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The long, thin line at Holden

"Prime horticultural displays in key areas of the Holden Arboretum every day of the year for the benefit, enjoyment, and education of all visitors are my objectives for 1977," says Winfried K. (Marty) Martin, superintendent of maintenance.

If past efforts are reliable indicators, Martin will succeed this year in achieving a garden-like appearance of the complex's Thayer Center, rhododendron collection, and Corning Lake area. He will accomplish this while deploying men and equipment over an additional 11 major and 3 minor areas, an enormous task involving the care of 7,000 species and subspecies of cultivars.

Arboretum maintenance is somewhat of an uphill struggle for Martin. This stems partly from the fact that the arboretum has grown in leaps and bounds from an original 100-acre tract in 1931. Holden directors have invested wisely in the future through programs emphasizing the acquisition of land and the



preservation of natural eco-systems. Holden is therefore a relatively "young" arboretum, and one that has expanded more rapidly than allocations for the care of such vast grounds. This also may be translated into a great potential, or bright future, for "the world's largest" arboretum.

In total, the arboretum consists of 2,643 acres in northeast Ohio about 25 mi east of Cleveland and 15 mi south of Lake Erie. Over half of this hilly Western Reserve land is preserved as forest and monitored by a naturalist. The remaining grounds range from a publicentrance area, which is highly maintained, to outlying areas providing a natural transition into the woods. In fact, naturalist considerations sometimes outweigh those of grounds care, keeping maintenance at lower levels than desired by Martin.

Scattered throughout Holden's in-between areas are its famous collections — planned, organized plantings of trees and shrubs that *Continued on page 24*

Holden, nature's "work of art"

One of the world's largest "museums of woody plants," The Holden Arboretum in northeast Ohio is a 2,643-acre showcase for over 7,000 different species. varieties, and cultivars of trees, shrubs, and vines. Native and foreign plants under cultivation range from exotic nut trees to ornamental shrubs. Collections, or living displays, include a wild-flower garden, experimental nurseries, a hillside of azaleas, maples, and viburnums, and entire forest eco-systems replete with deer, birds, and small animals.

The reach of the arboretum extends from nearby communities to international arboreal circles. Plant material, seeds, and scion wood are exchanged with arboretums and botanical gardens throughout the temperate world. New plants are propagated in the nurseries, which are also used to test unusual and foreign trees and shrubs for aesthetic appeal and climatical hardiness. Hundreds of woody plants are given annually to municipalities, churches, schools, and hospitals.

A resident staff of experts - arborists, horticulturists, and naturalists - direct Holden programs, hold talks and demonstrations, conduct youth and adult classes, serve as public consultants, and provide services such as plant/disease identification and species recommendation. These activities are multiplied through many volunteers from the Western Reserve area, plus representatives of universities in Cleveland (25 mi west of the Arboretum). Grounds of the four-square-mile complex are open to members throughout the year, and to the public from April through October.



Holden Arboretum hosts a multitude of activities from special events, to picnics and field days, to lazy summer afternoons by a pond.





Sixteen operations in four categories keep Holden's eightman crew busy the year-round. This force is supplemented by parttime high-school students, summer interns from colleges, and member volunteers. The arboretum annually attracts about 100.000 visitors and 20.000 school children. Gates are opened to the public in April when over 100 varieties of crab apples start blossoming. Visitation remains high with the blooming of lilacs and rhododendrons in May and June, respectively. Attendance slackens for two and a half months, then peaks again during the fall coloring in September and October.

Holden Continued

are maintained at medium to low maintenance levels. Increased maintenance would provide a more effective setting for some of the collections, says Martin, especially the shrubs in certain public areas.

