



MID-ATLANTIC

News Letter



Published by
Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the Advancement of the
Golf Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

VOL XIX

AUGUST 1969

NO. 8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer Rules

For me, this has been a dilly of a summer. You noticed the dry spell, the little wet spell, and the hot humid spell? A suffering golfer asked me "what happened to the greens?" At this writing, I have two greens in a fearsome battle with goose grass, one green suffering from draught damage and four greens are thin from flood.

By the first of September I should see my turf situation greatly improved, but my members will recall only that it was another bad summer. As I look back, I have never had a good summer in the past 15. What is my problem? Could it be management, air or water drainage, poor construction, grass variety, what? Maybe I should just close during the summer. None of these offer a good solution, but if I could regulate the weather, at least I wouldn't have to close during the summer.

We won't close and you all are doing a spartan job "Keeping the Green;" it is just that your president has the summer blues. So let me apologize as your president for displaying some patches of brown grass, and whoever has the solution to my Summer Blues, please step forward.

Bob Milligan

Editors note: Don't worry about it Bob. You haven't got a monopoly on having brown grass this summer, believe me! Come over and I'll show you!

NEXT MEETING

The September meeting of the MAGCSA will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 9 at the Cavalier CC in New Castle, Delaware. This will be a joint meeting with the Philadelphia group.

Our host is Arthur Menard, super at the club since 1965. Arthur served five years in the Coast Artillery during WW II. He served his apprenticeship under Paul Weldion Sr. at Rock Manor Club and when Mr. Weldion retired, he took over as super there, spending a total of 15 years at that one club. Arthur has two sons who both work for him.

Cavalier was designed and built by Russel Roberts in 1960.

Golf will be played after noon with the dinner meeting following as usual.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB

Go north on Rt. 95 which is Delaware Turnpike to Churchmans Road. Turn right and cross the cement bridge, turn right again, and go about 500 yards to the clubhouse.

MEETING PLACES

Sept. 9 – Cavalier CC in New Castle, Delaware. Joint meeting with the Liberty Bell Group. Host Arthur Menard.

Oct. 14 – Woodmont CC in Rockville, Md. Ladies will be welcome to attend this meeting. Host Bob Shields.

Nov. 10 – Burning Tree CC. Meal and business meeting will be held elsewhere. Place to be announced. Host Richard Anderson.

Dec. 9 – Indian Spring CC. This will be our annual election meeting. Host Ed Dembnicki.

JOB OPENING

Sparrows Point CC in Baltimore is looking for an assistant superintendent. Good salary plus fringe benefits. All applicants must have college education in turf management or related fields. Marital status can be married or single but military obligation must be fulfilled. For further information, contact Alex Watson, Golf Course Superintendent, Box 6650, Sparrows Point Country Club, Baltimore, Md. 20014.

NEW POSITION

Dick Silvar from Baltimore notifies us that Bob Orazi has resigned as the assistant superintendent at Sparrows Point CC to accept the position as superintendent in charge of construction for the new Valley Hunt and Golf Club in Phoenix, Md. Ground has been broken and the target date for the opening of the 18 holes is set for July 1, 1970. Bob was Al Watson's assistant for 2 1/2 years. Prior to that he was working as superintendent of seeding for the Colonial Gardens Golf Course

Construction Company. Good luck Bob, we wish you continued success.

UNDER THE WEATHER

Word reaches us that Ruth Milligan has been in the hospital for nearly two months. President Bob says it wasn't anything too serious and that she is home now and feeling much better. Bob also sends his thanks for the flowers and concern from the association.

Also heard the moustached super from Westwood CC in Vienna, Jack McClenahan, has been attacked by his arch enemy, his bleeding ulcer. Jack was in the hospital for five days and seriously has had a real ten rounder with it. At any rate, he is back on the job again. What? Me worry?

ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN — BE PREPARED

Last month we reviewed two items from the May issue of the Golf Journal concerning first aid on the golf course. We will now look at two more of the more common accidents which do occur frequently on the links.

