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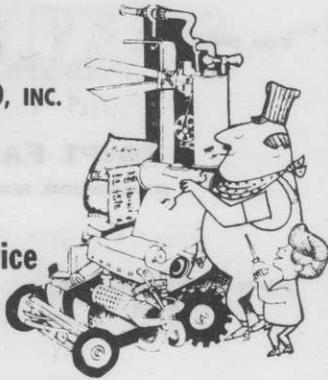
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THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER by Tom Doerer

The illustration is self explanatory and is as old as time immortal. The other fellows grass is usually greener, simply because he exerted a little more time and effort in making it that way.

To meet the demands of the modern day golfer, time and effort must often be spent in convincing greens chairmen, boards of directors, and memberships at large that it is wise to hire the help necessary on a yearly basis to maintain these playing conditions.

Gone are the days of a bag of seed, a mower, a bag of fertilizer, and any help available for the growing and cutting of grass on a ten to twelve hour a day program. Today's sophisticated and expensive machinery requires semi-skilled help to operate it economically and efficiently. What are we as superintendents doing to promote this type of help? What incentives are we establishing to attract this type of personnel? Are we doing enough promotional work with our directors? Are we demanding that our greens chairman help us in establishing job security for our mechanics and maintenance men? This security might be in the form of retirement plans, group insurance plans, educational programs and many others. All personnel in this day and age are being taught to look for job security. This certainly cannot be done with our present hiring practices. Continuity in managing personnel is as important to our courses as is the knowledge we must use in turf management. Many golf courses in the Mid-Atlantic area are being played eleven months out of the year. This fact makes it a must to hire employees with this thought in mind. Maintaining year round personnel is economically sound over a period of years as it puts continuity in our programs,

making for greater course progress. This thinking would naturally boost the payroll dollar, but over the years we would be saving on the costs of repairs to this modern expensive equipment. Job security would also reduce the overall costs in the attitude and the effectiveness of the employee. The employee could be trained better and also trained to have a little pride in his work. In my opinion, it would be a step in the right direction if we as superintendents devoted more time at some of our monthly meetings in further discussion of these matters. It would be a suggestion that we have these meetings attended by all the superintendents in the area. This could be done with just superintendents attending and with no other business. We as a group should have many comments concerning this. Comments that would start us getting a program started that would not only be beneficial to the superintendent, but would help the clubs and the employees at the same time.

I TRAVEL THE SUBURBAN LINKS by Dave Fairbanks

I took some time off from the spring grind to visit with a few of our suburban supers last week and I wasn't too surprised to find they were working hard too. Some of us are working hard with projects at hand and some are working with their Boards to come up with some projects and or equipment. I believe a conspiracy is in the air this year because it seems to me that an awfully lot of clubs are enlarging dining rooms, locker rooms, kitchen areas, and rebuilding parking lots instead of improving the most important part of the golfing facility, the course itself. There are always constant and sometimes justified complaints about the golf course but when budgets are submitted to make amends, they are scratched for more important projects. You can fight just so much until you realize their ears have been closed the whole time. We all complain about our chairmen once in a while, but this time I'll give mine credit for fighting for the course to the final "no."

I stopped to see my neighbor, Wayne Jerome, over at Montgomery Village Golf Club. I'm sure you all know by now that we'll be losing Wayne from our ranks on May 3. He's going on working retirement in Florida building a new club just north of Fort Lauderdale. We've got a few members that have worked the twelve month gauntlet in the past. Might suggest that Wayne get a few pointers from them before leaving. While at his club, I noticed three new tees built this spring, one in its final stages. Wayne kept his men busy over the winter planting 200 trees of mixed breeds and rebuilt three traps in strategic locations on the course. Sorry to see you leave, Wayne.

Over at the monstrous Washingtonian National, Buel Hitchcock had his gala opening on April 12th, banners and all. For any of you have seen it, I'm sure you will

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