

Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey

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THE
GREENER SIDE

Vol. 3 No. 3

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BALTUSROL GOLF CLUB JUNE 9th to 15th, 1980



the GREENER SIDE

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Joseph R. Flaherty, Golf Course Superintendent, Baltusrol Golf Club

Joe Flaherty grew up learning about golf course maintenance. His father was, for 30 years, the superintendent at the Manasquan River Golf Club, Brielle, New Jersey.

Flaherty was graduated from Rutgers University in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agronomy.

Following graduation, Flaherty served from 1964 to 1967 as assistant course superintendent at Baltusrol under his predecessor, Ed Casey, who was the recipient of the 1977 USGA Green Section Award for distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass. Casey served for 22 years as golf course superintendent at Baltusrol and was responsible for preparing the club's Lower Course for four USGA competitions, including the 1954 and 1967 Opens.

On January 1, 1968, Flaherty succeeded Casey as course superintendent. He will celebrate his 16th anniversary at Baltusrol this April.

Flaherty is a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and is a GCSAA-certified superintendent. He is also a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey. He served as president during the years 1978-79 and he has held every other office in the organization. He is also a member of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association.

Flaherty, 37, is married and has four children.

Dates to Remember

June 9-15

U.S. Open, Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, New Jersey, Joseph Flaherty, CGCS, Superintendent

June 17

GCSANJ Membership and Golf Meeting, Hopewell Valley Golf Club, Hopewell, New Jersey, Dan McGlynn, Superintendent

July 17

GCSANJ Membership and Golf Meeting, Picatinny Golf Club (100th Anniversary), Dover, New Jersey, Les Carpenter, Jr., Superintendent

August 6

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Day

August 12

GCSANJ Membership and Golf Meeting, Copper Hill Golf Club, Flemington, New Jersey, John Fenwick, Superintendent

September 19

GCSANJ Invitational Tournament, Rock Spring Club, West Orange, New Jersey, Michael Hannigan, Superintendent

October 7 (tentative)

GCSANJ Field Day, Rutgers University and Golf Course, New Brunswick, New Jersey

October 9

GCSANJ Championship, Montammy Country Club, Alpine, New Jersey, Michael Leary, Superintendent

A.W. Tillinghast, Baltusrol's Architect, A Man of Many Parts

The very name Tillinghast has a lilt to it; nothing mundane about the sound; it flows, it conjures up in the imagination all kinds of interesting traits for the bearer of such a name.

Albert Warren Tillinghast, architect in the early 'twenties of Baltusrol's two present courses - the Upper and the Lower - and nearly 100 other courses all told, was well suited to such a name.

Where other famous golf course architects tend to develop a recognizable hallmark which the connoisseur can readily identify, Tillinghast created each new layout as a new invention, indeed, each individual hole. No two of his courses are alike; no hole is modeled on a previous inspiration.

If you want further proof of this, you can visit Shackamaxon Golf and Country Club in Scotch Plains, Somerset Hills Country Club in Bernardsville or Ridgewood Country Club in Paramus, all within an hour's drive of Baltusrol.

There is no knowing what further heights "Tillie" might have aspired to in the world of golf course architecture had he not been a man of many parts and predilections.

* He was a golfer good enough to compete in four U.S. Amateur Championships and one U.S. Open;

* He was a golf writer and editor;

* He was a fine golf photographer and a collector of golf art;

* He was one of the founding fathers of the PGA;

* He was a golf tournament promotor and director;

* He helped foster public links golf and, indeed, laid out the four-course Bethpage complex in Farmingdale, N.Y.;

* His interest in agronomy led him to take an active part in championing the young USGA Green Section;

* He liked the good life and the glitter of Broadway and was known to dissipate his wealth as an "angel" of unsuccessful plays;

* And Tillie indulged in classic benders, some lasting as long as a month.

Tillinghast, who grew up in Philadelphia, was an early devotee of cricket, but switched his allegiance to golf in the 1890s. He was an international traveler and made several trips to Scotland where he struck up friendships with Old Tom Morris and Andrew Kirkaldy.

Tillie married early and set up house in Harrington Park in northeastern New Jersey where he entertained royally.

By the '30s, when Tillinghast was in his fifties, he had had his fill of golf course architecture. He moved to Beverly Hills where he operated an antiques shop frequented by many of the movie stars.

