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September/October 1987

PERIODICAL

Our 62nd Year

# A PATCH of GREEN

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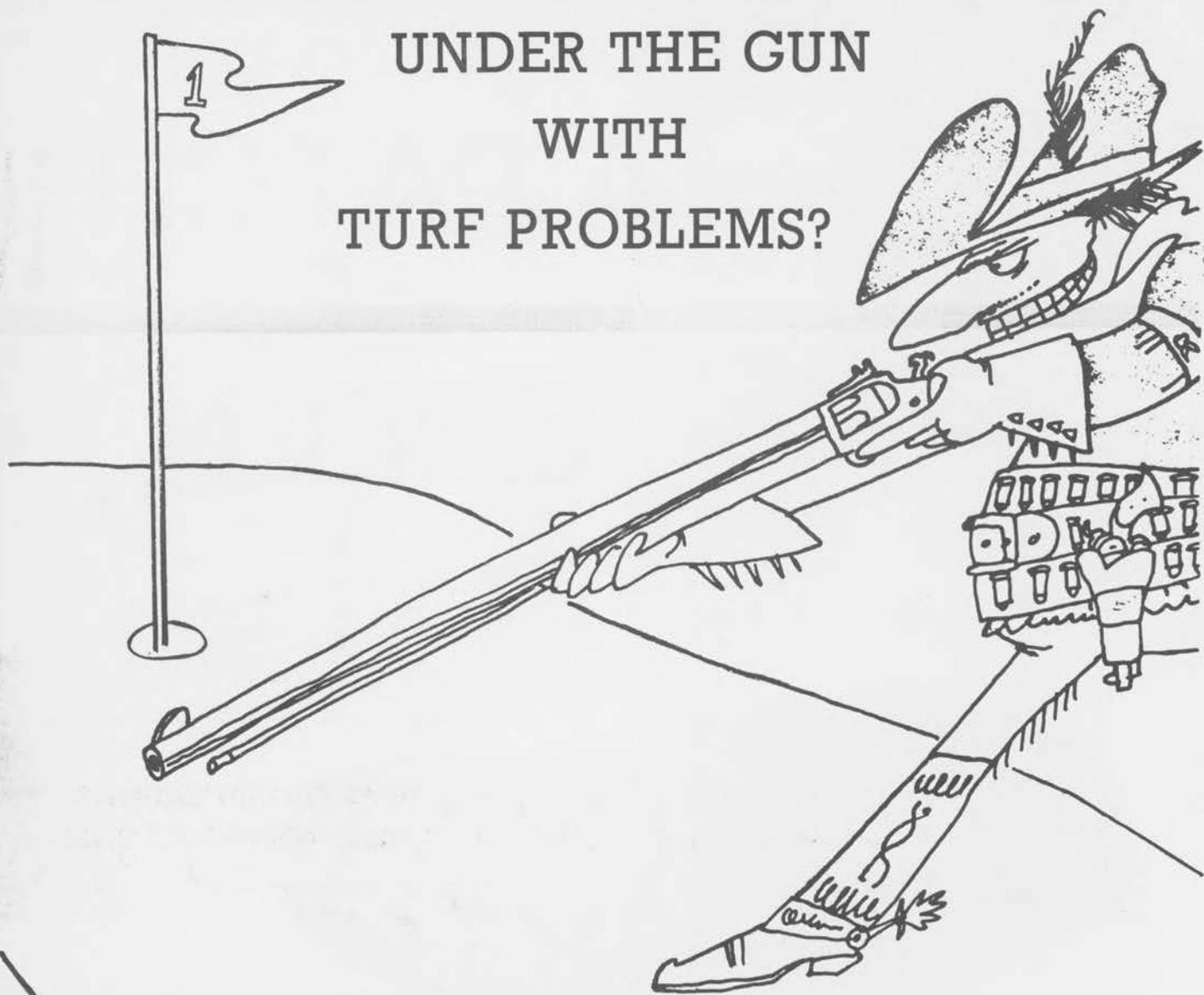
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is here and I'm sure everyone is overjoyed with the fact that the summer of 1987 is history. That is, everyone but Dr. Joe Vargas and those of you who distribute fungicides.

Turf diseases such as pythium, summer patch and all the old standbys were especially prevalent this year. There is no doubt that this summer has been one of the toughest in many years to maintain fine golf course turf. Many of the veteran superintendents have verified that statement. 1987 was one of the hottest on record. Humidity was high, there were many hot nights, rainfall was too heavy at times in some areas and other area had too little rainfall. If the above statement sounds odd, it's because it was an odd summer - weatherwise. I certainly hope we do not see another summer like 1987 for quite a long time.

On October 21 our annual meeting will be held at Maple Lane Golf Club with the election of Officers and Directors for 1988 being held at this time. For all Class AA, A, B and E members your attendance at this meeting is very important. Your input in Association affairs and your assistance in the election of the future Officers and Directors is vital. Please make every attempt to attend this meeting. If you cannot attend and would like to still participate in the elections, call Tom Mason, Secretary-Treasurer, for an absentee ballot.

One final note. All golf course superintendents should have received the results of the survey taken earlier this year and we hope the results are informative and beneficial to you. If you have any questions concerning the survey that you feel were unanswered do not hesitate to contact either Jim Timmerman or myself.

See you at Maple Lane on October 21 for the MBCGCSA Annual Meeting.

Kevin Dushane, CGCS



**"A PATCH OF GREEN"**  
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# PROFESSIONALISM THROUGH PARTICIPATION

By Ted Woehrle

What is professionalism? How do we achieve it? How do we improve it? If we sit down and ask ourselves the question "what is professionalism?" some interesting thoughts crop up.

We all have images of people who are generally considered professionals in our eyes (doctors, lawyers, dentists, teachers, and ministers), and people who are not (tradesmen, office workers, farmers, etc.).

Next, we ask ourselves "are we professionals?" - we would like to think so. I think we appear to ourselves as professional, but does the general public consider us professional? Perhaps not.

"What makes one man professional and another a non-professional? In my opinion, it has to be the standards that one projects. Standards on conduct, standards of dress, standards of ethics and standards of behavior. There others to be sure, but in the final analysis, it is a matter of the image that is projected. It is a matter of being viewed in a favorable light. To be sure, there are as many variations of this image as there are people, but throughout the years certain groups or job categories have become known to be "professional" and basically it is a matter of "image". And the standards they have met.

Professionalism and image are synonymous and if we project a good image, we are far ahead. How was this image of us formed, and how can we improve it? Who sets the standards? The answer to all these questions is your professional association. There is, to be sure, some governmental involvement, but even the government has to reason with the American Medical Association and the American Bar Association.

So, in the final analysis, it is ones professional association that plays a big role in establishing the image that will prevail, that plays a big role in setting standards which will be acceptable, and that acts as a catalyst for all activities relating to a profession.

There are exceptions to professionalism and that would be the rather rare person that projects a professional image because of special qualifications earned through experience or education.

What has participation in these associations done for the turf management industry and for the professional turf manager? Participation in the collective activities of an association by individual members has taken turf managers out of the shadows and into the sunlight. Participation in the collective activities by individual members has helped to move turf managers from tradesmen to professionals.

All of this has been accomplished by those in the turf industry giving of their time, money and efforts toward a common interest within a fixed code of rules

and conduct, the purpose of which was focused toward the upgrading of the industry and the professionalism of the turf manager.

Fundraisers such as "Golf Day" are an important part of upgrading the industry. The monies given to research help find answers to the many complex problems facing us today. The need for the superintendent to stay abreast of changes in the field has always been important. But the need is increasing with alarming speed. The superintendent who does not keep abreast of new developments in turf management, of changing technology in science, or of the restrictions and regulations in chemical usage will be about as effective as the man who tries to cut fairways with a hand push mower.

