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A PATCH of GREEN



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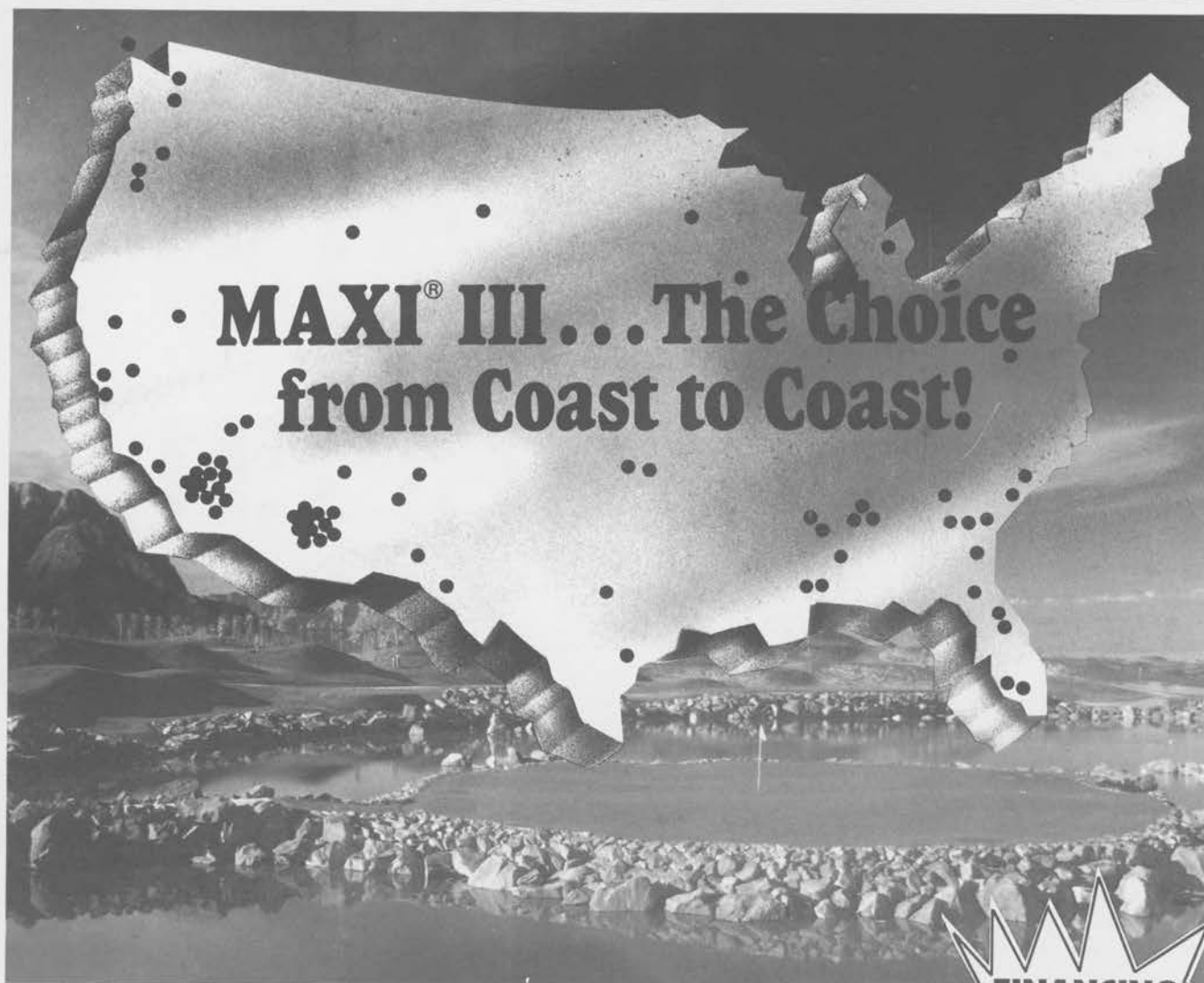
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the 1988 Golfing season just a few months away and the hot and humid season of 1987 in the past, all members of the Board of Directors are looking towards a great season.

