attributed to the problem in the first place. Is shade a problem? Is the soil compacted from overuse? Does proper drainage exist? Is there excessive standing water present after a rain or irrigation cycle? How's your soil pH and soil texture? Are you using the proper type of grass seed suitable to the intended use and your level of turf management? Address and correct all possible concerns prior to seeding to make sure you won't be facing the same problems next year and beyond.

Sow No Seed Until Its Time

The famous "Minnesota Seeding Window." Live by it or be prepared to accept the consequences! I'm not saying you can't achieve good establishment results by seeding outside the window. Spring, mid-summer or even dormant seedings can be highly successful. That is if everything goes right. If the rain falls on cue, the crabgrass doesn't germinate (cold day in h---) and the heat and high humidity stay south you've got it made. But the chances of that happening are about as remote as a whole summer of rain-free weekends.

The famous seeding window seems to have shifted slightly in recent years. No longer does August 15 to September 15 match our optimum seeding time in Minnesota. In the southern part of the state mid-September is still acceptable. Obviously, as one moves northward the window

closes sooner. In the Twin Cities metro area a more realistic seeding window would begin August 1 and extend through Labor Day. An early September seeding is still safe, however. In Northern Minnesota seeding is best done from mid-July through mid-August. After Labor Day anything can happen in the North Country!

The seeding window can be altered slightly or perhaps totally ignored if you are blessed with a reliable irrigation system and carefully select the proper grass seed varieties. Faster establishing varieties are a must if you are seeding late into the fall and battling the odds of a killing frost getting the best of your new seeding. The benefits of an irrigation system both during and after seed establishment are numerous. Being able to control the frequency and the amount of water your turf receives will more than pay for itself over time. Without it, establishing and maintaining quality turf is a hit or miss proposition.

One more word of advice relative to seeding outside the window. For those of you who have no choice but to seed in the spring, I strongly recommend applying siduron (Tupersan) at the time of seeding to reduce severe crabgrass and annual grassy weed competition. The stuff isn't cheap, but it will greatly improve your chances of ending up with a solid, pure stand of desirable grasses instead of a monostand of crabgrass. Without Tupersan and irrigation, a spring seeding can yield disastrous results. Don't say I never warned you!

The Right Tool for the Right Job

Regardless of what method you choose to place seed into the ground, there is one very important principle to which you must adhere. In order to attain good germination and establishment you must achieve good seed-to-soil contact. Without it, you may as well throw seed to the wind. Seed-to-soil contact is easy to accomplish when seeding into bare ground. Gravity generally takes over and, bingo, the seed hits the ground. The task becomes a bit more of a challenge when overseeding into existing turf. Consequently, seeding failures typically occur when an attempt is made to overseed rather than when seeding initially.

For use on new seedings a broadcast spreader will do very nicely in smaller areas. You must follow up by raking or pressing the seed into the soil to anchor the seed, minimizing erosion and maximizing good soil contact. For larger areas, a tow-type primary seed such as a Brillion or LandPride will give optimum results by making one pass, although two passes would be better. Primary seeders like these will cover larger areas quicker and will meter the seed into the soil more accurately, saving you seed and

(Continued on Page 6)

Seed it Right —

(Continued from Page 5)

money. The roller packers located on both machines press the seed into the soil, assuring good seed-to-soil contact. If you expect to do a lot of new seedings in the years to come you may want to consider purchasing a primary seeder. It'll save you money — lots of it.

Another method of seeding that has become more popular in recent years is hydroseeding. Hydroseeding makes the most sense when seeding very large areas or terrain that is difficult to traverse with conventional seeding equipment. You also have the unique ability to tank-mix seed, fertilizer, mulch and tackifiers. This concoction can then be applied in one application.

Overseeding into existing turf is much more challenging than seeding into bare ground. Getting through all that thatch and foliage in an attempt to reach the soil is very critical to assure seed germination. If the seed is left on the turf surface or nestled into the thatch the only ones that will be happy are the birds. The key to a successful overseeding starts with using the proper equipment. The most effective method is seeding with a slit seeder. Several brands of slit seeders are available, offering many different features. They all accomplish the same basic thing, however. They effectively penetrate through the turf foliage and thatch and place the seed in contact with the soil.

If you do not have access to a slit seeder, an alternative method would be to power rake and aerify the area, broadcast the seed and follow up by raking or dragging a mat over the seed, thus working it into the exposed soil and into the aerification holes. It's not as effective as slit seeding but it can be a viable alternative.

