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A Patch of Green

Official Publication of the
Michigan & Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association

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President's Message

The Flower Show at Pontiac Mall was a success from our standpoint in that our association had many members who gratefully extended their time and energies. I would personally like to thank these gentlemen for doing a fine service to the community. It is in keeping with the professional status of our group, and I'm sure that those who participated realize the good that they did.

Just a reminder to those of us who have been taking advantage of a situation which should be corrected before it becomes a problem, and action of a regulatory nature has to be invoked. When we are invited to use the facilities of some of the finest Golf Courses in the nation for our meetings; it seems the least we could do is to attend the functions in their entirety, instead of playing the course and then rudely leave. Our meetings take place after the dinner is served and it is without a show of gratitude to our host and our own members. Our observation of the local rules that prevail will also do much to show any of the members present that



we are appreciative . . . Enough said

We have a long row to hoe in respect to the coming year. Our hopes and aspirations for a successful one are dependent on each and every member of the organization. It is only a bit of consistency that we have to exert which will allow this to take place. Let's ALL stay on the same team and make our efforts as productive as possible.

Keep those cards and letters comin' folks . . .

Ward Swanson, President

Stellar Industries Reaches Distribution Agreement

Stellar Industries, (ASE), announced that Lawn Equipment Corporation has agreed to act as exclusive distributor for the Locke manufacturing division of Stellar in the state of Michigan.

Locke Division, located in Bridgeport, Connecticut, manufactures commercial power reel lawn mowers which are used extensively in the golf course, park, large estate and commercial markets.

William Barry, president of Stellar Industries, commented on the agreement saying, "Our association with the Lawn Equipment Corporation will provide us with a strong product representation in this important geographical market. This will be most valuable in our endeavor to expand our domestic sales."

Stellar Industries is a diversified manufacturing company with operations in Housewares, Automotive Specialties and Industrial Products.

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Spring Pump Tips

By D. A. Bruce, P. E., Vice-President, Miller Sprinkling Systems

Spring is here and one of the first orders of business will be to turn on your irrigation system.

A few hours spent in the pumphouse prior to start up is always a good investment. The following are a few tips that may save a lot of future headaches:

1. BEFORE STARTING: Rotate pump or motor shaft by hand to be sure the grease and packing are not holding shaft tight. Starting the motor without manual rotation could result in a broken shaft if grease and packing have set up on shaft.

2. PACKING: If your pump has not had a thorough repacking but only additional packing rings added, now is a good time to do the whole job.

Packing for many pumps consists of two packing rings, a lantern ring and three outside packing rings. The old rings and lantern ring should be dug out and replaced. John Crane "Super Seal No. 1" is a typical, good all around packing material.

Inspect pump shaft sleeve for excessive wear. If the sleeve is scored deeply or unevenly it should be replaced. Failure to replace the sleeve could result in a damaged pump shaft and the new packing will be torn and fail.

Cut the new rings to the proper length on a 45° bevel and place in stuffing box one at a time rotating the joint of each ring 90° from the previous ring. If the rings are not rotated, the joints provide an easy, direct path for excessive water to escape.

Replace split gland and draw the nuts up snug but not too tight. After the pump has been primed and run up to speed, tighten the glands evenly until it drips 20 times per minute at normal flow.

Remember, the packing assembly is a device to restrict the cooling water drip, not eliminate it.

3. LUBRICATION: There is no standard lubricant for all pumps. For pumps with grease cup for lubrication, the lubrication cup should be given a full turn or two every 100 hours of operation.

Normally, a pump with an alemite fitting should be greased every 2000 hours or at 3 month intervals while in operation. Grease should be added until it appears at the relief fittings. Do not overgrease and the grease should be good grade ball bearing grease.

Pumps with oil lubricated bearings should be kept full with a good grade SAE 10 oil. The oil should be changed once each year.

4. PRIMING:

- (a) Close discharge gate valve.
- (b) Open air vent at high point of pump.
- (c) Fill suction line and pump full of water. When full, watch to see that the static level is constant. If the level is not constant the foot valve, drain valve, packing, or suction piping is leaking. Hand rotate shaft to release any trapped air.
- (d) Close priming connection and start motor.
- (e) Crack the discharge gate valve to allow lines to fill slowly to minimize line pressure surges.