Every professional does not have to have a Ph. D or have spent most of his life as a lawyer or doctor to earn the respect and esteem that comes with knowing his job. It was not too long ago that very few universities offered professional training for golf course superintendents. Today, numerous institutions offer some sort of training for those interested in pursuing a career as a golf course superintendent. (The secret is the application of the knowledge gained from education and research.)

Additional help for us comes from Universities and industry in the form of research. In many cases we control the direction of research through our requests. Our needs are attended to by those we support. The complexities of todays standards, which are always more demanding, cause us to look for all the help we can get. Some of the most active associations involved in the distribution of monies for research are GCSAA, USGA, O.J. Noer Foundation and Musser Foundation. Additional research is done by individual states. In all cases, the majority of the monies raised is the result of superintendent involvement in fund raising projects. Some states raise \$30-50,000.00 per year - Ohio and Michigan. Certain state legislatures support turf research if all turf interests are satisfied.

Projects presently being worked on include: Grass breeding (drought resistance); transition zone problem; soils; irrigation and drainage; aerification - compaction; nutrition; weed killers - selectively (*Poa annua* eradication); plant growth regulators; disease control; insecticides; development of disease models - in conjunction with computers; water shortage problems; new cultural practices; mowing - height of cut - picking up of clippings; cultivating; and sand use - top dressing - sub-soils - bunkers.

Examples of Turf Research include: USGA Green

CONTINUED PAGE 24



## Thirty Years — And Counting — On the Future

James M. Latham, Director  
Great Lakes Region, USGA Green Section

### Thirty Years

Just about this time of the year in 1957, the Midwestern Office of the USGA Green Section was opened by a brave young man named Jim Holmes. The first office away from the Green Section headquarters in Beltsville, Maryland, had been set up by Charlie Wilson in Davis, California some five years earlier. Offices in New Jersey, Texas and Georgia were established in between. There was some conjecture as to who would staff this office - Holmes or Latham. Since Holmes was more understandable to Yankee ears than Latham, he came here and I went back to the South, to move the Green Section's Southeastern office to Athens, Georgia.

In winning this assignment, Jim Holmes began evangelizing about topics which remain of major interest today. He agitated for and helped to build the first "Green Section Greens" in this area, if not in the country. Unfortunately, we did not know enough about the playing performance of sands at the time. Concrete grade sand can be agronomically acceptable, but it never "ages" well for shot receptivity.

Further, everyone expected the new greens to play just like the 30 year old greens on the other holes when they were at their best. They didn't. After all, nobody rebuilds a good green. This same parallel can be made today, although good quality sand-peat combinations do play extremely well early on. In spite of the artificiality of the growing medium, good greens are like good wines and do improve with age. (But they can also become vinegary if mishandled.)

Another of Holmes' innovations was disease identification in the field. We still have the laboratory microscope he carried around in the trunk of his car. Untold numbers of superintendents and their assistants got their first peek of plant disease causing organisms through that microscope. He delighted in showing off dollarspot and brown-patch organisms, but his real pleasure was *Pythium* and its rate of growth.

During these show and tell periods, he began to see some snake-like animals moving through the microscope view. They prompted his becoming interested in parasitic nematode damage to turf. He became a leading exponent of nematode awareness in the North even though the names seemed to be too difficult to pronounce, much less spell. Today however, *Tylenchorhynchus* has no more fear for superintendents than *Gaeumannomyces* or *Xiphenema* than *Xanthomonas*.

A final chapter on this chapter is that Jim will team up with Carl Schwartzkopf, another former Green Section staffer here, to build a new course near Lansing, Michigan. I wonder who will be making book on agreement about sand type, peat quality, drainage specifications and the scads of other decisions. I'll lay odds that there will be few, if any, disagreements if the principles which both know so well are followed.

### And Counting

The 1987 Season should now be foremost in everyone's mind since there was a bit of favorable weather early-on. Many fall jobs were postponed because of the wetness in September and should get ASAP treatment. Hopefully the poorly drained areas left undone last year have been marked for work now. In Milwaukee, at least, 1986 was the third wettest year on record, receiving 42.17 inches of rain. Unfortunately, those records don't include the beginning of the wetness problem in November of 1985.

If everything was marked or mapped during high water times, there should be no reason for a repetition of the same degree of damage the next time we have a January thaw or a wet and hot July. The rapid removal of water from the turf surface should remain a primary goal at every golf course. Drowned turf is just as dead as dehydrated turf, yet who has even hinted at a drainage system half as elaborate as a "modern" irrigation system? Nah - just cut a trench over there and dig a hole to absorb the water. Even in clay!

We must be slow learners, because almost every book, paper or lecture on golf course design or construction stresses drainage above all. And who has ever seen or smelled a **Black Layer** where drainage was impeded? Drainage encourages an adequate oxygen supply in the soil. Layering and compaction reduce drainage. There may be other problems but they are minor when compared to these two. Sulfides do not form in well aerated soils. They are usually formed by organisms or chemical reactions which take the oxygen out of sulfate ions under anaerobic conditions.

### On The Future

The next 30 years in the Great Lakes Region may be no more revolutionary than the last. But that's just fine, since evolution means more solid development

CONTINUED PAGE 22

# CAN WE TAKE PESTICIDES FOR GRANTED?

by Jim Gilligan

As golf course superintendents we know that the success of our work rests upon equal parts of luck and skill. In the "luck" category we have a major component - weather (strictly out of our control). In the skill area we can depend on our education, experience and an adequate supply of resources - equipment, agrichemicals and manpower.

The proper selection of equipment requires sound judgement and instinct. Manpower is a long term program of selection, nurturing and maturing of the work force - a thesis in itself.

The turf manager needs pesticides. He is dependent upon them to protect the grass from fungi, nematodes, insects and weeds. To use them effectively they must be understood and used with discretion. Environmental abuses with pesticides can be attributed to properly registered and labeled pesticides which were improperly applied.

Where do we begin to understand the nature of pesticides? Can we learn their chemical structures? Their mode of action? Their effect on the target pest? The residual effects of our applications? Their safety to ourselves, our staff, the golfers and our neighbors?

Pesticides demand respect. Without it, it leads to abuse and negligence. These chemicals are too valuable to our industry. We cannot take them for

granted or we will lose them.

The serious concern about pre-notification has been spurred by pesticide drift into non-target areas. We must be cognizant of our liability and the safety concerns of everyone involved in the application.

We find these new regulations bothersome and even unnecessary; however, we are in the minority. These regulations are written to satisfy the majority. Since we are the elite in the turf industry, we have a responsibility to utilize these chemicals in a safe and frugal manner.

Credit The Greenside Magazine

## COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 9 - 11, 1987

Penn State Golf Turf Conference. Keller Conference Center, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA. Contact: Dr. Joseph Duich, Department of Agronomy, 21 Tyson Building, University Park, PA, 16802 (814) 865-9853.



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# IN MEMORIAM: LEROY MCELHENY



LEROY MCELHENY

Leroy McElheny, retired Superintendent of Birmingham Country Club died April 18, 1987 of cancer at the age of 86. Leroy 'Mac' McElheny is survived by his wife Billie and son Bob.

Mac was raised on a farm in Ohio where he got his first taste of Agronomy. At a young age he was asked to help construct Mohawk Golf Course in Tiffin, Ohio. Upon completion he stayed on as Superintendent.

From Tiffin he went on to Toledo C.C. as Superintendent and remained there for a period of 16 years - then to Baltimore C.C. for a few years. Finally he came to Birmingham C.C. and 21 years later, finished his career. Of course, not one to sit still after retirement, Mac helped on son Bob's course in Traverse City, Michigan during the summer months.

Mac was one of the first members of the G.C.S.A.A. and was also a long-time member of M.T.F. and M.B.C.G.C.S.A.

