

THE BEST TURF TIPS OF 1985 — PART III

Ideas — Philosophical and Practical

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I WOULD offer two turf tips — one philosophical and one practical. On the philosophical side, an observation I shared with my stepfather (who was a superintendent for many years) concerned the sometimes difficult relations between a superintendent and his membership. Certainly the two most unpredictable entities that have ever existed are people and nature. Of course, those of us in the golf game must work with both on a daily basis. Furthermore, only one individual has walked this earth who could truly predict the actions of people and nature. The moral is that as long as your success depends on people and nature, there are likely to be temporary setbacks in spite of your best efforts.

A tip that is far more practical stems from an idea shared with us by Larry Finke, golf course superintendent at Walden, on Lake Conroe, near Houston, Texas.

During my travels in the Mid-Continent Region, I have seen a wide range of pumping stations and structures to protect those stations. The greatest threats to this critical equipment are extreme cold and extreme heat. Larry has developed a building design that

efficiently deals with these problems while at the same time being quite affordable.

By using a combination of greenhouse glass and 2" x 6" lumber, a structure can be built that allows virtually unrestricted airflow across the electrical components of the station. The studs are spaced close enough together to prevent unauthorized entry while at the same time allowing air to circulate throughout the structure. The temperature inside

the station often is as much as 20 degrees cooler than it is outside, even in the hottest of weather.

In the winter, pre-cut plywood covers the slats and a thermostatically controlled heater prevents freezing. This protects the station to temperatures as low as zero degrees. If further protection is needed, the plywood can be insulated and installed on the inside of the building.

This structure is relatively easy to build and costs less than \$2,000.



The new pumping station . . . summer and winter.