5. HYDROPNEUMATIC TANKS: Many of the newer tanks have bladders or diaphragms to separate the air from the water and should need no spring charging. The air pressure should be checked to see that it is 2 psi below the pump start pressure in order to get maximum use of the water volume stored in the tank.

Continued on next page

Meet the Board

This is the third month that we are featuring a member of the Board of the Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association. Featured is Jerry Gill, Secretary-Treasurer.

Jerry began his training under Clarence Wolfrom at Maple Lane Golf Club, in Sterling Heights, Michigan. He was one of Clarence's many apprentice Superintendents, from 1955 to 1963. During March of 1963 he took over the position of Superintendent at the Gowanie Golf Club in Mt. Clemens. He remained there until November of 1967 when he became the Superintendent of the very fine Tam O'Shanter Country Club in Orchard Lake, Mich.



He resides at Tam with his wife Mary and their four children. They have two boys and two girls.

When Don Clemans decided to leave the area Jerry was persuaded to fill Don's unexpired term of office as Secretary-Treasurer of the MBCGCSA, and in October of 1970 Jerry was elected to the post of Secretary-Treasurer for this year. He has served on the Board since October 1969. Jerry is also a Class A Superintendent on the GCSAA and a member of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation and the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation.

Deer hunting and snowmobiling are listed among his hobbies. He likes the game of golf but doesn't score as well as he would like.

Spring Pump Tips Cont.

A conventional tank should contain 60% air and 40% water in order to get maximum use of the water volume stored. To achieve this ratio on a switch, set to turn the pump on at 60 psi and off at 80 psi. At this setting the normal operating pressure is 70 psi. Pre-charge the empty tank to 60% x 70 psi or 42 psi. When the water pressure is added the air to water ratio should be correct. It is best to charge the tank when empty because the compressor has a higher output of volume at lower pressures.

Be sure the air does not escape into the pump volute or suction line because it will make priming nearly impossible.

For more specific information regarding your pump, contact your local distributor with model, serial numbers, motor horsepower, and RPM.

The pump is the heart of your irrigation system. Preventive maintenance practices in the pump house can save a catastrophe in July or August when you need 100% of capacity every day.

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MBCGCSA Public Relations

March has been a good month for MBCGCSA public relations. The Lawn and Garden Show at the Pontiac Mall found our booth in excellent shape thanks to Bob Mauk's umbrella table and chairs. Michigan State University furnished the turf plots and lawn care bulletins that were passed out to interested persons. The big surprise turned out to be the beautiful Penncross plot on display. It wasn't from MSU, but was part of Ted Woehrle's 11th green.

Each man on duty at the booth had his name displayed in a handsome board which was made and donated to the association by Jim Timmerman. If Jim is as good a Superintendent as he is a carpenter, Orchard Lake should be in great shape this year. Taking their turn at answering the variety of lawn problems were Ken McRae, Ted Woehrle, Tom Kennedy and John Kozmalski on Monday; Don LaFond, Don Puffpaff, Roger and Gerald Gill held down the fort on Tuesday; Wednesday found Jim Timmerman, Bill Roberts, Jim Bertoni and Ward Swanson on duty; Thursday afternoon was all Prieskorns with Earl, George and Gerald followed by Jim Vaughn, Bob Mauk and Bill Madigan Thursday evening; Friday's honors were performed by Gordon LaFontaine, Gerald Penner, Bob Hope, Gary Bartsch and Lee Bidwell; closing the show on Saturday were Don Benham and Ward Swanson during the day and Clem Wolfrom, Doug Forier and Walt Trombley in the evening.

Andy Bertoni was a big hit with the WPON radio audience one afternoon and he also presented a talk in the mini-auditorium at the Mall on Wednesday afternoon. Andy's topic was "Let the Grass Grow All Around." Jody Hedly, from the Pontiac Press, commented on what a fine job Andy did of representing our association. Thanks again to all our members who helped make this a



Andrew Bertoni, Superintendent Holly Grove, talking to people attending seminar on "The Green Grass Grow All Around" at Pontiac Flower Show.



MBCGCSA booth at the 3rd annual Lawn and Flower Show in the Pontiac Mall sponsored by The Pontiac Press, March 26 thru March 27.

great show.

March also saw our weekly column in the Detroit News get underway. Ward Swanson started it off with a bang with his article entitled "An Eager Beaver

Continued on page 11

A VISIT WITH BOB HOPE
AT KNOLLWOOD C.C.