Mac was always ready to help anyone and was always caring for his crew. He was a man of integrity and professionalism and served as a Superintendent for 50 years.

A credit to our industry, Mac will be greatly missed.



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# A SUMMER OF FUN

by Tom Gray  
Oakland Hills Country Club

With the summer winding down, I look back and ask myself what happened. The summer that started out with my golf game coming together in every facet, turned into one of growing up and having to accept responsibility.

My goal for the summer of 1987 was to play golf most every day and try to qualify for 7 tournaments ranging from the Michigan Amateur to the U.S. Open. I had 50 rounds of golf by the middle of May and was able to fit golf in with the night tour of the golf courses - then the bottom fell out! Ted Woehrle went into the hospital for a heart catheterization. While Ted was recuperating, we had a green committee meeting, which I kind of fumbled through. After the results came back from the catheterization, Ted had a choice of open heart surgery or an angioplasty (the use of balloons to open blocked arteries). He chose the angioplasty and went into the hospital a second time on June 8th. The angioplasty didn't work - the substance within the arteries was too hard and the doctors were unable to

open the arteries. Ted came back to work Sunday, June 14th and rode around in a golf cart for the last time before his heart surgery. That afternoon he went into the hospital in preparation for Monday's surgery.

Monday, June 15th was the start of the hot, torrid summer and after 11:00 a.m., Ted was recuperating from double by-pass heart surgery. Ted was unable to take phone calls Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. All three days were in the 90's with very low humidity. The golf course was fighting the clubhouse for what little extra water there was. The wells at Oakland Hills supply water to the golf course as well as the clubhouse for air conditioning.

By Wednesday, June 17th, the day of the green committee meeting, the lush green rough had turned to straw brown. I tried to write a green committee report that I could take to Ted at the hospital the next day that would not cause too much of a panic and require more surgery.

Thursday came, and I made my way to the hospital

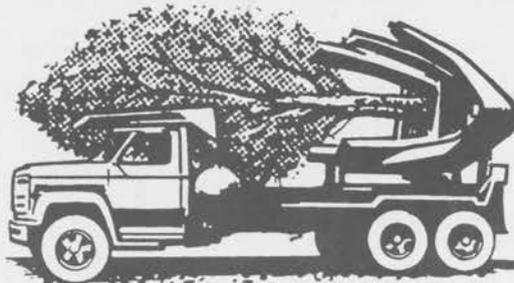
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## TREE TRANSPLANTING

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# Lightning Protection For Trees

by Kevin Dushane, CGCS  
Bloomfield Hills Country Club

Most everyone knows the value of trees on a golf course. They provide beauty in the landscape, color in the Fall, shade, wind-breaks, depth perception and play a strategic role in the character and playability of the golf course layout.

Beautiful trees require several generations to grow. Trees on a golf course that are 50 years and older cannot be replaced very easily if they meet a premature death and trees can die in many ways. Diseases such as Dutch Elm disease eliminated many beautiful American Elms in the early 60's and there was virtually nothing anyone could do to stop or avoid the destruction created by nature. Insects can pose major

problems for the well being of a tree. Strong winds are capable of blowing a tree over and destroying it. Even man can cause the demise of trees through careless mowing practices. A tractor operator pulling a gang mower or a irresponsible employee using a weedeater can debark a tree at the base and kill it.

Other forces in nature, such as lightning, can be very destructive to trees. But there is a way to prevent lightning from destroying or even damaging an important tree on a golf course and I would like to tell you what steps we are taking at Bloomfield Hills Country Club to protect key trees from lightning and why we are doing it.

Lightning strikes the earth hundreds of thousands of time a year. A single discharge of lightning is incredibly powerful. Many millions of volts of electricity can be released from a single bolt. As we all know, trees appear to be a main target of a lightning strike. According to the Robbins Lightning Protection Company, one reason trees are so susceptible to lightning is because they are usually the largest and tallest object in an area. They are subject to a build-up of a heavy charge of static electricity. This is an attraction to a heavily charged sky cloud of opposite potential, so when they reach a saturation point a lightning discharge takes

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## THINKING SUPERINTENDENT

Harold Fiebelkorn, golf course superintendent at Stonycroft Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan has designed, engineered and constructed a hydraulic operated turf spiker we feel deserves some attention so that other golf course superintendents may benefit from Fiebelkorn's unique machine. But first, a little background on Mr. Fiebelkorn.

Harold has been managing the nine hole layout at Stonycroft for the last 21 years on a small budget and a limited workforce. Recently, the National Golf Foundation selected Stonycroft as one of the top nine hole golf courses in Michigan. He also has a reputation as one of the finest mechanical technicians in our field, so that it is no wonder that he has the ability to get the job done with the minimum amount of necessities available to him.

One of the cultural practices Harold depends on to maintain his greens during the summer is a regular spiking, which he does about every two weeks. Some of the benefits Harold realizes from this practice is improved water penetration, softer greens and a stronger root system. He also aerifies the greens once a month in June, July and August using solid tines and then follows the aerification with a topdressing of mineral soil.

The spiker Fiebelkorn had been using for many

years was a Ryan walker, a reliable machine but, like many pieces of equipment, it becomes too obsolete and too old to do the job required. The spiking operation was time consuming (nine manhours to do

CONTINUED PAGE 21



HAROLD FIEBELKORN, Displaying his Hydraulic Lift Operated Turf Spiker

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KEVIN DUSHANE, CONT.

place. Also, the moisture content of a tree can be a factor for lightning strikes. The tree is alive and moisture is carried to every branch in the tree. The moisture will aid in the build-up of static electricity but usually is not a good enough conductor for safe passage of reverse current to ground. Because wood is such a poor conductor it cannot help in the release of the energy so the

surprised to find that the rod used is about six inches long and are called points rather than lightning rods.

Depending on the size and crown a tree could have one point or seven. The company that installs the lightning protection system should be knowledgeable enough to determine the correct amount of points for the tree. Once the number of points is determined they are placed in the

The copper cable connected to the base of the tree is buried in the ground at a one foot depth and connected to the rod. If the tree is large enough, two ground rods will be used. The tree is now protected against a lightning strike. If lightning does strike the tree the electricity will hit the point, follow the copper cable to the copper post in the ground and dissipate.

I have been told by a tree expert



Tree destroyed by lightning. It virtually exploded when the bolt struck.



The loss of these trees due to lightning would change the character and playability of the 14th hole at BHCC.

rush of electricity explodes on the tree surface or within the trunk. This action will often destroy the tree. Lightning protection in a tree can prevent this.

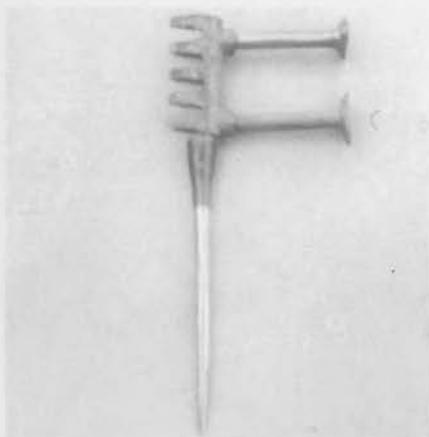
The first thing you might think of as lightning protection in a tree is a lightning rod, a long metal pole extending above the tree and attached to a ground wire. I always envisioned them as being like the rods I would see fixed to barn roofs on a rural farm. I was

tree at various areas of the crown for the best possible coverage. A heavy gauged copper cable connects all of the points. (Copper is used because of its excellent conductivity with electricity.) The cable is secured to copper nails which are driven into the limbs and trunk. (These nails are referred to as stand offs.) Each stand off has connectors attached at the head that hold the cable approximately 2" from the bark to avoid contact with the tree, thus preventing any potential discharge of electricity from striking the surface as it runs down the cable to the ground. The cables are then guided down towards the base of the tree. At various junctions in the tree the cables are connected, with the end result being one or two cables ending at ground level.

