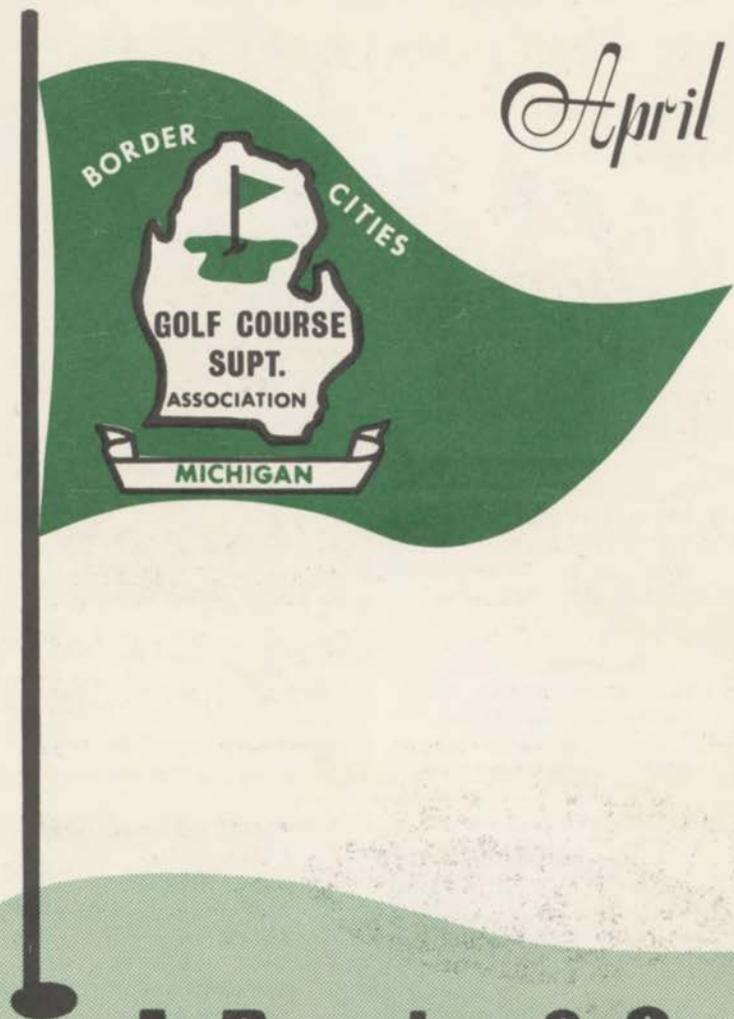




April 1972



A Patch of Green



Official Publication of the

Michigan & Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is finally here. I hope your courses wintered as well as ours at Oakland Hills. We are looking forward to a good year.

Now that the conference season is behind us, we can take time out to reflect upon them and put to work some of the things that we learned last winter. If the interest shown by your attendance is any indication of your desires to learn, we should see a tremendous upgrading in our profession this year.

Over 4,000 attended the GCSAA Conference in Cincinnati, over 500 at MSU and over 700 at Purdue. These figures are all outstanding.



Our March meeting at Bay Pointe brought out 116 people - the most in recent years. The desire to learn is there and we will attempt to satisfy your needs with an outstanding educational program during the remainder of the year.

We are fortunate in being able to secure some of our better known clubs in the district for our meetings. As long as our attendance remains high and our conduct remains in line with our profession, we will be able to continue obtaining these fine clubs for our meetings.

Our image as a profession is growing and moving in the right direction now so let's all work to keep it going.

Your President,
Ted Woehrle

COMING EVENTS

Essex Country Club - April 18 - Dave Moote, Host; Speaker - Mr. Ed Irish - Tree Care.

Knollwood Country Club - May 2 - Bob Hope, Host; Speaker - Dr. Clayton Switzer - Turf Care. Dr. Switzer is from Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario.

Country Club of Detroit - May 22 - Bill Milne, Host.

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4th ANNUAL



PONTIAC PRESS FLOWER SHOW

Once again, Jody Headlee, Garden Editor of the Pontiac Press, has put on one of the finest flower shows in Southeastern Michigan. The show is held annually in March at the Pontiac Mall. The hallways are decorated with displays of flowers and wonders of nature.

