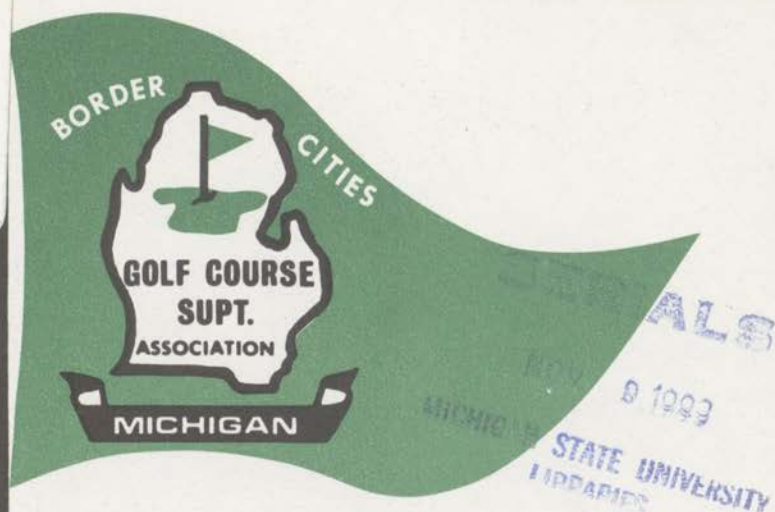


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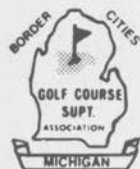
OCTOBER 1983



PERIODICAL

A PATCH of GREEN

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



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"A PATCH OF GREEN"

Published monthly by the
**MICHIGAN AND BORDER CITIES GOLF
COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION**

Circulation: 1,250

Ted Woehrlie, CGCS, Oakland Hills C.C.
EDITOR

Printed At
BLAKEMAN PRINTING COMPANY
31823 Utica Road
Fraser, Michigan 48026
Phone: (313) 293-3540

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PROS AND CONS OF SAND TOPDRESSING

CONTINUED FROM SEPTEMBER ISSUE

8. Tough to germinate seed - less moisture near the surface and less moisture retention will tend to make seed germination more difficult. Extremely careful water control must be exercised when attempting to germinate seed in these high sand soils because they dry out so quickly. 9. Possibility of more winter desiccation on *Poa annua*. Because these soils hold less water under severe desiccation pressure in the winter susceptible grasses such as *Poa annua* may have somewhat increased potential for winter injury due to desiccation. 10. A commitment to one type of topdressing material - it has been said many times but it is worth repeating again that once you begin a sand topdress-

ing program you must essentially stay with it forever. In reality, you have determined the basic type of topdressing material to be used on that green for the remainder of its useful life. Some people simply don't like to make that commitment. 11. Must maintain quality control of the sand both physically and chemically - all sands are not alike. Some are high pH (Calcareous) and others are neutral to slightly acid (silica based). Also, care must be exercised to make sure that the sands don't vary in their particle size analysis. You don't want to use coarse sand one time, medium sand the next followed by an application using very fine sand. Conceivably, you could

CONTINUED PAGE 18



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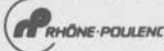


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VOX POP

"Low Bidding"

*with Andrew Bertoni

Or maybe this should be entitled, "Don't kill the goose that lays the golden egg". Whatever. There is one thing that is very disturbing - it is the insidious poison of jumping on the ridiculous low bid.

When they asked the astronaut what his thoughts were during the blast off, he responded, "It was assuring that the program and capsule did not go to the lowest bidder!"

The Super has been trained to save money, which is good, as opposed to wasting money. But where does that money go that he has saved? To the Club House for draperies? Or for the ladies powder room again? Or maybe to replace last year's new rugs? Actually, what you save on low bids is a

very small part of your budget.