Once the points and cable is installed the next and last step is to connect the system to a ground post. This is accomplished by using a ten foot copper rod, 1/2" in diameter, driven into the ground at the dripline of the tree.



Copper cable connected to tree trunk



Six inches long, this "point" attracts the lightning, which will protect the tree from the force of the strike

that the lightning protection in the tree will actually prevent the build up of the static electricity around the tree that attracts the bolt of lightning. I am a little skeptical of this theory but I have yet to see a tree hit by lightning that had lightning protection in it.

I would like to make a suggestion at this time. If the tree to be protected has not been trimmed in recent years you might find it beneficial to have a thorough pruning done prior to the installation of the system. Proper symmetrical shape and a tree free of dead and diseased limbs will aid in the longevity of that tree. Most likely, the company installing the system can properly trim it and install any necessary bracing of weak limbs before the lightning protection process begins.

Trees continue to grow after installing the copper cables and points. The system may have to be inspected and upgraded five to ten years later to properly protect the tree.

What does a lightning protection system cost? Depending on the size and condition of the tree anywhere from \$400 to \$1,500, possibly higher if the tree is large enough. The questions you will have to ask yourself and your employers are: How valuable is the tree to the playability of a particular hole or the golf course in general? Will it change the difficulty and character of the hole if a tree is struck by lightning and dies? Depending on the size and location it could cost anywhere from \$200 to \$1,000 or more to remove it. Can the tree be effectively replaced if it is destroyed? Not likely if it is over 50 feet tall. It would take many years for a transplanted tree to replace such a large tree. These are some very legitimate questions to answer in deciding if lightning protection is necessary and cost effective for a particular tree.

In the past two years we have had seven trees protected against



The trench is dug to the dripline so the cable can be placed in the ground and then connected to the grounding rod.

lightning. Every year we plan to review our tree program and select other trees for lightning protection that we feel are important to the golf course.

There are many other facets of total tree care. Tree fertilization, trimming, root pruning, supple-

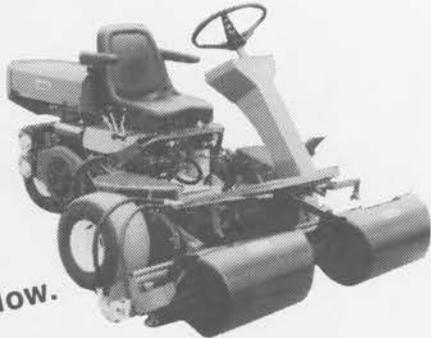
mental irrigation, cabling, pest control and a tree nursery for replacement and addition are as important to a tree care program as lightning protection is. Just remember, lightning protection is available for the trees on your golf course.



One of the 5 points placed in the crown of this large Black Walnut

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## BEATING WINTER KILL AND EROSION

IS TOPIC FOR GOLF COURSE  
SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION  
OF AMERICA AT TROY LUNCHEON

TROY, MI - Golf course superintendents will gather at the Troy Hilton Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 11:00 AM to hear Geotextile expert, Joe Barney discuss golf applications at Geotextile Fabrics.

Barney, a keynote speaker for the upcoming National GCSAA Show will address a limited number of golf course superintendents at the Hilton for a brunch meeting and demonstration of Warren's new TerraBond, TerraShield greenblankets and TerraFlow drainage systems.

The reservation - only meeting is hosted by Century Rain Aid of Madison Heights, Michigan, largest designer and supplier of sprinkler irrigation and turfgrass products east of the Mississippi River and distributor of Warren's products in this area.

Barney will discuss how to prevent winter kill and promote earlier spring "green up", with TerraShield. TerraShield is the first and only reusable insulating blanket that guards against winter wind and weather damage. Its superior performance results from - its heavier weight, at 3.2 ounces per square yard, it gives up to three times more blanket material per unit; its extra strength, with needlepunched 10 percent polyester non-woven fabric, it resists ballooning, ripping or tearing and holds without crosswires; its reusability, because it's up to three times stronger and comes with its own reusable storage core.

TerraShield also is ultraviolet resistant, installs easily as a one-piece blanket for an entire green, absorbs water better, breathes and lets sunshine in. It also cuts germination time as much as 50 percent.

In University of Nebraska tests, TerraShield reduced wind dessication damage to zero from 60 percent with no cover and 36 percent with clear plastic cover. It brought green-up 23 days earlier, stayed in place with no ripping or tearing despite heavy winds and produced three times the recuperative potential of the uncovered area and twice that of the clear plastic covered area.

Barney will also describe ways to control erosion on slopes, streams, and shores, eliminate potholes form gravel paths, eliminate retaining wall filtration, improve sub-surface drainage, permanently separate mix and gravel on greens and successfully line sandtraps to limit weed growth and sand replenishment.

Also covered will be the topic of TerraFlow Drainage Systems and their golf application.

Century designs irrigation systems and supplies components, tools and machinery to the commercial, industrial, office, residential, golf and consumer irrigation markets. The company has locations in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Florida.

Attendance is limited. Please call Madeline at 1-800-544-9219 to reserve your place.

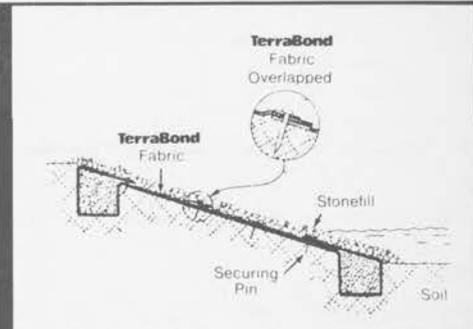
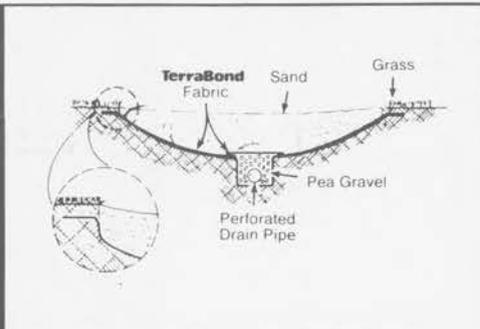
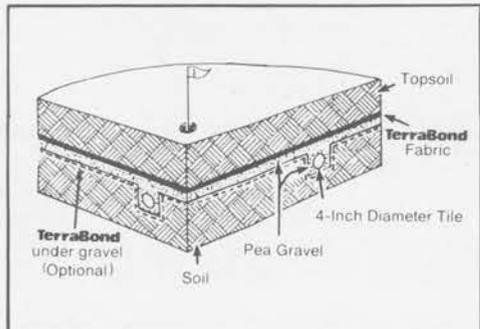
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TerraBond's high water permeability and highly engineered uniform density and EOS (AOS) make it an ideal fabric for this use. It will not rot in the soil-water environment. Its horizontal (planar) flow characteristic moves excess water horizontally out to the sides.

Line the entire golf sand trap with TerraBond, including 6" under the surrounding sod. The sod's roots will knit the fabric to the soil beneath. Clay and rocks will be totally restricted from moving up into the sand.

Sand wash-down in rainstorms will be dramatically reduced, because TerraBond interrupts the interface of sand/soil. Rakeup will be greatly reduced. Time will be saved. Also, "wrap the gravel" in the trap drain to keep it flowing indefinitely. TerraBond's polyester will resist chemical and ultraviolet degradation.

TerraBond is utilized beneath cut slope stone protection (rip-rap) as shown above. The fabric provides long-term confinement of cut slope or fill material.

Being constructed of soft and pliable needle-punched polyester, TerraBond will remain stable and functional for many years, in spite of potential exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays and/or concentrated hydrocarbons such as gasoline, diesel fuel, oil or hydraulic fluid.

