

A Century of Greenkeeping at Glen View

Jeff Leuzinger
Glen View Club

It is hard to imagine what this place looked like one hundred years ago. There are many stories, some of which are actually true, that piece together a history that sounds more like a family lineage than a business celebrating a birthday. The club was actually incorporated under the name Glen View Golf and Polo Club on March 29, 1897. For the past two years, a committee has been working feverishly to compile documents, pictures, interviews, and anything else pertinent to GVC history. A 130-page book, now ready to be published, repre-

(continued on page 12)



The 18th hole from the 17th green.

QUALITY CONTRACTING · QUALITY SERVICE · QUALITY RESULTS

VERTI-DRAIN®! WE GET RESULTS! HERE'S HOW WE DO IT!

Deep tine lifting fractures subsoil to restore soil porosity and promote root growth.

- #1 U.S. Contractor and Distributor
- 12 Years Experience—Results You Can Count On
- Out-Performs All Other Deep Aerators
- Customer Satisfaction & Convenience Is Our Focus

Result is porous, well-draining, deeply rooted greens that maximize topical applications.

Give *your* roots a little
“ELBOW ROOM”

COMMERCIAL TURF & TRACTOR

1-800-748-7497
BEST BUILT, BEST BACKED, BEST BUY
FOR YOUR CONTRACTING DOLLAR!
TRUST YOUR TURF TO US

QUALITY CONTRACTING · QUALITY SERVICE · QUALITY RESULTS

A Century of Greenkeeping at Glen View

(continued from page 10)

sents all of their efforts from groundbreaking and greenkeeping to special personalities, local legends, and unique undertakings. It is appropriately named "Our First Hundred Years."

Collection of history has been difficult at times due to the lack of records. This is probably true of many places, but the longevity of personnel here allowed a tremendous amount of vital information to be more word of mouth than documentation. For example, I was riding with Bruce one day, and I just happened to be carrying pen and paper. Bruce began to identify all of the memorial trees and who they were for—all from memory! Had it not been for that day, there would have been zero information regarding memorial trees.

This tract of land was purchased from the Dewes family for around \$18,000. Some bits and pieces in the corners of today's existing property were leased for a while but are now included in the 190 acres of land. The Dewes family built a log cabin around 1840-1850 that still stands near



The annual chore of cutting the rough with a sickle bar then hauling it away.

the 17th green. Richard Leslie, the first professional and clubmaker, took the woodlands/working farm and laid out the original golf course. William Flynn then redesigned the present course in 1922. The course has remained true to form with the exception of minor improvements to keep up with the game. Nearly all projects have been done in-house.

I follow a short list of greenkeepers: John H. Duncan, Ed

Haupt, Henry Lange, and Bruce Sering. Very little is known about the first two. Emigrating from Scotland, Duncan started July 3, 1897, and finished somewhere in the early 1900s. Ed Haupt then cared for GVC until 1922 when Henry 'Heinie' Lange started his long career here on July 5 of that same year.

The most famous story about Heinie that depicted his
(continued on page 22)



Heinie Lange removing dead elms in 1968.



Reinie Lange, brother of Heinie, with Bruce in 1989.

A Century of Greenkeeping at Glen View

(continued from page 12)

personality is as follows. Up until the mid 1980s, the greenkeeper not only took care of the golf course but also maintained all of the buildings and structures on the property. Heinie was a believer in doing just about everything by hand despite whatever technology deemed useful at the time—quality not quantity. One day the general manager wanted his friend to lay a brick wall in the basement of the clubhouse and save a ton of money in the process. Heinie was upset since he knew nobody could do a better job than his crew. Needless to say, he kept a close eye on the project. Heinie waited until the project was finished until he brought over the general manager and a new guy, Bruce Sering, to demonstrate poor workmanship. They all went downstairs,

(continued on page 32)



Ed Haupt using the first power mower at GVC in 1910.

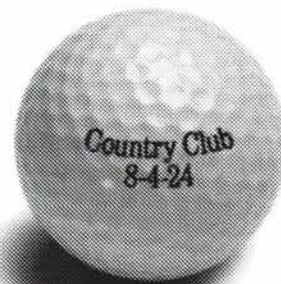
Their Approach To Boosting Potash.