Select the Proper Seed Mixture

No doubt the most important factor in choosing a seed source is to pay close attention to seed quality. Both germination percentage (85% minimum) and seed purity (low crop and weed seed and inert matter percentages) are important specifications to check. Seed lots that have a low purity and/or germination percentage should be avoided. They will only yield poor results and create a need to go back and reseed areas as a result.

Plant preformulated grass seed mixtures and blends rather than individual varieties. Doing this will broaden the turf's resistance to turf disease and insect infestation. It will also improve turf quality by expanding the mixture's ability to perform better under varying degrees of shade, traffic, soil types and management levels.

"What type of seed mixture or blend should I use?" you ask. Let's face it, there are as many different varieties of seed these days as there are brands of soap. Choosing the mixture that is best suited to your needs can be confusing. To make the selection process a bit easier, ask yourself these few questions:

- Does the area I'm seeding receive a lot of traffic?
- Is rapid establishment important to me?
- Is fast recovery from wear important?
- Do I have shaded areas to contend with? How heavy is the shade?

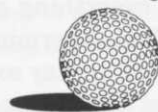
- What are my soil types? Soil pH?
- What is the expected level of maintenance?
- What are my turf quality expectations?
- Will there be an irrigation system installed?

Trying to find a grass seed mixture that will best match the answers to your questions above can be difficult. However, taking the time now to decide what mixture best fits your situation will only save you money, time and a lot of headaches down the road. No one grass seed mixture or blend will fit all your seeding needs. Determining what your basic needs are will allow you to intelligently select the two or three mixtures or blends that fill all your requirements.

Aside from a steady diet of bentgrass, the mixtures and blends that you will use will consist of three basic turfgrass species, Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass and the fine fescues (creeping red, chewings, hard and sheeps). A few grasses to stay away from altogether — tall fescue, red-top, timothy, bromegrass and wheatgrass. They have absolutely no place in a turfgrass setting. If you're seeding medians or ditches, have at it, but keep them away from groomed areas where aesthetics are important.

For reliable recommendations relative to turfgrass selection and establishment techniques, contact your local extension agent or turfseed supplier. Both are excellent sources of information regarding the industry's newest and best adapted varieties as well.

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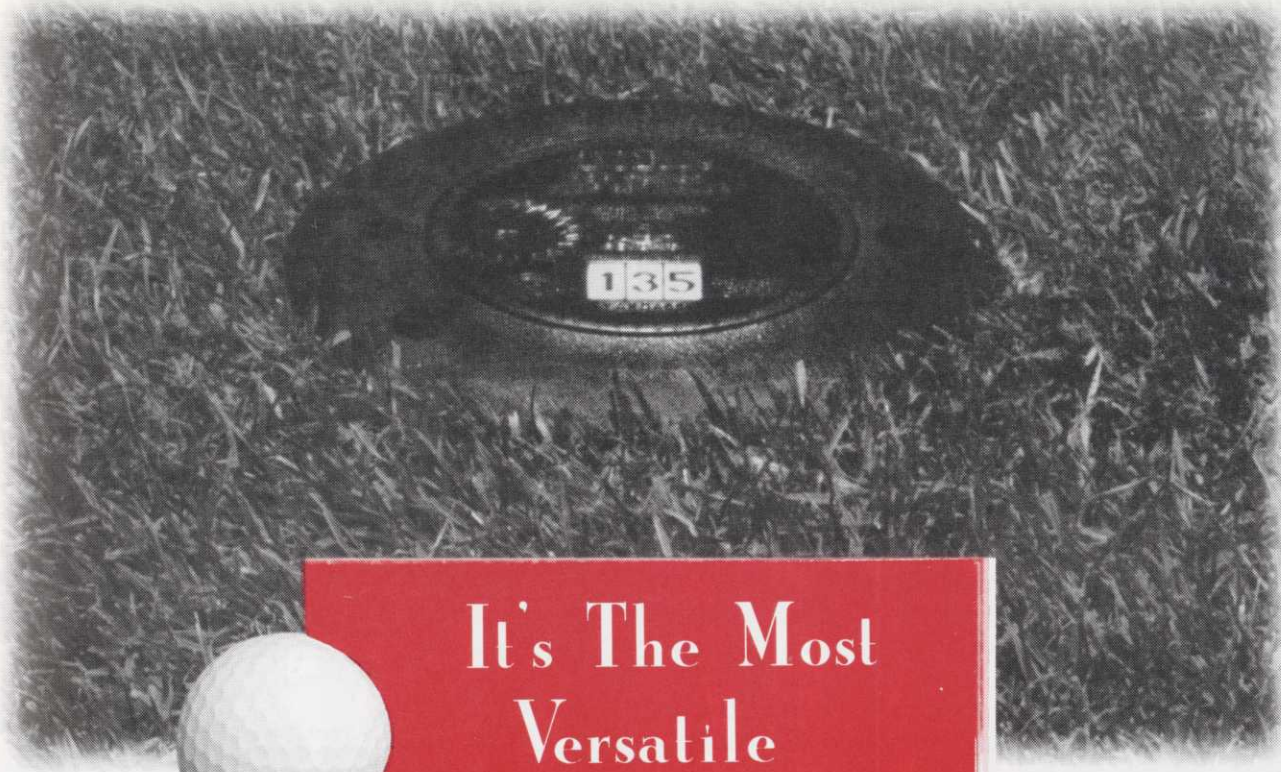
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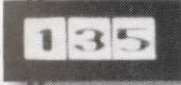
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Where are they today?