**TerraBond also can be used in weed control, gravel path construction, retaining wall filtration, subsurface drainage, patio construction and planter filtration/separation.**

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Winter 1984-1985 Wind Desiccation Damage Test on bentgrass greens (Univ. of Nebraska-Test compared the protection of TerraShield cover with clear plastic cover and uncovered control area.)

- Desiccation injury around test site was severe. Uncovered control area had 60% damage. TerraShield covered area had no injuries. Control area produced only 36% of the green cover obtained under TerraShield blanket.
- Green-up occurred 24 days earlier with TerraShield . . . and remained significantly greener than the uncovered control area for 21 days after cover was removed.
- TerraShield produced 3 times the recuperative potential of the control area . . . and twice that of clear plastic covered area.
- TerraShield enhanced soil temperature compared to uncovered control area.
- TerraShield remained in place all winter with no ripping or tearing despite heavy winds.

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## Turfgrass Extension Specialist Appointed At Purdue

Mr. Jeff Lefton has joined the faculty of the Department of Agronomy at Purdue University as the Turfgrass Extension Specialist. Mr. Lefton earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agronomy from Purdue University with a specialization in turfgrass science. Following his graduation in 1973 Jeff was responsible for starting the two year turf program at the Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster, Ohio. In addition to his duties as director, Jeff taught several courses pertaining to turfgrass management. In 1975, Jeff joined the ChemLawn Corporation as Regional Technical Manager for Indiana and Northern Kentucky. As Regional Technical Manager he planned pesticide and fertilizer programs for 11 ChemLawn branches, developed and conducted training seminars for employees and wrote technical fact sheets for homeowners. Jeff also served as a liaison between the ChemLawn branches and various governmental agencies.

As the Turfgrass Extension Specialist Jeff will devote 70 percent of his time to extension activities and 30 percent to research. His extension efforts will be directed toward professional turfgrass managers through conferences, field days and seminars. He will be responsible for organizing and planning the Midwest Regional Turf Conference and the Turf Field Day. Jeff will also coordinate both Turf and Ornamental Pesticide Use Seminars. With Jeff on staff we hope to be able to offer more half-day seminars on specific topics, such as the recent Black Layer Symposium. Jeff will also focus on training county extension personnel and providing current information to extension personnel through bulletins and seasonal updates on current problems. Jeff will be allowed to develop a research program based on his interests and expertise. His research will complement that of the entire turf program. His office is in Room 2-446 of Lilly Hall and he can be reached at 317/494-9737.

We are pleased that Jeff is a part of the Department of Agronomy and feel he will be an attribute, not only to the turf program, but to the entire Department and the University. Jeff's expertise in lawn care will be a valuable asset to the turf program. His contributions will help Purdue University maintain an excellent turf program.



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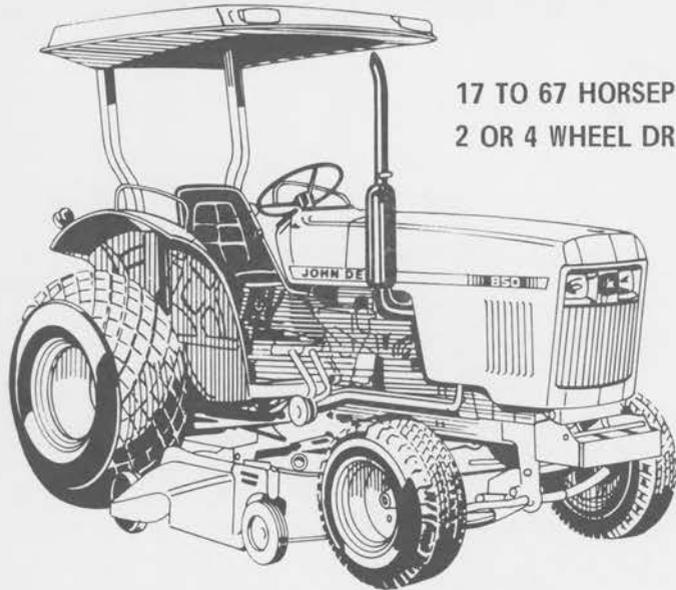
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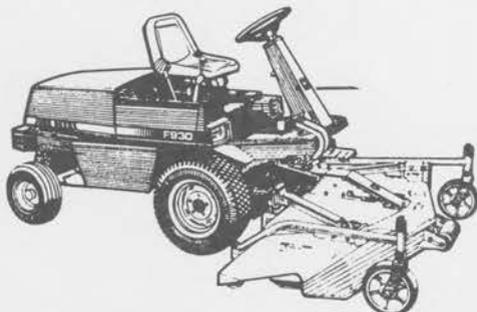
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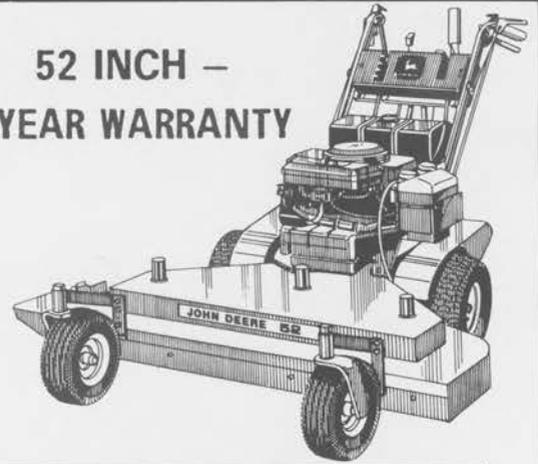
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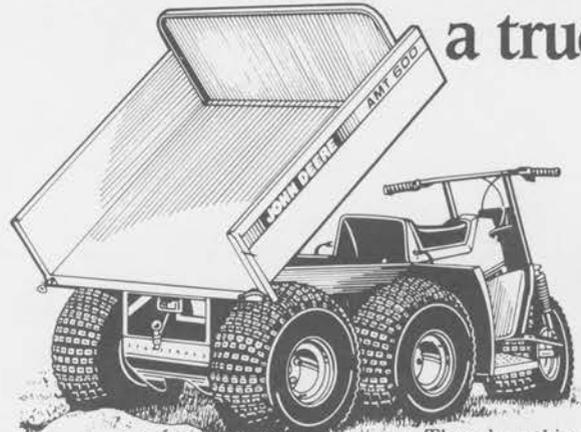
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## \$50,000 CONTRIBUTED TO NEW GCSAA FUND

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) announced the establishment of the Robert Trent Jones Endowment Fund to support the organization's ongoing scholarship and research programs.

"We have never before made this kind of commitment with any one person or even any single organization," said GCSAA President Donald E. Hearn, CGCS. "But the monumental accomplishments and lifelong service of Mr. Jones and his close working relationship with our association and its members merit prominent recognition."

In addition to Jones' own personal gift, friends and associates contributed more than \$50,000 to establish the initial funding level.

Jones, the 81 year old architect of some of the world's most famous golf courses, said of the honor: "we can build the greatest golf courses in the world, but if they are not properly maintained, they are nothing. To golf course superintendents around the world I owe a great debt, and every architect in America owes a great debt. We can only continue to provide these great facilities with well-educated

professionals to maintain them. That education does not come easily to all and must be supported by every aspect of this industry."

The Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association contributed over \$2,000 to the Jones Endowment "over and above" their annual scholarship and research donation.

"We're proud to have the opportunity to be the first GCSAA chapter to contribute to this new fund," said Reed LeFebvre, who presented the check to Gerald Faubel, CGCS, chairman of the GCSAA Scholarship and Research Committee. "We're also pleased that Mr. Jones and the association would select this site, the PGA Championship in Florida, to make the announcement."

Faubel added: "This fund will enable GCSAA to encourage promising young turfgrass students entering the profession. The long-term impact will be relected in better conditions for every golfer as our education and expertise continue to grow."

