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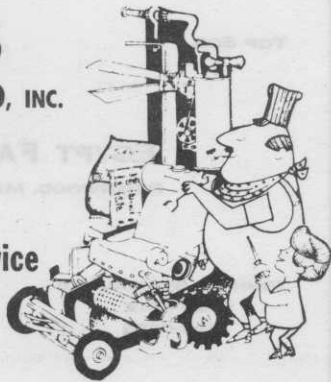
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can appreciate the rotten problems we have to contend with summer after summer.

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

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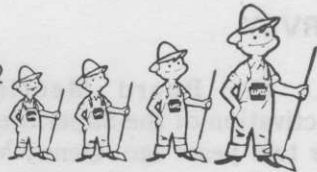
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roams freely within the pre-determined area, cutting the lawn and mowing around all obstacles in a completely random fashion."

If you're interested, the machine costs \$875 and the address is available from the editor if you want to order three or four.

### 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