

A BIT ABOUT SENTRYWORLD

The SentryWorld Sports Center was constructed on a 270 acre "Rock Farm" in North Central Wisconsin and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sentry Insurance, an international corporation comprised of over 90 companies. Initial construction began in 1977, but was tabled until March of 1981 when Robert Trent Jones, II, was re-commissioned to finalize plans and William R. Roberts was asked to participate as Project Manager and Golf Course Superintendent.

The golf course site was, basically, low "swamp-land" with soil types ranging from 4 feet of muck overlapping bedrock to marsh sand. Native trees include white birch, white pine, ash, maple and oak. Field rock, present throughout the property, was utilized for lake bank stabilization, retaining walls, and paving material after crushing and mounding. Total time for construction, from start to finish, was realized in just 14 months, including the "grow-in" period.

Roberts manages a championship, 6,891 yard golf course, which is open to the public, with the assistance of a staff which includes 11 "full-time" and up to 35 additional seasonal employees. Responsibilities are delegated to six "lead-supervisors" who report to the Golf Course Superintendent. Included are "leads" who implement Robert's programs in the following areas: golf course (2), parks and lakes, irrigation, and mechanical and flowers.

The Golf Course "lead-supervisors" are responsible for daily maintenance operations required to keep the facility in top-playing condition. Penncross greens and tees, Penneagle fairways and Kentucky Bluegrass — Creeping Red Fescue roughs are maintained by up to 20 seasonal staff members from April through October. The parks and lakes staff, including one "lead-supervisor" and 6 seasonal employees, maintain approximately 40 acres of park including picnic areas, a swimming beach located on a "trout-stocked" four acre lake, a fishing dock located on a 20 acre "smallmouth bass-stocked" lake,

a playground area, a ball diamond and the golf practice area. Roberts and Kevin Roland, the parks and lakes "lead-supervisor" also have maintained a working relationship with the local university in monitoring lake water quality and groundwater flow throughout the property.

The irrigation "lead-supervisor" and three irrigation technicians implement Robert's irrigation programs and have responsibility for the repair and maintenance of a system utilizing two pumping stations which can deliver 2,800 gallons of water per minute to 4,000 sprinkler heads through approximately 850 valves in 37 zones. Additionally, a "pottable" water system must be kept functional to serve four shelters on the property and to re-charge the lakes which serve to retain drainage and supply the irrigation system. The irrigation system is controlled from a central "computer" station

located in the SentryWorld Maintenance Building.

The 52,000 square foot maintenance building also houses Robert's office area, staff locker rooms and lunch room, equipment, pesticide and fertilizer storage. Further, the mechanical "lead" and three assistant mechanics perform virtually all preventative and remedial repairs to the SentryWorld equipment inventory from this location.

Although only 3 years old, perhaps no one facet of the operation is more readily identified with SentryWorld than it's flowers. Roberts works closely with the "greenhouse-gardener lead supervisor" through all phases of design, planning and planting. Beginning with the late Wisconsin spring, approximately 40,000 tulips bloom and eventually fade giving way to more than 250,000 annual flowers including, but not limited to, marigolds, petunias, geran-



Roberts with Golf Course Supervisor Rick Fedie. Penneagle fairways at SentryWorld are maintained at 7/16 inches.

iums, Dusty Milles and impatiens. In fall, the 90,000 annuals on the now-famous 16th "flower hole" are replaced with 60,000 chrysanthemums in order to give continuity to the color theme late into the season.

Under Robert's direction, SentryWorld's construction, refinement and conditioning have come a long way in a very short period of time. "GOLF DIGEST" cited the golf course as one of the best new public golf courses in 1984 and a recent survey of members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects ranked SentryWorld as one of the top three courses to be built in the last 20 years. Bill Roberts and his staff are justifiably proud to have played a major role in that development and are excited by the potential that time promises to fulfill.



HOW ABOUT THIS FOR AN INSPIRATION?

This poem by Edgar Guest seems to capture the spirit of our involvement in the 1985 GCSAA elections. Read on.

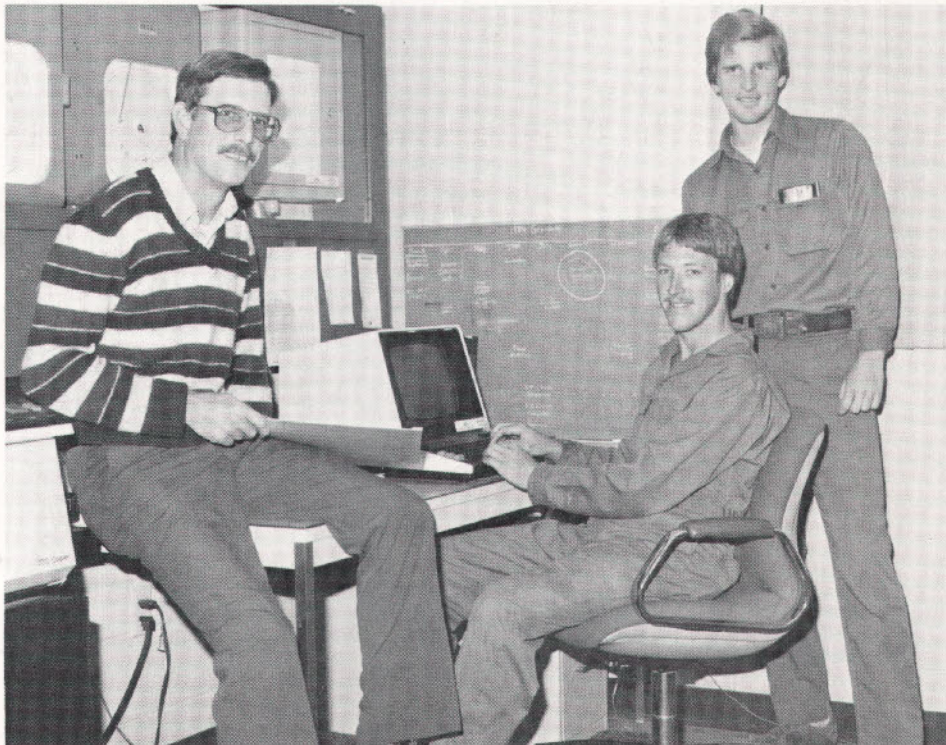
IT COULDN'T BE DONE

By Edgar A. Guest

*Somebody said it couldn't be done.
But he with a chuckle replied
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so until he had tried.
So he buckled right in with a trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.*

*Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;
At least no one ever has done it";
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.*

*There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure;
There are thousands to point out to you, one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin.
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing
That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.*



Bill Roberts discusses irrigation program with Irrigation Supervisor Gary Tanko and Parks & Lakes Supervisor Kevin Roland.