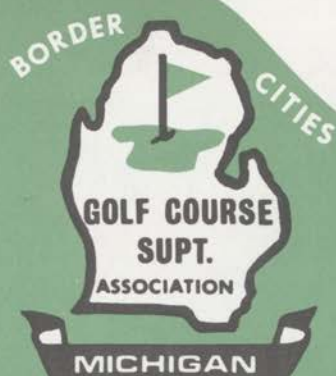


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# A PATCH of GREEN

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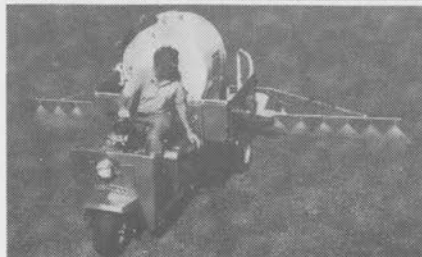
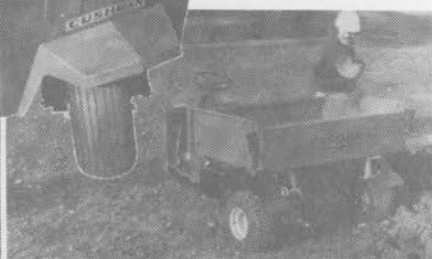
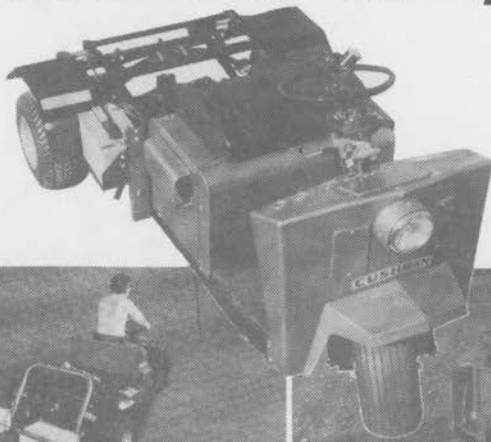
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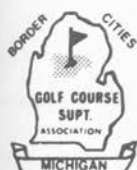


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**2** Yes, GCSAA is helping to further the advancement of the turfgrass industry. Through the GCSAA Scholarship & Research Fund, Inc., GCSAA provided more than \$13,500 last year in research grants to leading turfgrass programs. GCSAA also provides educational opportunities to turfgrass students through annual turfgrass scholarships.

**4** Yes, GCSAA offers recognition for superintendents. Through its public relations efforts, its magazine, and its award programs, GCSAA helps promote the image and the professionalism of the superintendent. GCSAA also provides information to superintendents about how they can use public relations to promote their own image to their course, their community and their association.

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**5** Yes, GCSAA provides each member with a life insurance program. Supplemental insurance, disability and pension programs also are available.

**6** No, GCSAA can't help you with your golf handicap. You'll have to work on that yourself.



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# An Accident on the Golf Course- Who's Liable?

*By Dr. Harold Gluck*

As a golf course superintendent, you are in charge of the course, whether it is 9, 18 holes, or more. Your main task is to keep it in top condition. And you have a staff of efficient workers to see that this is done. But, in the back of your mind you do have one perpetual thought and worry which can be best expressed this way: "I don't want an accident to take place on the golf course." For a lawsuit can take place. Now, let us take a look at some situations that could result in an injury on the golf course.

We start with the golfer who is legally present. He has paid his fee and it is a bright morning. Not many are on the golf course. As he hoes from hole no. 7 to hole no.8 he suddenly trips. A rake was left on the ground and the

golfer just didn't see it. What happened to him? He broke his right leg! A hundred other golfers could fall and almost no injury. But this one broke his leg.

Would the owner of the golf course be liable in a suit for damages?

Now we go to our second situation. A salesman for a firm that specializes in supplies for golf courses comes to see you. You give him an order. He takes a short cut across the golf course to the parking field. He trips on the rake and his foot is injured.

Would the owner of the golf course be liable in a suit for damages?