For further information, contact Bob Still, Media Relations Manager, GCSAA 913/841-2240.



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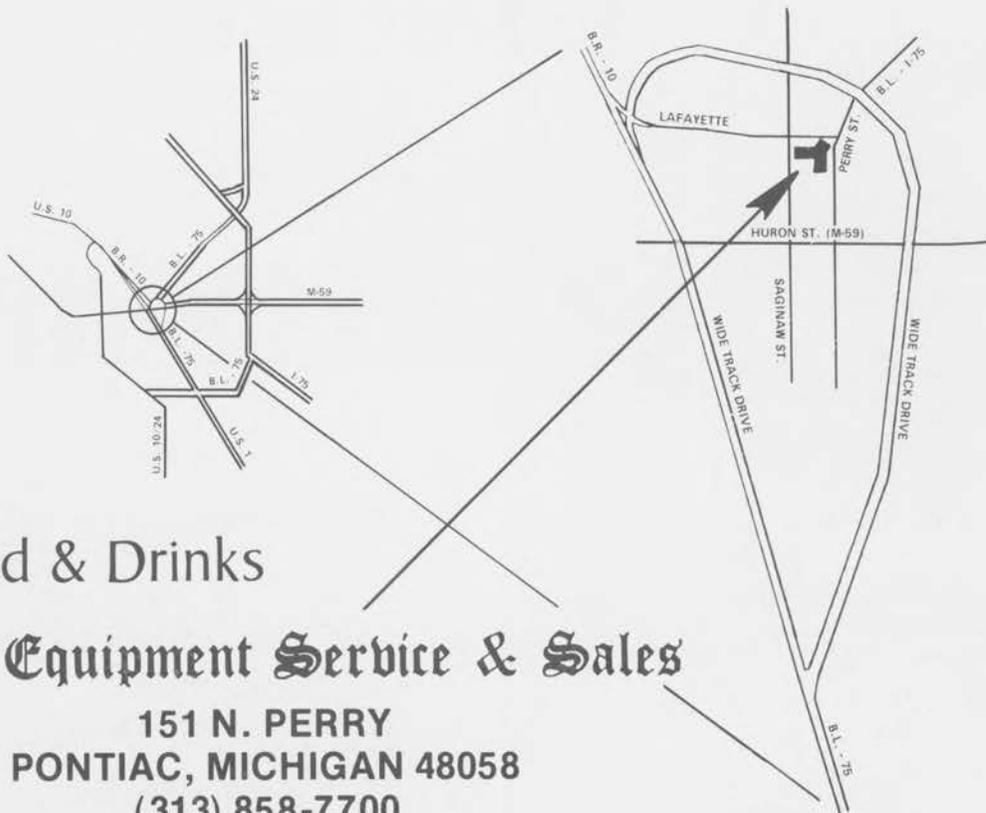
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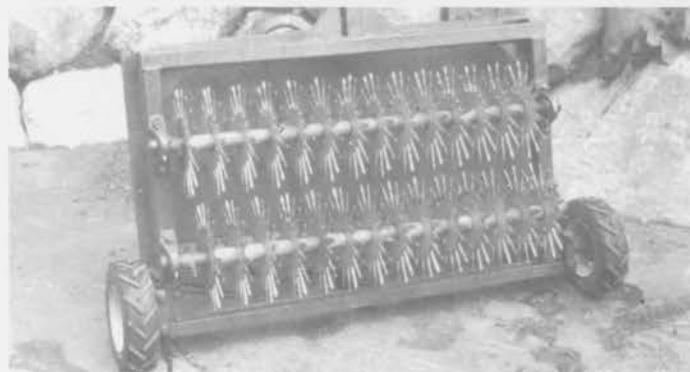


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**THINKING SUPER, CONT.**

nine greens) and repair of the machine was difficult at best. Using his ingenuity and mechanical skills, Harold developed a hydraulic operated spiker that could be towed behind a small garden tractor, lowered up and down as the situation required, transport it from green to green very easily and spike the turf surface to a depth of at least 2 inches. Furthermore, he could now complete the spiking of all his greens in two hours. A manhour savings of over 400%. Also, the spiker can be very easily used to prepare a seed bed anywhere on the golf course.

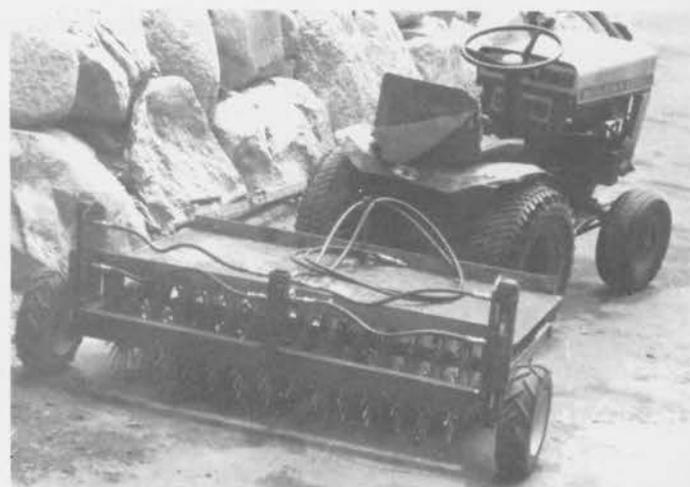


Using Maple Lane spiker tines, Fiebelkorn constructed a frame, installed the tines, mounted wheels on the unit and incorporated hydraulic rams for the lowering and raising of the spiker. As shown in the picture, the unit is easily transported and has a support bracket attached to the top so an additional 200 pounds of weight can be added to increase spike penetration.

Harold's development of the spiker not only benefitted his golf course maintenance operation but also benefitted his employers by saving the expense of purchasing a new machine.

Congratulations Harold for a well designed piece of equipment. You can be considered the Michigan & Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association's version of the "Thinking Superintendent".

If there is anyone else who would like to submit to the **Patch of Green** an idea or personal accomplishment which they feel could benefit any of our members please contact Kevin Dushane.



TOM GRAY, CONT.

around noon. After spending the daylight hours at the golf course the previous three days, I paid very close attention to the path to Ted's room to make sure I knew my way around, just in case I was to be in there next. My biggest surprise when I first saw Ted lying in the bed was that his ruddy complexion had turned a pale white. For some reason, I thought that all of the time we had spent in the sun would leave the skin a natural color. I wanted to let Ted know that he missed, so I told him I would give him two more days off and then to get his ass back to work.

Ted stayed in the hospital for one week and then recuperated for another, all of the time making frequent phone calls so that I wouldn't screw up too badly.

Ted went through the month of July, first making a guest appearance now and then, to the point of coming in most every day for a few hours.

Now that August is here, so is Ted. He is 99.4% fit and trim and pushing my tired body through the rest of the season.

Ted has always said that if you can keep the golf course alive through the second week in August, that it is all down hill from there. Well, there is still a little bit of green for Ted to look at the rest of the year.

The Men's Club Championship is the only event left this season and through this extremely tough year, everyone from the General Manager, Ray White, to the first year caddies helped out. In my eight years at Oakland Hills, this is by far the best grounds crew with 50% of them new, all of them learned everything and everyone always had a smile, which has made it a fun summer.

P.S. Thanks Ted!!!

30 YEARS . . . , CONT.

of desirable characteristics. Changes will occur, but of much less magnitude.

Perhaps the most likely thing will be no-fault (or at least no-gripe) year-round play. With functioning Green Section-style green construction, with continuous golf car roads (or reasonable turf-saving facsimiles), with the total and learned control of irrigation and drainage water and with hardier grass types, this goal is not unreachable.