We were once again invited to participate. Ken McRae of Edgewood Golf Club was appointed Chairman of our "Flower Show Committee". He reports that the volunteers to man the booth were willing and plentiful.

This has been a wonderful opportunity to do a service for the community. It is amazing to hear how many

homeowners have lawn problems. We are happy to be able to help. It is a wonderful way to gain some public relations.

Michigan State furnished several flats of Kentucky Bluegrass for our display and, of course, all of the Extension Bulletins.

Bob Hope of Knollwood Country Club appeared on one of the local radio stations live from the flower show.

The Pontiac Press carried a cartoon depicting a man looking for a sign of spring - with a caption telling the readers to visit our booth for help in solving their lawn problems.



MARCH MEETING

Over 100 Superintendents and their guests attended our March meeting at Bay Pointe Golf Club to hear John Campbell, Links supervisor, of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, St. Andrews, Scotland.

Mr. Campbell spent two busy days visiting in Michigan. He toured the facilities at MSU on Monday, March 20, and spoke to the turf students while there. On Tuesday, he came to the Detroit area to appear on J. P. Mc Carthy's "FOCUS" program on station WJR. That same afternoon, he was interviewed on Channel 2 T.V. as well as participating in newspaper interviews. Jack Berry of the Detroit News did an outstanding job of covering John's visit to our area.

His slide presentation to our Chapter meeting was very informative. Something we learned was St. Andrews really has four eighteen hole golf courses and they are building another.

Some of their management practices are worth considering. Top-dressing with Compost is almost a lost art in this country. They use over 400 tons per year. Of course, they make their own.

The bunkers on the "Old" course are natural bunkers as the rabbits and sheep burrowed holes in the ground to escape the famous winds of that area.

The "Old" course only has 11

greens for the entire 18 holes - seven greens are double greens. Several are over 20,000 square feet in size.

While in America, Mr. Campbell presented an old cherished trophy from the Scottish Greenkeepers Association to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. This trophy will be used to present to some worthy winner of one of our tournaments.

We certainly enjoyed his presence here in Michigan. Perhaps we can understand some of the traditions of golf a little better now that we have seen and heard about the birthplace of the game.

We had another guest appear before our March meeting to discuss problems of hosting the National Conference in Detroit in 1978.

Mr. Dennis Miriani of the Detroit Convention Bureau answered questions from the floor concerning our facilities for handling a conference here in Detroit.

After a lengthy discussion, the membership voted to extend an invitation to the GCSAA to come to Detroit in 1978.

The matter will be discussed at the Spring Executive Committee meeting of the GCSAA.

The last time a conference was held was in 1948.



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THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER TRAINING

First, training serves to improve employee skill, which in turn increases the quantity and quality of output.

Second, the relative amount of equipment and material required to produce a unit of output is decreased.

Third, executive effort will tend to shift from the disagreeable need of correcting mistakes to the more pleasant tasks of planning work and of encouraging expert employees.

Fourth, the various increases in productivity will find a reflection in increased returns to employees and last, the general tenor of relations between employers and employees, as well as their individual satisfaction, will tend to be more wholesome, resulting in more pleasant and satisfactory working conditions. All these objectives, it is worth repeating, may be sought without adding to company budgets. The money is already being spent, so it may as well be spent wisely.

Training manual for mowing greens written by Oscar Miles, Superintendent, Olympia Fields Country Club, Olympia Fields, Illinois.

Here are the leaves from Miles' manual on green mowing:

1) Mechanic checks mower for bed knife to reel adjustment before maintenance man removes mower from shop;

2) Upon approaching the green, stop below rank and remove transport wheels;

3) Run mower up to short collar and turn machine off;

4) Remove all ball marks from green, moving in a systematic pattern, taking about 10 square feet of green at a time. (Ball marks are preferably repaired with a meat fork; press turf inward from sides and then step on repaired marks);

5) Start mower, engage reel and begin mowing outline or perimeter cut. After cutting first circle, lift machine and get on line for next interior perimeter cut;

6) Start cutting middle or remainder of green. Cut in direction shown on work schedule board. Aim mower at an object on the far side of the green in order to insure a straight line during the first longitudinal cut;

7) After cutting first half of green, stop mower, disengage reel and go to the opposite side of the first longitudinal cut;

8) Engage reel and proceed to cut second half of the green;

9) Disengage reel and remove mower to area where transport wheels have been dropped. Turn off mower;

10) Whip all loose clippings from green, short and long collars with whipping poles. Be very fastidious about this;

11) Put transport wheels on mower and proceed to next green site.