Problem — Heart Attacks

Heart attacks are becoming more frequent each year. The layman usually hits the panic button, and many times the person having the attack is not helped too much before he is seen by the physician.

First aid care of heart attack cases is quite easy to determine simply by watching how the victim acts and then helping him. First, if he is in pain (usually pain in the chest and left side, sometimes down the arm) he should be kept quiet. Let him lie down if he can do so comfortably.

If he has medication, help him take it and watch very closely to see that he can breathe easily.

Sometimes the victim is stricken quite suddenly. He may fall, or seem to faint. Be certain to watch his color. If he begins to turn blue, watch his breathing. If breathing should stop, administer artificial respiration until a doctor arrives.

Problem — Sprains


Sprains are usually injuries to joints. A turned ankle, elbow or wrist will swell very rapidly and will be painful and extremely uncomfortable. Cold applications should be administered immediately, and the victim should rest.

If there is any doubt about a sprain, it should be treated as a fracture until a physician can see it.

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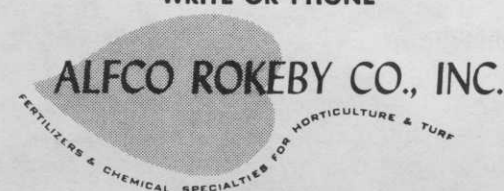
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Elevation of the injured member will usually reduce the swelling and pain.

Many times I have wished that there were more ways to reach people with the message that is in the Red Cross first aid textbook, particularly in the case where I saw about 20 adults standing by while a youngster who had been injured in an accident lay quietly bleeding.

We got there in time. A handkerchief and a little pressure in the right place for about three minutes controlled the bleeding.

We are our brothers keepers, so I keep on in my way trying to prevent people from killing themselves. It is my hope that we keep golf a game in which all of us can say that we do, (and can), take care of ourselves.

LADIES NIGHT REVIEW

Our annual Ladies Night was held on July 30 at Shady Grove and was a great success. Paul Barefoot, event chairman, reported that we had 125 people attending. The cocktail hour and the meal were at the Washingtonian, then we treked over to see the Jack Benny Show with Shani Wallis, female star of "Oliver." The show was excellent, and it was a very enjoyable evening.

SUPPLIERS — THE LADIES THANK YOU !!!

Due to the fact that we had such excellent response from the commercial men from our association the annual Ladies' Night was a financial as well as social success.

Those suppliers who so generously supported the cocktail hour are as follows: Aquatrols Corp, Lewis Barton Co., S.W. Barrick & Sons, F.W. Bolgiano Co., Blue Ridge Industries, Bordens Chemical & Fertilizer, Thomas E. Carroll & Son, Cornell Chemical, G.L. Cornell Co., H.T. Campbell, W.J. Cholko, W.A. Cleary Corp., National Chemsearch, Centreville Sod Growers, Egypt Farms, Miller Chemical & Fertilizer, Princeton Turf Farms, Alfco Rokeby, Russell Roberts, O.M. Scott, Summers Fertilizer, U.S. Steel Agri-Chemicals, and Weblite Corp.

ODDS & ENDS

In the GCSA Newsletter of New England, editor Gerry Finn reports that chinch bug is now giving supers there some of the headaches we "rebels" here in the south have been plagued with for years in our own area. From all indications it sounds as though the entire country has suffered from the Mid-Atlantic diseases and insects this summer. Now maybe the rest of the world

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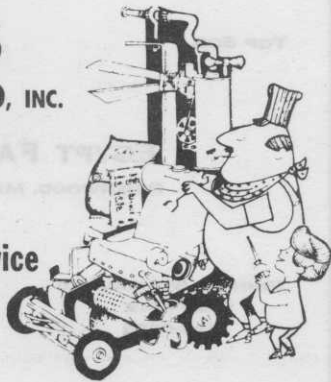
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can appreciate the rotten problems we have to contend with summer after summer.