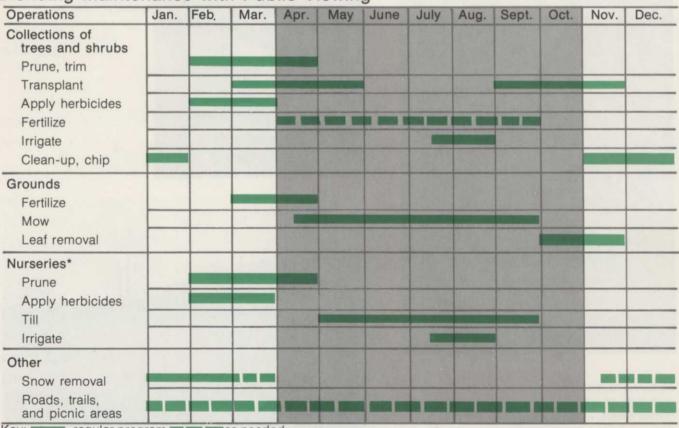
The arboretum's 5-tractor/7truck fleet and 8-man crew are spread pretty thin over the 1,300 acres under maintenance. Martin jokingly refers to his task as one of "keeping things together with baling wire and C-clamps." He is slightly apologetic about less-than-desired maintenance levels. He is firmly dedicated to his job, present and future. And he is very serious about constantly improving appearance levels as much as possible within the constraints of funds, manpower, and equipment.

Nonetheless, Martin is intent on transforming Holden into a truly great arboretum. He wants to equal or surpass European arboretums of which he is quite knowledgeable. Trained in silva-culture, Martin was a forest ranger for the Bavarian government until 1953. His first 15 years in the U.S. were devoted to machinery maintenance. He joined Holden in 1968 and became its grounds superintendent in early 1974.

The grounds crew consists of Martin, one janitor, two maintenance men and four gardeners. This year-round force is supplemented by two part-time students from a nearby vocational school, a student from one college in the spring, a student from another college in the fall, and eight summer interns — men and women majoring in horticulture at various universities. In addition, members of the arboretum volunteer to care for the wildflower garden.

Student workers offer muchneeded labor and represent potential additions to the staff. But they require considerable supervision, especially when certain equipment, operations, or plantings are involved. Attracting and keeping com-*Continued on page 45*

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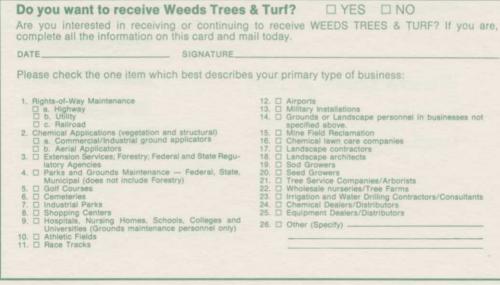
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Maintaining California's gemstone—Bel Air Country Club

by Harold LeSieur



Players arrive at 10th green, after tee shots across canyon and walk over fabled suspension bridge. Vistas of magnificent trees abound and frame each hole at Bel Air.

Architecture of the famous Bel Air golf course, located in one of the most affluent sections of California, began 50 years ago and has culminated today in one of the show place courses in the nation. Site of the 76th Amateur USGA Championship tournament in 1976, this proud club boasts some of the biggest names in the Hollywood entertainment industry and Los Angeles business world as regular players and members.

Hardly discernible from wellknown Sunset Boulevard, and near Beverly Hills and the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), this course of over 100 acres lies nestled in the steep terrain of the Santa Monica mountains, the exclusive Bel Air section. With elevations varying from a high of 662 feet to a low of 429 feet above sea level (not very far away), layout of some tees (such as the fabled 10th, across a broad canyon) presented special challenges. To illustrate the magnificent vistas possible from this course, from the 17th tee, Bel Air golfers can view distant snow-covered San Bernardino mountains in the winter. Fewer than 600 families can be members of this exclusive club and enjoy such privileges, and there is said never to be an opening which is not immediately filled.

