

SUPERINTENDENT *from page 44*

which not only adds interest to the setting, but helps control weed and algae growth.

One of the major and unforeseen problems Lyons has encountered, along with other golf course owners in the area has been taxes. "In 1960, we were building the number four green, and I wanted to put in a sand trap. While we were digging, the tax appraiser walked up and said it was going to cost me an additional \$500 in appraised valua-

tion. I said, 'Boys, fill it in.' The year after the completion of the course, we got our tax bill. It was five times higher than the assessment on the farm across the street. I kept saying to myself, why should I be penalized by five times higher taxes than the playboy farmer across the street who raises horses for his own enjoyment? I questioned the tax people and found out that in Ohio the tax laws did not mention recreation. The laws were written when people worked 10 to 12

hours a day. Land was classified as agricultural, residential, commercial or manufacturing. This was a loophole for the county auditor," Lyons explains. "They slapped us with a commercial tag on our entire acreage, and we had no recourse. He wouldn't classify us as agricultural."

Lyons, determined to change the situation, embarked on a campaign with other golf course owners in the area to establish green belt legislation.

He helped form the Ohio Outdoor Recreation Assn. and served as its first president. His initial crusade resulted in the passage of a bill putting Ohio on Daylight Savings Time. This allowed local working people extra time to utilize the golf course and increased the number of golf leagues.

More important was the push for green belt legislation. "It took six years for ORA to get the legislation passed through both the senate and house and signed by the governor, only to have the Ohio supreme court rule it unconstitutional."

Will Bill Lyons ever retire?

"I guess I'm a glutton for punishment," he responds. "There is something about working with nature, feeling the earth between your hands and watching nature at work. I guess that's what living is all about, and no man should retire from that." □

JERRY A. OLSON, former associate editor of *GOLFDOM*, is manager of news and special projects for the Puget Sound Governmental Conference in Seattle.

RICHMOND POWER SOLD TO ROBERT BROOKS

RICHMOND, VA.—*Richmond Power Equipment Company*, a full-line distributor for The Toro Company, has a new proprietor.

Tollie H. Quinn, who founded the company in 1948, announced that it has been purchased by Robert W. Brooks, a former executive of the Whirlpool Corp. from Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Quinn will remain with the company as a consultant and also will serve as a special consultant to The Toro Company.

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