I would like to thank Mike Edgerton for his 12 years service as Director and Past President of our association. Mike's contribution to the Board will be missed by all. I would also like to welcome Gary Thommes and Ed Heineman to the Board. Gary and Ed have been elected to three-year terms.

On behalf of the Association, the Board of Directors again have donated \$1000 to the GCSAA Research and Scholarship Fund. A donation of \$500 was made to the O.J. Noer Foundation for Turfgrass Research. This past year, through the hard work of Jon Maddern and Ed Heineman we donated \$4000 to Special Olympics and \$10,250 to MTF from Golf Day receipts. Fine job gentlemen.

In 1987 there were many great topics for educational meetings thanks to Roger Gill. Roger will be looking for any suggestions or comments on upcoming meetings. If any member would like to host a educational meeting please contact Roger.

Don't miss the MBCGCSA and GAM Spring Seminar on March 19.

Looking forward to great 1988.

Charles Gaige
President, MBCGCSA



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CHRISTMAS PARTY - A Huge Success



Elizabeth McRae pulling the next lucky name out of the box. Holding box is **Andra Gaige**, Co-Chairperson of Christmas Party with husband **Charles Gaige** looking on.



Jim Timmerman, (left) - presenting "Retirement" Plaque to **George Carson**.

Over 120 came to Barton Hills Country Club on Saturday, December 5, 1987.

Greeting guests at the door were host Superintendent Bruce Wolfrom and his wife Donna and Charlie Gaige and his wife Andra.

Delicious hors d'oeuvres were served with cocktails before dinner. After dinner, dancing and presentations highlighted the evening.

Past President Kevin Dushane was presented with his outgoing plaque and in turn presented the newly elected President, Charlie Gaige the gavel for 1988. President Gaige then presented retiring Board member and Past President Mike Edgerton his gift for serving so many energetic years on the Board.

Next, President Gaige invited Director Jim Timmerman forward to make several presentations. Jim

recognized four retiring members. Plaques were presented to George Carson, long-time member and employee of the W.F. Miller Co., and to Danny Uzelac, long-time member and owner of Dominion Golf Club in Canada.

Those not present to accept their plaques were Burt Bradshaw and James Smith. Burt has been a member for more years than he wishes to admit and was actively involved with Lawn Equipment Corporation for over forty years. Jim has been a member for many years and spent much of his time with the Huron-Clinton MetroParks.

This was the first time in recent memory that our Annual Dance was held on a Saturday and it was a pleasant change. Let's do it again.

MORE PHOTOGRAPHS ON PAGE 22



Passing of the gavel at the Christmas Party.

ANNUAL GREEN COMMITTEE CONFERENCE SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1988

The Annual Joint Meeting with Michigan and Border Cities GCSA and the Golf Association of Michigan will once again be held at the Detroit Golf Club. The date again - March 19, 1988.

USGA GREEN SECTION CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1988

LOCATION: Blythefield Country Club, Route 1,
Belmont, Michigan (north of Grand Rapids)

SPONSOR: United States Golf Association

USGA Green Section, Great Lakes Region
James M. Latham, Jr., Director
8727 North Deerwood Drive
Brown Deer, Wisconsin 53209
(414) 354-2203

USGA Regional Affairs, Mid-Continent Region
James A. Farrell, Manager
P.O. Box 616
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014
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The United States Golf Association conducts a series
of one-day regional conferences each year in various
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designed to provide valuable information regarding
turfgrass management for golf courses and other golf

and club management related subjects to club
directors, green chairmen, course owners and opera-
tors, golf course superintendents, golf professionals
and club managers.

Certification points will be awarded to members of
professional associations by their respective associa-
tion.

There is a \$30.00 per person advance registration fee
which includes a luncheon. Registration at the door
will be \$40.00 per person.

Conference registration forms will be distributed on
or about February 1, 1988.

For more information contact USGA Regional
Affairs, James A. Farrell, Manager, P.O. Box 616,
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014. (815) 459-5590.