To maintain this gemstone in Southern California's hillsides at the peak of its natural beauty requires a staff and golf course superintendent with a high experience level, a sizeable investment in equipment, and a cooperative management — all of which the Bel Air Country Club has in abundance.

Focus for the model Bel Air maintenance program is 38 year veteran Ardyce Twombly, who received a 1976 Citation of Performance Award from the GCSAA in recognition of his superior job in course preparation at the club. Although he now enjoys conveniences unknown in his earlier golf course maintenance days, Twombly and his assistant superintendent Charles "Bud" McDonald still report to work often near dawn, to ready the course for early players. Together they supervise a crew of 2 foremen, 6 section men responsible for three greens apiece, a mechanic, an equipment operator, 2 clubhouse gardeners and a labor gang of 6 "all-around" hands. Unusual to many maintenance crews, management attention at Bel Air results in a noticeable spirit of pride, and is reflected in course and maintenance center cleanliness. Few scraps of paper escape the watchful eyes of Art Twombly and his helpers!

Modern maintenance center saves money

The golf course maintenance center has finally graduated from the "barn" designation to the status of control center for an important part of total club management. Not at all clubs yet, but surely at the Bel Air Country Club, strong Board of Governors' support was extended to Twombly's plans for a modern maintenance control area. "I knew what I wanted for a new building since my experience at my other three positions told me exactly what I did not want", says Twombly.

Twombly came up the "hard Continued on page 28





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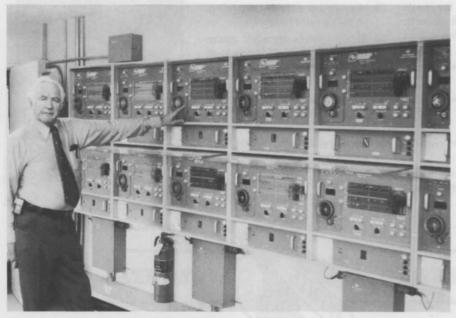


Pot nursery sits near maintenance center allowing easy access for transplanting flower flats into 4-inch pots.



Bel Air continued

way" in golf course maintenance, during days when maintenance was relegated to repairs in the snow because there was no room in the "shacks". Today he basks in the reflected glory of a handsome course and enjoys the conveniences of a well-equipped 50 x 250 foot maintenance center. On first view, one sees massive counterbalanced truck doors, adequate carload lot storage space, separate mechanic's area and double locked chemical and seed rooms, plus locker and lunch rooms for workers and a spacious office for the superintendent. Room is pro-



Superintendent Art Twombly explains operation of Binar Control system. installed in his office to permit easy automated operation of 25-mile sprinkler irrigation system.

Tractor operator tows 9 gang fairway mower on way to maintenance center.

vided to store indoors an impressive list of maintenance equipment.

These gains were not won all that easily, since Bel Air's maintenance staff experienced many frustrating months of hassles over building permits, neighbors who objected, and construction difficulties. Not the least project was the installation of 25 miles of irrigation piping, over a course which spans one mile and over 100 acres of hilly terrain. Today, this remarkable system is controlled automatically from the superintendent's office.

Twombly observes that no one plans the maintenance center nor thinks about equipment storage and repair, usually looking at this as a good place to save club money. Accordingly, he says, the superintendent must take the lead to show the cost savings possible. "When building a new club I strongly suggest that the superintendent, club officials, the golf course and club house architect, and the maintenance building designer work together on the master plan before it is submitted for final approval," is Twombly's sage advice.

Plantings beautify hillsides

A tour in Art Twombly's golf cart can be both a pleasant and unexpected experience. Pleasant is the enjoyment of flowering plants of diverse colors, unobstructed by preoccupation with making a satisfactory golf course. Unexpected? A sudden meeting with entertainer Lawrence Welk! Returning from a brisk game, Welk is a member and regular player at Bel Air, along with a Hollywood directory of famous *Continued on page 32* How to avoid paying for more than you need. Or getting less than you want.

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