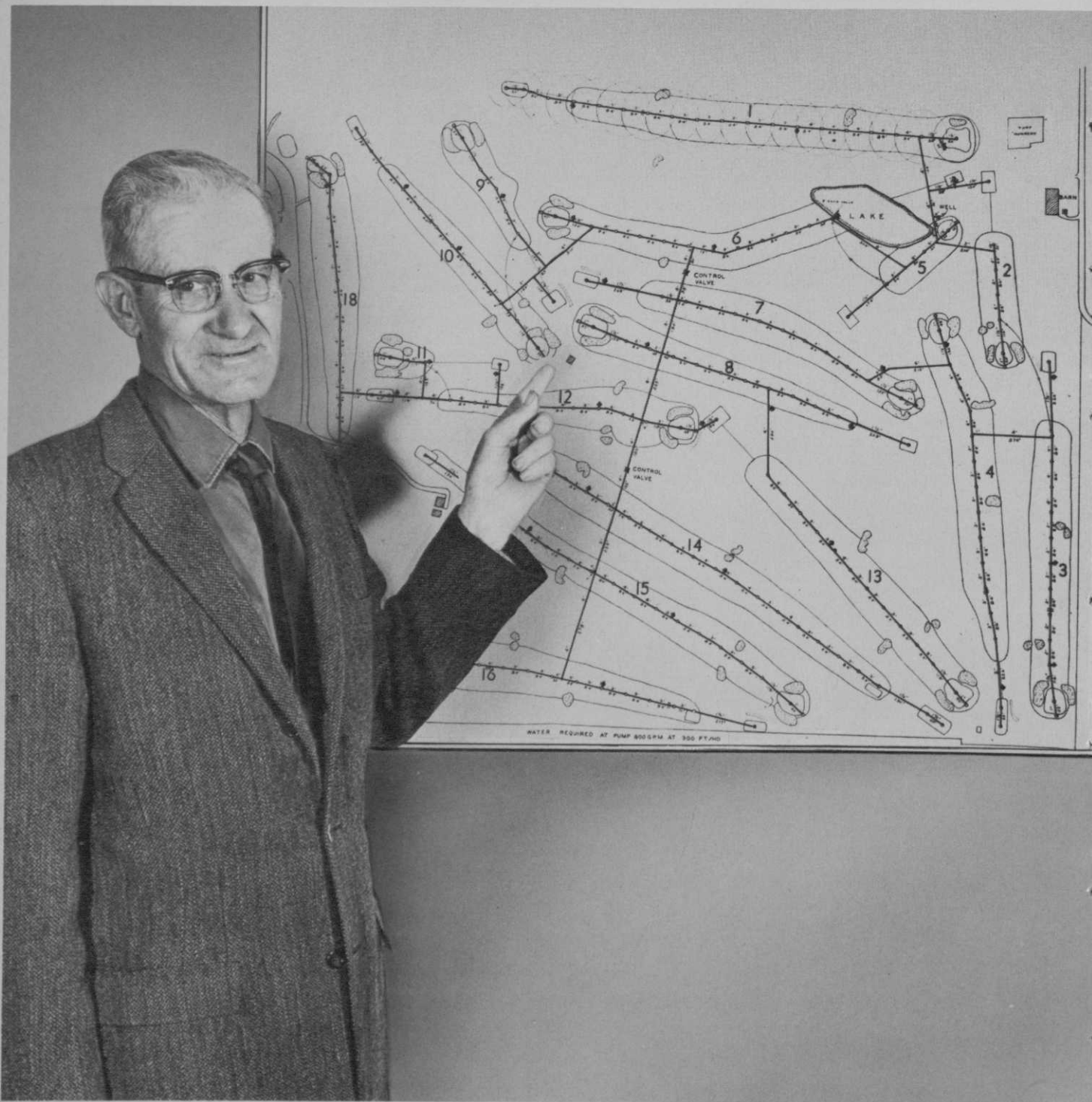


# “How we tightened up for the State PGA Finals”

BY STERLING HAMILTON  
Superintendent, Crystal Lake Country Club, Illinois





We are pleased to have the Illinois State Senior PGA event at Crystal Lake Country Club. The present course was established in 1928, and covers 140 acres. There are some fine golfers in this group and our whole team gives special attention to preparation for this tournament.

We like to give these pros the best possible playing conditions. While our eighteen is kept at a high level all the time, we start three weeks ahead of this event to tighten up even more.

We let the roughs of chewing fescue and blue grass get high—and bring the

fairways down gradually; lower than normal. The fairways are bluegrass and are now watered for the first time. Our Cast Iron Pipe system gives us perfect control and dependability in our watering program so we get exactly the results we want.

Our greens are C-15 and we make them faster for this event by brushing up with a mower set slightly lower.

We're very particular in our fertilizing. I like to keep a regular schedule with not too much on the greens each time. In other words, I keep the turf a bit on the

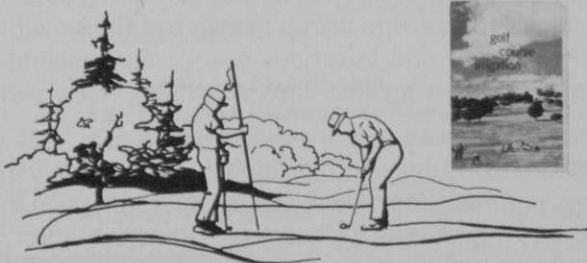
hungry side with more frequent but less heavy applications.

We are blessed with a fine loam soil—some of the finest seen by Scottie Stewart, who engineered our new cast iron pipe irrigation system. Our course takes advantage of the gently rolling countryside of this northern Illinois area, located about 45 miles northwest of Chicago.

We have an ample water supply—a well and a 1½-acre spring-fed lake. My watering program calls for forty minutes on the greens in the still of the evening. I prefer to keep the greens a bit on the hard side.

The watering of the fairways is programmed to avoid any moisture stress, yet it's not done too frequently or heavily, as this would cause the soil to stay wet too long.


We're very happy with our new Cast Iron Pipe system—and especially value its ruggedness in this northern area, where I know heavy freezing has caused problems with some other types of pipe. With this irrigation system we expect to have top playing conditions for our members and the special tournament events which we have.



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Cast iron pipe is preferred for the irrigation systems of golf courses throughout the country. Its superior strength, corrosion-resistance, quick-handling push-on joints and easy tapping, plus its recognized long life, have made it by far the smartest investment your club can make. For helpful tips on golf course irrigation, send for our free fact-filled 20-page booklet.

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