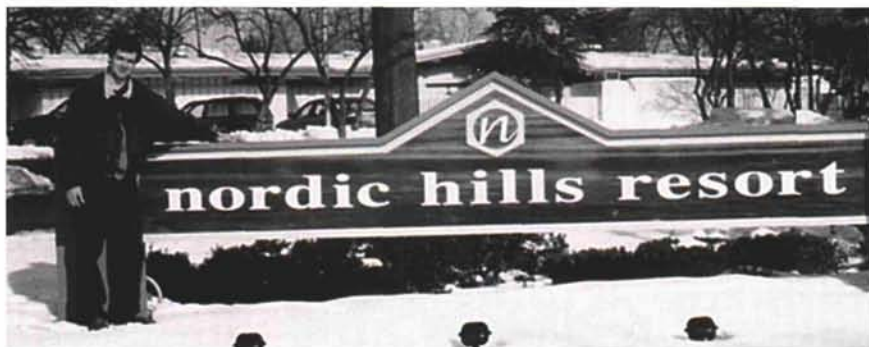


Vince Dodge -N- Nordic Hills Resort



*Dan Anderson
Fox Valley G.C.*

Spring is in the air! I can't think of a better way to get motivated for the 1998 season than attending the March MAGCS meeting at Nordic Hills Resort with our host Vince Dodge. If you haven't been to Nordic Hills in awhile, then you'll be in for a nice surprise; the place looks great.

The course was built in 1926 by eight Norwegians (hence the name "Nordic Hills") with the resort added on in the early '70s. It's a beautiful course built on gently rolling hills with thick stands of hardwoods lining many of the fairways. The hardwoods are mostly Burr Oaks, especially on the front side. The course measures barely 6,000 yards from the tips but plays longer if you can't hit it straight; a common problem for myself.

This will be Vince's second full season at Nordic, and he is feeling much more comfortable at the helm than last year. Vince feels that probably his biggest challenge in his career was last year's greatly increased budget and the high expectations that come with that kind of additional spending. A close second, however, was working with Dave at Naperville C.C. (more on that later).

Vince started working in golf at the tender age of 16 at Aurora C.C. for Hans Hopphan. Then came a three-year stint at Naperville as Dave Blomquist's assistant. He took his first superintendent's position at Naperbrook G.C. in 1993 and remained there until accepting his present position at Nordic Hills in the fall of 1996. He is currently a member of the MAGCS, GCSAA and CAGCS.

Vince has two 2-year degrees: one in Business Management and one in Turf (Penn State '91). He has gotten some excellent training and education to help him handle the rigors of our profession. Vince credits his time at Naperville C.C., where Dave Blomquist is developing a reputation of producing good young superintendents, for fine-tuning his ideas. From that Vince has a

(continued on page 35)



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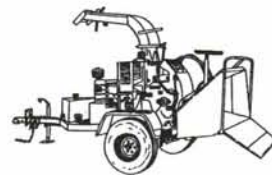
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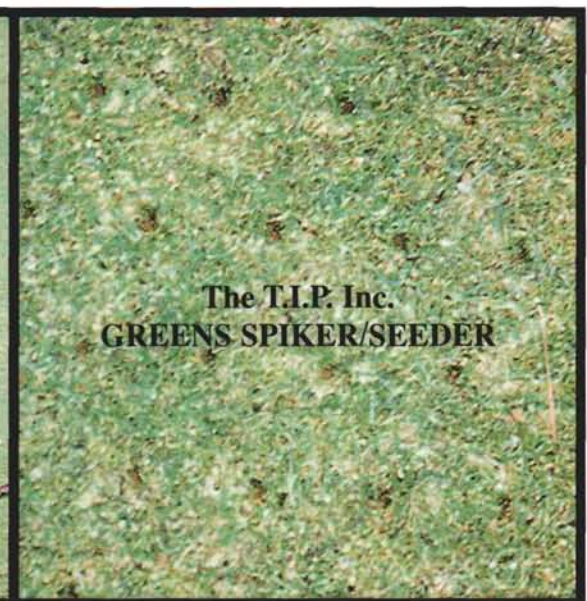
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Vince Dodge -N- Nordic Hills Resort

(continued from page 10)

great appreciation and satisfaction for developing crew members and speaks Spanish well as a second language.








Last year, Vince completed two new greens, and No. 18 was seeded with Princeville bentgrass. He also added and restored several traps along with constructing a netted practice facility. This was necessary due to the lack of space on the grounds. Vince plans on building many new tees this year along with more green reconstruction and starting a tree program.

None of Vince's accomplishments would mean much to him if he didn't have his lovely wife Jenny and 3-year-old daughter Kelsey to share them with. Vince's family is rounded out by three dogs: Frank, Pippen, and Tinker. Vince wouldn't tell me whether or not Tinker was the first geese-chasing Chihuahua in the Chicagoland area.

Vince would like to invite everyone to come to Nordic Hills for the March meeting and see the new digs. ■



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