Miles' manual doesn't stop with the 11 procedures listed above. He instructs the employee to keep the following things in mind when working on greens:

A) Turn or reverse direction of mower only when off the green - on long or secondary collar. Make a wide loop to eliminate roller spin, which causes bruising of turf;

B) After mowing a green always disengage reel before going to next one;

C) If machine isn't functioning

Next Page

ARTHUR HILLS

Golf Course Architect

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TURF CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE ANNOUNCED

Record attendance at the 42nd annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference was announced recently by James E. Bogart, Turfgrass Extension Associate

at Michigan State University. Four hundred and thirty persons were registered for this year's two-day conference. This figure tops the previous record attendance of 406 at the 1971 conference.

Proper Training Cont.

correctly, or if odd noises are detected, get help from foremen or return mower to shop for checkup;

D) When golfers approach a green on which you are working, stop machine and turn off mower. Remember that golfers come first!

E) Don't forget safety! Do not remove any foreign material from the reel without first turning off the mower;

F) The shop foreman will assist you in cleaning and greasing the mower after it is returned to the shop. This is to be done every day! The shop mechanic is responsible for all mower settings.

The greens at Olympia Fields are cut at 5/32 inches in the spring and fall and at 3/16 in the summer. The first cut in the cycle is started at seven o'clock and moves toward one; the next cut starts at five and moves toward eleven; then it proceeds from three to nine; and is finished between six and twelve, when the cycle is repeated.

Besides labor turnover, says Miles, the main reason he wrote the manual was he can't devote as much time as he would like to training new men.

Golf course and industry personnel accounted for nearly 61 per cent of those attending, with 130 golf course superintendents and 128 industry-related personnel attending. The next largest group represented the sod industry of Michigan. Conferees representing municipal governments formed the next largest group, followed by school personnel and cemetery superintendents.

In addition, between 80 and 90 professional turfmen attended the third annual Basic Turfgrass Training School on the afternoon preceding this year's conference. Those attending the training school were well informed on subjects pertaining to irrigation, turfgrass varieties, fertilizers, and disease-nematode problems. - James E. Bogart, Turfgrass Extension Associate

Mike Bavier sends us this bit of wisdom:

"Oldie but Goodie"

The only time a man grows is when he is green. The moment he is ripe, he starts to get rotten.

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CONTINUED INFLATION?

By C. O. BORGMEIER
From The 'Bull Sheet', March, 1972

Under the guise of controlling inflation the administration in Washington has actually resisted and combated deflation. Instead of putting into effect a rigid policy of wage and price controls from which there would be no deviation, we have another expansion of the bureaucracy to play around with wages and prices to appease first one segment of our economy and then another. We have transferred the operation of our economy from economic control to political control, which will wind up in a mess. What would be wrong with imposing rigid controls

A LASTING TRIBUTE

Bob Jones, by actual measurement, was president of the Augusta National Golf Club from its inception until his passing last December - 40 years in all. He was, of course, the only president the club ever had.

Now he will have that title forever. The bylaws of the club have been amended to provide for the position of a President in Perpetuity as a lasting tribute to him. No one else will ever be elected to the position.

The name of Robert Tyre Jones Jr., President in Perpetuity, will be carried on the letterhead and masthead of the club as long as it continues in existence.

LES COLLINS DIES

Lester Collins, former owner of L. Collins Co. and associated with W. F. Miller Mower Co. for the past ten years, passed away suddenly on Saturday, March 25th.

Mr. Collins, known widely for his artistry on putting green work, will be sorely missed by every golf course superintendent in the area.

and then using the power of government to reduce wages and prices, not increase them according to the whims of politicians?