George Ostler Loves to Build Airplanes

By Jack Kolb

In the fall of 1945 the war had just ended and the United States military was processing hundreds of thousands of young men back into civilian life.

One of these youngsters was a gentleman who had served a full four years in the U.S. Navy as a "Ship's Cook" with the rank of "Petty Officer 2nd Class." For the most part in his naval career George Ostler and his ship worked out of Subic Bay in the Philippines. Since the timing of discharges was rated on points or length of service, George was on early release to become a civilian.

Our subject found himself in St. Paul — a foreign city and a foreign country from his origin. George was born in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. At age two-and-one-half he moved with his parents to San Jose, Calif. Young George eventually became a naturalized citizen of the United States.

Why did he come to this foreign city of St. Paul?

Well, while in the service he happened to be stationed at Moffet Field in Sunnyvale, Calif. On a blind date he met a beautiful young lady who happened to be a Wave, also stationed at Moffet Field. Lorraine and George were married June 10, 1944.

Lorraine was from St. Paul, so upon discharge George acquiesced to making their future home in the Twin Cities area. Upon arrival in St. Paul George began looking for work and even looked in the ad section of the *Pioneer Press*. Midland Hills Country Club was looking for groundsmen. George was the first to apply, and in October of 1945 he began his career in Golf Course Management.

Emile Picha had just left Midland Hills that fall, and brother John Picha had become Superintendent. Shortly thereafter John Picha left and was replaced by Clarence Reynolds. George, the new employee, was a fast learner, and after four years as a journeyman apprentice he was named superintendent, succeeding Clarence Reynolds. Reynolds was leaving Midland Hills to join Gordon Brinkworth a "Peripatetic Superintendent" starting construction of North Oaks Country Club.

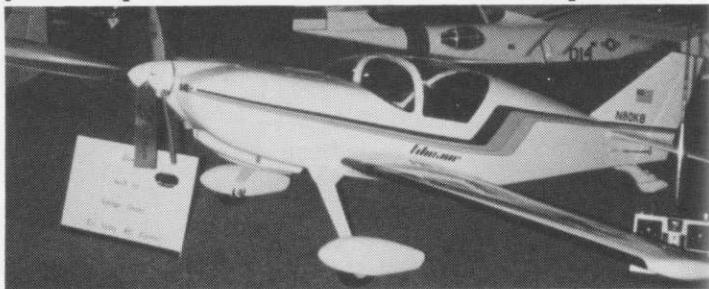
Enter George Ostler as the new Superintendent of Midland Hills Country Club. George labored in his new position for six years. An Associate member of MGCSA, Paul Miller, of the old R.L. Gould Company, was sort of a mentor to George and invited George to accompany him to a MGCSA meeting which was being held in a supper club at the intersection of Como Avenue and Rice street in St. Paul.

Paul had convinced George that the association would benefit his career and George signed on as a new member in 1949. George's contributions to the MGCSA were many. He spent nine years on the MGCSA board, serving as

president in 1979, treasurer for two years, membership chairman two years and research chairman one year.

In 1955 a new position beckoned and George Ostler became the Superintendent of Hillcrest Country Club in December of that year. Until George's retirement five years ago, he had spent 36 years at Hillcrest.

For those who called on George, there was always a presence of immaculate neatness to his shop and office, but just as impressive were the beautiful model airplanes that



1/4-Scale Glass-Air

First Place Blue Ribbon on Prop

he built. George is a member of the AMA (Association of Model Aeronautics), the IMAA (International Model Aircraft Association) and the TRI VALLEY R/C (radio-controlled) FLYERS. One had to approach George's home with trepidation as young George Jr. was a rocket enthusiast and had parachute retrievals landing in a four-block area around their home on Shryer Ave. in Roseville.

