



Bill Sell Writes

May 1, 1990

Dear Monroe,

I shall attempt to write as clearly as my arthritis will permit. If you are unable to decipher this letter, call me at 414-738-9844.

Today, during my return from La Crosse, I passed the Maple Grove Country Club, which is near West Salem. I am mentioning this because you might want to interview Frank Rainey, the builder and former owner of Maple Grove. I think Frank is still alive and may be living in a house located on or near the golf course.

Many years ago, after he had completed building the second nine and it was playable, the WGCSA held a meeting at Maple Grove. Frank was the speaker and his subject was "Golf Course Construction at Maple Grove".

Frank worked for his father on the farm there, and his father permitted him to work building the golf course after the daily chores had been completed. I believe he built six holes and played them during construction of the remaining three holes. During his presentation he also spoke of the construction of the second nine — how the supper club had been built and expanded, why he built and operated his own commercial laundry for the supper club, the air strip on the golf course which was used by him and people coming for golf and dining. Frank often flew his plane to state and national golf meetings. I imagine many of his activities would surprise the younger golf course superintendents in our state.

This information that Frank could supplement and expand could be recorded for the turf history of Wisconsin as a part of the mission of the Golf Foundation of Wisconsin.

Permit me to question the answer to question #4 in the "Second Semester Finals", WISCONSIN GOLF COURSE QUIZ, on page 29 of the May/June 1990 issue of *The Grass*

Roots. The answer may be correct. However, I believe Archie Schendel designed, developed and marketed the Henry Ballwasher. This was done while he was the superintendent at the Westmoor C.C. Many years later he sold the rights to Lewis Line Co. of Watertown.

After leaving Westmoor, he located a (Jacobsen) turf business near 124th St., and W. Wisconsin Ave. (??). After a number of years of operating a successful business, it was sold to Elmer Berg. Then Archie became a gentleman farmer, raising sheep in a Waukesha county location. He also worked at marketing the Henry Ballwasher.

Without the proper and easy know-how, the Henry Ballwasher was miserable to repair. During my years at the Currie Park Golf Course we would repair our Henrys at Archie's workshop on his farm. This enabled Archie and me to discuss his years as a superintendent, which he greatly enjoyed, while the washers were being repaired.

You may want to check with Ralph Christopherson of Janesville for additional information regarding Archie Schendel.

I often wonder about the history and location of golf courses that no longer exist, such as the Burr Oaks Golf Course and Kish-wa-kee-toc Country Club. I recall, when I went to Milwaukee in 1941, the contours of a golf course were visible on the north side of Silver Spring Drive, perhaps at 80-90 St. West. Once again, Ralph Christopherson may have information on bygone golf courses.

My congratulations to *The Grass Roots* for the NGF Eckhoff Award.

As per usual,

Bill Sell

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