USGA Green Section Conference, Program -
8:00 **REGISTRATION** - Coffee and Rolls

9:00 **WELCOME** - Roger G. Barton, President,
Western Michigan GCSA, Belmont, Michigan

9:15 **THE ALPHABET SOUP OF GOLF** - Jeffrey L.
Rivard, Executive Director, Golf Association of
Michigan, Farmington Hills, Michigan

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9:45 SPECIES ADAPTATION TO STRESS CONDITIONS - HOW LOW THE MOWING HEIGHT? HOW HIGH THE TEMPERATURE? - Mark Grundman, Turf Specialist, Northrup King Company, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin

10:30 BREAK

10:45 EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND TEACHING THRU IMPROVED VISUAL AIDS - James A. Farrell, Manager, Mid-Continent Region, USGA Regional Affairs, Crystal Lake, Illinois

11:15 TROUBLESHOOTING PROBLEM SOIL CONDITIONS - James A. Latham, Jr., Director, Great Lakes Region, USGA Green Section, Brown Deer, Wisconsin

12:00 LUNCHEON

1:30 A NEW VIEW OF HISTORY AT THE USGA MUSEUM AND LIBRARY - Janet Seagle, Librarian, Museum Curator, USGA Golf House, Far Hills, New Jersey

2:00 SELECTED LEGAL ISSUES OF GOLF CLUB AND GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT - Brent D. Rector, Attorney at Law, Member, Blythefield Country Club, Belmont, Michigan

2:30 MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES FOR STRESS TOLERANCE - PROGRAMMING HIGH QUALITY AT LOWEST RISKS - Dr. Bruce Branham, Assistant Professor, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

3:15 U.S. OPEN FILM - "An Olympic Duel"

3:45 ADJOURN

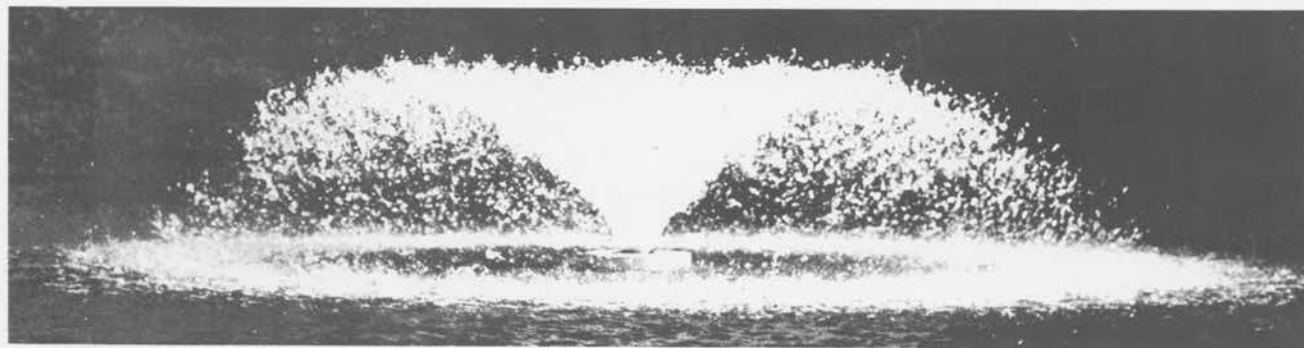
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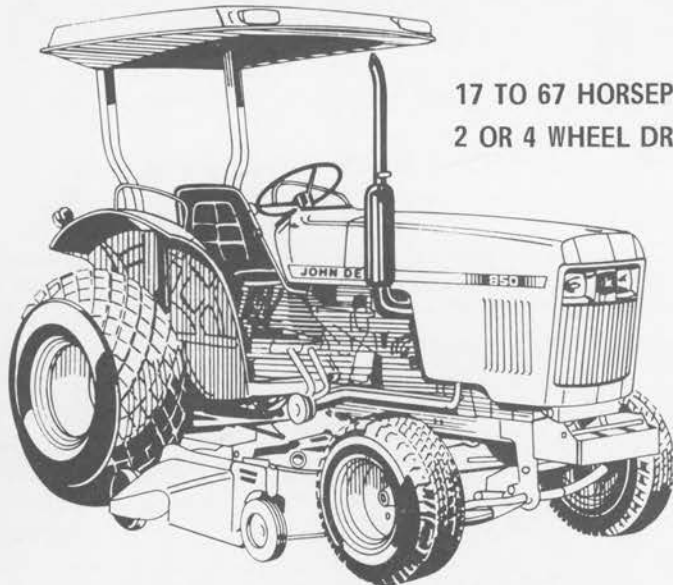
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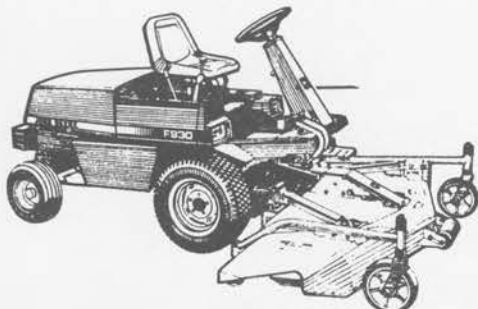
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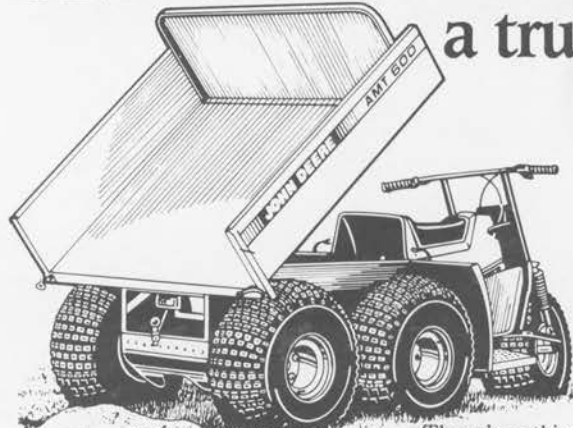
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FACTS AND FALLACIES OF FAST GREENS