He suffered a heart attack in 1940 and decided to move to Toledo, Ohio, to live with his eldest daughter. Two years later he died from a second heart attack and is buried in the Woodlawn Cemetery there, about two miles from the Inverness Club, site of the 1979 U.S. Open Championship.



OH LORD,

Please let the golfer in his infinite wisdom realize that You and nature do not always see eye to eye with mankind!!

WARNING!!!

Reports have been coming into this publication that there is a small band of superintendents, assistants, and a group sympathizer terrorizing North Jersey golf links with their golfing prowess and sometimes unwanted course critiques.

To date the group has been striking only on Mondays, or Tuesdays after a Monday holiday and always between 3:30 and 4:00 p.m.

First, reports from our own investigations have shown the band to be highly organized and apparently call themselves the "Monday Stokers."

A spokesman for the group says that although he might not admit it, the editor of "The Greener Side," was severely trounced by two sandbaggers belonging to the "Stokers" during a golf match in 1979.

We have also uncovered evidence leading to the fact that certain members of the "Stokers" have infiltrated state superintendent meetings with ridiculously high handicaps in order to take home trophies and prizes.

Their area of travel has been concentrated in the Essex-Passaic County vicinity but the spokesman notified us that they are willing to meet challenges at home or away by other individuals or similar groups: Monday Stokers rules govern all play.



From the Editor's Desk

Hosting one of the country's premier sporting events is quite a challenge. Joe Flaherty and his Baltusrol Golf Club staff have met that challenge head on in the 1980 U.S. Open Championship to be held at his fine Club in June. In the following interview, Joe shares his thoughts with us about the upcoming event:

Editor: When did you start preparing for the Open?

Joe: The changes and additions made to our Club were started in October, 1978.

Editor: What were the major changes made to Baltusrol in preparation for the Open?

Joe: Actually, no major changes were made. We did rebuild or redesign seven championship tees and build a new 5,400 sq. ft. practice tee, but they were projects that were being considered anyway. Although, being quite frank, having the U.S. Open has made those projects an immediate priority.

Editor: Was anything done to alter or change the course's design as you have maintained it?

Joe: With the assistance of the USGA Tournament Committee, we recontoured fairways and paid particular attention to defining hazards. A 6 ft. intermediate rough is being maintained at 2 in. to 3 in., and our regular rough is being mowed at 5½ in. Trees on the entire lower course were checked and pruned where necessary. New sand was added to all lower course bunkers. All our service roads were repaved, as was the Clubhouse parking area.

Editor: As the tournament approaches, where do you find yourself spending most of your time?

Joe: Quite frankly, Ed, ninety percent of my time is spent with outside contractors - the telephone company, Public Service, contractors building TV towers and communication installations. Without supervision, they would wind up destroying drainage and irrigation lines without even knowing it, and our post tournament job would be just about impossible.

Editor: How do you find the cooperation with these contractors and the tournament personnel?

Joe: Fantastic! First of all, I am extremely fortunate to be working with two men who have given our department 150 percent cooperation. Mr. Robert Potter, Greens and Grounds Chairman, and Mr. Charles Simpson, General Chairman, have been there whenever I've needed them. Without their help and the assistance of Nancy Jupp, Tournament Director, it could get pretty tough.



Editor: How do you find your staff reacting to the challenge of hosting this most prestigious event?

Joe: I am blessed with what I consider to be the best golf course maintenance staff in the business. Each and every one of them has pride in his job, and is enthusiastic about hosting the Open. With so much of my time obligated away from the actual maintenance of the course, it is important to have the secure feeling the job is being done right.

Editor: Was your experience with the '67 Open any help this time?

Joe: Not really. So much has changed since '67 that very few of the procedures used then still exist. I expect in 14 years things being done now will be outdated.

Editor: Will having the course in the best possible shape for the Open be the highlight of your year?

Joe: Of course, we hope the conditions will be perfect and we'll work long and hard to assure that they are, but two weeks after the tournament, we host the biggest member-guest of our season and we want the course equally good for our members and their guests.

Editor: Don't you think your membership will expect a little less than you will provide for the Open?

Joe: They might, but we wouldn't. Whether it be for Lee Trevino and Arnold Palmer, Golf Pros, or John Smith or Jim Doe, Club Members, we want our course the best it can possibly be at all times.

CLOSING NOTE: The last statement Joe Flaherty made shows just what kind of person he is: pride in his work and pride in himself, the kind of pride that makes us all very proud to say, "Joe's a golf course superintendent, one of us."

