

Special Projects

by Dan Quast

1974-1975

1. Golf Course Modification
 - a. 8 traps - No. 11 - Fairway
 - b. 2 traps - No. 10 - Fairway
 - c. 1 trap - No. 1 - Fairway
 - d. 2 traps - 7 Green
2. Rebuild Tennis Courts near club
3. Pave circle at Club House entrance
4. Remove overhead wire in parking lot and remove rock wall and replace with bushes in parking lot.

1975-1976

1. Golf Course Modification
 - a. 3 traps - No. 15 - Fairway
 - b. 2 traps - No. 3 - Fairway
 - c. Tee on No. 8
 - d. Green trap on No. 10
2. Renovate room in old building for Superintendents office
3. Tile Line - No. 9
4. Gabion baskets on Ladies tee and bank of river

1976 - 1977

1. Golf Course Modification
 - a. Build No. 15 tee
 - b. Build 2 traps and rebuild 15th Green
 - c. Fairway trap on No. 5
 - d. Pot trap on No. 3
 - e. Fairway trap - No. 13
 - f. No. 13 tee
2. Pave Court Yard at Shop
3. Tennis House landscaping
4. New Water Line at caddy house

1977 - 1978

1. Drill new Irrigation Well
2. Put in practice tee Drinking Fountain
3. Remove old Pump House on River
4. Build retaining wall behind mens locker room
5. Put new roof on Work Shop
6. Elimination of Service road behind No. 1 Green
7. New tile line behind No. 8 Green
8. New electric service to club restoration
9. Fire Hydrant installation

1978 - 1979

1. New Cart Path on No. 11
2. Tile Line on Golf Course
3. Acidation of Well No. 1

The above list is an understandable reason for long range programs. The constant update to the physical inventory of a country club is imperative.

The Milwaukee Country Club is one of the oldest in Wisconsin. Due to its age, such problems arise such as electric lines and phone lines either wear out or due to the increased use, the facilities become grossly inadequate. The cost factor must be figured in. In some cases they could be large due to stricter regulations imposed by community and other governmental agencies. Since coming to the country club we have replaced both. The phone line in the Spring of 1974 and electric lines this past Fall.

When you have the Milwaukee River passing through your golf course as we do, erosion becomes a problem, a problem that we had to face. In the Fall of 1975, we embarked on a project using Gabion Baskets. Our ladies tee on No. 14, located on the bank of the river, got washed away by a record high water. My crew had informed me that this had happened in previous years, so that Summer we rebuilt the tee, protecting it with the Gabion Baskets method. Field stone was on the property and it was just a question of transporting it to the sight. We own both a front loader and dump truck. The project turned out to be such a success we decided the following year to do the other bank of the river, the whole width of the fairway and 50 ft. on each side. Our target to the south was a group of trees whose roots were exposed. The distance was 204 ft., so we ordered 70 1'x3'x6' baskets and 34 3'x3'x6' baskets. Placing the short baskets perpendicular to the bank. We filled them with stone (each basket holding .666 yards). After wiring them together we placed the 3'x3'x6' (each holding 2 yards), parallel to the bank about 1-1/2 ft. behind the front edge of the lower row of baskets, wired them together and filled them with rocks. One of the problems we faced was getting enough rock. Ted Egelhoff, who operates a tree service, knew a farmer who had over the years pushed up field stone. We paid a local trucker to haul it to us for use in this project. After the baskets were wired shut on top, we laid polyethylene, .6 Mil., and covered it with soil and sodded to the original fairway grade. Not only has this been functional, it has added beauty to this already fine golf hole.

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Golf course modification proved to be needed to update the course to modern play, and to more frequent use by the members. Many traps were, after 40 years, only penalizing the high handicapper and giving the low handicapper an easier course. It was obvious to the Board of Directors that the whole picture had to be put back in perspective. Course modification was essential.

We were lucky in realizing the importance of an Architect. We had Robert Trent Jones, Inc. for earlier work at the club and he was our likely choice again. His professionalism and tone of cooperation added instant success to this large and fragile undertaking for us, as so many changes at first were looked on with reservation. I am and was fortunate to have such a good group of people to staff my crew. Every hour "Stoney" (Dozer Operator) spent on the tractor meant a days work for us. It was enjoyable and the sense of seeing the product unfold seemed to motivate the crew to finish the job with pride and on schedule.

I would be amiss if I did not mention our tree program. This really started out as a project and turned itself into a program which I hope will endure. The nucleus started over the first Summer with an insect known as the Canker Worm, some call it the inch worm.

Upon first recognizing them I checked with local sources. They assured me that the Canker Worms were just a nuisance but never were enough in population to do great harm. They were wrong. These insects defoliated nearly all the trees on the golf course. Obviously I became an expert on Canker Worms in one quick easy lesson. Finding out their life cycle I took on the task of protecting ourselves from any future occurrences. We sprayed the following Spring. The time was designated by watching the egg masses. The material sprayed was Methoxchlor. We also used Tanglefoot in the Fall.

Since we had so many Elms and were losing them and with the recent occurrence with Canker Worms, I started to seek out a person who could work and help manage an effective tree program. Working for the Forestry Department of River Hills was a young man, Dennis Fermeich, who was intensely interested in Urban Forestry. He was working there after finishing a two year course at Milwaukee Area Technical College. I offered him the position at the club as Arborist. He accepted, hence starting one of the most effective tree programs ever initiated on a golf course. To get started, a project, most certainly being the course, was covered with large Elms. Our 1st objective was to slow down the loss rate, to increase the planting program on the course and in the tree nursery which needed care and restocking. The Elm program



consisted of dormant spraying, tree injecting and good sanitation. Sanitation began immediately. All dead Elms or dying Elms were removed. Methoxchlor was sprayed dormant and the Elms were preventively injected with Arbotect 20S at the rate of 1 oz. per 5" diameter in 40 oz. of water in Mid June through the 1st of August. This is when the uptake is the best as proven by twig sample tests. In 2 seasons all the Elms had been treated, the loss rate dropped dramatically. The August infections were being met and carry over killing of the Elm had nearly stopped. The planting program on the course was continued and this averaged about 50 trees per year. All of the trees were planted with a tree spade. This service was done by Egelhoff Tree Service, who owns both the large and small tree spades. Dennis wrapped and trimmed each tree as well as watered and staked them at the time of planting. The tree nursery is planted and added to every Spring about 100 trees of different varieties. All the large and small trees were fertilized in a period of 2 years. Success was obvious due to the condition of the trees. Many large Elms are still on the course. The new trees are maturing. The total cost was cut 40 percent due to lack of removals and productivity increased due to less time needed for outside services. For projects Dennis' responsibility does not end here, a new Tennis House was built and the landscaping design and planting was placed under his authority. The design was approved, work began, irrigation lines were installed by our project foreman Herbert Paul. Sod was laid, the landscape design completed by Dennis and his people. Other projects were placed with Dennis for completion. The No. 15 tee was built and the adjacent area to the tee was bare due to shade. A cart path was built using Tan Bark. Packasandra was used for ground cover. Many small native shrubs were used for effect. It turned this area into one of the most beautiful on the golf course. Every year we want to make an improvement. No club can afford to stand still. Maybe in the past projects were minimized but that's hind sight. The Milwaukee Country Club today is using foresight so that essential growth is met. Projects are most certainly essential to the growth of a country club.