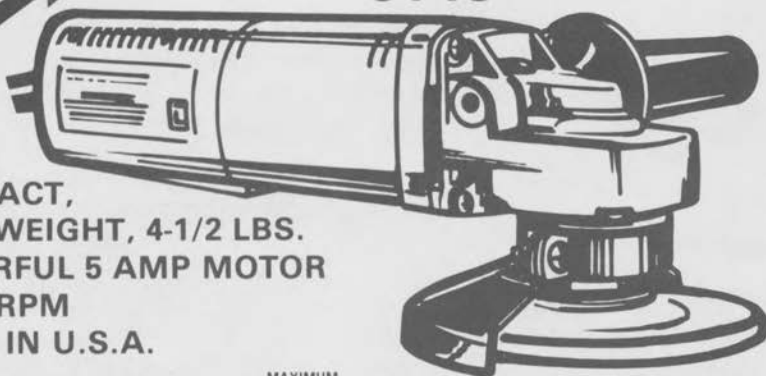
A manager does not ask for low bids on steaks, or on roasts, or on liquor. A pro does not seek low bids on sets of clubs. A member does not request the lowest bid for membership dues. I feel that you are deceiving the golfer if you give him the poorest return for his money. Low bidding degrades the Super and eventually he strangles himself by continually lowering his and the club's standards.

Another cause for concern is that the supplier who gives service - and that is an intangible that no price can set - will no longer be able to finance that service, and he is the one who has regularly supported the National,

CONTINUED PAGE 14

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How to Turn Complaints to Your Advantage

How do you handle complaints from golfers? Nobody finds it easy to take criticism, especially when the gripes come from someone whose only turf-grass experience is his dandelion-free lawn. Unfortunately, golf courses were built and superintendents hired for the benefit of golfers, a situation which often necessitates a kid-glove approach to complaints.

Even if complaints are supposed to go to your green chairman, chances are you'll still have to field a few questions and comments from golfers who catch you on the course. Generally, they will be friendly, but there are always a few who aren't.

The first rule is keep your temper. Some people actually enjoy harassing and employee and others have to find

someone to blame for a bad round. However, if you stay cool, he will soon realize he is out of line.

Hear him out. Many people who have honest complaints only reveal portions of their grievances because they are afraid you don't have time to listen to them. When you've heard the whole thing, try to give a thorough explanation. Above all, don't cut him off abruptly, even if you are in a hurry. Try to set up a time when you can go into the problem in detail if you think it is necessary.

Don't try to laugh is off. If he is serious about his complaint, he probably won't be very receptive to joke about it. After all, he may have a point.

Don't try to cover up. Even if it's your

CONTINUED PAGE 15

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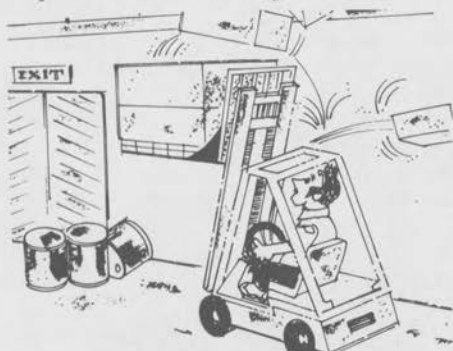
Unsafe conditions are usually created by Careless Housekeeping, Improper Loading or Piling, Defective or Broken Equipment, Guards Not On Machinery, Defective Substances, Improper Ventilation, Improper Lighting, Improper Dress, Unsafe Design or Construction, Congested Area, Hazardous Arrangement, Defective Guards.

Unsafe acts usually stem from these sources: Reaching into running machinery, Not using safety guards and devices, unsafe speeds, taking chances, not wearing protective equipment, unsafe tools or equipment, unsafe handling of materials, horseplay.

To avert unsafe acts and conditions: stay alert on the job, follow safety rules, know your job.

An important contribution to your own safety is a "Safe Attitude". Recognize that an accident can happen to you and then act accordingly.

Remember . . . Accidents don't just happen - They're caused, either by an unsafe act, an unsafe condition, or a combination of both. Correct unsafe conditions or report them to your supervisor immediately.



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HOW LAWS ARE ENACTED IN THE U.S.

Most persons are aware of the United States government's tri-level (senate, house and executive branches) voting of new laws and amendments, but few actually know the procedure that is followed when a bill is enacted. Thousands of bills are introduced during each Congress, which lasts two years, and hundreds become law. All bills not enacted by the end of the two-year period are "killed".

Ideas for new laws come from many sources. The President, members of Congress, and other government officials may produce laws. Suggestions also come from individual citizens; special-interest groups, such as farm-

ers, industry and labor; newspaper editorials; and public protests. Congressional committees, in addition to lawyers who represent special-interest groups, actually write most bills and put them into proper legal form. Specialists called *legislative counsels* in both the Senate and House of Representatives also help prepare many bills for congressional action.