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My Experience Preparing for the U.S. Open



Steve Wirth
Assistant Superintendent
Baltusrol Golf Club

As most people are aware, the U.S. Open is run entirely by the USGA. This is the organization that sets the standards which govern the U.S. Open. It is the superintendent's job to see that the course meets these standards. This naturally, is not an overnight process, in fact, for certain projects work was begun two years ago. For the better part of these two years most of the preparation has been aimed at the target date of June 1980. Hopefully, come tournament time, the lower course will offer ideal golfing conditions. As I have seen it, the task can be very demanding and quite hectic; and as the tournament draws closer the work goes into high gear along with the new problems which seem to arrive daily.

While working at Baltusrol the past few years, I have seen and been involved with several new jobs which were required for the Open. Several tees were completely rebuilt and all of our lower traps were edged and refilled with new sand. I soon discovered this is one of your longer and more tedious jobs.

The experience which I have gained while working towards the Open is unquestionably an invaluable one; however, I feel the real test is yet to come. To me the most critical part is whether or not everything runs smoothly during the tournament.

I have been fortunate to work for someone I consider to be one of the finest greens superintendents anywhere, Mr. Joe Flaherty. He always seems to be there when he is needed, but more important, he is able to relate to the crew and gets maximum cooperation at all times.

My association with Baltusrol and the preparation for the U.S. Open are rewarding enough, but perhaps what has been most satisfying has been to see the organization and cooperation of so many people which is necessary for the success of this great golf tournament.

A Whimsical Look at Golf

"Golf is the simplest looking game in the world when you decide to take it up and the toughest after you have been at it for ten or twelve years. It is probably the only known game a man can play as long as a quarter of a century and then discover that it was too deep for him in the first place.

"Golf is a physical and mental exertion made attractive by the fact that you have to dress for it in a \$200,000 clubhouse. It is what letter-carrying, ditch-digging, and carpet-beating would be if those three tasks had to be performed on the same afternoon in colored socks, jersey, and pants by gouty-looking gentlemen who require a different implement for every mood.

"The game is played on carefully-selected grass with little white balls and as many clubs as a player can afford. These little balls cost from fifty cents up and it is possible to support a family of ten people (all adults) for five months on the money represented by balls lost by golfers in a single afternoon.

"A golf course is eighteen holes, seventeen of which are unnecessary and just put around the course to make the game harder. A 'hole' is a tin cup in the center of the 'green.'

"A 'green' is a small patch of grass costing \$1.98 a blade and usually located between a lake and a couple of apple trees, or a lot of 'unfinished excavations' called sand traps. The idea is to get the ball from a given point into each of the eighteen holes in the fewest strokes and the greatest number of words. A favorite expression is: 'I think you're in a trap, I hope.'

"The ball must not be thrown, pushed or carried. It must be propelled by a bunch of curious-looking implements designed especially to provoke the owner. Each implement has a specific purpose and ultimately some golfers get to know that purpose. However, they are the exceptions.

"After each hole has been completed the golfer counts his strokes. Then he subtracts six and says 'Made that in five. That's one over par. Shall we play for fifty cents on the next hole, too, Ed?' After the final or eighteenth hole the golfer adds his score and stops when he reaches eighty-seven. Then he takes a swim, sings 'Sweet Adeline' with a group of other liars and calls it the end of a perfect day."