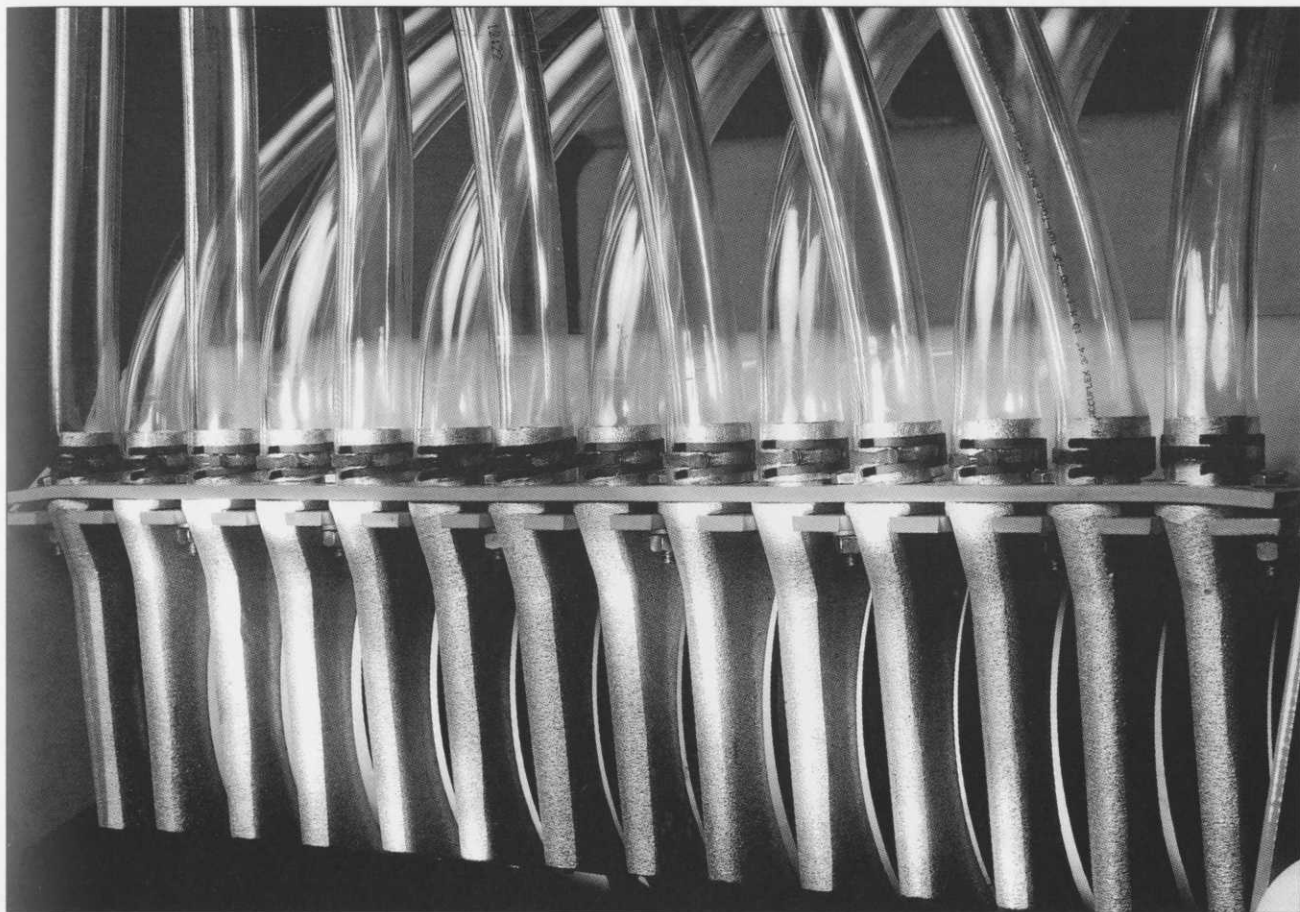
George happens to be an aviator, but he does his flying from the ground. The planes that he flies are not toys but radio-controlled pieces of ingenuity crafted by his own hands and beautifully replicated copies of full sized classics. George's pride and joy is a quarter-scale Davis-D1, vintage 1929, tandem-open-cockpit plane identical to the one in which this writer had his first aerial ride (from an



1/4-Scale Davis-D1—1929

itinerant barnstormer in 1932). The accompanying photo is not in color — but if it were, you would see that George earned a Blue Ribbon (first place) on this quarter-scale Glass-Air.

George's retirement was marred by the passing of Lorraine Ostler in August of 1992.