In the Northeastern Newsletter we find a sad note. Mike O'Grady passed away on July 5. Mike was 65 and had spent 50 of those Irish tempered, rolling brogued years as a keeper "of the green". Mike helped form the Northeastern GCSA in 1924 as well as being instrumental in getting the Rhode Island group in action. Not just the Northeast section, but the entire profession will feel the loss of this truly dedicated golf superintendent.

From the Evergreen Chapter of GCSA in the Washington State area, editor Dick Malpass gives us a little info about their climate that will surprise you. "We in the Pacific Northwest are blessed with a multitude of climates. Some along the immediate coast of British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon rarely have frost. Rainfall is heavy, summers cool. Rainfall ranges from 30 to 40 inches per year, mostly November through February. By June it becomes quite dry and July and August seldom bring rain. Humidities are generally quite low during the summer. After a day during which the temperature might get as high as 90 degrees, you will probably be looking for a blanket before the night is over. Seldom do we receive snow, and that is usually in small amounts lasting only a very short time. The Cascade Range between western and eastern Washington makes the division point between mild and severe winters. These mountains ranging from many 10,000 foot peaks to Mt. Ranier's 14,410 feet, quite effectively milk the clouds of their moisture. Consequently, the eastern portions of both states are much drier. In fact, vast areas receive from 6-10 inches yearly. So when you talk about the rainy Northwest, remember that nearly two thirds of it borders on desert.

INDUSTRY NEWS

There is a company in upstate New York called Mowbot who is presently producing a "lawn mower with a brain." It is battery operated, cuts around all obstacles, is noise and odor free, and is completely safe. So safe, in fact, that "if the Mowbot should make contact with an object such as a toy or the family pet, which may be in its path, it will stop immediately. A device built into the rubber bumper which surrounds the sturdy plastic housing automatically stops Mowbot until it is restarted manually."

The machine is on the same principle as a rotary shaver, according to their brochure, with two counter rotating cutter discs, with retractable blades for low speed cutting.

And something else that might be of interest, "Expert horticulturists have proven random cutting, compared to routine patterns, produces healthier lawns. Mowbot

Reprint From
The Wall Street Journal
Tuesday, July 15, 1969

Keeping Up to Par

As Golfers Proliferate,
Maintenance of Courses
Gets More Demanding

Specialists Struggle to Grow
Grass Despite Tournament
Crowds, Spikes, Divots

Mollifying the Club Members

by John A. Prestbo
Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal

CHICAGO—If your once lush green lawn is now turning brown (and your wife is nagging you to do something about it), take some tips from an expert grass grower:

Your problem might be one of 40 common turf diseases, which Oscar L. Miles of south suburban Chicago is always looking closely for. This year he plans to stray his grass with mixtures of fungicides totaling 4,925 pounds of expensive chemicals.

Or maybe your browning lawn needs more water. Each summer Mr. Miles irrigates his grass with about 31 million gallons, pumped through a 10-mile network of pipes and sprinklers.

Of course, he tends a bit more turf than the average weekend gardener. Mr. Miles is superintendent of two 18-hole golf courses at Olympia Fields Country Club.

He's one of the nation's estimated 5,500 golf course superintendents, whose jobs are part agronomy and part aggravation. Their bosses are dedicated golfers whose own lawns at home could be a tangle of dandelions but who rage if their bobbed putts can be even remotely blamed on a stray blade of grass.

A Chance Remark

Each year many superintendents have their reputations put on the line when their clubs host major tournaments. Then, a chance comment to a sports reporter by a disgruntled pro ("I would've broke par if the greens weren't in such lousy condition") could give their handiwork a nationwide bad press overnight.

Golf course superintendents "are expected to raise laboratory-quality grass under battlefield conditions," says Ben J. Chlevin, executive director of the superintendents' national association. This year some 11 million American golfers, nearly 50% more than five years ago, will tromp around 9,615 golf courses (many smaller, publicly owned courses can't afford a full-time superintendent, which explains why there are fewer superintendents than courses). The golfers will chew up the turf with their spikes shoes and dig it up with their clubs.