Are You Planning A New Maintenance Shop?

While visiting fellow Superintendent Bob Hope of Knollwood Country Club I was amazed to find him in his new facilities. He was seated in his plush new office waiting for the painters to finish the trim work on his doors and windows. Bob was eager to give me a tour of his new building and away we went with camera and note book.

It was quite obvious that the Club spent a great deal of time planning this building. All of Bob's ideas were incorporated so that he now has perhaps the finest golf course maintenance building in the midwest. Certainly in the Detroit area. The building is spacious, well designed and beautiful to the eye. So many shops built are too small and unattractive. This one isn't as seen in the accompanying pictures.

Following is a check list for construction planning of equipment storage
Continued on next page



Superintendent Bob Hope, Knollwood Country Club, proudly sitting at his desk shortly after moving into his new office.



Warming House for winter sports in foreground.



Entrance to Bob Hope's office, Knollwood Country Club Maintenance Department.

Maintenance Shop Cont.

buildings that you might want to save for future reference.

1. Selection of area. Many times the site location is predetermined by the present building location and its area size. Things to consider are:

- Size of ideal building needed to do the job.
- Is it accessible?
- Are utilities close at hand?
- Is it out of play on the course?
- Is it large enough for parking and truck deliveries?

2. Type of construction and floor plan. Will it be one of the new metal buildings or will it be masonry? Do you have nine, 18 or more holes on your course? Here are some of the features to consider when you are trying to determine the floor plan:

- You need a repair shop with adequate lighting, ventilation, heat, electric power for tools, drainage and tool storage.
- Separate area for painting (vented).
- Inside washing facilities for washing equipment.
- Office space for Superintendent and records.
- Showers, lockers and break area for the greens crew.
- Separate storage area for dry and liquid chemicals, fertilizers, weed killers, etc.
- Separate area for storing equipment. The size depends on how much equipment you have.
- Room for the hot water heater and central heat if you need it.

3. Parking lot for employees and visitors (hard surfaces for drives and lot).

4. Electricity. You need good lighting, plenty of wall sockets, 220 volt electrical outlets for welder and air compressor.

5. Plumbing. Hose bibcocks inside and out. Hot water for washing machine (Do your own tee towels) showers and wash basins. Drinking fountains and regular toilet facilities. Floor drains for all rooms and wash racks for equipment.

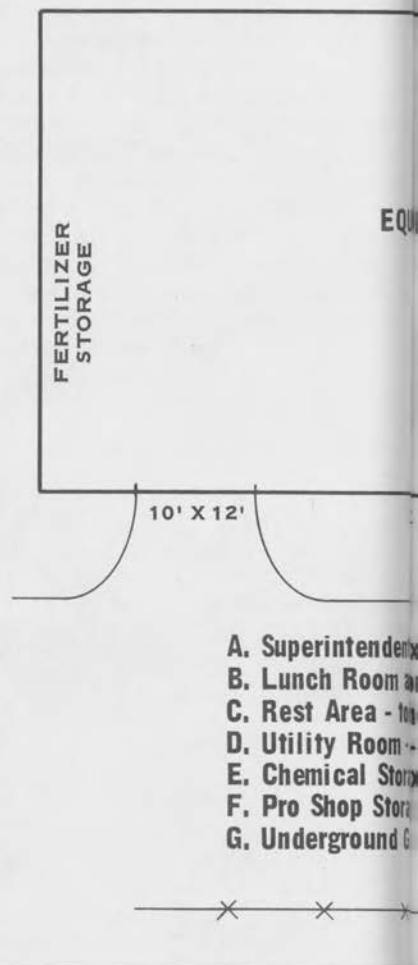
6. Heating. This could be central heat, hot water coils in the floor, or forced

air space heaters suspended from ceilings at least 100,000 - 200,000 BTU's per unit. (Don't forget the insulation of ceilings and walls in case of metal buildings).

7. Service facilities:

- Concrete floors throughout.
- Work benches with vices, electrical and compressed air outlets, peg boards for hanging tools.
- Cabinets or shelves for storing small tools and parts.
- Fiberglass skylights.