In our third situation, a representative of an esoteric religious sect insists on seeing you. Your assistant tells

*Continued on Page 8*

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# How well you play has little to do with the scorecard

Bill Middleton

One of the ironies of competition, especially in the business world, is that the kind of competitiveness that is necessary to get the job may not be conducive to getting the job done later on. I remember when I was a kid, there was tremendous competition to make the hockey team. Once you made the team, though, we were all supposed to be comrades. Later on, while working in a corporate environment, I noticed that businesses want highly competitive people, but they also want "organization man" who will sublimate the conflicts which are by products of competition. What happens most often is that in the jockeying that goes on within corporate organizations, concern for the product or service gets lost.

In the current issue of Harvard Business Review, Professors Robert H. Hayes and William J. Abernathy conclude that "there is prime evidence of broad managerial failure of both vision and leadership that has eroded both the inclination and capacity of United States companies to innovate and compete." The authors feel the decline in productivity of American business is due largely to the rise of accountants and attorneys to positions of power in the larger corporations.

It certainly appears to be true that in the big business game, where owners don't manage and managers don't own,

the "scorekeepers" — the accountants and lawyers — has taken over. Increasingly, U.S. companies are being managed by financial and legal executives who essentially don't want to compete. They want to win, but they don't want to get their shoes dirty.

Competition in corporations is generally defined in terms of winning and losing. The "game" is no longer one thing, the outcome is; the goal is everything, the process nothing. Competition involves the risk of losing. But risk is repugnant to accountants, losing an anathema to attorneys. And so, while accountants are looking for the loopholes, nobody is looking after the business.

Joan Didion once wrote that the highest art form in Hollywood was "the deal." Today, preoccupation of corporate management is with "deals"—mergers, acquisitions, divestitures—and not with developing newer, better, and more competitive products. Many industrial officials blame their problems on OPEC and government regulations. This hardly explains, however, why productivity in West Germany is *four times* that of American productivity even though Germany imports nearly all of its oil and government regulations there are even more stringent. The reason why American business is failing

*Continued on Page 14*

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With a communal sigh of relief, the worst year, turfwise, in recent memory is coming to an end in the North Central Region. History will record 1980 as the year the South came North.

Problems formerly unheard of in the North developed, such as Pythium in the upper reaches of Minnesota. Severe nematode damage, hitherto never any problem, struck the upper Transition Zone.

Diseases both known and unknown in a new book may soon be published entitled *What Killed So Much C-15* (Toronto) ravaged golf courses throughout the region. To wit, during a Turf Advisory Service Visit to a golf club in Cincinnati, I saw active Pythium, Dollar Spot, Brown Patch, Fusarium

blight, a little Anthracnose, and the black Ataenius Beetle, all active and working.

Without question, turf suffered under even the most comprehensive and intensive golf course management programs and was lost in substantial amounts. Philosophically, I believe we sometimes simply expect too much of grass when extended periods of extreme heat, humidity, and rainfall bring on diseases, insect damage, and related problems.

Hopefully, with the advent of new fungicides and long-term Pythium control, as well as comprehensive renovation that decreases the amount of *Poa annua*, this year's problems will linger only as bad memories and will be something to tell your grandchildren about.

— Stanley J. Zontek

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#### Accident on Golf Course? cont.

him you are too busy and that he should leave the golf course at once. This he does. But he returns later. His idea is to solicit donations from the golfers. He is now legally a trespasser. He goes across the golf course and trips on that rake and his foot is injured.

Would the owner of the golf course be liable in a suit for damages?

Our final case concerns a 12 year old boy. He should be at home in the evening. But he is out walking. And he passes the golf course. And what does he see? There near the fence is a golf buggy! It should be in the shed with the rest of them. But somehow it was left behind. So he climbs the fence and gets onto the golf course. He heads for that buggy. He starts it and for five minutes he has the time of his life. Then something happens! It gets out of control. And heads for a tree into which it smashes. He is severely injured. Bear in mind that the boy is legally a trespasser.

Would the owner of the golf course be liable in a suit for damages?

In the light of two decisions made by New York's highest court the answer in each of the four situations would seem to be a resounding "yes." These decisions may influence liability laws in other states. Most states, however, continue to use classification of guests, in determining obligation.