To cope with the punishment their grass must take, superintendents have become a highly specialized, professional group. Twenty years ago, when golf wasn't the national craze it is now, superintendents were called greens-keepers, were paid meagerly and had no formal training. Some of them came from farms, while others drifted into the work because they had a green thumb.

A Costly Crop

Today, superintendents are entrusted with growing what's probably the nation's most expensive crop. Many plush country clubs sprawl over land worth \$50,000 or more an acre and in metropolitan areas such as Chicago their superintendents spend upwards of \$100,000 a year to maintain each 18-hole course.

With this kind of money at stake, golf clubs aren't hiring amateurs anymore. Many of the younger superintendents have bachelor's degrees in agronomy or some related subject, and a few hold master's degrees. Many are graduates of special turf management courses offered by a dozen universities around the country.

The new breed of superintendent works with soil tests and chemical analyses instead of intuition. Some are even feeding soil conditions into computers to help determine how much water and what kind of fertilizer to apply and when. Top superintendents are paid up to \$23,000 a year, and some are provided free housing on their course.

Like many of his colleagues, Oscar Miles of Olympia Fields is a golf enthusiast. When he was a teen-ager he considered making golf his career but then chose superintendency because he saw "more potential for advancement" in

grass-growing than on the pro circuit. Now an energetic 30-year old with a sand-colored mustache, Mr. Miles plays his two courses at least twice a week "So I can see how the course is from the golfer's point of view." (He has a seven handicap.)

Thick Grass

Under his watchful eye, his 36-man summer crew (15 are year-round men) mow the club's eight miles of fairway every other day at five-eighths of an inch. He keeps fairway grass growing thick so that golf balls will perch on top of the blades instead of sinking down. That's important because golfers lose a degree of control of their hits if grass or clover comes between the swinging club face and the ball.

Mr. Miles' greens are trimmed early each morning at three-sixteenths of an inch, a much shorter pile than in many living room carpets. The tees are also clipped daily, at three-eighths of an inch, and the roughs are mowed weekly at three inches.

The worst enemy of Mr. Miles' 380 acres of manicured greenery is people's feet. He can control the damage caused by members playing 45,000 rounds a year, but tournaments are major headaches. Last August 80,000 spectators flocked on Olympia Fields' north course for the annual four-day Western Open, and Mr. Miles knew the milling throng, many with spiked shoes on, would trample his grass to death.

Replanting it all after the tournament would take time and interrupt members' play. But Mr. Miles came up with a solution. After the first day of the tournament, he had his men spread grass seed along the crowd's traffic patterns. "The spectators spiked the seed into the ground for me, and all I had to do was water it," recalls Mr. Miles. "Three weeks after the tournament you wouldn't know we had anybody here."

Working with nature is the easiest part of their jobs, the superintendents agree. It's getting along with the club members that can be a strain, which is why some superintendents dream up occasional little extras as public relations efforts. On ladies' day at Sunset Country Club in St. Louis for example, superintendent Robert V. Mitchell sets out potted geraniums at the tees and marks the cups on each green with pink poles holding pink flags trimmed in black lace.

It helps to have a tight rein on tempers, too. One recent Fourth of July the Danville, Ill., Country Club brought in some ponies for members' children to ride. That night somebody tied one pony to the flag on a green. When James W. Brandt, the superintendent, arrived at work the following morning he found the tethered pony had worn a trench in the green by circling the pole all night.

The bad luck award, however, seems to have been permanently retired by Fred Harris, superintendent of the 27-hole Los Coyotes Country Club near Los Angeles. In October 1964, he bought some fertilizer and told his men to put it on a few greens. Unfortunately, when the stuff had been packaged, soil sterilants somehow were mixed in with the nutrients, and every blade of grass on four greens promptly withered and died.

A livid board of directors threatened to fire Mr. Harris, but he proved with soil tests it wasn't his fault. After a long period of litigation involving the fertilizer company and other suppliers, the club was reimbursed for the damage. Meanwhile, it took six months to rebuild the greens.