Deflation is unpopular with government, union labor, business and agriculture. So the Department of Agriculture is subsidizing and supporting farm crop prices, necessitated by huge increases in production. Large food crops should be a blessing to the nation and should decrease the cost of living by a price reduction in all processed food and that would happen if the Department of Agriculture allowed the law of supply and demand to operate. Instead, it jumps in with price supports and give-away programs to appease the farm industry. The eight billion dollar farm support program is scandalous and a fraud. It is not keeping the young on family type farms but encouraging corporate operations with guaranteed prices and subsidies not justified economically. Union labor is demanding and obtaining approval of outrageous wage increases instead of halting inflation or reducing wages to stimulate certain segments of the economy and discourage the importation of cheaper foreign goods. Generally the people accepted the August 15, 1971 imposition of the 10% surcharge on imports. The government backed down on this in a hurry when foreign nations threatened retaliatory action.

There is a feeling of shame and humiliation among many people that this proud nation, supposedly the strongest in the world, has devalued the dollar, once the soundest currency in the world. Now with the withdrawal from South Vietnam our place in the world is degenerating fast.

We *can't* put the blame for this on President Nixon. It started with our engaging in the no-win Korean War under President Truman and con-

Continued on page 13

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Gang units are controlled by a hydraulic system that picks them up or sets them down one at a time avoiding obstacles and saving more valuable time.

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Check into Our Gang. The Parkmaster 9 from Toro.

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you and give him the information needed for application.**

Continued Inflation? Cont.

tinued under all successive administrations.

Our deficit, the difference between what the government collects in taxes and what it spends, is inflationary because it creates 25 billion annually in additional spending money. U.S. Bonds and notes are money in a fixed form on which the U.S. Treasury pays interest if held to maturity. When the urge to spend outweighs the desire to collect interest thereon they are just so much more money. We are undermining our dollar at home and abroad by this continued fiscal irresponsibility. The recent devaluation of the dollar is just a starter. The same thing will reoccur a year or two hence.

We will continue to have inflation because it is the accepted economic policy. The present administration endorses it, hopefully setting the pace around 4% annually. The financial interests like inflation because it makes for liquidity of loans and debts payable with constantly cheaper dollars. The merchandisers don't object because inventories go up in value on replacement cost and losses are negative. Union labor, while giving lukewarm support to anti-inflation measures, would not forego the periodical demands for higher wages to justify the leader's big salaries and expense accounts with the membership. Industry doesn't object to inflation as long as prices can be increased commensurately.

The free application of the law of supply and demand would have cured inflation if allowed to function both in the field of labor and industry. It probably would have resulted in a severe depression accompanied by social upheaval and violence. So the law of supply and demand was repealed, or its consequences postponed.

The field is all set up for continued inflation, hopefully restrained or controlled, but slowly destructive of the dollar value in wages, salaries and fixed incomes.

1972 DUES ARE DUE

DON'T FORGET - 1972 dues are due now! Now is the time to come to the aid of the Secretary.

IT IS NOT EASY - To apologize, To begin over, To be unselfish, To take advice, To admit error, To face a sneer, To be charitable, To keep trying, To be considerate, To avoid mistakes, To endure success, To profit by mistakes, To forgive and forget, To think and then act, To keep out of a rut, To make the best of little, To subdue an unruly temper, To shoulder a deserved blame, To recognize the silver lining - BUT IT ALWAYS PAYS. (Anonymous)

W.F. MILLER NAMED DISTRIBUTOR

W. F. Miller Garden and Lawn Equipment Company has been appointed distributor of the Hesston Front Runner grounds maintenance tractor and related attachments. The distributorship covers the state of Michigan. This announcement was made by Neil M. Gustafson, Industrial Division Manager for Hesston Corporation.

The Hesston Front Runner GMT offers 14 hp and 18 hp models with versatile quick-change attachments to meet all golf course maintenance needs. With the mower and other attachments mounted up front, the Front Runner can reach in and cut under overhanging limbs and shrubs as well as mow the grass before wheels flatten it. Other "Up Front" features include front wheel hydrostatic drive and excellent operator visibility.

Hal Vogler and Warren Hamlin manage the Miller Distributorship. The Hesston Front Runner GMT will be handled direct through the commercial sales department and through the company's dealers in Michigan.

Hesston Corporation, headquartered in Hesston, Kans., also produces farm equipment, specializing in forage and hay handling machines.

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CARL'S COMMENTS

By CARL SCHWARTZKOPF
Mid-Continent Agronomist
USGA - Green Section

Now that the winter conference and convention circuit has drawn to a close and we have a moment or two before spring is here, what should we do? It seems to be an ideal time to sit back and evaluate what the speakers said; what ideas or helpful hints were learned that would ease maintenance problems for the upcoming summer.