These cases were decided solely on the basis of foreseeability, meaning that the only factor the judges considered was whether the situations causing the accidents being litigated could have been foreseen as dangerous.

Furthermore, past distinctions among the types of injured parties - whether invitees, guests or trespassers-- were called antiquated in both decisions. This all leads to the point that anyone injured on the golf course can now sue you more easily.

Let's take a closer look at what was ruled in both of these top cases. And keep in mind the four situations presented to you, the basic question always being: "Was the danger foreseeable?"

In the first case of Roulmaldo Martinez, the court said: "Since the injury resulted from an artificial, dangerous condition on the defendant's property, the decisive issue was the foreseeability of the injury. Under the facts of this case, the duty owed to the plaintiff could be correlated to the risk of harm reasonably perceived, regardless of status, whether that of trespasser, licensee or invitee in the traditional sense. "Notice that the court made no distinction between a trespasser and the two other classifications.

In the second case, Scurti, the court reinforced the previous decision: "... the liability of landowners to one injured in their property should be governed not by the ancient and antiquated distinction between trespasser, licensee and invitees but rather by the standard applicable to negligence cases generally, i.e. the standard of reasonable care under the circumstances whereby foreseeability shall be a measure of liability."

And in the latest case on the matter, O'Connor, "the finding that the infant was a trespasser, plaintiffs reason, does not preclude recovery in the present

*Continued on Page 11*



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#### Accident on Golf Course? cont.

action in the light of the abolition in 1976 of the distinction among trespassers, licensees and invitees as the determining factor in defining a landowner's duty of care. A single standard of reasonable care under the circumstances was adopted, with foreseeability as the touchstone for liability." Under these circumstances, how can you protect yourself from liability? In a lawsuit, the test of foreseeability would probably be something like this: What could you have reasonably expected to happen, so that you could prevent the accident? That means that you should thoroughly go over the golf course for conditions that could result in accidents. Then you can take the steps necessary to eliminate any hazards that exist.

Start with the sad, but true fact of life: A golf course somehow becomes attractive to a lot of kids. They may even look for "lost" golf balls to play with or to resell. I regret to tell you that in most of the golf courses I visited, it was easy for the trespasser to get onto it.

Post a 'No Trespassing' sign in your parking lot as well as around the outside and even the inside of a golf course. Do not allow any child you pick up on the golf course to continue by himself. Regardless of the excuse given: "We kicked our football over the fence, I am looking for it." Back to the office the child goes with you. You can send an employee out to look for it. Or the child says, "I am looking for my father." "What is his name?" is your answer. Then check out the list of names on the playing schedule for the day.

It is my personal opinion that a

warning alone has no effect. You notify the parent by phone or registered letter. You also notify the police department of what happened. You are not a bit hard-hearted. Just remember the big verdict that can be handed down in a case of lawsuit.

What goes for a child also goes for an adult you may find wavering over the golf course. But how did they get in the first place? I have surveyed various golf courses and the methods taken to protect the golf course are almost nil. You may have to consider the use of a private security guard to make the rounds.

What has been left, lost or accidentally dropped on a golf course can create a hazard resulting in an injury to a player who has been legally on the golf course. That means you need a check up before the course opens, when it is closed, and even when players are on it.

Go over the fences. They may need repair. Can a kid climb over the fence? Or under it? You may have to consider an electronic warning system that will notify the office in the security of a fence is breached.

One setup to protect yourself is as follows: All people who have business with you should meet you in your office. The business is then normally transacted there. That keeps them off the golf course. And thus reduces the chances of an injury.

Now is the time to go over the liability policy the golf course owner or manager has. Have your lawyer read it carefully and tell you if you need: a) A larger liability coverage. b) A more comprehensive coverage for every type of accident.

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They have discovered that the Association's activities, programs and publications can keep them abreast of the latest technological information.

They believe that a strong Association can strengthen their regional and local turf organizations and programs.

They understand that their personal participation can assist other Superintendents and the turfgrass industry.

They know that the resources of a vast organization can only act to increase their professional stature, knowledge and abilities.

They appreciate the opportunities they will have to attend national and regional educational assemblies, developed to meet their specific needs.