James T. Snow
Director, Northeastern Region
USGA Green Section

In retrospect, the introduction of the Stimpmeter by the USGA in 1976 foreshadowed major changes for the way golf courses are maintained and for the way the game itself is played. By enabling golf course superintendents to easily determine the speed of greens, the Stimpmeter has greatly expanded our understanding of how maintenance practices can be manipulated to control green speed. As a result, golfers at every level throughout the country are enjoying faster, truer putting surfaces on a day to day basis than ever before.

While their greens have been fast and smooth, however, the road that the superintendent has been forced to accommodate these changes has occasionally been slow and bumpy. Interested but uninformed golfers and club officials have placed heavy pressure on the superintendent to produce consistently ultrafast greens at their courses, testing the limits of

the health of the turf and sometimes pushing it over the edge. Along the way, rumors and misinformation have pervaded every locker room with respect to how fast the greens should be, how to get them that way, and what might happen if they're pushed too hard.

One of the indisputable facts today is that greens are generally faster than they were only a few years ago. A national survey done by the USGA Green Section in 1976 showed that the average green rolled approximately 6 feet 6 inches according to the Stimpmeter, whereas the average green today is probably closer to 8 feet. It's also a fact that most golfers have short memories. Though greens are faster than ever, complaints about slow greens are more common than ever.

So how fast is fast? In my view, the following offers a reasonable perspective on the subject.

CONTINUED PAGE 19



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CIBA-GEIGY CONTRIBUTES \$50,000 TO GCSAA

A \$50,000 contribution to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) scholarship and research fund has been made by the Turf & Ornamental Department of the Ciba-Geigy Corp.

The Robert Trent Jones, Sr. Endowment Fund, established by the GCSAA in August, makes scholarships available to outstanding students enrolled in college turfgrass management programs nationwide. The fund works to encourage future leaders among professional golf course superintendents.

"We're pleased and excited about the opportunity to make a significant contribution to the Endowment Fund," says Bill Liles, Director of Ciba-Geigy's Turf & Ornamental Department. "Furthering turf research through scholarships for college students is an excellent example of industry, education and the GCSAA working together."

John Schilling, GCSAA executive director, says the endowment fund enables the association to support research in such areas as drought and disease resistant grasses, environmentally sound turf management and effective water and soil resource conservation.