Then in December of the same year, a mammoth storage tank on a neighboring oil tank farm sprang a leak and sent about 300,000 barrels of crude oil gurgling over five Los Coyotes fairways. The oil company resodded the course, but with soil that had such a high saline content it took Mr. Harris a year to restore the fairways to normal.

The worst most superintendents have to put up with is vandalism, which is increasing despite efforts to increase grounds security. Besides tearing up the sod with drag races or spinning motorcycles, a seemingly favorite bit of vandalism is scratching dirty words deeply into the close-cropped greens. "It always seems to happen just before the ladies' tournament," moans one superintendent.

At one Los Angeles-area course, the superintendent walked out one recent morning to find a green completely stripped of sod. The police quickly nailed the culprit, a nearby homeowner who had decided his yard needed some nice grass. "It was easy to track him down," says a friend of the course superintendent. "All they did was go down the street and look for the best lawn on the block."

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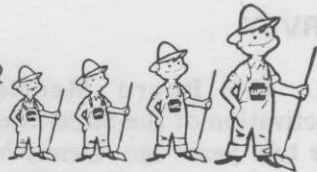
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FROM THE EDITOR

What! More talk about budgets? You better believe it! Only this month the editorial attempts to answer some questions and offer a personal solution to this annual crap about "why is the operating budget at Duck River higher or lower than our budget?" This question is asked of each super at least once each year by an "interested member." The answer is obvious, but these people can't see the solution no matter how clear it may be. Regardless of what anyone says, club budgets, for any committee at any club cannot be in competition with those of other clubs.

Members like to compare their club with other clubs which is fine. Except for one rather obvious thing. Clubs are not in competition with each other — they are in competition with drive-ins, hotels, and any other eating places in the same close area where they are located. By the same token, no golf course budget can be compared across the board with any other club. There are too many variables to be included in every budget and on every course. The amount in each club's budget is directly dependent on items such as: the income of the club, the availability of funds specifically for the golf course, the demands of the golfers, the age and condition of the golf course, the initiative and ability of the superintendent, and many others.

There are as many variables within the operating budget as well. Some clubs include such things as the pro's salary, manager's salary, areas of new equipment, land repairs, club house operating expense and a variety of other items which have no business being in there but in actuality tend to cause concern to the uninformed member who is making his own cost and operating analysis.

There has been thought and talk by the editor and others of drafting a standardized budget form to be drafted and put in the hands of willing and cooperative supers not only in our own area, but across the nation, if this is possible. Critics are skeptical of this plan, saying it can't be done because everyone has his own set of budget figures and categories where each amount is set up and worked from. But contention by the editor is that it can be done, mainly because people have said it can't be. A negative attitude is an open challenge and with the cooperation of our area supers, this standard budget form will soon be a reality.

Advocation that the club adapt their budgets to suit

this form is not the idea. They could if they desired to do so, but the main thought behind the idea is for the form to be an all inclusive, not too detailed list of all possible categories where golf course supers are spending their club's money. Then in filling out the form, if one super finds an area on the form that does not apply to his operation, he simply marks it to show it is not applicable or simply leaves the space blank. On completion, these forms will be sent to the Mid-Atlantic Newsletter editor for review and analysis. They need not be signed and will be kept anonymous if the super and/or the club desires.

Adoption and utilization of this plan would be a great benefit to all supers as they prepare and carry out their budgets. It would eliminate the ever-present doubt by a few club members that "we may be being taken for a ride" when they hear of a budget that may be lower than theirs.

