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the mowers across the tracks.”

After having seen either that dormant brown turf or the white snow cover for so many weeks, the new green makes it look like a real golf course again. Putting mowers on the ground redefines all the playing features — fairways look like fairways; greens and tees really look like greens and tees again. The first mowing works wonders in leveling everything and in cleaning up the playing ground that has received so little attention since early November. Patterns are re-established. Geometry and symmetry and arcs and curves have returned, all neat and clean. Golf courses almost take on the appearance of pieces of public art after the first mowing, catching the eye and attention of nearly everyone passing by.

The smell of the first mowing is also the smell of spring, another pretty good sign of the season. There is a sweet, distinctive fragrance that hovers over the whole golf course after the first mowing. I think it seems so sweet because it has been so long since that fragrance last filled our nostrils. For a guy who was raised on a farm, it con-

tures up wonderful memories of the first crop of hay put up in the barn.

When you really get down to it, the reason that the first mowing signals spring is probably because it signals that the grass is growing again. Few things are more beautiful than a Wisconsin golf course green with the freshness that only comes in spring. When the grass is green enough to mow, it means that now all of spring can come into bloom — all the flowers and all the trees. The old world will be new and pretty again.

Mowing a golf course for the first time is the same as saying, with all the excitement and exuberance you can conjure up, “SPRING IS HERE!”



THE GRASS ROOTS DONATES TO THE NOER CENTER!

The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Winter Conference's Wednesday luncheon was an especially satisfying one for the WGCSA's Rod Johnson. He used the event to present the WTA with a check for over \$2,500 to be used for the O.J. NOER CENTER for TURFGRASS RESEARCH.

The gift was Rodney's reward for a superb job as business manager of the GRASS ROOTS. The money given the NOER CENTER was generated without the benefit of any increase in the ad rates. Needless to say, Rod was generous in his praise of our advertisers — without them it wouldn't have been possible.

Rod Johnson gives WTA president Terry Kurth a check for over \$2,500 for the NOER CENTER for TURFGRASS RESEARCH.

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