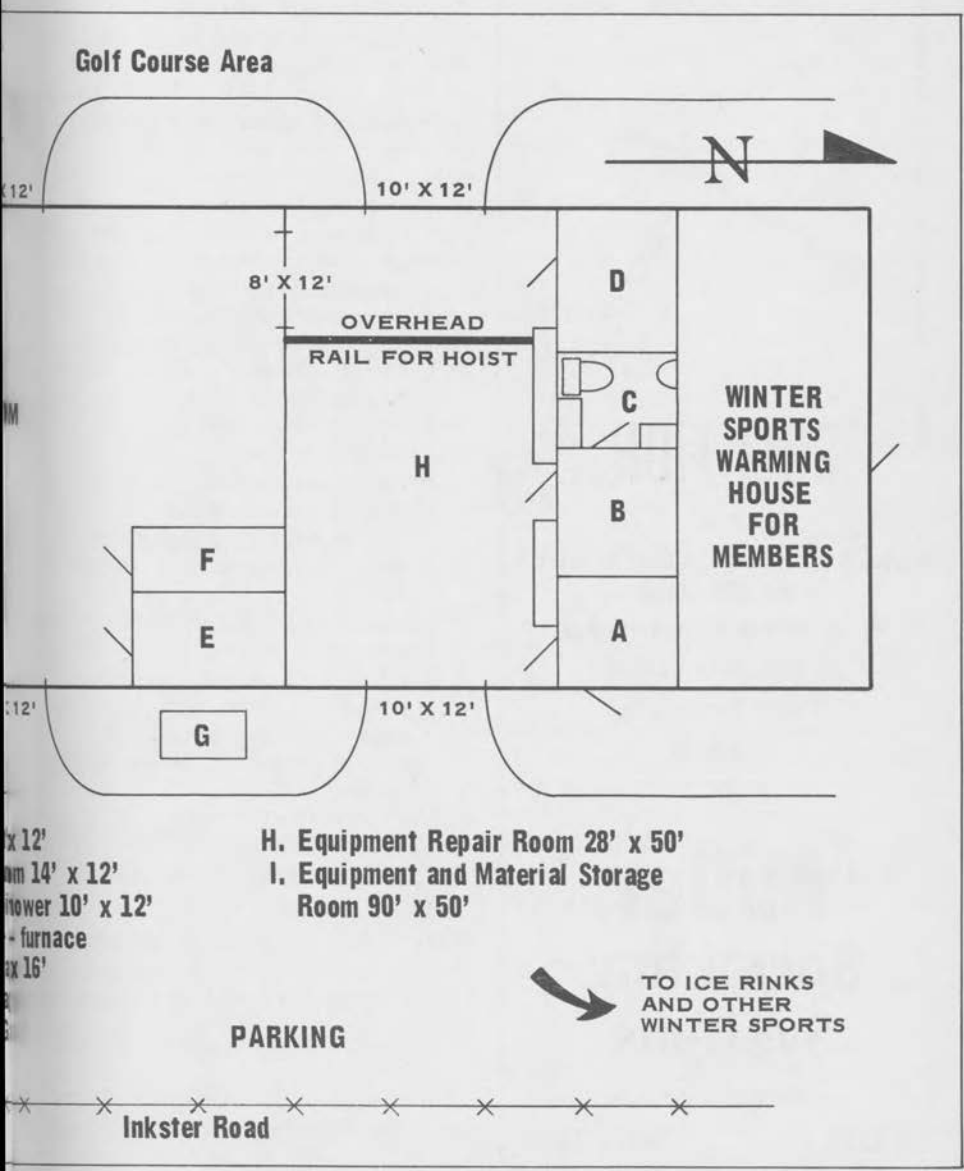
Knollwood Country



- e. Fire extinguishers throughout the building.
 - f. First aid cabinet.
 - g. Intercom system or two-way radio.
 - h. Flourescent strip lighting.
 - i. Exhaust fans.
 - j. Steel beam overhead rail running the length of the shop for the chain hoist.
8. Fuel and lubricant storage area. Underground gasoline tank and fire proof storage area for paints and oil.
9. Landscaping. Flower and lawn areas

- decorated with tall hedges, bushes and trees.
10. Loading dock. This is a must in the modern operation. Either a pit dug into the side of the building (this means some type of drain for the pit) or an area raised for the trucks to back against.
11. What about a provision made for future expansion? One end of the building could be built so an addition could be put on at a later date.

Continued on next page



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Maintenance Shop Cont.