They know that their fellow Association members are a valuable asset whenever information is exchanged.

They realize that they can no longer work alone in a vacuum, but must share the insight, experiences and technical information of as many other professionals as possible.

---

## USGA'S NEW TURF BOOK SCHEDULED FOR 1981 RELEASE

The current state of the art and science of turfgrass culture will be the subject of an upcoming book entitled *Turf Management For Golf Courses*, by Dr. James B. Beard, professor of turfgrass science at Texas A & M University. University.

Prepared under the sponsorship of the United States Golf Association, it is a comprehensive reference and "how to" book on the culture and management of turf for golf courses. It emphasizes the application of basic turfgrass principles to golf course turfgrass culture.

The subject has been organized into 12 chapters: The Golf Course, Building a Golf Course, The Putting Green, The Tee, The Fairway, The Rough, The Bunker, Equipment, Irrigation System, Pests and Stresses, Management, and Associated Aspects. Hundreds of photographs and illustrations

are included.

The appendix includes vegetative and seed identification of turfgrasses, species and cultivar characterization, fertilizer characteristics and conversions, and drainage design specifications.

The USGA has sponsored two other turf-related books: *Turf for Golf Courses*, by Charles V. Piper and Russell A. Oakley, in 1917, and *Turf Management*, by H. Burton Musser, first published in 1950 and revised in 1962. Both books had a tremendous impact on turf management when they were published.

*Turf Management for Golf Courses* is not a revision of the earlier books. It will be available early in 1981 from the Burgess Publishing Company, 7108 Ohms, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55435, and the USGA, Golf House, Far Hills, New Jersey 07931.

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## How Well You Play, cont.

to compete on the international market is because of the obsession with winning, with the short-term gains that look good in the boxscores.

There are at least two distinctly different approaches to competition in business. One is the Vince Lombardi philosophy: "Winning isn't everything—it's the only thing." The other is the Grantland Rice approach: "It's not whether you win or lose that counts, but how you play the game." The first is goal-oriented, the second process-oriented. It seems to me that winning and losing are necessary elements in the process of competition, but that process is clearly more important than outcome.

When I play golf, it's me and the golf course. It doesn't matter what my partner is doing. We compete on the basis of score, yet score is at best a hazy representation of the game. I don't play the game to win, I play the game to play. Sometimes I win and sometimes I don't. The risk involved is that the game might not have the outcome I desire. But I don't like any of my energy to go into thinking about the consequences of not winning.

In most forms of competition, whether it be business or sports or whatever, there are elements of risk and reward, skill and luck. We have to accept that we can't control everything, particularly the outcome. But the quality of our own performance, that's something we *can* control. The score at best is a reflection and an approximation of that quality. There is an inherent contradiction, then, in a system which is obsessed with the score but appears to show no concern for the pursuit of excellence. Winning isn't the only thing; it's not even the most important thing. The most important thing is to get the best of competition by getting the best out of yourself.

*Bill Middleton was formerly Vice President and General Manager of Medical Data Systems. Currently, he is a small business consultant, management counselor, and entrepreneur.*

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Golf Day or the Green Grass Open was a big success. The event was held at beautiful Bay Pointe Country Club and there were over 400 people in attendance. The days festivities started with golf at twenty five country clubs in which you could pick your favorite course. There was an excellent buffet and dinner at Bay Pointe. The afternoon was filled with excitement. The millionaires party allowed all the successful gamblers to an array of prizes from TV's to clock radios. The raffle which included a trip to Hawaii or \$1500.00. Second was a set of golf clubs and third prize a wheel barrow of cheer. The winners were smiling Rick Muse who took the cash. Scott Demmis from Lawn Equipment was the set of clubs and Don Morley took the cheer. Congratulations to the winners. Actually we were all winners that day. Over \$14,000.00 was generated for turf grass research which will be studied and researched at the new Hancock Facility at Michigan State University. The Michigan Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents would like to thank the 25 country clubs that donated their club facilities, to all the suppliers who donated gifts and to all the hard working people who were involved in setting up the days festivities. A job well done.