One of the speeches at the Michigan State Turf Conference that impressed me was Dr. Carlson's talk on increased use of annuals and bedding plants, not only around the clubhouse and the entrance, but throughout the golf course.

The practice of brightening up areas with flowers is done at few clubs in the Mid-Continent region. Last October, when visiting clubs in the West, this was one of the items that impressed me most. In the West, particularly California, many drought tolerant varieties and species are planted in areas that are out of play; this is done because of irrigation requirements. Many golf courses in the West irrigate fenceline to fenceline. To save on water, which is an expensive commodity in California, the courses use ornamental shrubs and flowers.

Ornamental shrubs that would provide color, brighten dull areas and perform satisfactorily in Michigan with minimal maintenance would be: lilac, redbud, dogwood, forsythia, flowering quince, Michigan holly, winter and summer witch hazel, mock orange, honeysuckle, flowering almond and some of the viburnum varieties, just to mention a few.

Some of the many colorful annuals or bedding plants that require little maintenance once planted would be: petunias, marigolds, zinnias, geraniums, snapdragons and wax begonias (use in shaded areas only).

THE SUPERINTENDENT IN THE SEVENTIES



By
Robert V. Mitchell,
GCSAA President

I would like to review some of the obvious, forecasting some of the problems that we'll encounter, suggest ways that we can prepare ourselves to cope with these problems and lastly, tell you how GCSAA can help you.

We know that the number of golfers is on the increase. Courses the world over are crowded - naturally, we are more aware of this on our own courses. We are aware of it because of the dif-

ficulty experienced in scheduling maintenance and construction work. We are finding it harder to "get the job done". I'm sure that we would agree on this increase in players and National Golf Foundation figures substantiate this belief.

If we stop and think a little, we also agree that these numbers will continue to increase. Why? For several reasons. We live in an affluent society today - not only do people make more money, but they don't mind, it seems, spending it on recreation and hobbies as readily as on necessities.

Business today is headed for a shorter work week. Unions have been discussing this. One business I read

Continued on page 16

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Superintendent Cont.

about instituted a 4 day - 37½ hour work week with the same pay - on a trial period. Thus far, results are favorable! They found that their production was equal to or exceeded that of a 5 day, 40 hour week. They reasoned that it was due to people having one more day free per week. It is possible that others will follow. This will mean that more people will have one more leisure day per week and many will head for the golf course. The universal adoption of a 4 day work week would probably result in the largest percentage increase in the game of golf that we've ever seen!

When this "boom" occurs, we will also see a corresponding increase in construction of golfing facilities. This will bring about an immediate need for more golf course superintendents.

There is little doubt that prices will increase. The nation's economy is caught in the never-ending cycle of rising labor demands and resultant necessity of increasing prices which

spurs further labor increases. The golf business is affected just as every other business. More than just the price struggle, we'll find that with increases in numbers will come increases in problems - these problems will necessitate a larger expenditure of monies to provide the same facilities as provided previously.

This then is our plight: The golfer population will increase substantially, which will result in more player problems, which will increase tremendously the difficulty of growing and producing fine turf - this in the midst of an inflated economy and rising prices.

In addition, more golfers will call for a significant increase in "new course" construction. Thus we are challenged to produce not only *more*, but *better*, golf course superintendents. These men must be able to cope with these new problems.

I believe we are in a very enviable position - knowing that there will be a definite shortage of qualified superin-

Continued on page 17

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Superintendent Cont.

tendents plus an increased demand for fine golfing facilities. Economists tell us that when demand increases and supply remains the same, then the price will increase - so it appears as though the profession is in for some monetary increases in the future.

I'd like to discuss with you some of the problems that this influx of golfers is going to create for us, plus other problems that are coming our way during these Seventies:

The first problem that would come to mind has to do with traffic - compaction - complete wear out. We have been dealing with this problem for some years now and for the most part - successfully! As the traffic increases we will need to "step up" our renovation programs to alleviate these problems before they lead to disaster! I'm sure we will agree that compaction and certain other of today's problems will be with us for time to come - we will continue to solve or take care of these situations until doing so becomes almost routine.