Some of these required components are available today. Others may come out of the USGA/GCSAA Research Program if it continues to receive adequate financial support to achieve its goals. The other needs will be met by the industrial community if a demand is created. Note that this means that the bottom line financing comes from within the golf industry. If we are to create ultimate turf for optimum golf, we can no longer ride on the coattails of traditional agriculture. If we are to rely on state universities for help, then they must pay more heed to the needs of Urban Agriculture, where their major source of tax support (people) originates.

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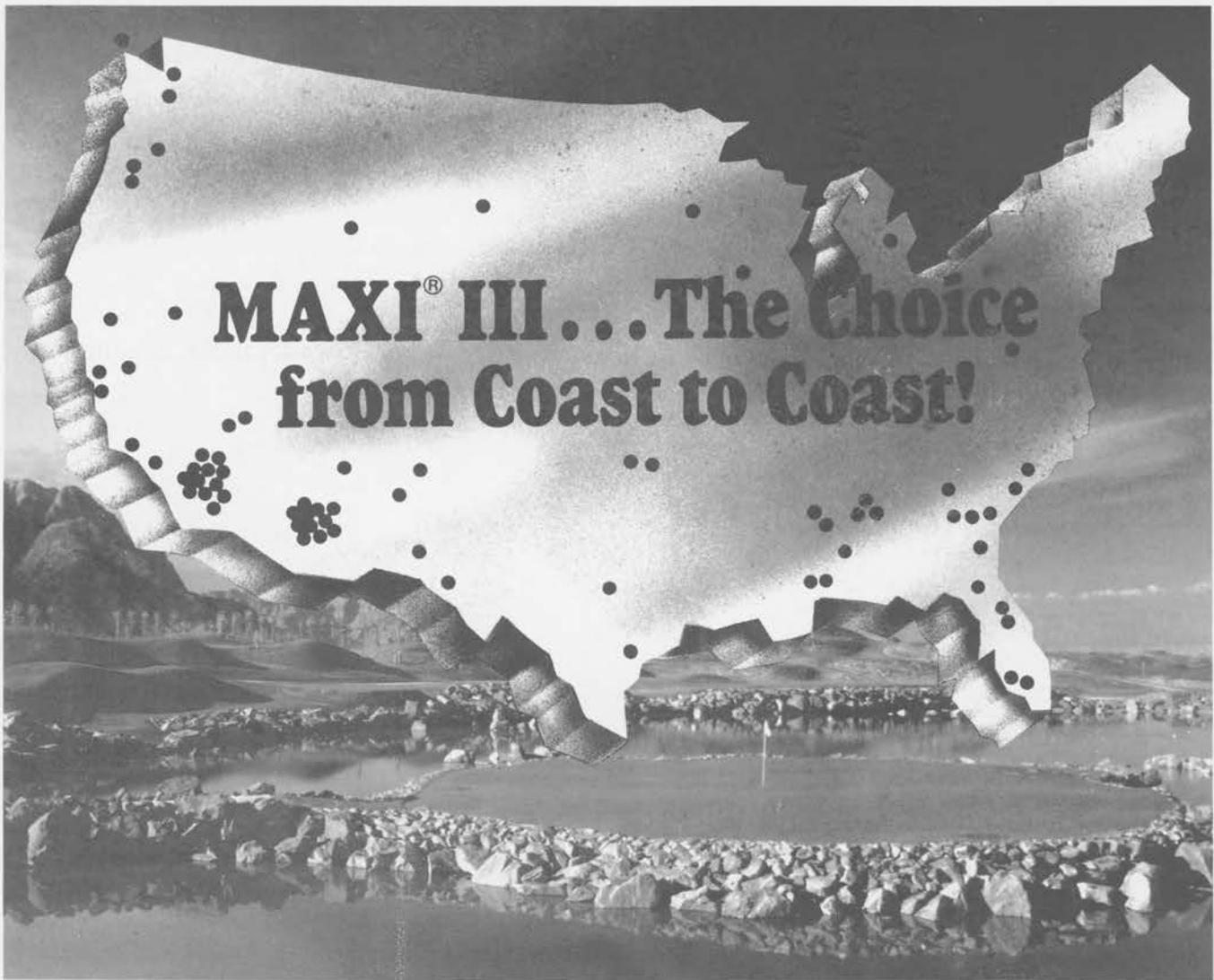
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TED WOHRLE, CONT.

Section 1953 - GCSAA S & R Funds 1956 - Midwest Regional Turf Foundation originally provided professional guidance for seven states - Wisconsin; Michigan; Iowa; Illinois; Indiana; Ohio; and Kentucky. As the years went by, all six states outside of Indiana started their own turf grass research programs to solve individual problems. This holds true for all 50 states. Extension programs take care of most problems, but concentrated research must still be conducted in individual states.

Changing our "vocational occupation" to a professional occupation is important - become active. Your professional association is more important than ever, and your participation is necessary to support the programs that are proposed for the successful future of GOLF.

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CONTINUED PAGE 26

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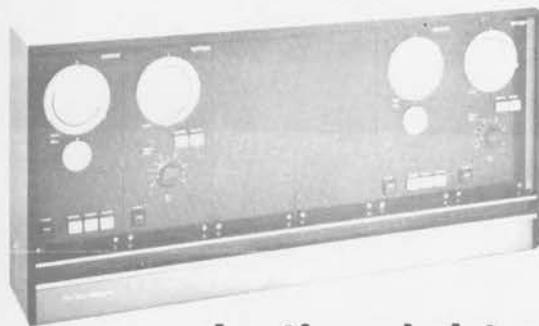
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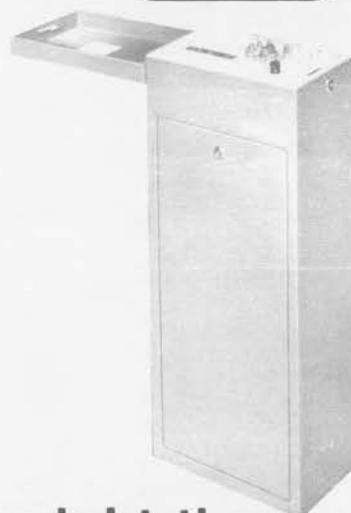
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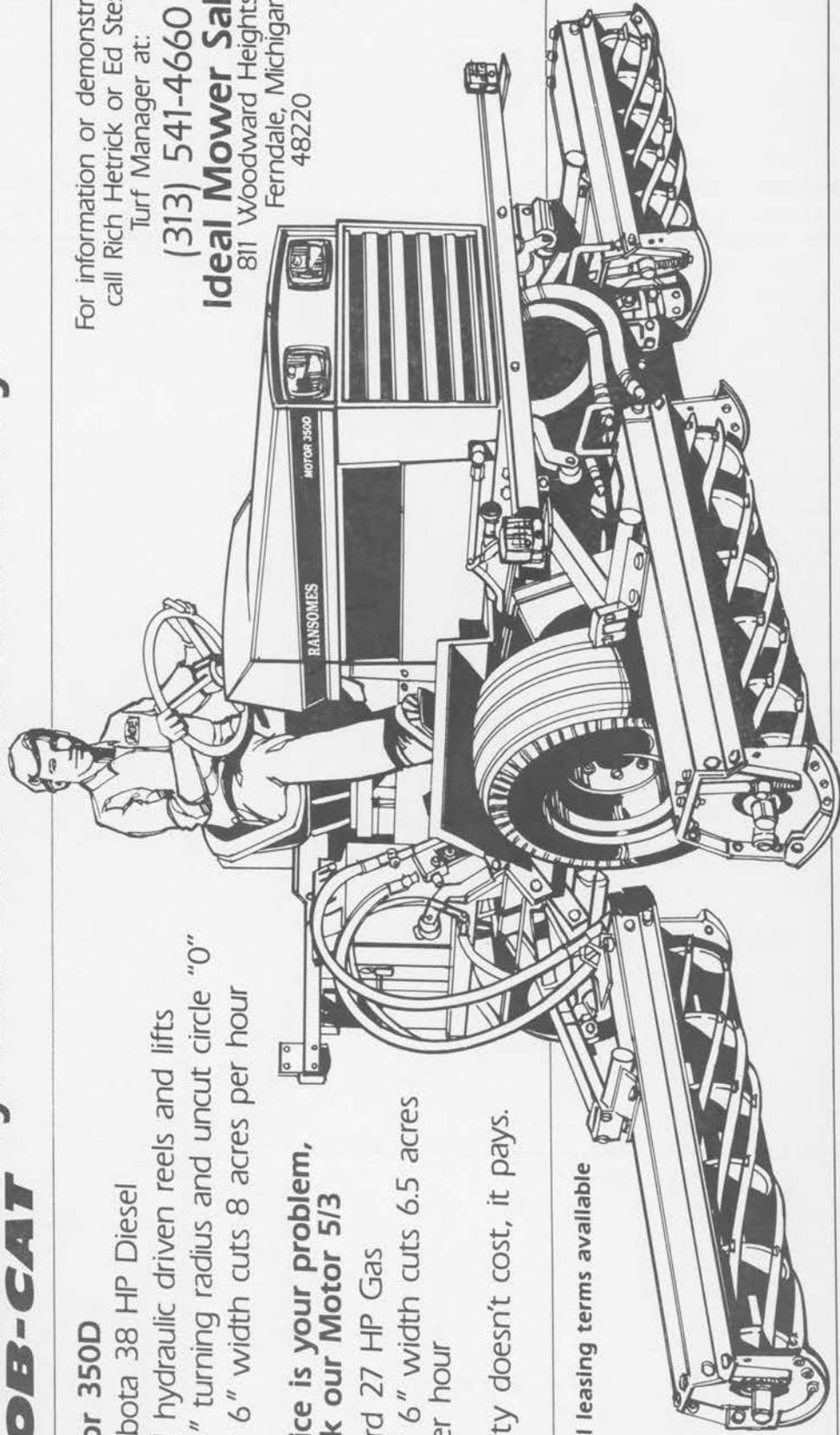
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TED WOHRLE, CONT.