Director Gerald Faubel, CGCS, chairman of the Scholarship and Research Committee, says the timing and generosity of Ciba-Geigy's contribution to the endowment fund "indicates the kind of leadership needed to keep our profession strong."

Liles adds that Ciba-Geigy looks forward to making additional contributions to the turf industry in the years ahead. "We are committed to taking a leadership position in the development of products that prevent disease, insects and weeds from harming our turf. This contribution is the first of many steps we intend to take."

Ciba-Geigy also has reorganized into a new Turf & Ornamental Department to better meet the needs of turf professionals. Key members of this group include Director Bill Liles, Sales Manager John McLeod, Product Manager Joe Prochaska and Dr. Doug Houseworth, senior technical support manager.

Ciba-Geigy recently introduced two products to the turf market - Triumph insecticide and Banner fungicide. The company also markets Subdue fungicide and diazinon for turf use.

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WHAT'S AHEAD FOR 1988?

If the gloomy, wet fall and early winter are any indication of what lies ahead then we are probably in for another trying year. As predicted last year in this article we mentioned that the super-saturated soil and the lack of adequate sun light have predisposed the turf to a weakened condition for next spring. This once again appears to be the case for the next year.

We are especially vulnerable to ice sheet damage because of the wet soils. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

More and more winter covers are being used this year. Our purpose for using them at Oakland Hills is to help prevent dessication. We have been experimenting with various covers for 20 years and have found them very beneficial in years when moisture is limited.

Computers are finally becoming more common in the realm of grounds maintenance. Several Clubs can now track labor hours for all maintenance procedures as well as vehicle maintenance. Inventory and budget programs are not as readily available because most clubs handle this at the clubhouse. Daily logs for special projects and weather conditions are now

available and of course the irrigation industry has perfected software for the P.C.'s that many of us now have. This is an area that will have to be included at all clubs in the future as water management dominates our concerns.

Several new pieces of equipment will surface this year in the form of mowers, aerifiers, sprayers and light weight tractors.

Hope that each and every one of you have a happy and prosperous new year!

Ted Woehrle, Editor

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VERTICILLIUM WILT

By James A. Fizzel
Senior Extension Advisor, U. of I.

Leaves on a large branch in your favorite maple tree wilt, turn brown & fall in mid-summer. A plant in the barberry hedge dies, followed by death of the plants on either side. Or, a tomato plant yellows and dies just as it starts to produce fruit.

This kind of problem is a common occurrence. The cause is Verticillium Wilt, a soil borne fungus disease. The soil becomes infected with the disease, when diseased plants or contaminated soil is brought in. Susceptible trees, shrubs and also garden plants growing in the soil are invaded through roots.

As well as attacking the above plants, Verticillium Wilt also attacks Ash, Box Elder, Catalpa, Cherry, Dogwood, Elm, Honey Locust, Horse Chestnut, Kentucky Coffee, Lilac, Linden Locust, Magnolia, Oak, Osage Orange, Poplar, Privet, Redbud, Rose, Russian Olive, Sumac, Tulip Tree, Viburnum and Yellow Wood. Many garden flowers and vegetables are also susceptible.

Infected plants may not show symptoms until they are damaged or stressed in some ways. Floods last fall, and drought last winter damaged plant and hence, those with Verticillium are showing the characteristic symptoms. Susceptible tomato varieties usually succumb from the stress of fruit production. You can tell if your plant has Verticillium Wilt by cutting into affected stems. If the disease is present, vascular tissue or sapwood will be streaked with green, purple and brown, depending on the variety of plant. Infected garden plants usually die from the disease, but often a woody plant wilts and recovers, not showing symptoms until stressed again. By keeping the plant healthy and vigorous an affected plant can often live out its normal life span.

A spring application of nitrogen fertilizer to trees and shrubs will promote formation of thick sapwood and may wall off further infection. Remove dead limbs, but postpone pruning any newly wilted branches to see if they will produce new leaves. Water during drought periods.

If your plant dies, be sure to replace it with a resistant variety such as Apple, Beech, Birch, Ginko, Hawthorn or Oak (White or Burr). Most evergreen trees and shrubs are resistant. Plant only resistant varieties of garden plants.