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PROTECT YOURSELF BEFORE LIGHTNING STRIKES

By Amy Rolando
Chief Meteorologist and CEO
WeatherWatch, Inc. — Minneapolis, Minnesota
Edited by Caroline Ruden

The old notion that lightning never strikes the same spot twice is a case of wishful thinking. The fact is, lightning kills in certain areas with alarming predictability. You can protect yourself by knowing what to do during a storm.

Lightning tends to strike high places — for example, the Empire State building is struck about 40 times a year! Therefore, you shouldn't stand under trees during a lightning storm. Seventeen percent of deaths from lightning occur under trees.

Standing in wide open places are dangerous as well. Thirty-one percent of deaths from lightning occur on golf courses and in open fields. It is actually safer to stand under a group of trees shorter than others in the area, rather than out in the open. Lightning will more likely strike the taller trees in the area.

It is also important to stay off the water when lightning is near. Twelve percent of deaths from lightning occur when people are out boating or fishing. In June of 1993, two men were struck by lightning while they were fishing on Lake Independence.

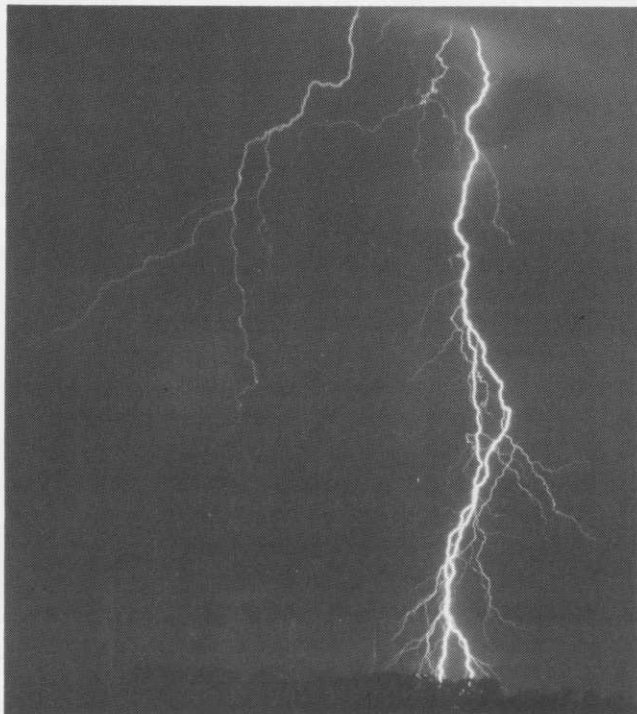
"They had been fishing for about an hour when Mr. Reinken cast his fishing rod for the last time. The lightning struck the rod's tip and entered Reinken's right palm and exited his right foot."

"Dr. John Twomey, director of Hennepin County's burn unit said the two men didn't do anything dumb. He said the clouds had already passed. He said they were caught in a phenomenon in which lightning struck although dark clouds were not overhead." (Star Tribune — June 9, 1993)

Even though there were no dark clouds directly above the two fisherman, they were struck by lightning from a storm in the distance. *Take note that lightning can strike close to ten miles from the parent cloud.*

WHAT TO DO WHEN LIGHTNING IS NEAR

Standing in the open with a metal object is a deadly



combination when lightning is nearby. That is why the golf course is an especially dangerous place to be during a lightning storm.

When lightning is nearby, it is *always* time to stop your golf game. Professional golfers Jerry Heard and Lee Trevino were both struck by lightning on the 13th fairway at Butler National Golf Club.

Heard, who had won four PGA tournaments and was on the fast track to become the game's next big star was taken out of the running in an instant.

Remember, no matter how good your game is going, it is never worth it to remain on the course while lightning is nearby.

But if you do find yourself far from the clubhouse when a storm is brewing, take the following precautions to ensure that you don't become a human lightning rod:

- Drop the golf clubs and the umbrella! These are metal objects which are often pointed skyward, just inviting lightning to strike. It is better to get wet than to attract a deadly lightning bolt.

- Take off metal-spiked golf shoes. Again, metal is a conductor of electricity.

- Seek low ground if you are in an open area. Lightning will strike on top of a hill before a lower-lying valley. Curl up on your side, the smaller target you are, the better. Lying on a rubber or plastic raincoat provides insulation.

- Be aware of the signs. Anytime you feel the hair on your head, neck or arms stand on end, lightning may be about to strike. Immediately drop to the ground and curl up on your side.

PROTECT YOUR PATRONS

Believe it or not, electrical storms kill 300 to 600 people in the United States each year, and they injure thousands more. Unfortunately the majority of these deaths and injuries occur on golf courses and in other open areas.

But golf course owners are not helpless to protect

(Continued on Page 12)