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THE GRASS ROOTS

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Our good friend, Robert J. Welch, officially announced his retirement on October 30 from the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District where he served for thirty-four years.

Bob moved to the Milorganite Division in 1961. After attending the Winter School at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, he was assigned the responsibilities of "Mr. Inside" for the local area. His work also included writing soil test analysis. It was in this position where he became acquainted with turfgrass managers from all over America and through which he worked and traveled with James M. Latham, Charles G. Wilson and O.J. Noer. Bob was a key member of this team of turfgrass experts, a team not likely to be assembled again.

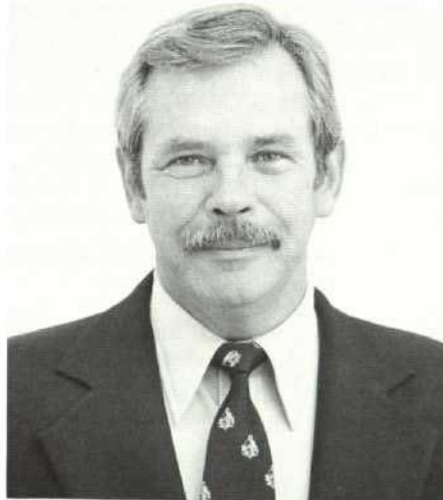
The first GCSAA Conference Bob attended was in Philadelphia in 1964. Jim Latham remembers, "We were driving back to Milwaukee from the National meeting and stopped in Cleveland for the night. We dined at an elegant Italian restaurant and Bob was dressed in his nice, gray flannel suit. Unfortunately, the waitress, the dinner and the wine all arrived at the same time—right in Bob's lap. No one ever saw Bob in that gray suit again!"

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association has been very dear to Bob. He became the Golf and Arrangements Chairman and was responsible for initiating group events other than the individual games of "bingo, bango and bungo". Whenever he was in town and available, the monthly WGCSA meeting was where he could be found.

The O.J. Noer Research Foundation has been and always will be very important to Bob. He is presently serving as the Foundation secretary-treasurer. There would not be an O.J. Noer Golf

BOB WELCH RETIRES

By Wayne Otto



Tournament if it were not for Bob Welch. Over the years he has worked out the format, found the sites, arranged for participants and sent the invitations.

Bob has been the key person for the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium Committee. His list of responsibilities was long—contacting speakers, making all arrangements with the Pfister Hotel, picking up the out-of-state participants, making golfing arrangements for visitors in town for the Symposium, organizing all of the mailings, taking care of the details in the meeting rooms and setting up the now famous "Great Getaway". And he did all of these things for us with great efficiency and professionalism.

Ray Fischer hand picked Bob Welch to succeed him as the USGA Public Links Championship Committee-Wisconsin Representative. He has served in that position for the past five

years, handling the responsibilities of site selection for the USGA qualifying events, marking the golf courses, overseeing the rules and officiating.

I could not begin to list all of Bob's accomplishments over the years. He has been active in so many areas that such a listing would be nearly endless. But regardless of his hectic schedules and deadlines, Bob always has taken the time to be a friend or to do a favor. Whether it was a chemical or physical soil analysis, a ride to a local meeting or a trip to the Midwest Region Turfgrass Foundation at Purdue, he could always be counted on. Bob may be retiring from the Milorganite Division of MMSD, but I am sure we will be seeing him often at local and national meetings. After next year, the Welches will be spending their winters in Florida, but will be back for most of our Wisconsin golf season.

Bob, we know that you and Mickey deserve, and hopefully will get, the best of everything.

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