If you are fortunate enough to have avoided contaminating your soil with Verticillium Wilt, be very selective about any plants you bring in, especially from neighbors. This is one place where it may pay to look a gift horse in the mouth.

BECOME INVOLVED!

Let 1988 be the year that you pledge to become involved in your profession. Share your thoughts and wisdom with your fellow Superintendents. Attend meetings and functions of the Association. Write an article for **The Patch of Green** (you may win \$100 for writing the best article by a Superintendent). Host a monthly meeting - locations are hard to find.

If you aren't Certified by now, take the time and make the effort. You are short-changing yourself and your Club if you aren't Certified. Call Ted Woehrle at (313) 644-3352 and he will help you make the decision. Perhaps we can organize a group testing or help you arrange an on-site inspection of your Club.

Support the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation and the work they are supporting at Michigan State University.

Get involved in our fund raisers - Special Olympics and Turf Day.

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Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you just content
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the crowd,
Or do you stay at home
And crab both long and loud?

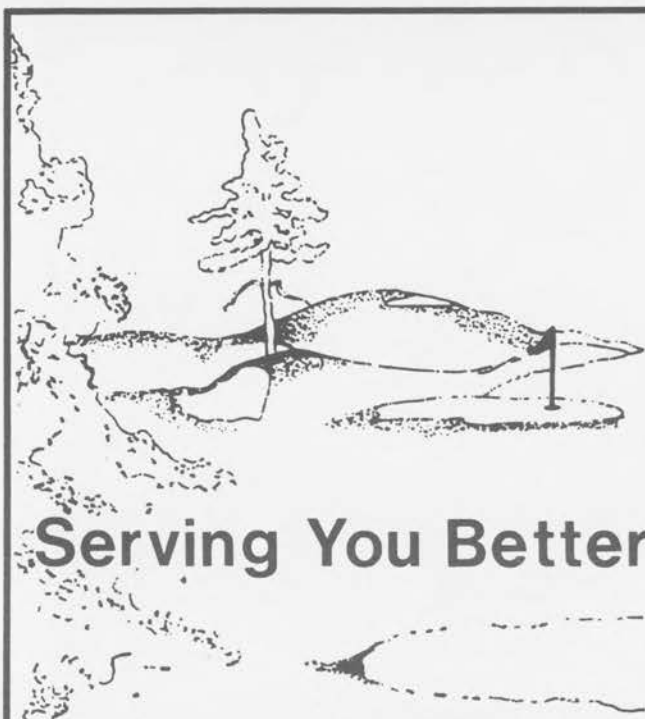
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A member who is sick,
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the clique?