Ideas and opinions, both pro and con, are welcome as usual. But at any rate, once again we can see that facts and figures may become a real help for the super.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Included in the Newsletter this month is a copy of an article which appeared on the front page of The Wall Street Journal on July 15. The article was well done and supers from all areas had members remarking to them about it. The article was mainly due to the efforts of the Buchen Public Relations firm whom the GCSAA had retained a few years ago. But after the article was printed, a letter comes to our attention stating that the Buchen firm is no longer being retained by our National association. Details are lacking, but it does seem a shame after such a fine article and all the favorable comment and sudden awareness on the part of a great number of club members all over the country that this will be the last attempt on their part. Hopefully, this article can be used in conjunction with budget preparations to impliment increases in wages, but if nothing more comes of it, at least many people have been made aware of problems that exist all over the entire country. Incidentally, Oscar Miles is one of Dr. Joe Duich's two year turf graduates from Penn State.

BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors held a meeting on Aug. 11 at Gunpowder CC. One of the items discussed was concerning a joint meeting between V.P.I. and the University of Md. Director Lee Dieter will act as the liason between the two groups and will investigate the possibility at the V.P.I. Field Days to be held in September. Support for this conference ran high among the directors and it is felt that this will be the concensus of our members.

Bob Shields, past National President, discussed the

proposed plan for superintendent certification as submitted in temporary form to members of the new committee to review this. The only comment that was made by the board was that they felt that the local chapter should have more to say and do with the verification of the applicants than is presently described in the program.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Application for membership was reviewed for Donald Hendrie, present superintendent at the Annapolis Road G&CC in Annapolis, Md. He is applying for a class E membership and was sponsored by Jack McBride and George Thompson.

As with any membership application, unless written objection is received to an application within 30 days after publication, the applicant automatically becomes an active member.

SURVEY

At the Board Meeting, the board approved re-activation of the Superintendent Survey which we did over two years ago. Denny McCammon will be handling this project as well as the confidential budget survey already discussed in the Editorial.

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Both of these surveys will be held in confidence and club names will not even need to be put on the paper. Cooperation is asked, however, because the only person you hurt by not going along with this is yourself. Details will be forthcoming in a month or two.

POA ANNUA RENOVATION

Since this is the time of the year when POA annua usually looks its worst and the golfing membership is hanging us in effigy for having such a lousy playing turf, it is fitting that one man's program for poa annua renovation is outlined. This man is Robert E. Kapherr, Superintendent of Ridgewood Country Club in Paramus, N.J., past president of the New Jersey Golf Course Superintendents Association and the father of my wife.

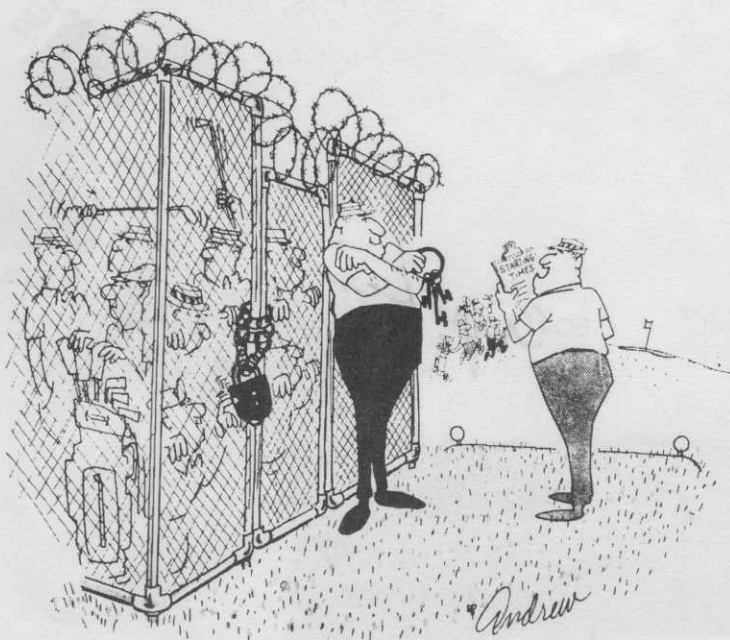
Ridgewood Country Club is a 27 hole private golf club in operation since the early 1900's, composed mostly of POA annua on tees, and fairways. The program for renovation was approved in 1967 and nine holes on the West course were selected to be completed first. Initially, it was planned to renovate the West course in 1967, the center in 1968, and the east in 1969. Because of dissentment from a portion of the membership, the renovation of the center course, to be undertaken in 1968, was postponed until this year. At this writing, the renovation of the center course is in progress. The nine holes worked on were taken out of play for the complete duration of the program, August 1967 to late spring 1968.