Each bill must be sponsored by a member of the House or Senate. Up to 25 representatives and any number of senators may co-sponsor a bill. A bill may originate in either house of Congress unless it deals with taxes or



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spending. The constitution provides that all such bills must be introduced in the House. The tradition that money bills must begin in the lower house of the legislature came from England. There, the lower house—the House of Commons—is more likely to reflect the people's wishes because the people elect its members. They do not elect the upper house, the House of Lords. The rule has little meaning in the United States because voters elect both houses.

A bill is introduced into the senate and the House, in either order, depending upon which congressional body it is introduced. It may die at almost any stage of the process if no action is taken on it. A majority of the bills introduced in Congress fail and never become law. Following the normal path of a bill given first to the House the bill is introduced to the house by a sponsor; by giving it to the clerk of the House or by placing the bill in a box called the *hopper*. The clerk reads the title of the bill into the *Congressional Record* in a procedure called the *first reading*. The Government Printing Office prints the bill and distributes copies.

The speaker of the House assigns the bill to a committee for study. The House has about 20 *standing* (permanent) committees, each with jurisdiction over bills in a certain area. The committee studies the bill and hears testimony from experts and other interested persons. In some cases a subcommittee conducts the study. The committee may release the bill with a recommendation to pass it, revise the bill and release it, or lay it aside so that the House cannot vote on it. Releasing the

bill is called *reporting it out*, and laying the proposed law aside is called *tabling*.

The bills goes on a calendar, a list of bills awaiting action. The Rules committee may call for quick action on the bill, limit debate, and limit or prohibit amendments. Without the committee's help, a bill might never reach the floor of the House. Consideration by the House begins with a second reading of the bill, the only complete reading in most cases. A third reading, by title only, comes after any amendments have been added and before the final vote. If the bill passes by a *simple majority* (one more than half the votes), it goes to the Senate.

To introduce a bill, a senator must be recognized by the presiding officer and announce the introduction of the bill. A bill that has passed either house of Congress is sometimes called an *act*, but the term usually means legislation that has passed both houses of Congress and become law.

The Vice-President of the United States, who is presiding officer of the Senate, assigns the proposed law to a committee for study. The senate has about 15 standing committees. The committee or one of its sub-committees studies the bill and may hold hearings. The committee may approve the bill as it stands, revise the bill, or table it.

The bill goes to the Senate to await its turn. Bills normally reach the Senate floor in the order that they come from committee. But if a bill is urgent, the leaders of the majority party might push it ahead. Senators can debate a

CONTINUED PAGE 17

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You should have an employee manual describing all the aspects of employment at your course. It should detail your hiring and firing policies, promotions, raises, hours to be worked, rules and regulations of your course.

You should have the employee read and sign a statement saying that he/she has read the employee policy manual. You should post federal and state posters stating employment standards. By following these items, along with thorough documentation of your em-

ployees, you should be able to reduce your club's legal liability in today's legal arena.

You should be particularly careful in the hiring of minors, as they are strictly governed by state and federal laws.

You should document all office conferences concerning raises, promotions reprimands, praises and accidents in the employee file.

You should abide by the Fair Standards Labor Act, pertaining to minimum wage, overtime, and hours worked for minors.

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December 12-15, 1983



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For those who have automatic pumping plants which incorporate a pressure tank, it is suggested that the air-water operating ratio be 60% air and 40% water. This ratio will permit the pressure pumps to operate within the desirable pressure limits.

One method to obtain the above 60/40 air-water ratio in the tank is to start the air compressor, while the tank is still empty and raise the air pressure to 60% of the system operating pressure, I.E. if the system operates at 100 lbs. then operate the air compressor until the pressure reaches 60 lbs. (100 x

60%), or if the system pressure is 130 lbs. then run the compressor until the air pressure in the tank reaches 130 x 60%, or 78 lbs. Once this pressure is established in the tank the pressure pump can be started and when the tank becomes 40% filled with water it will be found that the tank pressure has increased to the desired operating pressure of the system. In other words, the original volume of air in the tank has been compressed into 60% of its former volume and the pressure increases in direct proportion.