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And it can be accomplished
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So attend the meetings regularly
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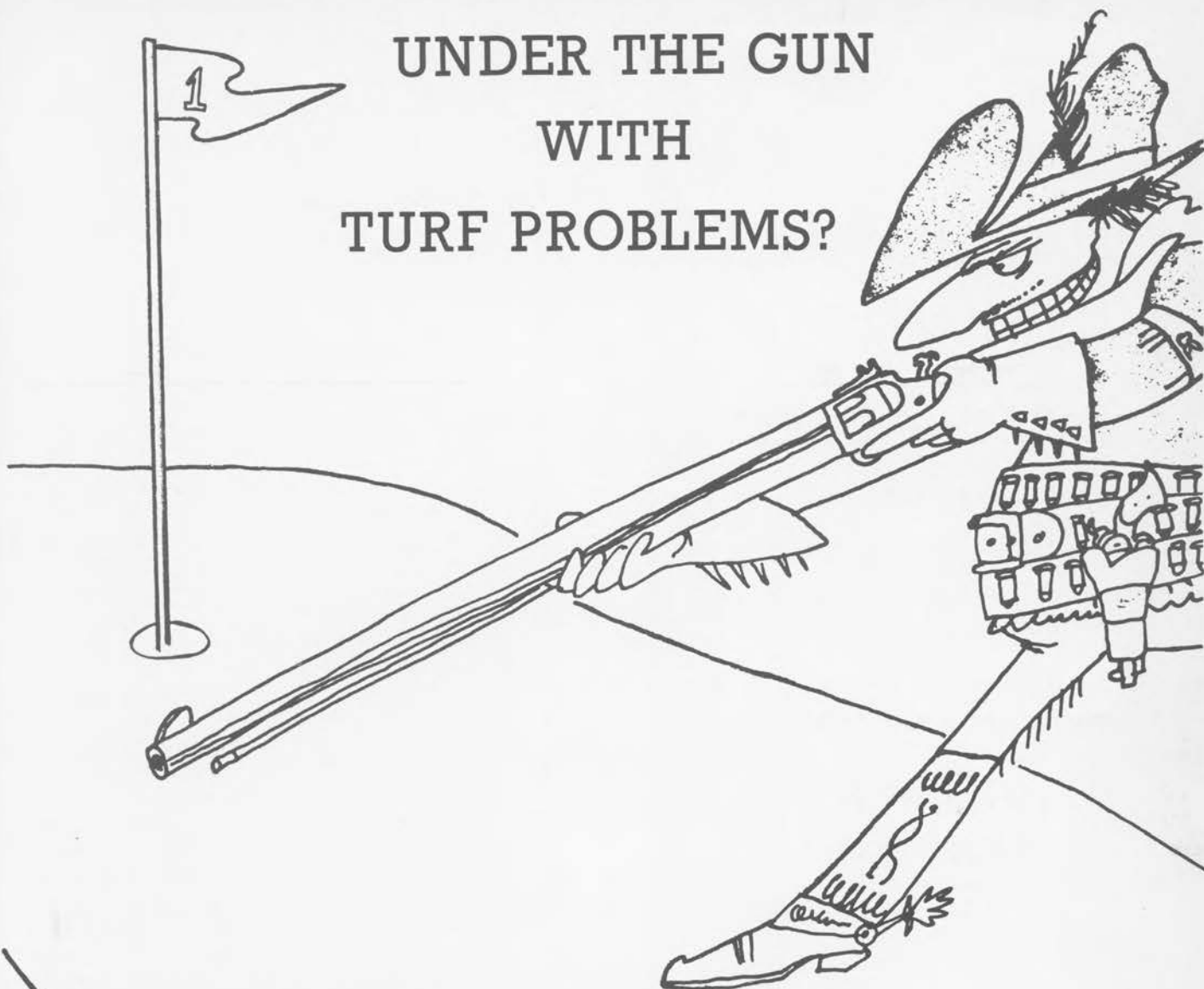


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October 28-29, 1987
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

"When people visit a golf course they have a pre-conceived notion of what they are going to experience when they play or attend an event. The first impressions people have as they enter a property and play a golf course are often their lasting impressions."

"If the property does not meet expectations, the user is unhappy. So, in order to keep members happy, to make the members proud enough of their golf course to bring visitors, to attract the type of membership sought, you must make the first impressions the best impressions."

This theme was presented and discussed for a day and one half by experts in the fields of Golf Course Architecture and Landscape Architecture plus professional golfers and golf course superintendents.

These symposiums are outstanding. If you have never attended one, you should plan on going next year.

They discuss one subject and thoroughly discuss all aspects of that subject for a day and one half.

Some of the subjects from past years include:

Poa Annua
Sand Topdressing
Fast Greens
Winter Injury
Soils
Thatch
Water
Grooming
Micronutrients

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FAST GREENS, CONT.

Fast for regular play	-8' to 9'
A reasonable range	-7'6" to 9'
Ultra-fast for regular play	-above 9'6"
An unreasonable range	-above 9' at all times

Due to the vagaries of the weather and other circumstances, it is impossible to maintain a precise green speed throughout the year, but maintaining speeds between 7'6" and 9' should be feasible. Speeds 9' should be established only for special occasions. Trying to keep green speeds above 9' at all times, as desired by some golfers, often results in serious problems and should be avoided.

