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events for our meetings this year. Our one stumbling block is and always has been a fair handicapping system. We would really appreciate it if you would consider joining the Wisconsin Golf Association (WGA)--for a couple dollars our events would be easier to run and fair for everybody. It's a computerized handicapping system and well worth the money.

We hope everyone comes through the winter in good shape --maybe one of these days it'll warm up. See you at Oconomowoc.

Bill Douglas,
Chairman

* * * * *

NORTH SHORE H₂O REPORT By Bill Douglas

There are many instances and situations that can cause turf loss--disease, insects, vandalism. In each of these plights, man is the controlling factor, as he can alleviate these problems with sound, professional management techniques. But what happens when a well goes dry and a Superintendent is faced with a drought situation? The following

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is what we did at North Shore during 1976 when we went without water during our growing season.

Our problems began in late-May, early June when our water table began dropping dramatically from a pre-season level of 65' below ground to eventually 220* (with pump drawdown) on June 15. Throughout this period, we were beset with more problems from the City Council as well as the Department of Natural Resources. Eventually there was so many people out of well water—the city's¹ only water source—and that was blamed on North Shore. Because we were still able to operate our well pump, and some homeowners in our area were totally out of water, we became the "scapegoat" and were told to stop pumping by both the DNR and the City Council. Still being able to use our well somewhat, we were to say the least, upset by this decision. On June 1^o.



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the drawdown exceeded our pump setting. We were totally without a water source and became solely dependent on our 650,000 gallon storage ponds. By far the most frustrating period I have ever experienced as Superintendent was the summer of 1976. In three years at North Shore, we have worked hard to improve our bent grass population, eradicate weeds, to develop a golf course our members would be proud of. As June wore into July, all our progress was slipping through our hands. What we saw was discouraging--there was nothing to be done except to watch; the wilt, the once emerald fairways turning to straw, the cement tees that wouldn't accept a tee if driven in with a hammer.

The worst Mother Nature could dish out was anticipated. Our watering program was immediately canceled and we began a greens only irrigation schedule, and during limited periods, approach areas. All through July our ponds were going down, and as our water was diminishing, so were our hopes for any precipitation. Our greens were beginning to get pretty "stiff", and wetting agent applications were stepped up, hopefully to make more efficient use of the limited quantities of water which we could apply. By July 28, our total rainfall for the month was barely half an inch, while our ponds were down to the intake line level. In short, we were out of water, and the situation looked pretty bleak. With only 650,000 to supply 29 greens for over a month, we had been fortunate up to this point; although the greens were not holding very well, they were at least alive, but without the ability to apply any moisture we knew it wouldn't be very long. Fortunately for us on July 31, we got

4.35 inches of much needed rain that recharged all our ponds and kept us alive for the remainder of the year. To illustrate how dry it was, there were no puddles or standing water, and carts went out the next day. August and September were as dry and as windy as the earlier part of the summer, and our irrigation programs and chemical applications previously employed remained intact.

During the entire season we dealt with the DNR to get a permit for a new depth setting in our well shaft plus a new pump. Finally in August, our permit application was approved and our new equipment ordered. On September 21, it was installed. We had water once again.

Even with our new well, our initial problem of water retention and storage was still with us. After watching spring thaws and rain running over our 220 acres and eventually off the property, and after our experience with a lack of water, we felt that as much of the water that passes over our land must be retained and utilized. To this end, and after consulting with various architects in our area, we began plans for a large lake that would sit at the junction of two large runoff areas and adjacent to our existing irrigation pond. After we received Board approval, we began digging on September 1. We were fortunate in that a nearby plant was expanding and needed the fill and would pay for

all the hauling while we paid for the excavating. Trucking was by far the costliest of the operations and North Shore realized a tremendous savings.



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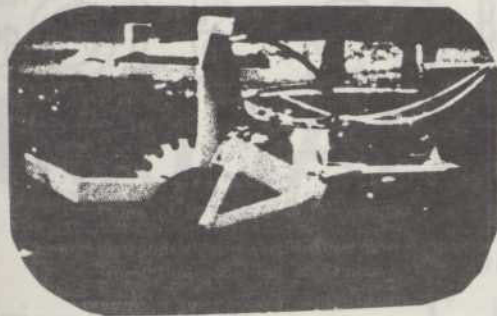
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After seven days of digging and approximately 1700 truck trips that removed over 18,000 yards of clay, we had a storage facility of nearly four million gallons. The new lake was connected to our irrigation pond by utilizing our old well pump casing with a butterfly valve on the lake side. Using this connection, we can remove about 80% of the water contained in it as necessary. Also built into the lake were the abilities to recharge from either the water system or with our well.

Although a step in the right direction for our club, it is not the total solution, and we know it. The ultimate answer is a deep well and several more holding ponds that drain by gravity, either above or below ground into our existing ponds. We feel these additions would not only beautify our course and add challenge to the game, but also make our irrigation programs feasible, and in the end, turf that is both verdant and enjoyable to play on.



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The summery days of late winter that tease your senses with the warmth and freshness of the spring ahead, makes us wonder about the growing season just around the corner. It's nice to think that the rains will come when they're necessary, while still having the ability to fall back on a water system when they don't. As far as we're concerned, they never do. The more retained water we have available to us on a moments notice, the better. To capture the water necessary to maintain the golf turf requires planning and foresight. The water situation in our area will not improve in the future, and lakes of the type described are definitely a priority item in North Shores' future so that a lack of water will not be one of our worries.

Transverse the desert and ye can tell
 What treasures exist in the deep cold well.
 Sink in despair on the red parched earth
 And then ye may reckon what water is worth.

Poem by E. Cook

* * * * *

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