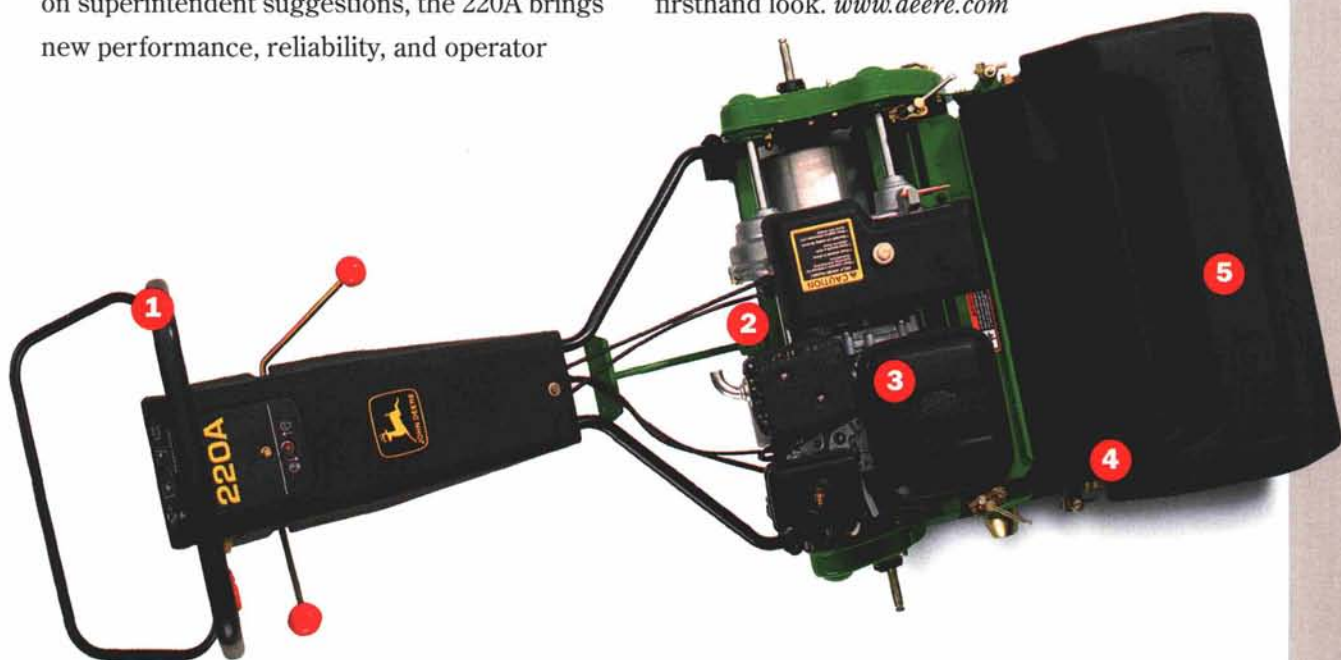


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and Heinie asked the general manager how much he saved on this project. When the general manager proudly declared his savings, Heinie punched at a corner of the wall. Several bricks fell off, and Heinie repeated his question with a straight face. Both 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. ■

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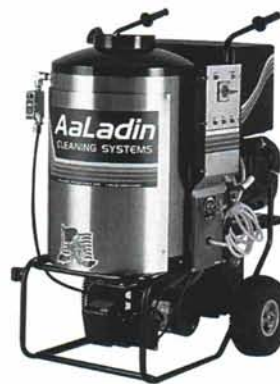
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Scott Witte -N- Cantigny Golf Club
(continued from page 8)

Division Museum. Additions to the property, which is now open to the public, have grown over the years to include a visitor's center, production greenhouses, trails and picnic areas, and an outdoor band-shell—home to summer concerts that are open to the public!

The name "Cantigny," by the way, is in honor of the first American victory of WWI, which took place in the village of Cantigny, France. Colonel McCormick was the commander of the 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, of the First Division during that war. Needless to say, Colonel Robert R. McCormick was a large part of American history during the first half of the twentieth century.

Young Mr. Witte also has an interesting history. He was born and raised in the Milwaukee area and graduated from Michigan State in 1991 with a B.S. in Plant and Soil Sciences. During his early years, Scott worked at clubs such as the Merit Club and Barrington Hills C.C., where he was assistant golf superintendent for four years following graduation. He became head superintendent at Cantigny Golf Club on April 28, 1995. He's also the happy husband of wife Susan for almost three years now, and both of them are "proud as punch" of their new daughter Kori.

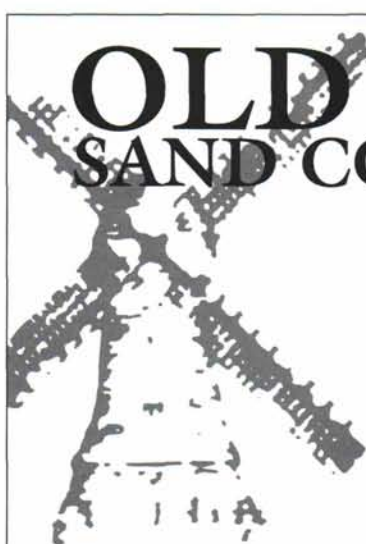
So here's a young man who made the quantum leap from being an assistant at an 18-hole private club to becoming the head man at a 27-hole public facility. That's what they meant when they coined the phrase "from the frying pan into the fire"!

Cantigny's signature hole, according to Witte, is the 9th hole on the "Lakeside nine." It's a short par 4 with a most unique bunker. The bunker outline is that of the profile of Dick Tracy, a favorite comic strip of Col. McCormick, and also very well known to millions of Americans who saw their young children get crazy during the Dick Tracy revival just a few years ago.

Scott says that taking in the "Cantigny experience" requires

more than just a day, so why not check it out during the ITF Combined Golf Day and make plans to bring back family and friends to visit Cantigny and experience firsthand some of the flavor of America and Chicagoland during the early years of this century. It would be well worth it! ■

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