But compaction, maintenance practices, types of fertilizer or fungicides, insecticides, herbicides, etc. are not the type problems I'd like to discuss with you - these day to day problems are almost academic. We should concern ourselves with those that we have not yet learned to conquer.

LABOR: a continuing problem - and will always be! A primary reason has to do with callous or indifferent attitudes toward employees. In other fields the 32-40 hour week is a reality and a worker can earn a livable wage - one that can provide for a family. On the other hand, the typical golf course worker works at least 40 hours per week and parts of most Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Even with these hours, it is doubtful that one could support a family comfortably. While many workers can take picnics or vacations whenever they choose, most crewmen working on courses must take their vacations during the off season or winter. In addition to these

Continued on page 18

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Superintendent Cont.

disadvantages, there is little future for the golf course worker. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has reported that fringe benefits represent 27% of the total compensation for today's labor force. These benefits include insurance programs, vacations, holidays, sick days, pension programs and bonuses. Ask yourself, and your neighbor, what does your crew earn in the way of fringe benefits?

Mr. Mitchell's article, *The Superintendent in the Seventies*, will be continued in the May issue of the *Patch of Green*.

A *LEADER* we are told, has two distinctive characteristics: He knows where he is going; And he knows how to persuade other people to go along with him.

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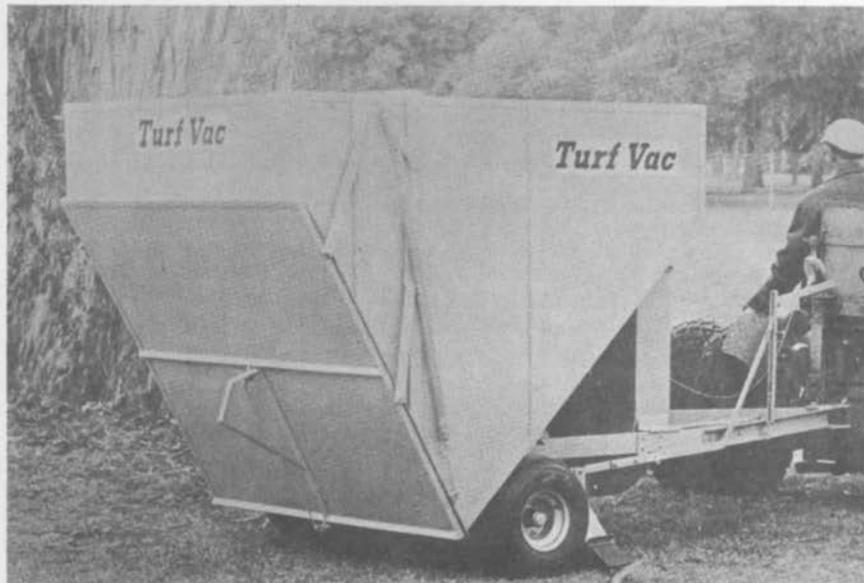
MILORGANITE GIVES TURF BOOKS

Milorganite scored again! At the G.C.S.A.A. Cincinnati International Show in February they gave away \$1,000.00 worth of Dr. John H. Madison's new bible on turf - - - - - "Principles of Turfgrass Science". There were 50 winners in all, Scattered throughout the United States and Canada.

Milorganite long has been noted in the education field. Their Agronomists are in constant demand as speakers on turf conference programs. Last year they gave away 100 "Turfgrass Science Monographs" on "luck of the draw".

Looks like Milorganite may be in the library business for good. Michigan State's Dr. Jim Beard has another major book soon to be published on turfgrass.

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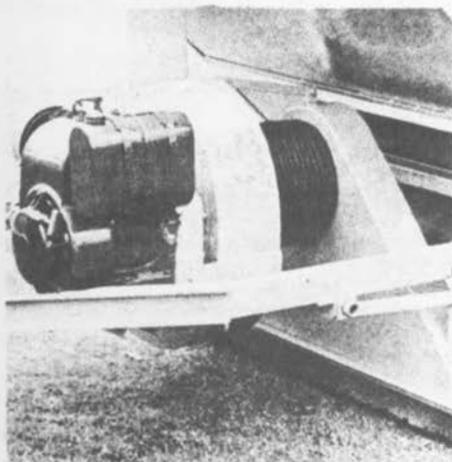
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