— Author Unknown

Mistakes

We avoid em when possible but you
can still lok if you wish

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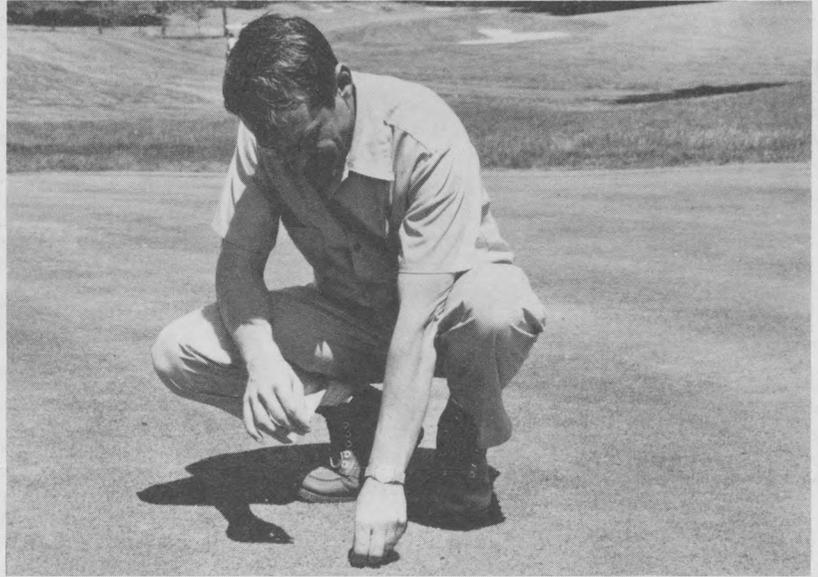
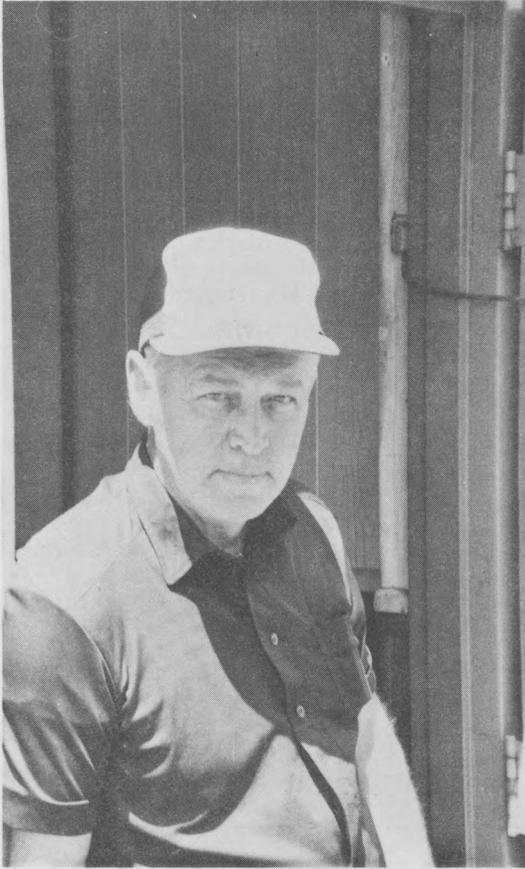


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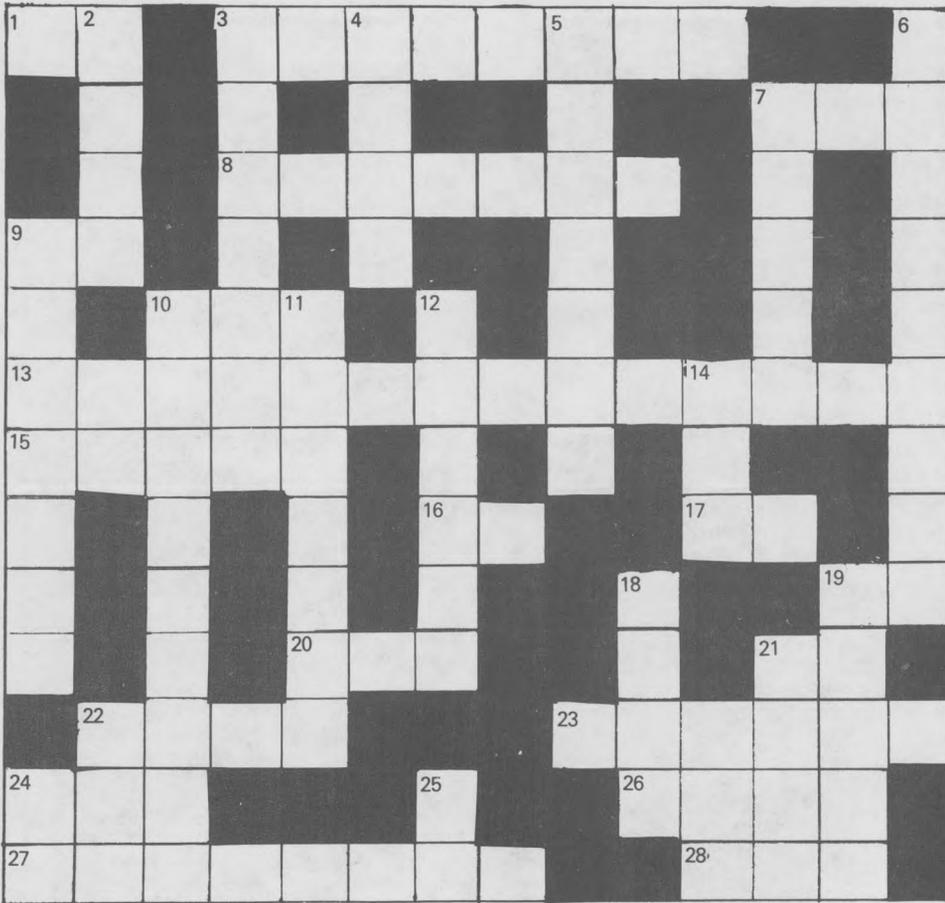
"Baltusrol Is Ready"