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Vox Pop, Cont.

State, and local turf grass programs. Also, you can write off any donation for the local association's summer picnics and Christmas parties. He has always been the mainstay of educational meetings. It becomes a two way street. The supplier must survive to help you, the Super, and the Country Club to survive.

If the unreasonable low bidding continues, one competitor will drive out all the rest, and then a monopoly will be created. This is a big worry to interested people. If you think supplies, equipment, etc. are high now, wait until you deal with a monopoly with no healthy competition. The Arab oil monopoly will be a mickey mouse operation compared to this!

Why am I interested? I'm afraid that you, the Super, will get burned - and badly. The service you have been accustomed to will falter. The part you wanted at 5.00 a.m. Monday may take 3 days in the mail. The warm friendship of the supplier, who you need every bit as much as he needs you, will become very cold and businesslike. Sometime take time out to ponder what you, the turf man, owes the green industry. The tremendous strides we have made in turf grass management has been a cooperative effort of education, industry, and you. In our golf operations, we need all the help we can get. Don't sell yourself cheaply - or your Club. (If your committee or members complain, then how come they play, eat, and drink at the Club and pay dues for the privilege, when they could do the same elsewhere and save the dues?) Far-fetched? I don't know!

Let me quote John Ruskin: "The common law of business balance prohibits paying a little and getting a lot - it can't be done. If you deal with the lowest bidder, it is well to add something for the risk you run. And if you do that, you will have enough to pay for the something better!"

I feel that self respect in this wonderful world of golf is important. Please don't take it away from yourself, your club, or your reputable supplier.

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*Andrew Bertoni

Began his golf course career in 1946 when he was named Superintendent at Burton Hills C.C., Ann Arbor, Michigan where he remained until 1952. Andy's next move was to Meadowbrook C.C., Northville, Michigan where he resided until 1969. While Superintendent at Meadowbrook he hosted 5 Major Golf Tournaments; including the 1955 National PGA Tournament.

During the course of his career as a Superintendent, Andy served on the GCSAA Board of Directors for 6 years. After receiving his BS degree from the University of Michigan in 1945 Andy moved on to Notre Dame University where he did his Post Graduate work. Dedicated to promoting the Golf Course Superintendent . . . who Andy calls "the number one man in the golf industry," our guest columnist is now employed by the W.A. Cleary Corp., Somerset, New Jersey as that company's Midwest representative.

Complaints, Cont.

fault, he'll be more impressed with your forthrightness than with a slick, superficial explanation which blames everything from the weather to last month's ladies tournament.

There are some positive steps you can take to head off complaints. You can keep members informed of construction, maintenance operations and other problems areas on the course by posting signs in the pro shop. If your club has a monthly newsletter, you can use it to keep members informed of upcoming operations and explain why they are necessary. Some superintendents have found it helpful to compile regular reports of their operations so that everyone, including club employees, knows not only what and when but also why an operation is taking place.

You can also train your crew to successfully deal with problems on the course. Make sure they have enough information to handle the problem and that they realize they are representing you and the club when they handle a complaint or answer a question.

GCSAA Fore Front

FIELD DAY



DR. PAUL RIECKE EXPLAINS
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U. S. Laws, Cont.

bill indefinitely, unless they vote to limit discussion. When there is no further debate, the Senate votes. Most bills must have a simple majority to pass.

A conference committee made up of members of both houses works out any differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. The revised bill is sent back to both houses, for their final approval.

The bill is printed by the Government Printing Office in a process called *enrolling*. The clerk of the House of Congress that originated the bill certifies the final version. The speaker of the House signs the enrolled bill, and then the Vice-President signs it. Finally, Congress sends the proposed new legislation to the White House for consideration by the President. A bill passed by Congress goes to the President, who has 10 days-not including Sundays-to sign or veto it. The President may also let a bill become law by letting 10 days pass without acting.

After approving a bill, the President signs it, dates it, and often writes the word *approved* on it. The bill becomes law and is given a number that indicates which Congress passed it. For example, a law enacted by the 95th congress might be designated Public Law 95-250.

A vetoed bill must be returned to Congress with an explanation of the President's objections. If a two-thirds majority of both houses approves the vetoed bill, it becomes law despite the President's veto.