Blended products may cost less. But when you use a blend for boosting potash, you're sacrificing a lot. Namely, balanced and efficient nutrient distribution. And a raw material option that's not as complete. Or a product that's simply too high in nitrogen.

Enter Country Club 8-4-24. Designed to improve disease tolerance. Create less clippings. And enhance drought

Our Approach To Boosting Potash.



resistance. All in a homogeneous mixture to ensure balanced, even nutrient distribution.

Leave it to Country Club to outdistance the competition. Once again.

Country Club
8-4-24 

Distributed by:

BoJo Turf Supply
(800) 732-9401

Turf Products, Ltd.
(630) 668-5537

A Century of Greenkeeping at Glen View

(continued from page 22)

and Heinie asked the general manager how much he saved on this project. When the general manager proudly declared his savings, Heinie punched at a corner of the wall. Several bricks fell off, and Heinie repeated his question with a straight face. Both Bruce and the general manager stood silent as Heinie punched and kicked the wall. It only took a few seconds before the entire wall came crashing down to the floor. Heinie turned around, still completely stone-faced, and said, "Helluva way to save money," then turned around and walked right out the door. Bruce looked at the general manager, gave the classic "Oh, well" shoulder shrug and followed Heinie out the door. Interestingly enough, Heinie's drive and work ethic along with some of his "by hand" golf course maintenance practices

are still in place today. He retired May 31, 1972.

Starting January 1, 1972, the next twenty-five years under Bruce Sering offered several intriguing stories. With his dynamic personality, how could one not write a novel. The most memorable action that comes to mind right away is the time Bruce paid the crew without having the general manager's signature. Management thought they would make the grounds department sweat by not signing the paychecks. This plan failed as Bruce took the unsigned checks, marched over to the bank, and explained the nature of his visit to the president of the bank, who also happened to be an influential member of the club. Bruce subsequently returned to the club and paid all of his employees. The good news is that all of this takes on a lighter context after the fact.

In a nutshell, Bruce was always one step ahead of everyone else as well as the public relations master. After all, he was one of, if not the, pioneer of sand topdressing greens, triplex mowing fairways, and aerifying fairways. Bruce's sudden passing was a shock to everyone on November 11, 1995.

Today, I am fortunate to have inherited grounds crew members who have put in twenty and thirty years of service here. Furthermore, Heinie's brother, Reinhardt 'Reinie' Lange still visits frequently during warm weather. We even have members whose parents were founding members that add plenty of history themselves. Nevertheless, there is never a shortage of stories between these people, and they are always willing to share. That is what makes GVC a very special place, the people. ■

The Sod You Want The Way You Want It

"Executive Blend"
Bluegrass

Pennecross
Creeping
Bentgrass

Pennlinks
Creeping
Bentgrass



Standard Cut

"StrathAyr"
Washed Sod

42" Big Roll



"We Grow To Please"



HUBER RANCH SOD NURSERY, INC.

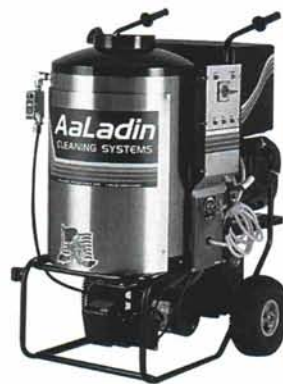
23002 WICKER AVE., BOX 188, SCHNEIDER, IN 46376

1-800-553-0552 • (219)552-0552

(708)691-0552 Addison Sod Depot

When the Pressure's on... **WE SHINE!**

When you need a powerful pressure washer that's tough on clean-ups and easy on your budget, check out the AaLadin 1000 series washers. Filled with outstanding standard features, these units really put on the pressure and make things shine! Every AaLadin unit is built to highest quality specifications in the industry. Stop in today for a complete demonstration.



HIGH PSI LTD.

25 South Park Street, Roselle, IL 60172
(630) 893-0777 Fax(630) 893-1045

(800) 666-3900



CETA CERTIFIED

A Distributor of