Above: Tom Campbell, Mechanic, has everything running perfect. Above right: Joe making last minute check. Middle: Famed fourth hole, always considered one of golf's great tests. Below right: Club entrance, where the fun begins. Below left: Nancy Jupp, Tournament Director, serving in her fourteenth consecutive U.S. Open - all that pressure and still a big hello and smile.



TURF TWISTER



ACROSS

1. Battery Power
3. 67 U.S. Open Winner at Baltusrol
7. Golfing Organization
8. Grade Shooter
9. Ribban's Predecessor (initials)
10. Regulation Strokes
13. Plant Process
15. Flag Pole Home (pl)
16. Pesticide Formulation (Abbv)
17. Diazinon Formulation (Abbv)
19. Pesticide Formulation (Abbv)
20. Golfers Start
21. Odd Couple Personage (initials) (What does a clue like this have to do with golf?)
22. Winner: 1974 U.S. Amateur at Ridgewood C.C.
23. _____ Exchange Capacity
24. Pesticide Labels Other Registration Number
26. Flags Attachment (pl)
27. Banned Ag Insecticide
28. After Handicap

DOWN

2. Short Golf Shot
3. Form of 'N'
4. High CEC Soil
5. Lime Raises This
6. Flaherty's Domain
7. Fungus, Insects and Weeds
9. Winter Woe!
10. Bees Do It
11. Weed Formation
12. Anilazine
14. Regulating Body
18. The BEACH
19. Mother Nature's Crabgrass cure
21. Hole Maker
22. Pressure Standard
24. 1954 U.S. Open Winner at Baltusrol (first name)
25. Percentage Pure Chemical (Abbv)

The first member who successfully completes and returns the Turf Twister crossword puzzle will be the guest of "The Greener Side" for dinner at the Hopewell Valley Golf Club on June 17. Submit your completed puzzle to: Ed Walsh, Editor, "The Greener Side," Ridgewood C.C., Box 598, Ridgewood, New Jersey 07451.

Congratulations to Fran Berdine who was the first person to successfully complete and return last issue's twister and to Dimmie Moore, Craig Reinhardt and Tod Polidur who also completed the puzzle.

"The Greener Side" Welcomes Our New Members

- Eugene G. Evans (C) Dist. 4 - Blue Ridge Peat Farm;
 Ingrid A. Kern (C) Dist. 6 - ProLawn Products, Inc.;
 Brian Jodoin (B-1) Dist. 4 - Apple Mountain C.C.;
 Elliot Lewis (B) Dist. 1 - White Beeches G. & C.C.;
 Ron Ruppert (B-1) Dist. 2 - Canoe Brook C.C.;
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 John Huda (B) Dist. 8 - Fort Dix G.C.;
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Government Update

Topsin M. Beats Tersan Through RPAR

The Environmental Protection Agency has determined that Topsin M (thiophanate-methyl) needs no additional restrictions currently, although EPA is still pushing for some new restrictions for Tersan 1991's active ingredient benomyl. Both chemicals were in the process known as rebuttable presumption against registration.

EPA is leaning toward an extra warning on the benomyl label and use only in water soluble packets. It also wants more testing of benomyl. Du Pont argues that many users of benomyl can't use water soluble packages for time and equipment reasons.

Topsin M's active ingredient, thiophanate-methyl, has made it through the RPAR process without additional requirements or restrictions. EPA, however, is still checking risks of a metabolite of thiophanate-methyl.

The two products are in the same chemical family and have many of the same uses. Tersan 1991 is labelled for Fusarium, dollar spot, stripe smut, and brown patch. Topsin M, a Pennwalt product, is labelled for dollar spot, Fusarium, stripe smut, and brown patch.