### Match Nitrogen Source to Plant Needs, says McVey

The biological activity of methylene urea products can be substantially altered by manufacturing technology to satisfy the the varying nitrogen needs of a wide range of plants, according to a paper presented by George R. McVey, Senior Researcher, O.M. Scott & Sons, at the annual meeting of the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) in Seattle.

According to Dr. McVey, selection of the proper source of methylene urea results in increased nitrogen efficiency

*Continued Next Page*

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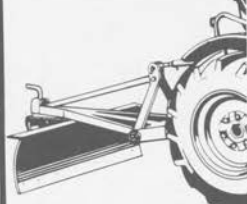
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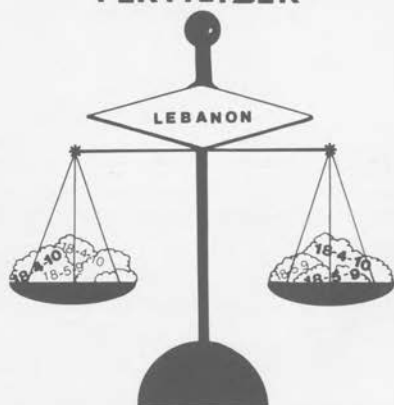
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McVey, cont.

(less nitrogen leaching or volatilization), reduction in turfgrass clipping removal and a reduction in plant injury as compared to more soluble nitrogen materials. He urged that methylene urea be labeled to depict more accurately the various fractions of these products.

A complete copy of the talk and illustrations is available on request from O.M. Scott & Sons, Dept. BB, Marysville, Ohio 43041.

### THE GOLFER'S XMAS PRAYER

When starting out from golfs 1st Tee,  
No matter what lifes yardage might be,  
Play square and with your clubs —  
Don't talk a good game like other dubbbs

And may the good Lord look down on  
Thee, When you have a 4 and mark  
down a 3.

And may he show you a golf course  
so clean where Angels putt on the  
finest greens.

So when your golf game of life is o'er,  
May real peace be yours when you  
yell "Fore!"

-Dave Kennedy

Mrs. Dale Weitzel passed away May 21  
in Venice, Florida.

Mrs. Ward Cornwell, Mrs. Bernie  
Johnson, Mrs. Valentine Butner  
and Mrs. Stanley Hill wish a belated  
Season's Greetings to all their  
friends in the Association.

"If nobody ever said anything  
unless he knew what he was talking  
about, a ghastly hush would descend  
upon the earth."

Sir Alan Herbert

"America is great because America is  
good, and if America ever ceases to be  
good, America will cease to be great."

Alexis de Tocqueville

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Protecting Your Social Security Investment

Those Social Security payments you've been making all these years represent one of the most substantial investments you will ever make. Seen in that light, it only makes sense that you should check on your investment from time to time.

The amount of paperwork needed to make this country run is a standing joke, but like many old jokes, there are times when it isn't very funny. When you consider the amount of information you and your family provide the government yearly, and multiply that by the number of people in the country, can you really be sure that your records are correct? After all, there is a lot of money at stake here.

Consider the process involved. Social Security tax is withheld from your pay. Your employer matches that amount and sends both taxes, along with a report on your earnings, to the Internal Revenue Service. The IRS, in turn, transmits the earnings report to the Social Security Administration, where

it is fed into a computer and credited to your account. Most of the time, the system works, but there is room for error.

Most cities have a Social Security Administration office. They can help you request a statement of your earnings, which will show those payments which have been officially credited to your account.

Because there is a time lag in processing information, the statement may not cover the most recent wages you have received, but it will show your total earnings in each of the last three years and your total earnings since 1936. You can compare these figures with the information on your W-2 forms for those years to make sure everything is in order.

If there is a mistake, a representative in your local office will help you locate any missing reports of your past earnings. You should check on your earnings every three years. The law sets a time limit for corrections of three years, three months and fifteen days after the year in which the wages have been paid. After that, it becomes much more difficult to have a mistake corrected.

If you have changed your address, please let us know so we can keep our addressing plates up to date.

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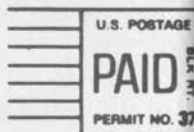
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