PAYING THE PIPER

Achieving fast greens has been well studied and involves proper mower maintenance and adjustment along with the manipulation of cultural factors such as fertilization, irrigation, topdressing, verticutting, rolling, etc. To achieve ultra-fast greens, all of these programs must be pushed to the limit. In the process, extreme stress is placed on the turf and jeopardizes its very survival during periods of difficult weather. If a goal of maintaining fast or ultra-fast greens throughout the season is ever to be achieved, then a real effort must be made to control or minimize other stress factors as much as possible. These include:

- poor drainage
- moisture stress due to a poor irrigation system or improper irrigation practices
- soil compaction
- diseases, insects and nematodes
- unreasonable traffic (e.g. play during bad weather, winter play, etc.)
- tree effects (shade, root competition, poor air circulation)

Despite efforts to control these stress factors, however, following through with all of the practices necessary to produce consistently fast or ultra-fast greens can thin and weaken the turf to such an extent that many undesirable consequences can occur. Among the problems observed:

- establishment of moss and algae
- encroachment of crabgrass, goosegrass and other weeds
- proliferation of summer patch, take-all patch and other difficult to control stress related diseases

CONTINUED PAGE 21

ANNUAL PICNIC



Boy, is this fun!



I'm watching my figure!



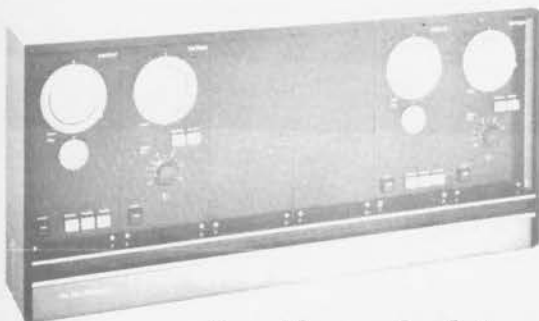
Practicing for the bubble gum blowing contest at Annual Picnic.



Egg roll contest at Annual Picnic.

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At the right time



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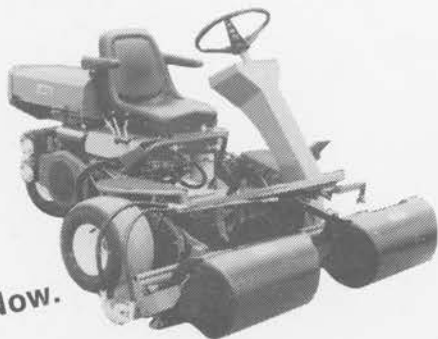
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FAST GREENS, CONT.

Trying to maintain consistently ultra-fast greens means always living on the edge of disaster, and once golfers become used to these fast greens, they expect them to be that way all of the time. The superintendent is then locked into a maintenance program which at best will make him a nervous wreck, but which ultimately could spell disaster. In the end, the piper will be paid!

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Try to keep the speed of your greens in the reasonable range of 7'6" to 9'. Aim for the 8' to 9' range if you wish but recognize that green speeds will vary from day to day and season to season.
- Avoid getting caught up in the race for ultra-fast greens, striving for speeds of 9'6" only on very special occasions, if at all.
- Explain to your club officials about the potential consequences of trying to maintain consistently ultra-fast greens.
- Be on the lookout for the symptoms of weakness noted earlier, and be prepared to compromise your green speed goals in an effort to strengthen the turf.

In the long run, the game of golf will be best served by taking a reasonable approach to managing green speeds, avoiding the excesses which can only result in dead grass and unhappy golfers.

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far and wide.
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where they can make
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It doesn't matter
who's the winner -

And after sleeping
through the night,
They make some more
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equivocation,
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keen cooperation;
It's manufacture
is an art,
where everybody
does his part.

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perfumed ladies,
Boys and girls
and even babies;
Grunt and strain
and do what's right,
To pile up more
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Author unknown



Outgoing President, **Kevin Dushane** (left) - accepting Past President Plaque from newly elected President, **Charles Gaige**.



Mike Edgerton, (left) - thanking membership for his gift as a retiring Board Member of the Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association.



Dan Uzelac accepting his "Retirement" Plaque.

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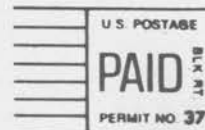
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