Looking for a foolproof diet? Try this: Eat only when the news is good.

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Super Slurper To The Rescue

Imagine planting seeds wrapped in individual capsules of jelled water. People are finding many such uses for super slurper, water-jelling combinations of a man-made compound chemically grafted to cereal grain starch which can absorb up to 5300 times its weight of pure water.

The absorbants, which were first introduced to the world by USDA's research laboratory in Peoria, IL. between 1973 and 1977, are now being developed and marketed by private industry for many uses such as control of wind erosion of soils, planting grass seed, moisture-proofing underground tanks, and rooting flower cuttings.

John Gilmore, who works with the super slurper for his slurper production firm in Minneapolis, says manufacturers can add other materials to the slurper when it's used as a seed covering to protect the seeds against insects and diseases and break down seed coats so water can penetrate easier and stimulate root growth.

In field tests in Arkansas, seeds coated with slurper to hold water increased corn yields by 10*, milo sorghum by 17 to 49*, and soybeans by 18 bushels an acre, according to Dale E. Behmer of a North Little Rock, AR firm. Fifty cents worth of super slurper returned \$50 worth of increased cotton yields in Texas field test of seeds coated with the absorbant.

William M. Doane, who led the research on the slurpers, said planting uses of slurpers appear to outnumber other applications, and predicts that there are also "less obvious future applications" not yet discovered.

Super slurper has already proven to have important application for water conservation and land reclamation. For example, a palm tree grower reports that he expects super slurper to help him cut his \$100 per-acre-per-year water bill significantly. Broadcasting a pound of the absorbant over 500 square feet of ground before laying sod helps sod companies retain moisture in sandy soil.

A USDA soils scientist has discovered that adding super slurper to sand can increase the available water retained by the sand "to nearly the same levels as that retained by a loam and a silt loam."

A sandy soil treated with...super slurper has about the same water holding capacity as the best of the corn belt soils," according to one Iowa State agronomy professor. However, he adds that, while "there are situations in which slight or localized increases in available soil water would be highly beneficial," complete modification of a sandy soil would be "prohibitively expensive."

Reprinted from Farm Chemicals, January, 1980 Issue

Air pollution is turning Mother Nature prematurely grey.

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CHIP SHOTS

— John Ward is new Superintendent at Cedar Hill Golf Club in Livingston, New Jersey.

— Glenn Gallion of Green Brook Country Club and Tony Bifano of Mountain Ridge Country Club teamed up to have their courses sprayed by helicopter with Diazinon at 2 quarts per acre for control of dung beetle. Glenn said total application, including loading, only took 1½ hours.

— Ed Nichol森 is gearing up for the State Open to be held in July at his course, Montclair Golf Club.

— The Sunset Valley Golf Course, Pequannock Township, has been designated as the location for the 34th Annual State Public Links Championship. Thirty-two pre-qualified players will compete in the first round on July 26.

— Rockaway River was the site of this past month's Dodge Open which is the richest annual tournament in the United States. "Jonesy" again had the course in excellent condition for the golfers.

— Congratulations to Les Mickens who has been retained as golf course superintendent by the Passaic County Park Commission.

— All our prayers and thoughts are with Jim Gilligan for a speedy recovery from his recent illness. Get back soon, Jim, we need you.

— Welcome back, Ang.

Weed Kill "Breakthrough"?

A possible new weed killing technique is reported in the Australian Country Magazine. It is said that the use of microwaves is being tested by research officers at Deacon University near Melbourne.

The hope is that operators will be able to pull a reflector behind a tractor to kill weeds and their seeds before crops are sown. In a recent demonstration, it is said that a healthy dandelion was reduced to a shriveled up dead weed in 10 seconds.

It is claimed that while killing weeds, the microwaves do not affect soil chemical

properties, and there is no residual effect.

Altogether, this is expected to be a "huge breakthrough" for science and technology. When perfected, a development and marketing company owned by the university will market the machine.

Reprinted from Farm Supplier, January, 1980 Issue.

The listed patrons have provided the financial backing that makes the GREENER SIDE possible. Please show your support for their services and products.

"Bones"

Someone has said there are four kinds of "Bones" in every organization.

There are the WISHBONES who spend their time wishing someone else would do the work.

There are the JAWBONES who do all the talking, but very little else.

Next, there are the KNUCKLEBONES who knock everything anyone ever tries to do.

And finally, there are the BACKBONES who get under the load and do the work.

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