12. Lightning protection is a must.
13. A word about doors and their sizes. Most Superintendents fail to allow for enough doors or large enough doors. If space permits you should have doors arranged so that a piece of equipment can be driven through the building. A size would be 10 feet high by 12 feet wide overhead doors. Don't forget the most important door, a pass through door between the equipment storage area and the equipment service or repair area. This door could be 10 feet by 10 feet. Again it should be overhead.

While talking to Bob Hope, he mentioned that it would be a good idea to have one door wide enough to pull a seven gang set of mowers through. He also suggests that a heavy pipe or some type of bumper be placed at the corner of each door to protect it from equipment accidentally running into the building and breaking the wall or the rail.

14. Equipment necessary in the shop:

- a. Portable chemical, steam, or pressure cleaning units.
- b. Parts cleaning tanks.
- c. Lubricating tools.
- d. Painting equipment.
- e. Power wrenches, drills.
- f. Hoisting and lifting equipment.
- g. Engine and equipment stands and benches.
- h. Electrical test meters & equipment.
- i. Battery chargers.
- j. Air compressor, portable and stationery.
- k. Welder, arc, oxygen-acetylene.
- l. Bench grinders and mower sharpening tools.
- m. Mechanics hand tools.
- n. Carpenters tools.
- o. Central controls for Automatic Irrigation.

NOTE: Many of these suggestions are determined by local building codes. Check them first and then plan your new shop.

Doing your job correctly saves explaining why it was done wrong.

MBCGCSA Cont.

can Hurt His Lawn." Bill Milne followed it in style with his article "Does A Lawn Need Rolling." These columns in the Detroit News were expertly done and both men gave credit to themselves and all Golf Course Superintendents.

Bob Hope, Don Oslund, Gary Bartsch, Jim Timmerman and Clem Wolfrom will be contributing to the weekly column in April. Ward Swanson, because of his fine article, has been asked to appear on CKLW, Channel 9 television on April 16th for their weekly talk show, from 11:30 PM till 1:00 AM. Every Superintendent who so desires will have the opportunity to appear in this fine series - so all you "Hemmingways" get ready.

- Don Benham

The man who wins may have been counted out several times, but he didn't hear the referee.

- H. E. Jansen

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NAME OF INTERESTED PERSON _____

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Or you may contact the next golf course supplier that calls on you and give him the information needed for application.

The Role of Industry in Pesticide Development

The Role of Industry in Pesticide Development is a presentation given by William Klomprens, Agricultural Research and Development, The Upjohn Company, at the 41st Michigan Turfgrass Conference at the Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, January 26 and 27, 1971.

I am speaking from the position of one manufacturer's Director of Agricultural Research. A manufacturer, it may be interesting to note, who does not market a single one of the so-called "hard" pesticides which are at the center of the current controversy. Although this does not "prove" objectivity, it removes one reason for "lack of" objectivity. The pesticide positions I will be discussing reflect *our* standards, *our* integrity, *our* commitment, but my own personal philosophy.

Some of us have lumps from being a political football. I, for one, am tired of being silent, disturbed by one-sided public media coverage, and confused by the irresponsibility of some of our leaders. This opportunity to support the minority side in the cause of pesticides is therefore a welcome one.

ARE PESTICIDES POTENTIALLY DEADLY?

Indeed they are! So are silent lies, toys, bridges, balloons, plastic bags, home-canned green beans, smoked fish, ladders, cars, water, aspirin, war, motherhood - and even providing "wetlands" and blasting potholes for migratory waterfowl.

The above is not meant to be facetious or sarcastic. It is meant to lay the groundwork for the balance of the paper which contends that *we know all along that pesticides were potentially harmful, particularly if misused*. Not did we know this, we have been con-

ducting our research and development programs *as if we knew!*

Safety has been, and continues to be the primary concern. No economic advantage can justify a *valid* (and proven) danger to human health and safety.

No pesticide is registered if the proposed use pattern incurs such a danger - no matter how effective or how inexpensive it might be. Economics is not a consideration unless safety is established.

Our historical record of safety standards is good. We have a dynamic system of increasingly stringent state and federal regulations; objective university confirmation and support; improving labels and caution and care in selecting candidates. The spotlight and headline seekers and the TV personalities with their sudden, new, impeccable insight have years of catching up to do. Who is telling whom, to be careful?