The President might not veto the bill but may fail to sign it to show disapproval of some parts. If the President holds the bill for 10 days-excluding Sundays-while Congress is in session, it becomes law without the signature of the chief executive. A bill that reaches the President fewer than 10 days-excluding Sundays-before congress adjourns cannot become law without the President's signature. If the President fails to sign the proposed law, it dies, this procedure is called a *pocket veto*.

Excerpted From the world book
Encyclopedia, Volume 20, Pgs. 79-82

Pros & Cons, Cont.

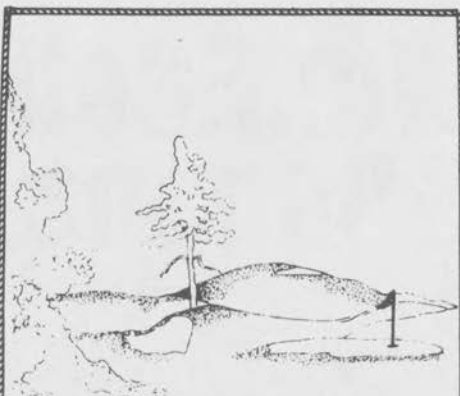
get into some serious layering problems by using different sands. Truly, sands are not all the same and once you begin using one type you really should stay with that same basic type of material. 12. Concern about placing a faster draining layer over a slower draining soil as is found in so many greens. There is some concern about what happens when water moves through the sandy profile, strikes the slower draining underlying topsoil and then backs up. In essence a type of "septic tank effect". There is some concern that when this occurs, especially in the summer, problems with roots may arise. 13. Uncertain future - no one has been topdressing with sand for a very long period of time so there is no sure example of what to expect from long-term useage of sand for topdressing greens. There may or may not be a problems but the uncertainty of not knowing for sure what to expect can be a negative aspect to this type of program.

These then are the basic advantages and disadvantages I see for straight sand topdressing. Some obviously are more valid than others, some may or may not be a problem but in traveling throughout the region these are the basic concerns I see expressed. There may be some additional ones but I have attempted to group them into fairly major categories. I am certain for many years to come there will be a continuing discussion on straight sand topdressing. It is controversial now and it will probably stay that way for some time to come or at least until we know just how valid some of these pros and cons really are.

Stanley J. Zontek,
USGA Green Section
North-Central Director

An amateur woodsman walked into a sporting goods store and bought a compass for his first trip into the wild. When he turned the compass over, though, he noticed it had a mirror on the back, so he asked the clerk why he needed a mirror.

"Well," said the clerk, "you just look in there and it tells you who's lost."



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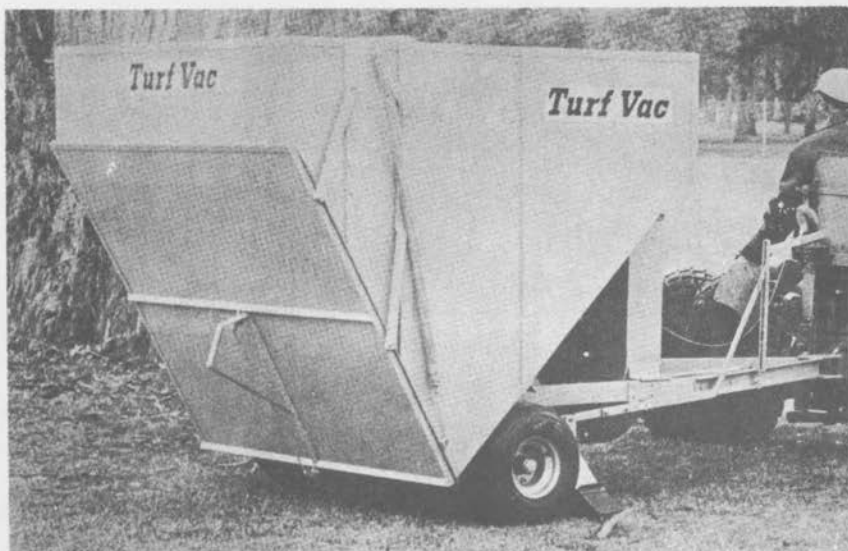
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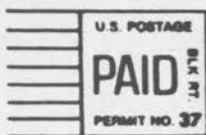
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