The renovation program was based on the use of Sodium Arsenite, using a total of 90 pounds of actual material per acre in three applications. The fairways and tees only were renovated with this method; they contained a population of 96% POA annua when the program started. The fairways were sprayed with a 21 foot boom on a 20 gallon per minute Bean sprayer. The tees were sprayed with a Hawk boom sprayer. The renovation operation took three weeks to perform and required the services of six employees.

The First Burn was made on Aug. 1, 1967 using 40 pounds actual Sodium Arsenite with a minimum of 50 gallons of water per acre. Approximately five days later, when the burn results were complete, the turf was aerothatched in one direction with two units, swept with two Rogers 720E sweepers to remove the debris, fertilized with two pounds of 10-10-10 per 1000 square feet and watered in thoroughly. Two days after the fertilizer was applied, the Second Burn was initiated, using 30 pounds of actual Sodium Arsenite per acre. Four days after this application, the turf was aerothatched in the opposite direction, swept, fertilized with two pounds of Nitrogen from Urea Formaldehyde per 1000 square feet and again watered. Three days later, the Third Burn was applied, using 20 pounds of Sodium Arsenite per acre. The next day, the fairways and tees were aerified once over with West Point units equipped with hydraulic lift, to prevent ripping of the turf on the turns. The turf was again aerothatched in a direction other than the first two, seeded to 20% Penncross, 20% Seaside, and 60% Astoria Certified Bentgrasses at 70-80 pounds per acre. When the turf was dry, an eight foot dragmat was drawn in two directions. The turf was then swept with the brushes set to barely touch the ground to pick up the rolls of thatch. The seed was not picked up with the brushes set in this manner. The turf was then rolled to firm the soil and watered until germination occurred. During the renovation eight feet of the bordering rough areas was submitted to the same operation with the exception of the seeding, this was to a bluegrass, fescue mixture.

The results of the seeding were very gratifying after all the work that went into the three week project. I, personally, inspected the nine holes renovated in October of 1967 and was amazed at the catch of bentgrass. Another superintendent in the Mid-Atlantic area also viewed the results that fall, Ed Dembnicki, of Indian Spring Country Club. Ed also has an interest in Ridgewood Country Club, his brother is Head Golf Professional.

The follow up program which Bob Kapherr has instituted to keep the POA annua from gaining a foothold again is by using Tri Calcium Arsenate. In early April, 1968, when weather permitted, Chip Cal was applied at 5-6 pounds per 1000 square feet. His



"OK, Bruno, lemme have four more."

fertilization program contains no phosphorus in a 20-0-10 mixture. Four to four and one half pounds of Nitrogen per year are applied with frequent applications of 100 pounds per acre. The fertilization is held off until May when the bentgrass has begun growth. Disease control on the renovated nine holes in 1968 consisted of one application of Cadmium Chloride at one ounce per 1000 square feet in the early spring and through out the year, six applications of PMAS plus Thiram were applied. Planned yearly, as was initiated in the Fall of 1968, aerothatching and overseeding will be done in areas where POA annua encroaches and is weakened by the Tri Calcium Arsenate. As of this summer, the bentgrass population on the renovated nine holes is estimated to be 65 to 75% and increasing with the continued use of Tri Calcium Arsenate.

Bob Kapherr is now progressing with the second nine hole renovation since the majority of the membership is satisfied with the results of the 1967 program. He sees a lot of work ahead of him again this year but the fruits of his labor are worth it. He says, "when you can reduce your irrigation alone by 50%, it's got to be worth it."

Dave Fairbank



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter

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SPRINGFIELD, VA. 22150

Published monthly by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the advancement of the golf course superintendent through education and merit.

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AUG 29 1969

