

The more things change...

Editor's note: Steve Renzetti started as a superintendent two months before Golf Course News came into existence.

By STEVEN RENZETTI

• Director of golf operations at Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle, N.Y.

It is always interesting to reflect back. Sometimes the more things change, the more they seem to stay the same.

Ten years ago, I was a first-

year superintendent preparing for my first full season of having the responsibilities and pressures of prepping a golf course for spring. As I was then, I still am today: reviewing bids from suppliers; wrapping up winter projects; training staff; educat-

ing members; and mapping out control strategies for the season.

I'm still fighting moss on greens; trying to reduce the effects of poa annua seeding in May; timing my Hyperodry control (oops, I mean annual bluegrass weevil); and trying to get rid of my slice.

Much of the core equipment



Steve Renzetti

is the same, perhaps a safety switch here or a tweak there. But all in all, much is the same.

As for revolutionary equipment, two things stand out.

The first is the Hydroject aerifier, which has enabled turf managers to get oxygen down into the soil with minimal dis-

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Audubon rough, the Web and GCN

By GORDON WITTEVEEN

• Golf course superintendent, The Board of Trade of Metropolitan Toronto Country Club

In the business of golf course maintenance, the last decade of the 20th century belongs to Audubon rough, the Internet and *Golf Course News*. All three have changed the face of golf.

There isn't a new golf course being built without fescue, birdhouses and a Web Site. Similarly, the minute an entrepreneur starts up a new golfing venture he grabs for the latest copy of *Golf Course News*, an ungainly tabloid published in a no-name place on the East Coast. For Pete's sake, don't they know that for any new magazine to be successful it must come from places like New York, Cleveland or perhaps even Kansas City?

That little newspaper with modest beginnings grew and



Gordon Witteveen

I remember certain things in life very well.....the day we beat the Russians in hockey right in their own backyard in Moscow....[and] the first time I picked up a copy of Golf Course News.'

grew with each succeeding issue, and against all odds survived to celebrate its 10th birthday. Perhaps it'll even make it into the 21st century, in spite of its awkward size. Who wants to read a magazine, anyway, that is difficult to handle, that almost always falls out of your hands, and knocks the glasses off your nose?

I remember certain things in life very well: The day Canadian soldiers chased the Germans out of my hometown in Holland at the end of the Second World War, and the day we beat the Russians in hockey right in their own backyard in Moscow. Just as clearly, do I remember the first time I picked up a copy of *Golf Course News*. It was at the Devil's Pulpit from the desk of superintendent Ken Wright. One expects a place like the Pulpit to have the latest and the newest. "Here, take it! I am finished with it," said Ken Wright, and I did

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GOLF COURSE NEWS



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Palmer/Seay

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excited and encouraged about the potential for the next six to 10 years.

Seay: This isn't by happen-stance. Most of the design work in the 1990s by a lot of golf course architects has been a return to the more traditional-styled design. Which, in most cases, resulted in really fun courses to play, rather than difficult and severe. Arnold and I have always stayed pretty close to the traditional philosophies of design. That is, the playing of the game and, when possible, designing and building to and with the land. In most situations for the past 20 years or so, we did not get a naturally rolling, sandy, seaside, and beautifully timbered 400 acres without development to work with. I should add that the PCDC design team will continue to stay with the same traditional design philosophies.

Palmer: Along that same line, our course designs have always considered what effect the new equipment has had on the game. The U.S. Golf Association is constantly looking at this and now is concentrating on the area of primary importance: the stabilization of the ball.

Another major aspect of golf course design, construction and development that began slowly in the 1960s and has moved to the forefront in the '90s is the preservation, enhancement, and reclamation of our

existing environmentally sensitive lands. This will continue to be the strongest area of consideration. As it should be.

Seay: The industry as a whole is also promoting and exposing golf to more and more segments of the population, not only domestically, but internationally as well. The PGA Tour's First Tee program, The Executive Women's Golf League, golf academies, and family golf learning centers are gaining momentum and getting stronger and better every year.

PCDC is now promoting golf on a relatively new front in that, whenever we can,

we are recommending to all levels of development to provide golf in any structure. It may be six holes, three holes, 12 holes, 14 holes, practice facilities, etc. Not every golfing experience needs to be 18 or nine holes, or an Augusta National or a Pine Valley.

I really feel the next 10 years are going to be exciting for the whole industry, especially in the design, construction and development arena. We made great strides in the transition from the '80s into the '90s, and we all feel golf course development will continue to grow with particular emphasis in daily-fee and resort facilities.

Palmer: I agree with Ed and support and encourage everyone in golf to expose, provide and improve all of the elements of the game. And with more interest and more people coming into golf every day, all of us in the game need to promote, by example, the basic strengths of the game.

We must guard and protect these very elements that keep the game so great and be standard-bearers, if you will. This is one of the hallmark messages for the future from all of the Palmer companies. The game is in very good shape.

Witteveen

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just that. I haven't missed an issue since.

Funny thing about *Golf Course News*. Just like Ken Wright, I easily part with past issues. It's not the sort of magazine that one hangs onto. Not like *The Greenmaster* and *Golf Course Management* of which I have stacks and stacks collecting dust on a bottom shelf. *Golf Course News* I read, usually within minutes after its arrival, even in the summer season, then take it to the staff room from where it disappears to God knows where, but never to a shelf.

The best thing about *Golf Course News* is the new friends that I have made. Most people in the industry one meets annually at convention time. But Mark Leslie, Terry Buchen, Kevin Ross, Michael Hurdzan and many others come regularly to my mailbox.

They speak from the heart in a language that I understand, and when I now meet them at convention time, my greenkeeping life is complete. Thank you, *Golf Course News*, for presenting golf course life as I live it. Have a Happy Birthday, with many more to come.

Walden

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