IS AGRICULTURE DEPENDENT UPON PESTICIDES?

It certainly is - as is human health. The U.S. Public Health Service states that we have never had a more abundant supply of safe nutritious food.

God forbid the extremists will ever prevail. If they do and we were to dis-

Continued on page 14



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Roseman Mower Corporation's Outstanding Sales Award for 1970 was presented for the second consecutive year to Lawn Equipment Corporation, Royal Oak. Receiving the award from Robert Duguid, Roseman sales manager, are left to right, Robert Kirkpatrick, Gordon LaFontaine and Bert Bradshaw of Lawn Equipment Corporation.

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Role of Industry Cont.

continue totally the use of pesticides today, our production of crops and livestock in the United States could drop as much as 30% to 40%. Our current acreage could not provide adequate food and fiber for more than 40% of our population. Prices of farm products would skyrocket - 40% to 50% of our income would go for food instead of the present 18%. Hardships would be the greatest for those who could least afford it. Poverty and pest-carried diseases such as malaria, typhus and sleeping sickness would increase. Our favorable, agriculturally-dependent balance of trade would be adversely affected. We could neither provide food to developing nations nor to our undernourished. Many of us could be stalemated on an agricultural level with no spare energies or talents to pursue other community or life endeavors.

**THIS LEADS US TO THE
ALL-IMPORTANT BENEFIT/RISK
EQUATION WHICH IS SELDOM
FACED REALISTICALLY BECAUSE
IT IS
"SO LARGE AND SO DIFFICULT"
TO APPRAISE**

If you think inflation is difficult now - contemplate the above abolition of pesticides for a few minutes. The economic and social impact would be so devastating that one can find comfort in the belief that the responsible governmental agencies will NEVER allow total banning to occur.

There are some who say "Let prices go up. We are now ready to pay almost anything." Incredible - and very

difficult to accept as representing reflective thinking.

We should not discount economics as a part of the problem. This does not mean economic materialism - it means as they affect the most basic needs of food, clothing, shelter and health.

Pesticides are important to the farm to the forest and to public health agencies. Used on the farm they run a very close second to fertilizers in value returned per dollar input. In this regard, as a single example, our agriculturally-oriented federal agencies have taken realistic, if transient, stands on the pending restrictions on phenoxy herbicides. Possibly, this was in part due to a very recently published (November, 1970 - U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Report No. 194) which, in its abstract says:

"Assuming that current levels of farm production are to be maintained, restricting the farm use of phenoxy herbicides would increase U.S. farmers direct production cost about \$290 million. In addition, about 20 million more hours of family labor would be used."

Mr. Klomprens' presentation on "The Role of Industry in Pesticide Development" will be concluded in the May issue of 'A Patch of Green.'

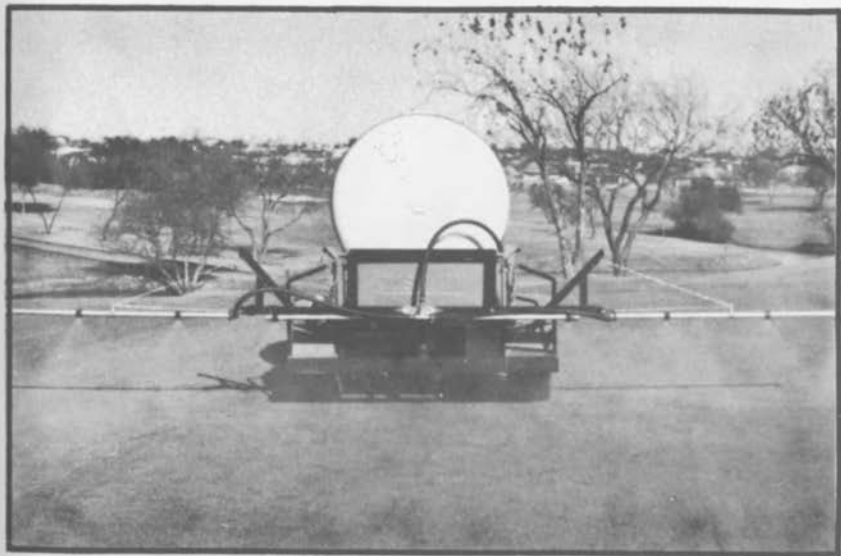
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