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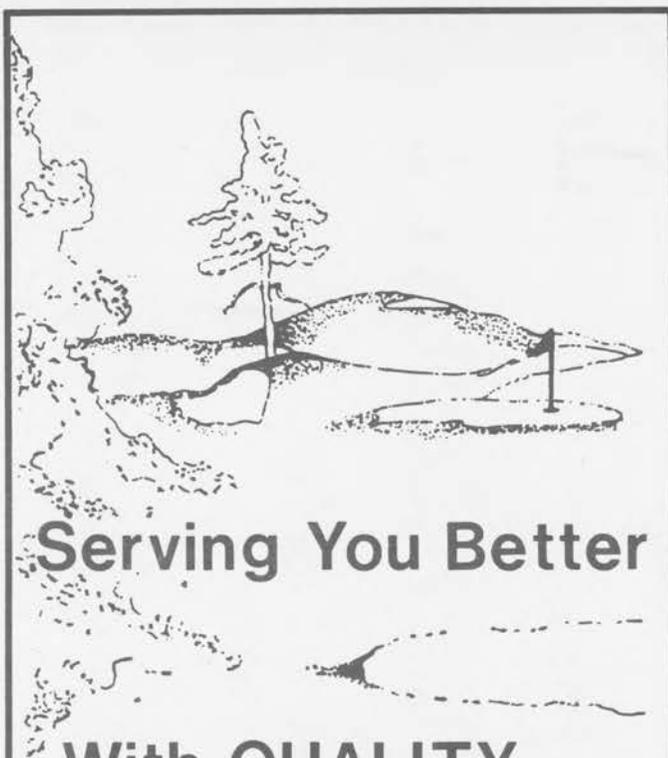
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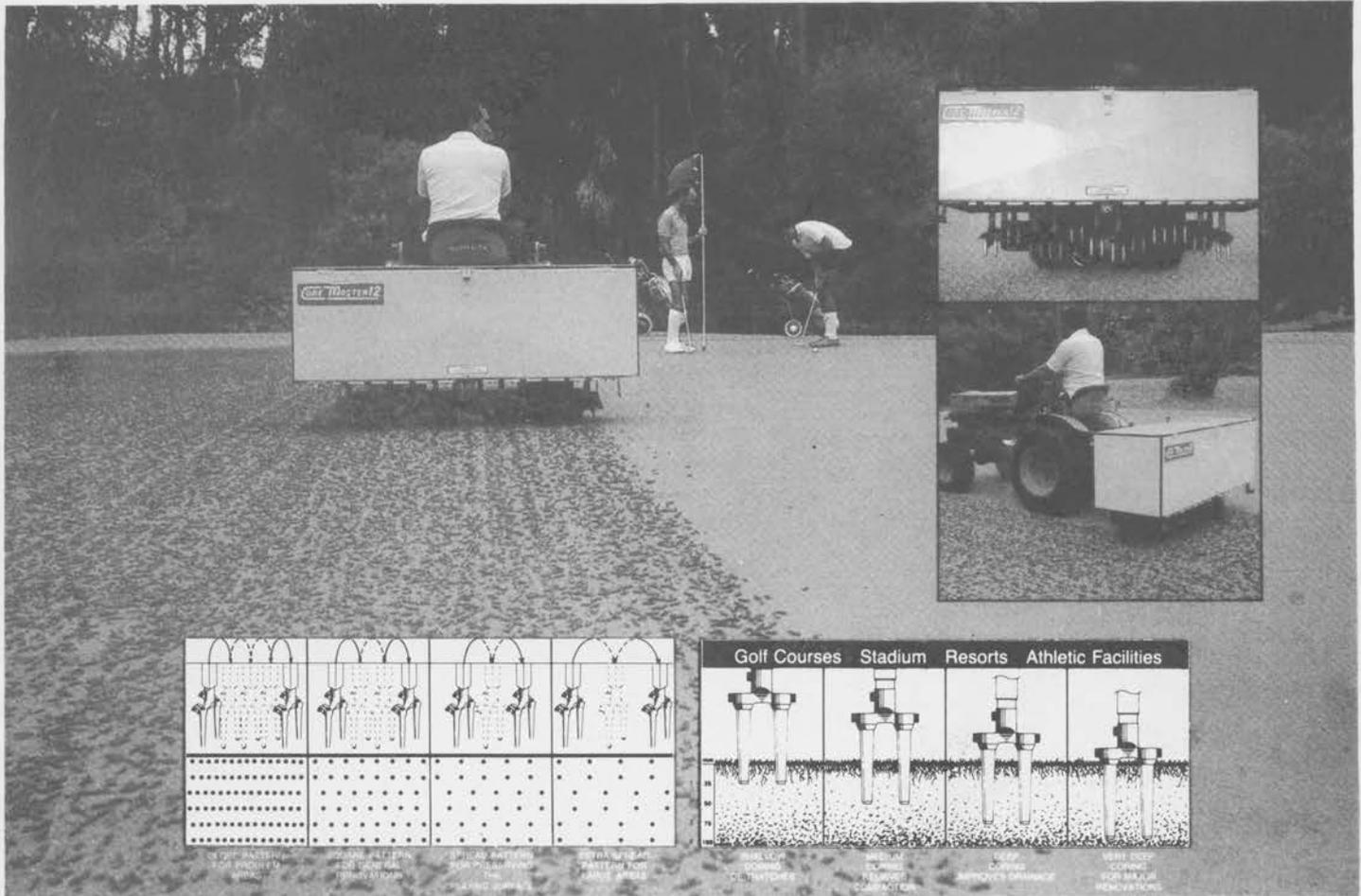


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